



LEXICAL BORROWINGS COMPARISON IN UZBEK AND ENGLISH

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Abstract: This article examines the phenomenon of lexical borrowings in Uzbek and English, highlighting the historical and cultural contexts that have influenced the integration of foreign words into both languages. By analyzing various sources of borrowings, including technological advances, globalization, and cultural exchange, the article offers insights into how such borrowings reflect the dynamic nature of language and the interplay between different cultures. It also explores phonological adaptations and semantic shifts resulting from the integration of borrowed terms, providing concrete examples from both languages.

Keywords: Lexical Borrowing, Uzbek Language, English Language, Language Contact, Cultural Exchange, Phonological Adaptation, Semantic Shift, Globalization, Language Change, Sociolinguistics

INTRODUCTION

Uzbek language has been significantly influenced by various languages throughout its history. The primary source languages for Uzbek loanwords include:

- **Arabic:** Primarily through Islam, Arabic has contributed a large number of words, especially in the fields of religion, law, scholarship, and abstract concepts.
 - Examples: kitob (book), maktab (school), ilm (knowledge), adolat (justice), vaqt (time), sabab (reason), natija (result), hayot (life), dunyo (world), inson (human being), davlat (state).
- **Persian (Tajik):** As a geographically and culturally close language, Persian has heavily influenced Uzbek vocabulary, particularly in literature, poetry, administration, and everyday life.
 - Examples: shahar (city), bozor (market), daftar (notebook), daraxt (tree), devor (wall), rang (color), oyna (mirror), pardak (curtain), xursand (happy), ozod (free), mehmon (guest), bog' (garden), do'st (friend), nom (name).
- **Russian:** During the Soviet era, Russian became the dominant language of administration, education, and technology, resulting in a significant influx of Russian loanwords into Uzbek.
 - Examples: telefon (telephone), kompyuter (computer), traktor (tractor), radio (radio), bank (bank), gazeta (newspaper), student (student), doktor (doctor), professor (professor), avia (aviation), televizor (television), sotsializm (socialism), kommunizm (communism), institut (institute).
- **More Recent Influences (English):** With globalization and the increasing prominence of English, Uzbek is now borrowing words directly from English, often through Russian as an intermediary.
 - Examples: menedjer (manager), dizayn (design), biznes (business), marketing (marketing), internet (internet), onlayn (online), brend (brand). These words are often less assimilated and may retain their original pronunciation (or a Russian-influenced pronunciation).
- **Other Influences:** Some borrowings are also present from Turkic cognates and other European languages, typically through Russian or Persian.

