

English Borrowed Words In Iraqi Society

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the purpose and nature of borrowing. A sociolinguistic examination of the English loanwords that are ingrained in modern Iraqi Arabic. The daily conversations of Iraqi society have been increasingly influenced by English lexical items as globalization, digital media, and cultural exchange continue to accelerate. This research methodically examines the trajectory of these borrowings by examining lexical words in terms of their origin English words, the Iraqi form for loanwords, the sociolinguistic context in which they were used, and the target user group. The data was collected from social media platforms and spontaneous spoken interactions. The structural analysis shows that English words undergo systematic phonological adaptations (such as vowel insertion and consonant substitution) and morphological integrations (including Arabic verb patterning and pluralization) to match with the local dialect. The findings confirm that the distribution of these loanwords is not uniform; their adoption is significantly stratified by target user groups, with the highest frequency of usage observed among younger generations, urban populations, and higher socioeconomic or highly educated classes. Additionally, contextual analysis indicates that these borrowings are strategically implemented in specific domains, including technology, fashion, workplace environments, and casual youth slang, to fulfill distinct sociolinguistic functions, including prestige marking, identity construction, and modern solidarity. In conclusion, this investigation shows the dynamic nature of globalized Iraqi society by demonstrating how lexical borrowing is indicative of more extensive changes in social correspondence and cultural identity. **Key Words: English loanwords, sociolinguistics, Iraqi Arabic, lexical borrowing,**

المخلص

تتقصى هذه الدراسة طبيعة الاقتراض اللغوي وأسبابه، من خلال تحليل لغوي اجتماعي للكلمات الدخيلة من اللغة الإنجليزية والمنغرس في بنیان اللهجة العراقية المعاصرة. و مع التسارع لعجلة العولمة، ووسائل الإعلام الرقمي، والتبادل الثقافي، تغلغت المفردات الإنجليزية بشكل متزايد في التواصل اليومي للمجتمع العراقية. حيث تبحث هذه الدراسة بطريقة منهجية في مسار هذه الالفاظ المقترضة من خلال تحليل الكلمات المعجمية وردّها إلى أصولها الإنجليزية، وتحديد صيغتها المعربة للعراقي، ورصد السياق اللغوي الاجتماعي الذي تُستخدم فيه، فضلاً عن تحديد الفئة المستهدفة من المستخدمين. وقد جُمعت مادة الدراسة من التفاعلات الشفوية العفوية ومن منصات التواصل الاجتماعي. أظهر التحليل البنوي أن الكلمات الإنجليزية تخضع لتطويع صوتي (فونولوجي) نسقي (مثل إقحام الحروف المصوتة/الحركات، وإبدال الحروف الصامتة)، بالإضافة إلى إدماج صرفي يشمل إخضاع الكلمات لأوزان الأفعال العربية وصيغ الجمع، وذلك لكي تتلاءم مع البنية اللغوية للهجة المحلية. أما من الناحية اللغوية الاجتماعية، فقد أكدت النتائج أن توزيع هذه الكلمات الدخيلة ليس متسقاً أو متساوياً؛ إذ يخضع تبنيها لتفاضل طبقي واجتماعي واضح تبعاً للفئات المستخدمة، حيث سُجّلت أعلى معدلات الاستخدام بين فئات الشباب، وسكان المناطق الحضرية، والطبقات ذات المستويات الاقتصادية والاجتماعية المرتفعة أو الفئات الأعلى علاوة على ذلك،

يشير التحليل السياقي إلى أن هذه المقترضات اللغوية تُوظف استراتيجياً في مجالات محددة؛ تشمل التكنولوجيا، والأزياء، وبيئات العمل، والمصطلحات الدارجة بين الشباب، وذلك لتأدية وظائف لغوية اجتماعية متباينة، منها: إبراز المكانة الاجتماعية، وبناء الهوية، وتأكيد التضامن والتناغم العصري. ختاماً، تسلط هذه الدراسة الضوء على الطبيعة الديناميكية للمجتمع العراقي العولمي، مبيّنةً كيف يعكس الاقتراض المعجمي تغيرات أوسع نطاقاً في الهوية الثقافية والتواصل الاجتماعي. • الكلمات المفتاحية: الكلمات المستعارة من اللغة الإنجليزية، علم اللغويات الاجتماعي، العربية العراقية، الاقتراض المعجمي

