Problems of Assimilation of Borrowings Belonging to Different Language Families

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Abstract. Borrowing is an evolving phenomenon within language involving the dynamic interaction between two languages: the borrowing language and the language from which elements are borrowed. The assimilation process is central to the borrowing language, presenting a multifaceted challenge. The primary concern arises from assimilation unfolding through distinct stages, each marked by notable phonetic and grammatical transformations in the lexical-terminological unit.

This article addresses the complexities of assimilation, shedding light on its degrees, levels, and underlying principles. The main aim of this investigation is to delve into the intricate process of assimilation in language borrowing. The study elucidates the degrees, levels, and fundamental principles of assimilation by examining linguistic materials from diverse systems. By doing so, the research aims to offer a comprehensive understanding of how borrowed elements undergo phonetic and grammatical changes as they assimilate into the borrowing language. Ultimately, the investigation seeks to contribute valuable insights to the broader field of linguistic evolution and cross-cultural influences, thereby advancing our understanding of the dynamic interactions between languages. Drawing upon linguistic materials from diverse systems, the study endeavours to comprehensively understand the intricacies of assimilating borrowed elements. By exploring the nuances of this process, the research aims to contribute valuable insights to the broader discourse on linguistic evolution and cross-cultural influences.

Keywords: borrowing; assimilation; language family; typology; bilingualism.

INTRODUCTION

By languages belonging to different language families in our investigation, we mean Azerbaijani, English and Arabic. It indicates that the vocabulary and specific features of this vocabulary, particularly the problems of its assimilation and others, are studied comparatively on the materials of these three languages.

Studying these languages from the said point of view creates excellent opportunities for determining the phonetic, lexical and grammatical universals in these most extraordinary language families. It also creates fantastic opportunities to solve some cardinal issues in these languages. According to V. Yartseva, "contrastive, comparative study of any problem helps the investigation of specific features of each language, as well as the synchronical description of typological features of different languages" [16].

The vocabulary of each language is the mirror of the history of its evolution and development. In this mirror, one may see the lexical-terminological units created on account of the resources of that language, including the borrowings from other languages. That is, the own words of the language and the group of borrowings function on the linguistic plane of the language, and only the language users know which of them is strong or weak.

Typology and juxtaposition of languages provide a better acquisition of the mother tongue and increase the quality of its assimilation. Vocabulary

creates a system in each language. It is the barometer of the language. The borrowings have their weight in this system. The systemness of borrowings is the reflection of relations existing among the things and phenomena which surround us in the objective reality, which is the *product* of the systematisation activity of human thinking.

The importance of the investigated scientific material is closely related to the development of science and technology in general. As we know, along with the development of different fields of our life, new notions acquire their particular terms. The study of terms is not the cause of one nation or our language because international integration occurs not only in different fields of life but also among the world's languages. Studying newly formed terms is essential for developing separately –taken languages and the science of general linguistics.

METHODS AND MATERIALS

In the investigation of the article, the descriptive–comparative–typological method was used. A crucial aspect of our methodology involves a comparative study of languages engaged in the borrowing process. By juxtaposing assimilation patterns across various language pairs, we seek to uncover commonalities and variations, providing a nuanced perspective on the cross-cultural influences inherent in linguistic assimilation. Exploring historical documents, manuscripts, and linguistic archives is integral to our research. These materials provide authentic instances of language borrowing, anchoring our investigation in a historical context. Through the synergy of these methods and materials, our research aims to unravel the intricate dynamics of linguistic assimilation in borrowing, offering a nuanced perspective on the evolving nature of languages in contact.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Borrowings occupy an essential place in the linguistic system of the language. They form a particular layer in language from the view of the nomination process and become motivated on this plane.

In general, some linguists do not pay particular attention to the assimilation of borrowings in the language. They note that the borrowings may not undergo adaptation in the system of the mother tongue in the atmosphere of bilingualism, too [5].

Another group of linguists is right in considering assimilation a socio-linguistic problem. As an essential problem, they note "the use of the borrowings in speeches of sufficiently enough important representatives of the bearers of the borrowings" in this process [3, p.104].

In the lexical units' unification stage, the degree of assimilation of words and terms must be kept in the focus of attention. This is the degree of actuality and utility. However, such a process is conspicuously observed on different levels of language. A thorough study of that phenomenon will illuminate the origin of linguistic and terminological units, the sphere of spread of those words, and other issues.

