

English borrowings in the Ukrainian language (based on contemporary newspaper discourse)

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Анотація. Статтю присвячено аналізу запозичень з англійської мови в українському газетному дискурсі. Мета дослідження – виявити та дослідити англійські запозичення в україномовній пресі, проаналізувати їхні способи входження. Процес запозичення, як наслідок контакту між двома мовами, є одним з найбільш значущих джерел лексичного збагачення мови. Число лексичних інновацій, що входять в словник української мови продовжує постійно збільшуватися. У результаті дослідження було систематизовано 86 запозичень, а також виявлено основні їхні типи.

Key words: borrowing, loanword, active loan, barbarism, occasional insertion, anglicism, equivalent.

INTRODUCTION

Linguists have always been interested in the evolution of lexical systems, which exhibit several lexico-semantic processes. Borrowing is one of this processes and it is in the focus of the contemporary study which is examined on the basis of Ukrainian media.

At the end of the twentieth and the beginning of the twenty-first century, Ukraine experiences a period characterized by an intensification of its relationships with the predominantly English-speaking world, which also brings with it lexical borrowing. Borrowing - the term, which is used to denote the process of adopting words from one language into another and also the result of this process.

The material for the research is represented by 87 English borrowings recorded in the Ukrainian newspaper discourse.

THE NOTION OF BORROWING

When two languages come into contact, words are borrowed from one language to another. Lexical borrowings, in other words loanwords, are by far the most commonly attested language contact phenomenon.

Linguists study loanwords from many different perspectives, touching upon different subfields of linguistics, including phonetics, phonology, morphology, and semantics, as well as sociolinguistics and historical linguistics. Loanwords are not only recognized as the most common of language contact phenomena they also occupy an important position in general linguistics due to the evidence they bring to our understanding of the grammatical structure of language and to the theory of language change and historical linguistics.

M. Haspelmath and Z. Tadmor claim that there exist hardly ever language in the whole world which is "entirely devoid of loanwords".

The language is always in the uninterrupted process of development, progress and evolution. Both internal and external causes can change the language. The latter presupposes cooperation between a language and other languages, during which they become a little bit similar. The expected result of this contact is the exchange of words between languages, i.e. borrowing of words from one language to another and vice versa.

REASONS FOR BORROWING

There are linguistic factors which can explain the phenomenon of borrowing of words:

- the necessity to give a name to new objects, concepts or processes, e.g. міксер [mikser] < mixer, дизайн [dyzajn] < design;

- close contact in multilingual situations;
- the need for synonyms, or the low usage of native words in the language, e.g. (Ukr.) образ [obraz] - імідж [imidzh] < image;
- “brevity as language economization”, the preference of one foreign word to a two- or three-word equivalent in the donor language, комп’ютер [kompjuter] < computer instead of електронна обчислювальна машина [obchysljuval’na mashyna];
- the question of prestige: the use of English borrowings in other language contexts becomes more frequent since they sound new, sophisticated, modish, e.g. менеджер [menedzher] < manager;
- the need for words with emotional colouring, вай! [vau] < wow!;
- the matter of fashion and popularity, лавстори [lavstori] < love story.

TYPES OF BORROWINGS

A detailed characterization of how-loanwords based on the integration process is carried out by the Russian linguists E. Kolesov 1998, L. Krysin 2004, L. Ryazanova-Clarke 1999 and Y. Marinova. They divide loanwords into:

- occasional insertions, which retain the phonological and morphological features and the script of the source language, and therefore cannot be found in dictionaries or publications. These are usually observed in advertisements under the names of different world-known enterprises, companies, e.g. Venus, Fairy, YouTube; they can also be phraseological units (to be, or not to be...);
- barbarisms, which do not remain stable either in pronunciation, gender or number, and are used usually only in the nominative case (хенд-мейд or хендмейд [hendmeid] < hand-made). They are also characterized by the narrow sphere of usage;
- loanwords, also active loans, , which do not have counterparts in the target language (aspect of necessity), which lets them be easily adapted in the language, enter the systems of conjugation and declension, as well as take an active part in derivational processes, e.g. брендoвий [brendovyj] < brand,.

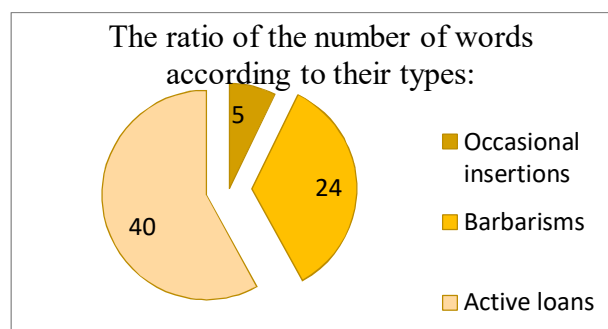


Fig.1. Classification of English borrowings.

Prevalence of neologisms comprising a new form and a new meaning is caused by the increased appearance of new realities.

CONCLUSION

The use of English loanwords in the discourse of Ukrainian newspapers testifies to the natural development of the languages under the pressure of globalization, which makes it impossible for the languages to function in isolation.

The Ukrainian language is constantly reacting to numerous changes in social life of its speakers. The information revolution and technological progress are the most powerful factors conditioning the enrichment of modern Ukrainian vocabulary.

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