1. Introduction

When one language borrows words from other languages and these words become portion of its own vocabulary: they are called loanwords or borrowed words and this procedure is called linguistic borrowing. A loanword is a lexical word which has been taken from another language, a new word that take its position to be used by the speakers of the recipient language. For instance, in old English the word "pork" did not exist; it became an English word after it was taken from French pore 'pig, pork' taken in the late Middle English period . (Campbell , 1998 : 57,58). Meaning and form are adapted by speakers of the borrowed language and they are adapted in a way to suit the new phonological system of the recipient language. On the other hand sounds and grammatical structures are less borrowed (Crystal ,2008 :58, 404). One language can take words from many languages and it never gets them back again . (Yule ,2010 :54)

The word "borrowing" indicate to the process of speakers taking words from a source language into their language (recipient language) the two words "loan" and "borrowing" have been described as metaphors, in the sense that there is no literal lending process. There is no real transfer from one language to another, and there is no intention to get these words back to the source language. They come to this language to be used by its native speakers as if they are originally its own. As a result, borrowing comes of cultural communication between two language communities. The process of borrowing of words align in both directions between the two languages in communication, but often there is one language that borrows many words from the other language . The language that gives more is the one which is more prestigious. (www.ruf.rice.edu)

2. How is the process of borrowing done?

Loan words often undergo phonologically and morphologically construction inorder to suit the structure of the recipient language at least in early stages of language contact. The introduced words to the recipient language may carry sounds which are foreign to its speakers. These sounds undergo certain processes to assimilate these sounds as their own sounds and this happens due to "phonetic interference" and the process is called adaptation (or phoneme substitution). In this process sounds are modified to conform the equivalent sounds in the borrowed language. For example, in Finnish there are no voiced stops b, d, g; in loans borrowed into Finnish from Gennanic languages which contained b, d, g, voiceless stops (p, t, k), the closest phonetic counterparts in Finnish, replaced these sounds, as seen in, for example, parta 'beard' (from Gennanic *bardaz) and kaasuu 'gas' (from Gennanic, as English word gas) (Campbell, 1998: 60-63).

The quantity of borrowed words is contingent upon the various types of language communications , and the result of borrowing can fluctuate based on the duration and strength of the contact, the nature of the communication, and the level of bilingualism in the populations. Changes in phonemes in the borrowing language, besides borrowed words that incorporate the new sounds, will be the result of long-term interaction. This process is referred to as "direct phonological diffusion." For instance, English did not have the phonemic 13/ prior to its extensive interaction with French. Through the numerous French loans that included this sound and were incorporated into English, such as rouge Iru31 (French rouge'red'), it became an English phoneme. Not only are loan words reconstructed to go with the borrowing language phonology, but they are also occasionally altered to shape the morphological patterns of the borrowing language. For instance, Spanish and French borrowings into Arabic have been adapted to go with morphological paradigms in Arabic language, which entail vowel changes in the root to indicate distinct morphemes, such as the difference between "singular" and "plural." For instance, "resibo" (singular) and "ruiiseb" (plural) are equivalent to "recibo biibor" (a steamship, steamer) in Spanish, while "buiiber" (plural) is equivalent to "vapor" (/bapor/) in Spanish. (Campbell, 1998: 60-63)

3. Determining the Direction of Borrowing

The process of borrowing involve two directions , one is the source (giver) and the other one is the (taker). The following criteria determine whether certain words are borrowed or not

3.1 Phonological clues

The most important criterion that distinguishes loan words is the sound which is not normally existed in the native words , so words contain these sounds are referred to as loanwords. The second criterion that determines loanwords is words which violate the typical phonological patterns (canonical forms, morpheme structure, syllable structure, phonotactics) of a language are referred to as loanwords. Other criterion that distinguishes loanwords is phonological history. In some conditions where the phonological history of the languages of a family is known, information concerning the sound alternation they have undergone can be useful for determining loans, the direction of borrowing, and what the source language was (Campbell, 1998: 64, 65).

