

## Borrowing in English Language

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**Abstract:** *This paper shows what is the meaning of borrowing and defines it as introducing a word from one language or dialect into another vocabulary borrowings are usually called loan words. Examples including, 'smoking' and 'computer' (from English into French) and then shows the processes of language borrowing and how Language borrowing has been an interest to various fields of linguistics for some time. In the study of language borrowing, loan words are only one of the types of borrowings that occur across language boundaries and loan words the first kind of the borrowing and that is one of the most frequent ways of acquiring new words and speakers of all languages do it. English-speakers have long been among the most enthusiastic borrowers of other people's words on earth, and many, many thousands of English words have been acquired in just this way. We get (**kayak**) from Eskimo language. (**whisky**) from Scots Gaelic. Another process is loan shift that occurs is that of adopting native words to the new meanings. A good example from the early Christian era in England is **Easter**, which had earlier been used for a pagan dawn goddess festival. Other loan shifts in English include **God, heaven, and hell**. another kind is A loan-translation or claque occurs when the native language uses an item-for- item native version of the original. 'loan word' itself is a loan-translation of the German **lehnwort** and on the other hand this paper shows how the borrowing occurs at the end.*

**Key Words:** *borrowing, Loan word, loan shift, loan translation , kayak*

### Introduction

Borrowing means taking a word from another language. The topic of borrowing is very important to study because each language borrowed words from other languages . for example, the English language borrowed many words from French ,Latin, Dutch ,Greek ,polish ,etc. This paper aims studying the process of borrowing linguistically and shows the reasons behind borrowing the English language many words from other languages. In this paper , the process of language borrowings including loan word, loan shift and loan-translation are introduced. Also, there is a phonological treatment for the loan words because through borrowing words from one language into another, there borrowed words sometimes, undergo a phonological change. As

they sometimes, they undergo morphonological change .In this paper , many words are introduced to analyze them.

### **Borrowing**

Preliminary remarks of different strategies adopted to cope with language contact. From these strategies, contact phenomena come about such as transfer, interference, borrowing, code switching, code mixing, calquing, etc. Whichever phenomena an individual or speech community chooses to adopt, what is important is the contribution that the phenomenon brings to the verbal repertoire of the individual or to the speech community and the increased ability of the speakers to effectively articulate their communicative intentions. Borrowing ( or loan words ) involves adopting aspect of one language into another. Borrowings are usually single nouns or frozen formulaic expressions that seep through another language in a slow fashion. New words acquired through globalization are borrowed fairly quickly but the features usually take time to form from language to language. Eventually, if and when the feature is finally adopted, there must be a persistent means of contact ( **Nicasio,2007:3**).

Also, **Crystal (1992:46-47)** defines borrowing as introducing a word from one language or dialect into another vocabulary borrowings are usually called loan words. Examples including, 'smoking' and 'computer' (from English into French) and restaurant and chic (from French into English). In a loan blend, the meaning is borrowed but only part of the form, such as when English restaurant retains a French of the final syllable. In loan shift, the meaning is borrowed but the form is nativized, such as when restaurant is given a totally English pronunciation. These terms are all something of a misnomer, as a word are not given back. Similarly, **Yule ( 1996:65)** says that borrowing is the taking over of words from other languages. Throughout its history. The English language has adopted a vast number of loan-words from other languages, including **alcohol (Arabic), boss (Dutch), croissant (French), lilac (pesian), piano (Italian), pretzel (German), robot (Czech), tycoon (Japanese),**

**yogurt (Turkish) and zebra (Bonta).** other languages, of course, borrow terms from English, as can be observed in the Japanese use of **Suupaamaaketto 'Super market' and rajio 'radio', or Hungarians talking about Sport, klub, and futbal, or the French discussing problems of le stress, over a glass of le whisky, during le weekend.**

### **Processes of Language Borrowing**

Language borrowing has been an interest to various fields of linguistics for some time. In the study of language borrowing, loan words are only one of the types of borrowings that occur across language boundaries. The speakers of language have various options when confronted with new items and ideas in another language (**Hoffer,2005:53**).There processes are shown below:-

### Loan word

Speakers may adopt the item or idea and the source language word for each. The borrowed form is a loan word. These forms now function in the usual grammatical processes, with nouns taking plural and/or possessive forms of the new language and with verbs and adjectives receiving native morphemes as well (**ibid**).

