

SPECIFIC FEATURES OF BORROWINGS IN ENGLISH FROM ASIAN LANGUAGES

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Semantic Classification of Borrowings from the Indian language

Rezumat

În acest articol autoarea abordează tema cuvintelor împrumutate, care este un fenomen caracteristic pentru toate limbile și care a fost întotdeauna o sursă importantă de dezvoltare a vocabularului limbii engleze. Unele cuvinte împrumutate se numesc articole și fenomene noi, altele înlocuiesc concepte deja cunoscute de către omologii lor străini, care mai târziu au devenit neclare din cauza asimilării lor cu cuvintele native.

For many centuries India was the colony of Great Britain. English influenced greatly the languages of Indian people: Hindi and Urdu that in turn had some effect of English. Of course, it was not as great as the impact of French, Spanish or Italian. Hindi and Urdu have nothing in common with English and as a result words have undergone modifications and simplification. The majority of borrowed words were changed according to the grammatical standards of the English language. They denote mainly new phenomena and realities that were unknown to English people. The process of borrowing began in the 16th century [1, p. 159] and continued in the following centuries.

These borrowings were few and were connected mainly with the Indian way of living. They reflect the hierarchy of Indian officials, flora and fauna. Thus, borrowings from the Indian languages may be divided into the following groups:

- the first group unites words that belong to clothes: *pyjamas, sari, bandanna*, etc.;
- the second group includes words that denote view fabrics: *calico, chintz, cashmere, dungaree*, etc.;

- another group reflects words that denote fauna: *wanderoo, cowrie, cheetah, mongoose, anaconda*, etc.;
- the fourth group unites concepts relating to flora: *lilic, banyan, mango, teak*, etc.;
- the following group includes words connected with the hierarchical structure of the Indian society: *maharaja, maharani, raja, rani/ranee, nabob, pariah*, etc.;
- the sixth group unites words relating to professions: *coolie, lascar, fakir, sepoy* [2, p. 143] etc.;
- the seventh group reflects words connected with the specific features of the religion: „*Buddhism, Hinduism, Brahma, yoga, karma, guru, nirvana*, etc." [1, p. 159];
- the following group represents words that are related to foods and drinks: *chutney, punch, toddy, mulligatawny soup, curry*, etc.;
- the ninth group reflects words that are connected with buildings: *veranda, pagoda, bungalow*, etc.;
- the next group includes words that name precious stones: *emerald, opal, sapphire, beryl*, etc.;
- into the following group we may include words that do not belong to the previous categories as, for example, *monsoon, junk, sugar, camphor, copra, saffron*, etc.

We have to mention other Indian words that are well-known to the speakers of many languages. "*Jungle* is a word that denotes thick Indian woods where tiger hunts have been held and the hunters have been sitting on elephants in the *howdahs*. Another word worth of mentioning is *swastika*, coming originally from a Sanskrit word *svastis* meaning *welfare*. *Shampoo*, a word widely used today also comes from India and means *massage*. *Khaki* is a term widely used in the military sphere and originates in from Hindi having the meaning of being *dusty*" [3, p. 54].

Thus, we can see, that borrowings were not so many as from European languages and the majority of them is not used in the everyday life with some exceptions as *shampoo*, but are tightly connected with the Indian people way of living. This fact makes their use very rare and those words are used wider that reflect some spheres of life of the English people.

Lexical Borrowings from Other Oriental languages.

Arabic language. „Among Oriental languages Arabic is the one that contributed the greatest quantity of words to the English language" [4, p. 109].

These words are mainly connected with science. This situation may be explained by the fact that science was highly developed in the Middle Ages, the period when the majority of words from Arabic entered English.

„Other historical facts that contributed to the enlargement of the English language vocabulary were the occupation of Spain by Arabs in the 8th - 15th centuries, the Crusades in the 11th - 13th centuries" [6, p. 106]. The establishment of commercial relations with the East was another factor that led to the introduction of Arabic words.

The words from Arabic may be divided into the following groups:

- the first group unites words that denote the hierarchical structure of the Eastern world: *caliph, sheikh, sultan, emir*, etc.;
- the second group includes words that relate to the zoology: *bulbul, marabou*, etc.;
- the following group represents the articles of everyday use: *divan, sofa, mattress*, etc.;
- the fourth group includes words connected with drinks: *sherbet, syrup, alcohol*, etc.;
- the next group includes the terms that are connected with

science: *algebra, alkali, alchemy*, etc.;

- the sixth group unites the words related to the names of fabrics: *damask, mohair, cotton*, etc.;

- the seventh group represents the words that are connected with the names of fruits: *apricot, lemon*;

- the following group includes the words that are related to fauna: *gazelle, giraffe*.

Other words that cannot be included in the groups mentioned above are *hashish, harem, magazine, carat, tariff, zero*, etc. Some of these words are widely used in the everyday life; others represent only the historical realias and consequently are not frequently used.

In general, Arabic had not great influence on the English vocabulary it is estimated to be approximately 170 words but the majority of them are very seldom used.

Persian language. The influence of the Persian language was lesser than that of Arabic. These borrowings are very few and some of them as *chess, scarlet, paradise*, and *tiger* are widely used while others as *bazaar, scimitar, pilaf*, and *darbar* are not widely used.

Other words worth mentioning are *caravan, shah, dervish*, some names of fruits as *peach, pistachio*.

„Some of Persian words did not come directly but through Greek as *asparagus, magic, peacock, rice*, etc." [4, p. 108].

Hebrew. Words from Hebrew are few and do not belong to a definite area of human activity except of those that denote religious terms. This group has the vastest quantity of words: *cherub, rabbi, hallelujah, Jehovah, messiah, Yahweh, amen, hosanna*, etc.

Other important words are „*alphabet, camel, cinnamon, shalom*, etc." [2, p. 143].

Chinese and Japanese. The influence of these two languages is lesser than that of Hebrew. From Chinese English borrowed „*tea, silk, ginseng, ketchup*", [Sandor Rot, *From Middle English to the Macrosystem of Modern English*, p. 414] *china, kung fu, taipan*, etc. Japanese contributed to the English language vocabulary the

following words: *Bushido, kamikaze, kimono, Mikado, samurai, judo, haiku, geisha*, etc. As we may see the words from Japanese are connected with the Japanese culture and social structure, while the words from Chinese are of a wider use and also refer to European realities.

From the facts mentioned above we draw a conclusion that Asian languages had not great influence on the English language vocabulary in comparison with European languages. However, some words are quite widely used, while others have not gathered general usage.

Bibliography

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THE CROSS – CULTURAL APPROACH TO EFL TEACHING AND LEARNING

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Summary

The present article focuses on intercultural approach in teaching and learning English as a foreign language. A foreign language instruction cannot be reduced only to teaching of linguistic skills like phonology, morphology, vocabulary, and syntax, it should also include such vital component as cultural knowledge and awareness. The article gives some suggestions for intercultural