- **Shift in Source Languages:** The primary source language has shifted from Arabic and Persian to Russian, and now increasingly to English. This reflects changes in political, economic, and cultural power.
 - **Semantic Domains:** Early borrowings tended to be related to religion, law, and literature, while more recent borrowings relate to technology, administration, and business.
 - **Assimilation:** Older borrowings are generally well-integrated into the Uzbek language system, whereas newer borrowings (especially from English) often retain their foreign pronunciation and spelling.
 - **Lexical Replacement:** Borrowed words sometimes replace existing Uzbek words, while in other cases, they coexist with native terms, often with subtle differences in meaning or nuance. English, renowned for its openness to borrowing, has absorbed vocabulary from a vast array of languages throughout its history. Major source languages for English loanwords include:
 - **French:** The Norman Conquest in 1066 had a profound impact on English vocabulary, leading to the adoption of a large number of words from French, especially in law, government, cuisine, and fashion.
 - Examples: government, justice, parliament, court, cuisine, restaurant, fashion, art, ballet, rendezvous, naive, elite, genre, machine.
 - **Latin:** Latin has exerted a strong influence on English, both directly and through French, contributing vocabulary to science, law, medicine, and education.
 - Examples: science, medicine, legal, education, data, formula, agenda, via, status, species, genius, radius.
 - **Greek:** Ancient Greek has provided English with many words, particularly in philosophy, science, and mathematics.
 - Examples: philosophy, mathematics, psychology, biology, chemistry, democracy, theatre, academy, analysis, thesis, hypothesis.
 - **German:** While less extensive than the influence of French and Latin, German has contributed words related to philosophy, psychology, and military affairs.
 - Examples: kindergarten, angst, blitz, rucksack, leitmotif, delicatessen.
 - **Italian:** Italian has enriched English vocabulary, particularly in music, art, and food.
 - Examples: opera, piano, concerto, pizza, spaghetti, graffiti, casino.
 - **Spanish:** Spanish has contributed words mainly related to the Americas, agriculture, and cowboy culture.
 - Examples: tomato, potato, chocolate, vanilla, salsa, taco, guerrilla, rodeo, mesa.
 - **Asian Languages:** In recent times, English has borrowed words from Asian languages like Japanese and Chinese, particularly in the realms of food, martial arts, and technology.
 - Examples: sushi, tsunami, karaoke, origami, zen, feng shui, typhoon.
 - **Other Influences:** Numerous other languages have contributed smaller numbers of loanwords to English, reflecting the diverse interactions and influences that have shaped the language.
- Key Trends in English Borrowings:**
- **Diverse Source Languages:** English has drawn vocabulary from a vast and geographically diverse range of languages.
 - **Semantic Domains:** Borrowings cover a broad spectrum of semantic fields, reflecting England's historical position as a center of trade, colonialism, and cultural exchange.
 - **Adaptation:** English tends to adapt borrowed words phonetically and grammatically to fit its existing system, although the degree of adaptation varies depending on the source language and the time of borrowing.
 - **Semantic Shift:** The meanings of some borrowed words have shifted over time, sometimes diverging significantly from their original meanings in the source language.
 - **Coexistence:** English often retains native terms alongside borrowed terms, creating synonyms that may have subtle differences in connotation or usage.

Comparison and Contrasts:

- **Source Language Dominance:** Arabic, Persian, and Russian have been the dominant source languages for Uzbek borrowings, reflecting historical and political factors. In contrast, English has been influenced by a wider range of languages, with French, Latin, and Greek being particularly significant.
- **Semantic Domains:** While both languages have borrowed words related to technology and administration, English has a stronger representation of borrowings in the arts, sciences, and humanities, reflecting its role as a language of scholarship and culture.
- **Assimilation:** English often adapts loanwords to its existing phonetic and grammatical patterns, while Uzbek, particularly with more recent borrowings, tends to transliterate words more directly from Russian or English.
- **Global Influence:** English, as a global language, is now a significant source of loanwords for many other languages, including Uzbek. The influence is significantly greater than the reverse. This comparison, while not exhaustive, provides a framework for understanding the patterns and processes involved in lexical borrowing in Uzbek and English. A more comprehensive analysis of 1000 words would provide a richer and more nuanced picture of these linguistic dynamics. The patterns observed reflect both the internal structures of the languages themselves and the socio-historical forces that have shaped them.

CONCLUSION

A comparative analysis of lexical borrowings in Uzbek and English reveals distinct historical and cultural influences shaping each language. English, enriched by Latin, Greek, and French, demonstrates a long history of incorporating terminology from diverse fields, reflecting its global reach. Uzbek, heavily influenced by Arabic, Persian, and Russian, exhibits a linguistic landscape sculpted by trade routes, empires, and Soviet modernization. While both languages readily assimilate foreign words, the semantic fields and assimilation patterns differ. English borrowings often pertain to scientific, technological, and cultural innovations, undergoing varying degrees of phonetic adaptation. Uzbek borrowings, particularly from Russian, frequently involve administrative, technological, and everyday terms, often exhibiting more direct transliteration. Examining borrowing trends sheds light on the evolving cultural and political relationships each language has fostered, providing insights into the dynamic interplay between language and societal change. Further research, employing larger datasets and diachronic analyses, would enrich our understanding of the complex processes driving lexical borrowing and language evolution in both Uzbek and English.

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