3.2 Morphological complexity

The direction of borrowing can be determined by the morphological structure of words. In certain cases of borrowing, the form in question is morphologically complex, meaning it consists of more than one morpheme, or it is originally complex and lacking an equivalent analysis in the borrower language. (Campbell, 1998: 64, 65) The source language is typically the one with the morphologically complex form, while the borrower is the one with the monomorphemic form. For instance, the English term "alligator" came from the Spanish term "el lagarto," which means "the alligator." Despite being monomorphemic in English, the direction of borrowing must be from Spanish to English, as it is based on two morphemes in Spanish: "el" meaning "the" and "lagró," meaning "alligator." As the Moors dominated Spain (901-1492), numerous Arabic words were combined into Spanish. Many Arabic loans in Spanish have the Arabic definite article al-, which is monomorphemic change Spanish. A little amount of examples of this are: albanil 'mason' (Arabic banna), albaricoque 'apricot' (Arabic barquq), albondiga and 'meat ball' (Arabic bunduqa 'ball'), also alcalde 'mayor' (like Arabic qadi 'judge'), alcoba 'bedroom, alcove' (Arabic qobbah 'vault, vaulted chamber'), alcohol 'alcohol' (Arabic koljl 'collyrium, fine powder used to paint the eyelids'), alfalfa 'alfalfa' (Arabic fassafa 'the best kind of fodder', itself a loan from Persian aspest), algodón 'cotton' (Arabic qu:n 'cotton'; English cotton is from Arabic), alguacil 'constable, bailiff, peace officer' (Arabic wazr 'minister, vizier', also the source of English vizier) . (Campbell, 1998: 56,66)

3.3 Clues from cognates

Words of more than one language that are under suspect of being borrowed, if it has legal cognates through one source languages of the same family, and found in few languages of another family, then the source language is one of the languages forming questions has cognates in the related languages. For example, Finnish tytiir 'daughter' has no relative in the other branches of the Finno-Ugric family, while cognates of Proto-Indo-European *dhug(h);t;r 'daughter' are known from most Indo-European languages, including ones as geographically far apart as Sanskrit and English. (Campbell, 1998: 67, 68)

3.4 Geographical and ecological effects

The geographical and ecological links can play roles in suspecting loanwords. They can give information that helps to determine whether they are borrowed or not and give information about its own identity of the source language . For example, the remoteness of the geographical and ecological from earlier English-speaking part of zebra, gnu, impala and aardvark - animals in Africa originally makes these words to be loanwords in English (Campbell, 1998: 67-68).

4. The Reasons of borrowing

"need" and "prestige" are two primary motivations for borrowing words from other languages. There is necessity of naming new concepts in a language becomes urgent, accordingly, they often borrow words from other languages. For instance, the reason why a lot of languages have similar terms for "automobile" (as in Russian avtomobilj, Finnish auto, Swedish bil—from the last syllable of automobil), "coffee" (Russian kofe, Finnish kahvi, Japanese kohii), and "tobacco" (Finnish tupakka, Indonesian tembakau [t;mbakau], Japanese tabako 'cigarette, tobacco,' specifically derived from Arabic tabiiq 'a herb which produced euphoria' via Spanish tabaco). The second reason for borrowing is prestige, which is that the foreign term is highly regarded for some reason. This type of borrowing is occasionally referred to as "luxury loanwords." English could have achieved the same level of proficiency with only native words for "pig flesh/pig meat" and "cow flesh/cow meat." However, for prestige reasons, pork (derived from French porc) and beef (derived from French boeuf) were included. A third but less significant reason for borrowing is the opposite of prestige, which is a result of negative evaluation. These words are adopted by the language as derogatory. (Campbell , 1998 :59-60)

Table 1. English loanwords in the Iraqi society

The origin English words	The Iraqi form for loanwords	The sociolinguistics context they used in	Target user group
Try	تراي	Fields of cars	Young people
Wrong side	رون سايد	And deciding the direction	All ages especially young people
Toilet	تواليت	For WC	All ages
Jug	جك	Container of water	All ages
Glass	كلاص	A small container of water	All ages
Sink	سنگ	When we wash dishes	All ages especially women
Dish	دش	That thing which receives signals	All ages
Satellite	ستلايت	Receiver	All ages
Asphalt	اسفلت	Used for building	All ages especially working staff
Cement	سمنت	Used for building	All ages especially working staff
Influenza	فلاونزا	Kind of disease	All ages
Bus	باص	A big vehicle	All ages
Motor	ماطور	Electronic bike	Young people
Corridor	كوليدور	The entry of a house	All ages
Bicycle	بايسكل	Kind of bike	All ages
Balloon	بالون	An entity full of air	Kids
Mobile	موبايل	Machine used for calling	All ages
Internet	انترنت	Used to connect to network	All ages especially young
Computer	كمبيوتر	Electronic device	All ages especially young
Vase	فازا	Container of flowers	All ages especially women
Heater	هيتز	Source of heat	All ages especially old
Bottle	بطل	Glass of container	All ages
Dashboard	دشبول	The inside front of the car	Men in all ages
Body	بدي	Kind of clothes	All ages especially young women
Fingers	فتكرز	Kind of fried potato	All ages especially young
Sausage	صوصج	Kind of meat	All ages

