LEXICAL TYPOLOGY AND BORROWINGS IN ENGLISH, RUSSIAN, AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

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Abstract: This research paper explores lexical typology through the study of borrowings in English, Russian, and Uzbek languages. The study identifies how different social, cultural, and historical contexts have influenced the adoption of foreign words. The research uses descriptive and comparative methods to classify loanwords by source language, semantic field, and adaptation level. The findings show that English has mostly borrowed from Latin and French, Russian from Turkic and European languages, and Uzbek from Arabic, Persian, and Russian. These borrowings have enriched each language's vocabulary and reflect historical interactions among nations.

Keywords: lexical typology, borrowing, loanwords, English, Russian, Uzbek

Аннотация: В данной статье рассматривается лексическая типология через призму заимствований в английском, русском и узбекском языках. Исследование показывает, как исторические, культурные и социальные факторы повлияли на процесс заимствования слов. Применяются описательные и сравнительные методы для классификации заимствований по источнику, семантическому полю и степени адаптации. Результаты показывают, что английский язык заимствовал в основном из латинского и французского, русский — из тюркских и европейских языков, а узбекский — из арабского, персидского и русского.

Ключевые слова: лексическая типология, заимствование, английский, русский, узбекский

Annotatsiya: Ushbu maqolada ingliz, rus va oʻzbek tillaridagi soʻz oʻzlashmalari misolida leksik tipologiya oʻrganiladi. Tadqiqot tarixiy, madaniy va ijtimoiy omillarning soʻz oʻzlashuviga ta'sirini koʻrsatadi. Soʻzlar manba tili, semantik sohasi va moslashuv darajasiga koʻra tahlil qilindi. Natijalarga koʻra, ingliz tili asosan lotin va fransuz tillaridan, rus tili turkiy va Yevropa tillaridan, oʻzbek tili esa arab, fors va rus tillaridan soʻzlar oʻzlashtirgan.

Kalit soʻzlar: leksik tipologiya, oʻzlashma, soʻz oʻzlashuvi, ingliz tili, rus tili, oʻzbek tili

Introduction

Lexical typology is a branch of linguistic typology that studies how words and meanings vary and interact across languages. One of the most dynamic processes in lexical typology is borrowing — the adoption of words from one language into another. Borrowings reflect historical connections, trade, religion, science, and technology.

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This paper focuses on how English, Russian, and Uzbek languages have developed through lexical borrowings. Despite being from different language families — Germanic, Slavic, and Turkic — all three show evidence of heavy influence from other cultures.

Methodology

Approximately 150 borrowed words were carefully selected and analyzed from each language under study. The data were collected from authoritative dictionaries, linguistic corpora, and previous academic research focusing on lexical borrowing and language contact. The selection process prioritized frequently used loanwords in contemporary usage, words from diverse semantic fields to ensure balanced representation, and borrowings that have undergone varying degrees of adaptation. This ensured that the dataset accurately reflected the linguistic and cultural dynamics of borrowing in both formal and informal contexts. Each borrowed word was classified according to three main parameters to allow systematic comparison. First, the origin of each borrowing (such as Latin, French, Arabic, Persian, or English) was identified to trace historical and cultural influences. Second, the words were grouped by semantic domains such as science and technology, culture and art, politics and administration, and daily life. This categorization helped reveal which aspects of life were most influenced by external linguistic contact. Third, each borrowing was examined for its level of adaptation, including phonetic adaptation (changes made to fit native pronunciation patterns), morphological adaptation (changes in structure such as inflection or derivation with native affixes), and semantic adaptation (shifts or broadening of meaning during borrowing).

The analysis involved both qualitative interpretation and quantitative comparison. Comparative tables and charts were used to visualize the frequency of borrowings across semantic fields and source languages. Cross-linguistic comparisons highlighted differences and similarities in adaptation strategies, and examples were supported by corpus data illustrating real usage contexts. This approach enabled a clear identification of borrowing patterns and the degree of linguistic assimilation. The main purpose of this methodology was to identify recurrent patterns of lexical borrowing and determine how linguistic contact has influenced vocabulary formation in the target languages. Through systematic classification and comparison, the study aimed to reveal historical and cultural pathways of influence, demonstrate how borrowed terms evolve and integrate over time, and contribute to the broader understanding of language contact dynamics and lexical enrichment processes.