The increase in the intensity of borrowing is connected with the expansion of historico-cultural and inter-state relations, with scientific-technical progress and the spread of knowledge.

There are many directions in the study of borrowings. One of them is their assimilation, which gives birth to problems. There are three principles in the assimilation of borrowings, i.e., the words which come from "alien" languages. They are the principles of actuality, expediency and similarity.

These three principles must be considered in the assimilation process of these words, i.e., in changing their form and becoming identical to the borrower language's words.

The principle of actuality is determined by the degree of necessity of admission of the borrowed form. The actual point or actuality is extra-linguistic and proceeds from the importance of nominating the word and notion.

The principle of expediency means the choice and assimilation of the most effective forms for nominating the notion.

The principle of similarity derives from the demand to form lexical-terminological units connected with gender relations on the same principle and becomes realised in their assimilation process.

If we approach the studied issue based on these principles, we may say that "the word becomes subjected to a complete semantic, graphic, and grammatical adaptation in the borrower language" [6].

The borrowing process is bilateral: "It is understood that in this process, the ready elements of one language simply pass at the disposal of another language. Along with it, the process of borrowing is the assimilation of the borrowed language unit by the language system of the borrower; it is the adaptation of the borrowing to the special demands of the borrower, and the borrowed one undergoes semantic and formal changes in conditions of the new system" [13].

The assimilation of the borrowed lexical units creates a particular stage in the intra-linguistic processes. The first lexicographic task is the selection of those lexical units and their classification into groups. The selection and classification of those lexical units into groups illuminate the solution of some issues. The utilisation of these selected lexical units in language and their dimensions are determined. D.S. Lotte thinks three dimensions suit this purpose: 1. How much does the borrowing sound composition fit the borrower language's sound combinations? 2. How much the morphological structure of the word and its separate formal features (morphological indicators) coexist with the accepted sound combinations and how much they conform to the general structure of the language. 3. Can new words be created from the chosen words [9].

These criteria are essential for determining and assimilating the borrowed terms in any language. "The phonetic, morphological and lexical differences determined these criteria and their harmonisation with the language norms to a certain degree. The proof of correctness of the borrowed words are realised in linguistic assimilation" [3].

One of the main features inherent to the borrowed word is its dynamic development. This process is closely connected with the tendencies of the development of languages, with the determination of extra-linguistic factors, with the situation and conditions and others in which the new borrowings emerge.

As A. Reformatsky noted, "the mutual interrelation of languages, borrowing words from other languages is a natural process. Borrowing of words is a complicated problem conditioned by extra-linguistic, internal, linguistic rules" [12].

V.V. Vinogradov wrote that "as science cannot be confined to the boundaries of the life of one nation, the scientific terms also cannot remain within the frames of one language. They pass into other languages and assimilate in this or some other degree" [15].

It has been written in the dictionary compiled by O. Akhmanova that "the borrowed vocabulary is a progressive process. This process enriches the word stock of one language on the account of another. Borrowings concern the spheres of culture, economy and others. They create relations and contacts among the nations and languages" [1].

The history of the interrelation of languages shows that the level of borrowings depends on the historical and cultural relations of the language's bearers and the language's social function. According to L. Bloomfield, through the borrowed vocabulary, one nation becomes familiar with another one closely" [2].

According to I. Kazimov, "Words pass from one language into another not without a reason. Penetration of linguistic and terminological units from one language into another is an important rule in enriching the language's wordstock and changing its internal structure" [7].

There are some conditions "which change the internal structure of languages"; this process cannot take place without them. For instance, the number of words from Arabic that penetrated Azerbaijani is countless. One of the conditions of the assimilation of these words by Azerbaijani is because of the semantic feature of the words. In that process, the words acquire semantic independence. It means that different from the structural-semantic pattern of Arabic, the lexical-semantic nuclear nature of those words (words of common usage in Arabic) changes, and they acquire terminological meanings. For instance:

Təcəssüm — revival of the thing in front of one's eyes;

Təşxis — personify, selection, separation;

Tərsim (descriptive geometry, sketching, painting the portrait;

Təzyiq — increase, multiplication;

Taziyavnə — whip (in terminological meaning: satirical verse written in the form of a qitə (a poetic genre);

Məcra — the bed of a river in geography;

Məxvi — secret, not obvious**

Once borrowed from Arabic, these words are used as terms in various spheres.