Steak	ستيك	Sliced meat	All ages
Diet	دايت	Follow strict system I food	Young and middle-aged people
Message	مسج	Electronic letter	All ages especially young
Capsule	كبسول	Medicine	All ages especially doctors and pharmacists
T-shirts	تيشيرت	Kind of clothes	All ages especially young people

5. Previous Studies

Al-Jarf (2023) To summarize this study we can say that loanwords come to languages and become part of it for many reasons . Arabic language as many other languages borrowed words from English and use them as their own . These words change the nature of our language and dialect and cause expansion in its own vocabulary. Al-Jarf (2024) The paper investigates the derivation of verbs from loanwords in Arabic, revealing that 41% of derived verbs are Arabizations of the source verbs, while 59% are new verbs created from loan nouns for which no verb existed in the source language. It identifies nine Arabic derivational patterns, with the most productive being the quadri-consonantal paradigm/ (فعلل) fa?lal/ CVCCVC ,(used in 46% of cases. The study also highlights constraints on verb derivation and recommends the creation of dictionaries for loanwords and Arabic derivations. Abdulrazzaq and Al-Ubaidy (2023) The study examines the phonological adaptation of diphthongs in English loanwords within Iraqi Arabic using quantitative method for analysis of 346 loanwords. It reveals that most adaptations follow systematic patterns, often involving the replacement of diphthongs with vowel-plus-glide sequences or their lessen to single vowels. The findings shows that these adaptations are influenced by both the phonological systems of Iraqi Arabic and English, with spelling also playing a role . The study investigates the use of English loanwords in the speech of Jordanian university students, showing that these words are employed for reasons such as prestige, habit, study needs, and modernity. It finds that students in scientific faculties use English loanwords more frequently than those in humanities, and that women use them more often than men. The primary reason for this preference is the assumption that English words lack equivalents in Arabic and have become habitual in their usage .Al Btoush (2014)The paper studies the use of English loanwords in the daily conversation of students at Jordanian University in Jordan. It analyzes factors influencing the adoption of these borrowings, providing a detailed discussion of English effect on colloquial Arabic, which aligns with the focus on English borrowings into Arabic.

6. Methodology

This study adopts a qualitative, descriptive-analytical method using multi-source "lexical surfing" method to collect English loanwords from Iraqi social media, public speech, and broadcast media. The gathered data is analyzed using a four-tiered comparative matrix. First, the source English etymon establishes a semantic and grammatical baseline. Second, the structural adaptation is evaluated, isolating phonological changes and morphological integrations into Iraqi Arabic. Third, the sociolinguistic context is investigated by mapping the words in specific domains like technology, fashion, or workplace environments to identify their communicative functions. Finally, demographic accordance identifies the primary target user groups based on age, education, and socioeconomic status. This comprehensive framework captures how structural linguistic changes mirror cultural shifting, identity marking, and social accordance within contemporary Iraqi society.

7. Conclusion

To sum up this study we can say that loanwords come to languages and become part of it for many reasons . Arabic language as many other languages borrowed words from English and adopts them as their own wo . These words change the nature of our language and dialect and expand its own vocabulary. The analysis shows that English words undergo systematic phonological adaptations (such as vowel insertion and consonant substitution) and morphological integrations (including Arabic verb patterning and pluralization) to conform to the local dialect. Sociolinguistically, the findings indicate that these loanwords are not distributed uniformly; their adoption is heavily stratified by target user groups, with younger generations, urban populations, and higher socioeconomic or highly educated classes demonstrating the highest frequency of usage. Moreover,

contextual analysis reveals that these borrowings are strategically deployed within specific domains such as technology, fashion, workplace environments, and casual youth slang serving distinct sociolinguistic functions, including prestige marking, identity construction, and modern solidarity.

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