Similarly, **Trask (1996:18-19)** states that is one of the most frequent ways of acquiring new words and speakers of all languages do it. English-speakers have long been among the most enthusiastic borrowers of other people's words on earth, and many, many thousands of English words have been acquired in just this way. We get (**kayak**) from Eskima language. (**whisky**) from Scots Gaelic, (**ukulele**) from Hawaiian, (**ski**) from Norwegian, (**waltz**) from German, and (**kangaroo**) from the Guugu – Yimidhirr language of Australia. Indeed, if you leaf through the pages of an English dictionary that provides the sources of words. You will discovered that well over half the words in it are taken from other language in one way or another. Why should people so eager to borrow somebody else's word ? there are several reasons, but the simplest is that the words is the name of something genuinely new to speakers of the borrowing language.

### Loan shift

Another process that occurs is that of adopting native words to the new meanings. A good example from the early Christian era in England is **Easter**, which had earlier been used for a pagan dawn goddess festival. Other loan shifts in English include **God, heaven, and hell** (**Hoffer,2005:53**).

### Loan-translation

A loan-translation or calque occurs when the native language uses an item-for- item native version of the original. 'loan word' itself is a loan-translation of the German **lehnwort**, marriage of convenience is from the French, and long time is a somewhat altered version from the Chinese. An example from the earliest Christian era is **gospel**, from good (**good**) and **spella** (**story;book**). The Latin source was related to evangelist (from good plus message plus the ending-it is for person). **Good book** and **holy write** and soon can be seen as **loan-translation** of the native form **godspella** or 'gospel' (**Hoffer,2005:53**).

Similarly, **Yule (1996:65)** indicates that a special of borrowing is described loan translation or calque. In this process, there is a direct translation of the elements of the word into the borrowing language, An interesting example is the French term '**ungrattciel**', which literally translates as '**a scrape-sky**', or the German **wolken Kratzer** '**cloud scraper**' both of which were used for what, in English, is normally referred to as **a sky scraper**. The English word '**superman**', is thought to be a loan-translation of the German '**Übermensch**', the American concept '**boy friend**' was a borrowing, with a sound

modification into Japanese 'boyifurendo', but as a claque into Chinese as 'male friend' or nan pengyn.

Also, **Trask (1999:197)** defines as a very subtle way of borrowing a foreign word. Instead of taking over the foreign word bodily, the borrowing language instead translates it literally, piece by piece, thereby obtaining something that at least looks like a native word. The ancient Romans often used this technique for deriving words from the then more prestigious Greek. For example, the Greek word *sympathia* consists of two pieces: a prefix *syn-*, meaning (with), and a stem *pathia*, meaning (suffering). The Romans translated this by using their own prefix *con-* (with) and the Latin stem *passio* (suffering), obtaining the Latin calque *compassio*.

### Phonological Treatment of Loans

Every language has its own phonological system : its own collection of available speech sounds and its own rules for combining these sounds into pronounceable words. But the phonological system of English, French, German, Italian, and Japanese are all rather different, and hence a loan word can be very difficult for speakers to pronounce. English does not have the nasal vowel of French genre or the front rounded vowel of German **muesli** ; Spanish does not allow the initial [st-] cluster of English starts ; French lacks the velar nasal of English camping ; Japanese allows neither the consonant cluster nor the final consonant of English **grapefruit**-yet all these words have been borrowed. How do they get pronounced ? there are two ways of dealing with this problem. First, if you have some idea how the word is pronounced in the donor language, you can try your best to reproduce that pronunciation in your language, producing it as a result of something which is conspicuously foreign. Second, you can abandon such efforts and just pronounce the loan word as though it were a native word, following the ordinary phonological patterns of your language, and as a result of changing the original pronunciation of the word, perhaps greatly, both these approaches are widely used (**Trask ,1996:24-27**) .

On the other hand, most English speakers who use the word genre do their best to produce something approximating to the French pronunciation and wind up saying something like [ʒã.ɛ], with a nasal vowel but often with an English /r/ instead of French uvular /r/. On the other hand, nobody tries to pronounce **muesli** in a German way, as ['my:zli] : we all just say ['mju:zli] or ['mju:sli] with English sounds throughout. The choice is not predictable but you are more likely to take a first option if you have some command of the lending language's pronunciation and if you consider the lending language to be a prestigious. Lots of English speakers know some French, especially in the academic circles in which the word genre is chiefly used, and French still retains some of its earlier prestige, some genre gets a French type pronunciation. But few of us know much German, and German does not seem to enjoy the same **cache** : with as French and so **muesli** is simply anglicized. Not all speakers will