The Arabic words rəqqas (dancer), üfüq (horizon), təcil (delay, postponement), hədd (limit), mail, qütb (pole), qələm (pen), sürət (speed), email (production), xəlifə (caliph), miqyas (scale), əmsal (coefficient), məlumat (information), mürəttib (liner of letters in the print house), təchizat (provision) and other words have been assimilated in Azerbaijani as terms [13, p. 18].

After penetrating Azerbaijani, some Arabic words have changed their structures, for instance: dəlil (dəlail) — fact, proof, dəf edən (dafe) — repulse, repulsion, qara (qürra) — dark, black, qarğa (qürab) — crow and others.

Many Arabic words that have penetrated Azerbaijani have been assimilated from the morphological point of view. For instance, the word "qəmnak" consists of two parts: "qəm" — (grief) is of Arabic origin, but "nak" — (total of grief, stricken by grief) is of Persian origin. It has been assimilated and become "qəmli" (sad) in Azerbaijani. The word "qəzəbnak" (wrathful, angry) is similar. It has been assimilated and acquired in the form of "qəzəbli".

Some words that have passed into Azerbaijani from Arabic were frequently used in the past. For instance, the word "qədər" in the meaning of *tale* (fate, destiny) was employed in the following line by Natevan: *Qədər büküb belimi, eyləyib kəman ölürəm* (I am dying, grief has bent my back and turned it into a bow).

The Arabic word in Azerbaijani, "qədər" is frequently used in Turkish spoken in Turkey.

English has also been attracted to the investigation concerning the assimilation of borrowings. The English language belongs to the group of Germanic languages, the greatest among the Indo-European language family. This language appeared in England as the language of the German tribes, who gradually captured Britain in the fifth century. This language spread in the territory of Ireland before Britain and later in all the colonial territories of the British Empire.

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* The examples have been taken from "Azərbaycan ədəbi dilində işlənən ərəb və fars sözlərinin qısa lüğəti" (A concise dictionary of the Arabic and Persian words in the literary Azerbaijani language (Bakı, ADU nəşriyyatı, 1960).

Borrowings from English by other languages are closely connected with three periods in the history of its development:

1. Words borrowed from other languages in the period of Old English (V-XI centuries)

2. Words borrowed by other languages in the period of Middle English (XII-XV centuries)

3. Words borrowed by other languages in the period of Modern English (XVI-XVIII centuries).

On the contrary, the words borrowed by the English language in the remote past were of Germanic origin. The words in that period were borrowed from Latin and Celtic sources. However, the observations show that the number of words borrowed from Celtic was relatively few. They were not more in number but were purely Celtic words and words borrowed by Celtic from other languages, for instance, dun (grey, greyish), bin (box; nursery), etc.

In old times, the English language assimilated the words of Latin origin through Celtic languages and in connection with the spread of Christianity in the country. They also privatised the words borrowed by the Celts in the continent. The words borrowed by the Germans were connected mainly with trade, units of measure, for instance: caupo (merchant), mango (merchant), manzere (to trade), fishmonger (seller of fish), iromonger (dealer of hardware), etc.

The English assimilated the Latin word "bütyrum" into "butter". In Latin, "causeus" became "ciese" in Middle English, but "chesse" in Modern English. The English language assimilated" caulis" in Middle English to the meaning of" caulis" and turned it into "cole" (cabbage) in Modern English.

The word "beta" of Latin origin became "bete", then "beet" in Modern English.

The Latin word "planta" became "plante" in Middle English and "plant" in Modern English.

The Latin word "pondo," the meaning of "pound" (unit of measure), became "pund" in Middle English and "pound" in Modern English.

The Latin word "uncial", which was used in the meaning of "twelve", became "ynce" in Middle English, then "inch" in Modern English.

The Latin word "moneta" became "mynet" in Middle English "mint" in Modern English.

In the mentioned period, the English language borrowed and assimilated construction terms from Latin, such as "calx", "calcis". In Middle English, it became "ceals". In Modern English, it turned into" chalk".

The word "tegula", Latin the meaning of "tizle" in Middle English, became "tile" and was assimilated in Modern English.

Latin word "catillus" (different types of plates) became "cytel, cetel" in Middle English, in Modern English, it turned into "kettle".

The English have assimilated the names of the units measured (length) on the mentioned principles. For instance, the Romans used the Latin "millia passuum".