Results

The English language has historically absorbed a substantial number of words from a wide variety of other languages, reflecting its long history of contact, conquest, trade, and cultural exchange. Borrowing has been one of the key mechanisms through which English vocabulary has expanded and diversified, making it one of the most lexically rich languages in the world. A detailed examination of the collected data reveals that English has borrowed extensively from Latin, French, Norse, and Arabic, among other sources. Words of **Latin origin**, such as *radius*, *data*, and *formula*, are particularly prominent in the domains of **science, education, and academia**, reflecting the strong influence of Latin as the language of scholarship and the Church

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during the Middle Ages. Many scientific and technical terms in modern English continue to derive directly or indirectly from Latin roots. **French borrowings** also play a crucial role in shaping English vocabulary, especially in areas related to **law, governance, and culture**. Examples such as *government*, *cuisine*, and *justice* demonstrate how the **Norman Conquest of 1066** introduced a significant influx of French vocabulary into English. These borrowings often carried with them cultural prestige, as French was the language of the ruling class and administration for several centuries. From **Old Norse**, English adopted many everyday terms such as *sky*, *window*, and *egg*, primarily within the **domain of daily life**. These words reflect the contact between the Anglo-Saxons and Scandinavian settlers during the Viking Age. Norse borrowings tend to be short, concrete, and practical in meaning, showing direct influence on the spoken language of ordinary people rather than on formal registers. Borrowings from **Arabic**, such as *algebra*, *coffee*, and *sugar*, entered English largely through trade and scientific transmission during the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. These words illustrate the cultural and intellectual connections between Europe and the Arab world, particularly in the fields of **science, mathematics, and commerce**. Overall, the analysis indicates that approximately **60% of English vocabulary originates from foreign sources**, with **Latin and French** being the most dominant contributors. This high proportion demonstrates the composite nature of English and the depth of its historical contact with multiple linguistic communities. The extensive borrowing has not only expanded the lexicon but also enriched the expressive and stylistic possibilities of the language. In particular, periods of major social transformation—such as the Norman Conquest and the Renaissance—played a pivotal role in shaping the modern English lexicon by facilitating the large-scale integration of foreign elements. Russian has integrated words from both European and Turkic sources. Source language example words domain: Turkic сарай (saray), арбуз (arbuz) Household, food. French бутон (buton), меню (menu) Culture, fashion. English компьютер (kompyuter), интернет (internet) Technology. German штаб (shtab), офицер (ofitser) Military. Borrowings in Russian often reflect political and technological changes, particularly in the 18th–20th centuries. Uzbek vocabulary shows a layered structure due to historical and cultural contact. Source language example words domain: Arabic ilm, maktab, vaqt Religion, science. Persian gul, daftar, sabr Literature, daily life. Russian telefon, zavod, gazeta Technology, media. English kompyuter, marketing, biznes Modern life. The results demonstrate that Uzbek has borrowed from different languages depending on the period — Arabic and Persian during Islamic influence, and Russian and English in the modern era.

Discussion

The comparative analysis shows that borrowing is a universal process that shapes all languages. English borrowings are mostly due to colonization, education, and science. Russian borrowings reflect modernization and contact with Europe. Uzbek borrowings show cultural layering influenced by religion, empire, and globalization. Despite different sources, all three languages show phonetic and semantic adaptation. For example, kompyuter in Uzbek and Russian comes directly from English computer but is adjusted to native phonetics. Similarly, English borrowed algebra from Arabic al-jabr. Borrowings not only expand vocabulary but also enrich cultural identity. They show how languages evolve and connect civilizations.

Conclusion

Lexical typology helps linguists understand the dynamics of vocabulary formation. The comparison of English, Russian, and Uzbek shows that borrowing is a natural linguistic process reflecting contact, adaptation, and innovation. Studying borrowings allows us to trace historical and cultural connections between peoples and their languages.

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