make the same choice. The English **video** has been borrowed into Japanese which has no /v/ and so many Japanese pronounce the word as **bideo**, with the nearest native equivalent /b/, but others carefully pronounce the word with a /v/. almost all of us pronounce the Spanish loan **guerrilla** just like **gorilla**, but there used to be a television news reader who made a point of pronouncing it with a Spanish accent, trilled [r] palatal lateral . And all, an add choice, because the word does not in fact mean ‘**guerrilla**’ in Spanish (it means ‘**guerrilla war**’ ), and hence here attempts at accuracy were rather pointless. It is reported that polyglot physicist murray gell-mann always pronounce the name **Montreal** in an impeccable French manner, even in English, which to most people seems a quaint affectation. Especially if the loans are few in number, or if they present formidable phonological difficulties or if they quickly come into use as everyday words. We many expect speakers to prefer the second option, nativization. Thus, English **grape fruit** is borrowed into Japanese as **gureepufuruutsu**, which conforms perfectly to the phonological patterns of Japanese, and Mexican Spanish **juzgado** ‘**courthouse**’ was borrowed into American English as the famous **hoosegow** ‘**jail**’ of western movies with totally English phonology ( in small western towns, the courthouse and the jail were often in the same building ). It is, however, the first option which chiefly concerns us here. If a few English speakers pronounce a few French in a move-or-less French manner, then such words are just oddities in English. However, if lots of us pronounce lots of French loans in the same way, something has happened to the phonological system of English. Consider the case of English /v/. Old English had no phoneme /v/. Though it did have /f/, which had a voiced allophone [v] between vowels, so that ofer for example, was pronounce with [v], as it still is today : this is the word we now spell over. Word initially, however /f/ could only pronounce as voiceless [f]. As it still is today in native words like **fife**, **fish**, **friend**, and **fire** (Baugh ,1968:105) .

### Morphological Treatment of Loans

It is observed that the Turks find it awkward to borrow verbs directly and prefer to borrow nouns which are then turned into verbs with the ‘**dummy**’ verb etmek. This is, in fact, quite a common practice : Japanese borrows foreign verbs in the same indirect manner by taking over nouns and combining them with its verb suru ‘**do**’ : hence the Chinese **benkyoo** ‘**study**’ produce the Japanese verb **benkyoo suru** ‘**study**’, and Japanese is full of verbs borrowed indirectly from English, like **hitto suru** ‘**make ahit**’, **doraibu suru** ‘**drive a car**’. **Kisu suru** ‘**kiss**’ and **pasu suru** ‘**pass on exam**’. Verbs like etmek and suru are sometimes called light verbs, meaning that they have little or no semantic content of their own and serve only to provide a usable verbal form of an item which carries the semantic content of a verb but which is formally a noun(Trask ,1996:27-30).

Even nouns may produce phonological complications for the borrowing language, however, in the majority of languages, nouns are inflected for number, and in many languages they are also marked for case and/or grammatical gender. Borrowed nouns must be fitted into all this morphology in one way or another, and the result may be disturbances to the borrowing languages morphology. Consider first number. With just a handful of exceptions like **feet and children**, English nouns form their plural with an invariable suffix –s : **books, cars, discos, databases, CD-rooms**, and so on for virtually every noun old or new with borrowed nouns, however, we organize and vacillate. Many nouns are borrowed from Greek and Latin have been taken over complete with their foreign plurals : hence phenomena, **indices, crises, formulae, cacti, bacteria**. (or hundreds, if we count purely technical terms like **protozoa and hominidae**). Such an English plurals disrupt the ordinary English morphology, and speakers often find them confusing and re arrange then in various ways. We formerly had **datum** and plural **data** but the more frequent plural form just does not look like plural to English eyes, and most speakers now treat data as a singular (as in this data is interesting; compare the earlier ‘**these data are interesting**’, now confined to a handful of conservative speakers ). And data now has no plural something similar is perhaps happening with criterion /criteria, phenomenon / phenomena, and bacterium/bacteria. The Greek word syllabus has a Greek plural syllabantes which is rarely used in English but the modal of Latin nouns like **radius/radii** has misled some speakers into creating a plural **syllabi**, which is now so frequent that it is recognized by most dictionaries. In the same way the in **common** Latin loan **nexus**, whose Latin plural is **nexus**, has been giving a surprise English plural **nexi** by some speakers, including even by a few linguistics who use it as a technical term, and I have even seen the startling form **casu bellorum** used as the plural of **casus belli** ‘**case of war**’, whose Latin plural is a gain just **casus belli**. We borrow a few other foreign plurals, such as **cherubim** and **kibbutzim** [from Hebrew] **concerti** and **castriti** [from Italian], and **bureau** and **buaux** [from French], but we do not always take over a foreign plural-Latin circus, Italian **pizza**, German **kindergarten**, Greek **daemon**, French **beret** and Eskimo **anorak** all just form regular English plurals in -s : no body tries to use, such plural as \***circus**, \***pizze**, \***kindergarten** or \***daemones** : the French to be **berets** anyway and how many of us have the faintest idea how to form the plural in Eskimo ? when the borrowing language has a large number of different ways of forming plurals, the problem becomes more acute German for example, has a wide variety of patterns for plurals : **weg** ‘**way**’, plural **wege** : **mann** ‘**man**’, plural **leute**; **manner mensch** ‘**person**’, plural **menschen**; **uhu** ‘**eagle-owl**’, plural **uhus**; **Lehrer** ‘**teacher**’, plural **Lehrer**; **bruder** ‘**brother**’, plural **brüder**, **hand** ‘**hand**’ plural **hände**; **blume** ‘**flower**’, plural **blumen**; **buch** ‘**book**’, plural **bücher**; **mineral** ‘**mineral**’, plural **mineralien** . loan words have to be giving form or other, and German, speakers have made various decisions. Many loan words are stuck into one patterns or another in a seemingly arbitrary manner: **tenor** ‘**tenor**’, plural **tenöre**, **film** ‘**film**’, plural **filme**; **ski** ‘**ski**’, plural **skier**; **pilot** ‘**pilot**’, plural **piloten** ; **expert** ‘**expert**’, plural **experten**; **boxer** ‘**boxer**’, plural **boxer**; **fossil** ‘**fossil**’, plural **fossilien**(Baugh,1968:118-120).

