THE DEFINITIONS OF BORROWING AS A LEXICAL PHENOMENON

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ABSTRACT

In this thesis, borrowing word and its definitions as a lexical phenomenon are analyzed in some fields. Investigating works that borrow and thrive upon existing sound sources presents an array of issues regarding terminology, authorship and creativity. Furthermore, the studies on the semantic idiosyncrasies and purposes of loan words, their primary extralinguistic causes and essential stages, and other French borrowings that were incorporated into the English language over time are covered in this thesis.

KEYWORDS: lexicological phenomenon, phonological phonotactics, calque, guest words, oral borrowing, written borrowing.

INTRODUCTION

As we know, due to the development of technology and globalization among different countries, languages come into contact, as the result words are borrowed from one language to another and particularly from the donor language to the recipient one. For this purpose, I try to define loanwords or borrowing words, classify them depending on some fields and also identify the major factors on loanwords. The definitions of borrowing as a lexicological phenomenon supplied on the authority of many scholars and based on diverse lexicographic materials are given special consideration.

METHODOLOGY

It is a fact that, linguists define borrowing or loanwords differently. For example, the process of borrowing has been defined by Hock as: "an adoption of individual words or even large sets of vocabulary items from another language or dialect" which, as said by the author, is a "very common result of linguistic contact." Fromkin, Rodman & Hyams unanimously stated: "a borrowing occurs when one language adds a word or a morpheme from another language to its own lexicon." Moreover, according to Mahwi, borrowing refers to "the adaptive words that are derived by phonological or morphological phonotactics of a language in a way that suit the language system".

All language has lexical or grammatical changes over the course of its evolution, although at varying rates and intensities. Some languages exhibit frequent changes that are plain to see. Others have some changes, however they are less obvious because there are fewer of them.

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Because of this, some changes are obvious while others are more subtle. But, one thing that is undeniably true when discussing the evolution of any language is that change is constantly taking place, giving all languages a life of their own. Any language can be improved in a variety of ways by adding new lexical items and grammatical constructions. It is common knowledge that several morphological processes, such as compounding, affixation, incorporation, conversion, back derivation, an internal alteration, or reduplication, can expand a language's lexicon. In addition to purely morphological processes, there are other processes that produce words. We separate clipping, mixing, and acronymization from them. It is important to note that borrowing has always been extremely beneficial to the growth of the English language.

The characteristics of the English language borrowing process will lead us to the conclusion that several very distinct languages, some only slightly, have influenced English over the course of centuries. Others had a significant influence on its terminology. For instance, from English's earliest origins, Latin, Greek, Celtic, Scandinavian, and French all had a big impact on the language. The French language, like all other languages in the world, contains unique characteristics such as word order, vocabulary, and sound. Certain regions of the vocabulary are more developed than others. These are the fields of law, military, and food. Nonetheless, because of the astounding number of cases, other lexical domains cannot be seen as being more inadequate. It is crucial to emphasize that both lexical areas are constantly evolving and that each lexical unit can contribute to the lexical enrichment of other languages. Other languages spoken in the twentieth century, such as Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Spanish, German, or Russian, also added to the vocabulary of English.

The process of borrowing can be realized in two ways: through oral speech (by immediate communicative contacts between people) and written speech (by indirect language interaction through documents, books, etc.). Oral borrowing took place chiefly in the early periods of history, whereas in recent times, written borrowing gained importance. Words borrowed orally (e.g., L. inch, mill, street) are usually short, and they undergo considerable changes in the act of adoption. Written borrowings (e.g., Fr. communiqué, belles-lettres, naïveté) preserve their spelling and some peculiarities of their sound form; their adaptation is a long and laborious process. The main objective of the linguistic analysis done for this study is to provide examples of French loans that have been gradually assimilated into English. The lexical components of every French borrowing have been examined. By providing a definition in modern English and an etymological comment, certain example paradigms also received extra information that confirmed their French ancestry. Every research yields both theoretical and useful values. This semantic analysis shows that French has always been a significant source of borrowings. Every era of history left some priceless contributions to English. The theoretical component of the study gave a systematic overview of the problems with borrowing as a method of lexicon enrichment.

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RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

As a result, the current thesis' applications are both pedagogical and scientific in nature. The information and results can be applied in schools for educational purposes. As language borrowing is too complicated, then the question arises, what are the reasons for this process? To our minds, the grounds are manifold. There is a necessity for adopting concepts along with the terms identifying them, as various cultures blend. These are items that are not presented in the recipient language. Therefore, it is less complicated to adopt the concept rather than trying to formulate a new term. Frequently, there are cases when there is a need to present some specific ideas or objects, like the ones from fauna and flora. As there are many reasons for the process of borrowing in general. Hence, there are also different types of adopted words according to the degree of their assimilation into the recipient language. For instance, Hughes proposes four kinds of borrowings:

Guest words – words, which remain their original meaning, orthography, and pronunciation. For example, the Italian word "diva" was adopted into English as "diva."

Foreign words – words that are only partially assimilated to the recipient language though sometimes are challenging to be recognized as borrowings.

Loan words – words incorporated into the recipient language to a great extent so it is almost impossible to identify them as borrowings, like the words "street" or "bishop." Such loan words virtually become native words and sometimes are mistreated as ones.

Calques – words called loan translations, as they involve rendition from one language to another, like "world view" translated literally from German "Weltanschauung."

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, we can clarify "loan" and "borrowing" are, of course, metaphors because there is no literal lending process. There is no transfer from one language to another and no "returning" words to the source language. The outcomes can also be used for additional language operations.

Furthermore, reorganizing the millennia-old traditions of the synthesis of language theories from contemporary cultural theories served as the foundation for new study. Though languages have various methods of increasing its vocabulary but the major one remains the basic, which is called "borrowing". We know that, borrowing is one of the linguistic outcomes of language contact and is found all languages.

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