For measuring long distances, it was equal to one hundred steps. In Middle English, it became "mil". In Modern English, "mile". The word "mil" is also used as a measure of length in some dialects of the Azerbaijani language (for instance, in the dialect of Garabagh).

The English language borrowed many words of Latin origin from the Celtic language. For instance, the word "castra" is used in the toponyms: Chester, Chichester, Vinchester (in the south), Manchester (in the north-west).

In the territories where Christianity was widely spread, the English assimilated many words of Latin origin. The borrowed and assimilated words mainly were connected with religion and church, for instance: "abbatem" (lat. gr. Abbas) – "abbod" (in the period of Middle English), "abbot" in the period of Modern English; "clericus" (gr. Klerikos) — "cleric" (in the period of Middle English), "clerk" in the period of Modern English; "discipulus" (lat.), "discupul" (Middle English), "disciple" in Modern English; "schola" (lat. gr.skhole), "scol" (Middle English), "school" in Modern English, etc.

In the Middle English period, the assimilation of borrowings involved several stages. In these stages, early Middle and classic Middle English assimilated several words from French. French was used in the king's court, parliament and courts of justice. Since the mid of XVI century, the French language's position weakened for specific reasons (the factor of war).

French assimilations were Latin, Greek, and Celtic, and English borrowed just those assimilations. The borrowings in French were of Latin origin. They became a part of the French word stock, were assimilated by the French, then were subjected to phonetic and other changes and accepted as French borrowings in English. Most of the borrowings in English were assimilated from the XIII century till the end of the XIV century. As a result of this assimilation in Middle English, quantitative and qualitative changes became apparent.

As a result of these changes, many French terminological units enriched the English language. English, a synthetic language from the grammatical point of view, began to acquire the signs of analytical form. Besides, some morphological indicators inherent to English transitive and intransitive verbs disappeared under French influence. The transitive and intransitive verb structure of French passed to English. The influence of French also left its traces on the phonetic structure and spelling rules.

In Modern Azerbaijani, the newly borrowed English words refer to many spheres:

Words borrowed and assimilated in the sphere of informatica: kompyuter, sayt, internet, interfaks, etc.

Words borrowed and assimilated in connection with the market economy: fermer, sektor, koefisent, biznes, buiznesmen, bonitirovka, lisenziya, investisiya, firma, etc.

Assimilation of the English borrowings in Azerbaijani depends mainly on the frequency of their use in Azerbaijani.

From what languages were the words borrowed into English? The studies show that English borrowed and assimilated the following words: hap (event), hapless (unhappy), harry (happy), happily (fortunate), etc.

The English language has borrowed many words from French, for instance, carpenter, lether, money, table, minute, baron, vassal, command, comfort, trump, banner, lanker, figura, etc.

English has assimilated borrowed Latin words in the following form: ancor (anchor), post (post), purs (purse), cappe (cap) assa (ass), turtur (turtle), palm (palma), plante (plant, plantation), etc.

English has borrowed and assimilated several words. They are mainly military terms, for instance, straff (staff) field marshal, etc.

Borrowed and assimilated Italian words in English: sonet, model, miniature, madonna, bandit, lottery, bravo, duel, manifesto, bulleten, risk, bal-

cony, corridor, solo, opera, piano, largo, aria, tempo, dilettante, fiasko, carat, traffic, contraband, bankrupt, battalion, etc.

In the development process, English borrowed and assimilated many words from Arabic. Some are connected with culture and commerce, for instance, caliph, mameluke, sheikh, etc.

English borrowed and assimilated the following Arabic words through French: calibre, sultan, magazine; through Italian: algebra, carat, tariff; through Portagese: apricot; alcohol, etc.

In different periods English has assimilated Russian words like med, moloko, beluqa, sterlet, kvass, shuba, vodka, samovar, troika, babushka, pirozhki, etc.

CONCLUSIONS

Thus, the observations show that the assimilation of lexical-terminological units is their subjection to a new norm, their sound and morphological structures acquired a new form, they became simple, the previous morphological structure failed to exist, meaning structure, spheres of application, and word-building models widened. The functional (functional activeness of the word) and formal stages give birth to assimilation.

Assimilation, which finds its reflection in the formal stages (functional activeness of the word), is characterised by the penetration of the word into the language, representation of the borrowed language and acquisition of a difference from the semantic point of view.

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