## History of Loan words

English is one of the world's most prominent language. Its history is interesting for many reasons including its flexibility in borrowing from other language, a flexibility that has enriched its vocabulary over the centuries. Many studies have been done of these foreign elements in English. The history starts Celtic speakers who were conquered by the Romans about a half century BC. Latin was the language of England for centuries until various Germanic tribes : the angles Saxons and jutes, began to enter England in some numbers in the 5<sup>th</sup> century. These Germanic speakers borrowed few of the Celtic words ; other Celtic lexical borrowings also called ( loan words on loans ) came later, such as : **clen, colleen, leprechaun, shillelagh, and slogan**. In the earliest centuries (English)was the Germanic language brought over, one which already had identifiable loan words when its arrived in English. Many Latin words were in the vocabulary, such as **wine (l.vinum) and calic (l.calicem)**. The adoption of many words relating to cooking suggests the whole sale adoption of Roman food preparation : **cook (l.coquus), kitchen (l.coquina), and foods such as pear, peach, plum, beet, mint, pepper, and so on**. The next major influence on English occurred after st. Augustine Journeyed to England in 597 AD and Christianized the country. Many church-related words from Latin entered the language, some before Augustine but the majority later. Early borrowings included **church, minister, devil, pope, bishop, priest, monk, nun, mass**, and many more. At the end of the 8<sup>th</sup> century Scandinavians ("vikings") began small raids on England, followed later by colonization . Many place names, personal name and general vocabulary from scandinavian language ( Danish, Norwegian) were established during the next centuries. The language borrowings from these speakers are interesting because they are at times borrowings of the "**same**" word centuries later. [ In technical terms these reborrowings are doublets.] for example, old English scyrte ("**shirt**") was borrowed as Scandinavian skyrta ("**skirt**"). The two forms came to mean different types of wearing apparel. The next set of invades was the Normans (French), who represented a more refined culture. From 1066 AD for a few centuries, French became the language of government and of the upper classes in English society. Other than OE king and queen, essentially all current English words related to government are form the French, including govern (ment), reign, country, and state. In terms of social ranking, court tihes, and like, English borrowed most titles : **duke, marquis, baron, countess, court, and noble**. The advanced military superiority of the French is reflected in the whole sale borrowing of military terms, such as : **war, peace, officer, sergeant, soldier, and admiral (Hoffer,2005:54-55)**.

