

Lexical Borrowings and Adaptations of Anglicism

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Abstract. Lexical borrowings, or the adoption of words from one language into another, are a common phenomenon in language evolution. One language that has had a significant impact on the lexicon of other languages is English, particularly through the use of Anglicism. These are words borrowed from English that are used in other languages, often in the context of globalization and the spread of English as a global lingua franca. However, the adoption of these words is not always straightforward, and they often undergo adaptations to fit the phonological, morphological, and semantic patterns of the borrowing language. This paper will examine the process of lexical borrowing and adaptation of Anglicism in different languages, exploring the factors that influence the adoption and adaptation of these words, the linguistic and cultural implications of these processes, and the challenges and opportunities they present for language users and language planning. Through this analysis, we can gain a better understanding of the complex dynamics of language contact and change, and the ways in which different languages interact and influence one another in a globalized world.

Key words: *Borrowings, Adaptations, Anglicism, Loanwords, Lexis, Lexicology.*

LEXICAL BORROWINGS

DEFINITION

Lexical borrowing is a linguistic phenomenon that occurs when a word or phrase from one language is adopted into another language.¹ This can happen for various reasons, such as the need to express a new concept or the influence of cultural or economic factors. Borrowed words may undergo changes in pronunciation, spelling, or meaning to fit the conventions of the borrowing language. In the context of the seminar paper, an in-depth understanding of lexical borrowing is crucial for analyzing the impact of anglicisms on the Albanian language, and for exploring the benefits and drawbacks of language contact and adaptation. The definition of lexical borrowing is a key concept that provides the foundation for the analysis and discussion of the topic. Lexical borrowing is the process by which a language adopts words or expressions from another language and incorporates them into its own lexicon.

¹ Crystal, D. (2003). *English as a global language* (2nd ed.). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

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This can occur for a variety of reasons, such as the need to express new concepts or ideas, the influence of cultural or economic factors, or the desire to communicate with speakers of other languages. Borrowed words can be adapted to fit the phonological, grammatical, and semantic structure of the borrowing language, or they can retain their original form and meaning.

Lexical borrowing is a frequently observed occurrence in situations where different languages come into contact, and its influence plays a noteworthy role in shaping the growth and evolution of languages over a period of time.

TYPES OF LEXICAL BORROWING

1. **Loanwords:** Words that are adopted from one language into another with little or no modification in spelling or pronunciation. For example, the English word “computer” is a loanword in many languages, including Albanian.

2. **Calques:** Words or phrases that are translated literally from one language into another. For example, the English phrase “to kick the bucket” has been translated into Albanian as “të preket ndonjë shkop”.

3. **Hybrid words:** Words that are created by combining elements from two or more languages. For example, the word “brunch” is a combination of “breakfast” and “lunch”.

4. **Semantic borrowing:** The adoption of a word from one language into another with a different or expanded meaning. For example, the English word “cool” has been adopted into Albanian with a broader meaning, referring to

anything that is fashionable or trendy.

5. Phono-semantic matching: The adoption of a word from one language into another based on its sound and meaning. For example, the English word “baby” has been adopted into Albanian as “bebi”, which sounds similar and has the same meaning.²

Understanding the different types of lexical borrowing is important for analyzing the impact of Anglicism on the Albanian language, and for exploring the cultural and linguistic factors that contribute to language contact and adaptation.

ADAPTATIONS OF ENGLISH'S DEFINITION

Adaptations of Anglicism refer to the changes that occur when English words or phrases are adopted into another language. These adaptations can include changes in spelling, pronunciation, grammar, and meaning to fit the conventions of the borrowing language.³

For example, the English word “marketing” has been adapted into Albanian as “marketing” with a different pronunciation and spelling. In addition, adaptations may occur to reflect the grammatical rules of the borrowing language, such as adding inflections or changing word-order. Moreover, the meaning of Anglicism may evolve over time and become more specific or nuanced in the borrowing language. Understanding the adaptations of Anglicism is important for analyzing the impact of English on the Albanian language, and for exploring the ways in which language contact and adaptation shape linguistic diversity and change.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF LEXICAL BORROWING AND ADAPTATION

Challenges:

1. Resistance to change: Some speakers may resist the adoption of foreign words or phrases, especially if they perceive it as a threat to their language or culture.

2. Loss of linguistic diversity: The widespread adoption of English words and phrases can lead to a loss of linguistic diversity and the erosion of local languages and cultures.

² Rizaj, S. (2016). English loanwords in Albanian language. *European Journal of Social Sciences Education and Research*, 7(1), 123-128.

³ Mateo, M. A. (2010). Anglicisms and their impact on other languages. *English Today*, 26(2), 3-8.

3. Misunderstandings: Anglicism may be misunderstood or misused if their meaning or usage differs from the borrowing language.

4. Overuse: The overuse of Anglicism can lead to the creation of jargon and the exclusion of speakers who are not familiar with the borrowed terminology.

Opportunities:

1. Enrichment of vocabulary: Borrowing from other languages can enrich the vocabulary of the borrowing language and provide new ways to express concepts and ideas.

2. Facilitation of communication: Anglicism can facilitate communication between speakers of different languages and cultures, especially in domains such as science, technology, and business.