On the other hand, **Baugh(1968:113-114)** says that the similarity between old English and the language of the Scandinavian invaders makes it at times very difficult to decide whether a given word in modern English is a native or a borrowed word many of the commoner words of the two languages were identical, and if we had no old English literature from the period before the Danish invasions, we should be unable to say that many words were not of Scandinavian origin. In certain cases, however, we have very reliable criteria by which we can recognize a borrowed word. These tests are not such as the layman can generally apply. Although occasionally they are

sufficiently simple. The most reliable depend up on differences in the development of certain sounds in the north Teutonic and west Teutonic areas. One of the simplest to recognize is the development of the sound SK .In old English this was early palatalized to sh (written sc), expect possibly in the combination scr, whereas in the Scandinavians countries it retained its hard sk sound. Consequently. While native words like **ship, shall, fish**, have sh in modern English still pronounced with sk : **sky, skin, skill, scrape, scrub, bask, whisk**, the O.E. scyrte has become **shirt**, while the corresponding O.N from **skyrta** gives us **skirt**. In the same way there attention of the hard pronunciation of **k** and **g** in such words as **kid, get, give, gild, egg**, is an indication of Scandinavian origin. OE occasionally though not very often, the vowel of a word gives a clear proof of borrowing. For example, the Teutonic diphthong ai became ā in old English ( and has become ō in modern English ), but become ei or ē in old Scandinavian. Thus aye, nay (beside no form the native word), hale (cf. the English from (w) hole), reindeer Swain are borrowed words, and many more examples can be found in middle English and modern dialects those there existed in middle English the forms **geit, gait** which are from Scandinavian, beside **gāt, gōt** from old English word. The native word has survived in modern English **goat**. In the same way the Scandinavian word for loathsome existed in the middle English has **leiþ, leiþ** beside **lāþ, lōþ**. Such tests as these, based on sound-development in the two languages are the most reliable means of distinguishing Scandinavian from native words. But occasionally meaning gives a fairly reliable test thus our words **bloom (flower)** could come equally well from old English **blōma** or Scandinavian **blōm**. But the old English meant an **'flower,bloom'**. It happens that the old English word has survived as a term in metallurgy, but it is the old Norse word that has come down in ordinary use.

### How Borrowing occurs ?

This paper shows how lexical borrowing occurs. This model is composed of four levels namely : conceptual, lexical, functional and positional. The conceptual level is the point when the speaker selects the semantic and pragmatic feature bundles. At the lemma level is where the content morphemes are activated in the mental lexicon. The formulator, at the functional level, at acts as the assembler of the content and system morphemes to construct grammatical sentences. Finally the articulator at the positional level realized the morphological pattern thus producing the speech output. This modal shows that content and early system morphemes are predicated to be borrowed first because they are activated early at the conceptual level to fill the lexical gaps. Note that some content morpheme like nouns and adjective tend to be borrowed first because they are borrowed in the same form, thus processed some level (Nicasio ,2007:4-5).

Also, **Rendōn (2008:65-66)** says that the literature on language contact describes lexical borrowing are the most wide spread type of linguistic transfer every human language may be said to have borrowed one or more words from other languages at some point of its history.

Several reasons have been deduced for how borrowing can occur in contact situation. First, lexical borrowing accomplishes the extension of the denotation capacity of the recipient language offers as **‘the classes of words most closely involve with the culture of a language are the content words’**. Second, the perceptual saliency of content words on the basis of their phonetic shape makes lexical borrowing more prominent. Third, the semantic transparency of content items makes lexical borrowing more frequent than grammatical borrowing. Lexical borrowing is defined as the transfer of content words as opposed to the transfer of function words and morpheme (grammatical borrowing). There is a consensus among scholars that nouns, verbs and adjectives are content words, although their distribution is not the same across language. The classification of an adverb as content the words is disputed. If adverb defines a verb modifier then their class is smaller than the class of adverbs which is defined as broader modifiers. The adverb defines as verb modifiers include only manner adverb because other subclasses have a wider scope than the verb additionally, manner adverb in some languages from are natively open class different from the closed set of time and place adverb. The classification becomes more problematic from across-linguistic perspective, because certain languages lack adverb as separate lexical class and use other lexical classes (verbs, nouns, adjectives) or non-lexical strategies instead. This explains why some scales of borrow ability consider adverbs lexical borrowings while others put them on the grammatical side.

### Conclusion

This study of the topic of borrowing has shown that the topic of borrowing has some processes which are loan word, loan shift, loan-translation .borrowing award from French to English under goes a change in the pronunciation of the word as in French word 'genre' and the German word 'muesli' both words underwent a change in vowels entered English. The 'muesli' is transcribed /my:zli/ but when entered English. It is pronounced either/mju:zli/ and /myu:sli/. It has been noted that the Japanese language is full of verbs borrowed indirectly from English like **hitto suru** which means **make ahit** . So, morphologically speaking, the borrowed verbs under go a morphological change.

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