3. Globalization of culture: The adoption of English words and phrases can reflect the influence of global culture and promote cross-cultural exchange.

4. Creativity and innovation: The adaptation of Anglicism can spark creativity and innovation in the borrowing language, leading to the creation of new words and expressions.⁴

THE EXTENT OF LEXICAL BORROWING AND ADAPTATION IN ALBANIAN LANGUAGE

1. Historical context: Albanian has been influenced by various languages throughout its history, including Latin, Greek, Turkish, and Italian. These languages have left a lasting impact on Albanian vocabulary and grammar, and have contributed to the borrowing and adaptation of foreign words and phrases.

2. Contact with English: English has become a dominant global language in the 21st century, and its influence on Albanian language and culture has been significant. English words and phrases have been adopted into Albanian vocabulary, and have been adapted to fit the phonetic and grammatical rules of Albanian language.

3. Domains of borrowing: The extent of lexical borrowing and adaptation in Albanian language varies across different domains, such as science, technology, business, and popular culture. For example, the adoption of English words and phrases is more common in technical domains, while the borrowing of words related to popular culture is more recent.

⁴ Poplack, S., & Tagliamonte, S. A. (2017). *The Oxford Handbook of Sociolinguistics*. Oxford University Press.

4. Attitudes towards borrowing: The extent of lexical borrowing and adaptation in Albanian language is also influenced by attitudes towards borrowing from other languages. Some speakers may view the adoption of foreign words and phrases as a positive development, while others may resist it as a threat to their language and culture.

5. Linguistic diversity: The extent of lexical borrowing and adaptation in Albanian language also affects linguistic diversity and the preservation of local languages and cultures. The widespread adoption of English words and phrases may lead to the erosion of local languages and cultures, while the borrowing and adaptation of foreign words can enrich the vocabulary of Albanian language and provide new ways to express concepts and ideas.⁵

THE ADOPTION OF ENGLISH WORDS IN ALBANIAN LANGUAGE CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO VARIOUS SOCIAL AND CULTURAL FACTORS.

1. Globalization: The increasing interconnectedness of the world has led to the spread of English as a global language, and has made it a dominant language in many domains, such as business, science, and technology. The adoption of English words in Albanian language reflects the influence of globalization and the need to communicate with a wider audience.

2. Education: The role of English as a language of education and academic research has contributed to its adoption in Albanian language. Many Albanian students study in English-speaking countries or attend English-language universities, and may adopt English words and phrases as part of their academic vocabulary.

3. Media and popular culture: The influence of English-language media and popular culture has also contributed to the adoption of English words in Albanian language. English-language movies, TV shows, and music are popular in Albania, and may introduce new words and phrases into the language.

4. Technology: The widespread use of technology and the internet has also contributed to the adoption of English words in Albanian language. Many technological terms and concepts are originally expressed

in English, and may be adopted into Albanian language to facilitate communication and understanding.

5. Attitudes towards English: The attitudes of Albanian speakers towards English also play a role in the adoption of English words in Albanian language. Some may view English as a prestigious language and adopt English words as a way to demonstrate their proficiency and education, while others may view the adoption of foreign words as a threat to the purity of the Albanian language.⁶

Understanding the social and cultural factors that contribute to the adoption of English words in Albanian language is important for analyzing the impact of language contact and globalization on linguistic diversity and change, and for exploring the ways in which languages adapt and evolve over time.

THE BENEFITS OF LEXICAL BORROWING AND ADAPTATION

1. Enrichment of vocabulary: Borrowing and adaptation can enrich the vocabulary of a language, allowing speakers to express new concepts and ideas that may not have existed in the language before. This can be particularly useful in specialized domains such as science, technology, and business, where new terms and concepts are constantly emerging.

2. Facilitation of communication: Borrowing and adaptation can facilitate communication between speakers of different languages, by allowing them to use common terms and concepts. This can be particularly important in situations such as international trade, diplomacy, and academia, where clear communication is essential.

3. Cultural exchange: Borrowing and adaptation can promote cultural exchange and understanding, by allowing speakers of different languages to share words, concepts, and ideas. This can help to break down barriers between cultures and promote cross-cultural understanding.⁷

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, lexical borrowing and adaptation of Anglicism can have both benefits and drawbacks for languages and cultures. While borrowing and adaptation

⁵ Hasani, E. (2018). The Impact of Anglicisms on Albanian Language. *International Journal of Language and Literature*, 6(3), 14-21.

⁶ Hasani, E. (2018). The Impact of Anglicisms on Albanian Language. *International Journal of Language and Literature*, 6(3), 14-21.

⁷ Poplack, S., & Tagliamonte, S. A. (2017). *The Oxford Handbook of Sociolinguistics*. Oxford University Press.

can enrich the vocabulary of a language, facilitate communication, and promote cultural exchange, they can also lead to a loss of linguistic diversity, reinforce unequal power relations, and be difficult to adapt to the phonological and grammatical structure of the borrowing language. Therefore, it is important for language users and policymakers to carefully consider the impact of lexical borrowing and adaptation on linguistic diversity and change. It is important to actively preserve and promote the use of indigenous words and concepts in order to maintain the richness and diversity of the world's languages.

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