

Borrowing, the Outcome of Language Contact *

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This study which entitles “Borrowing, the Outcome of Language Contact” tackles one aspect of the current sociolinguistic phenomenon, which borrowing words by Kurdish speakers as the result of language contact.

Due to the development of technology, globalization, and easiness of transportation among different countries, languages come into contact, as the result words are borrowed from one language to another and especially from the donor language to the recipient one.

Since Kurdish language (as one of the world languages) is also been affected by the new trend of language contact, accordingly many words have been borrowed into all aspects of life.

For this purpose, the researcher tries to define borrowing or loan words, classify them depending on literature and identifies the major factors on borrowing words, finally, the researcher presents a number of tables within which she represents a vast number of borrowed words from English, adapted from a study that she has done on English loan words used by Kurdish people at visual media.

Introduction

Speech communities get into contact with others whether with speakers of the same language or other languages due to different needs, such as trade, travel, and economic exchange or scholarly exchange. Sometimes language contact occurs through historical events, such as invasions or even through wars. Taha (2006) points out in his study how loan words were borrowed with the entrance of the American troops, reporters, news broadcasters and journalists after the gulf war in Iraq.

As a result of language contact, different linguistic outcomes are resulted such as borrowing, interference, language shift, code mixing and code switching, structural diffusion, language creation and sometimes language death. This study is bird’s eye view of borrowing as one of the linguistic outcomes of language contact.

Language Contact

Almost most of the languages in the world are subject of influence of language contact at one time or another. Different labels have been used to refer to phenomenon of language contact such as *barbarism* or *foreign word and transcodic marker*, since language contact has been analyzed from a variety of perspectives, (.Solé, 2003: 4). Languages have been in contact for thousands of years, at least when human kind started using more than a language and this linguistic phenomenon is everywhere, and as Thomson (2001: 11) points out “no evidence that any languages have develop in total isolation from other languages”.

Language contact is defined as the “use of more than one language in the same place at the same time”, (Ibid,2001: 1) Language mixture is considered as a creative, rule-governed process

* قدم هذا البحث في المؤتمر العلمي الدولي الاول لجامعة التنمية البشرية/السليمانية/نيسان ٢٠١٤

affecting all types of languages or even dialects in different degrees and forms in a way or another, such a mixture is not strange or atypical, but almost always has a role in the development of languages. Crystal (1992: 216) views language contact as a “geographical continuity or close social proximity between languages or dialects, so that a degree of bilingualism comes to exist within a community. The languages then begin to influence each other, such as by introducing loan words or making changes in pronunciation”

So, whenever speech communities communicate, it is obvious that they face difficulty to communicate, and for this reason there is a natural tendency to seek ways of bypassing the communicative barriers facing them, which can be overcome in different ways such as code switching or making use of each other’s terms, words, lexemes,...etc.. Such a sort of language contact results in various types of linguistic outcomes. Sometimes the outcome is a slight borrowing of vocabulary, or the creation of a new language like Pidgin and Creoles.

The Outcomes of Language Contact

As mentioned before, when languages come in contact, there will be various linguistic outcomes. (Thomson, 2001:30) points out that the most common result of language contact is change in some or all of the languages, at least one of the languages will exert some influence on at least one of the other languages

Outcomes of language contact include such mechanisms as language shift (in which speakers tend to shift from using a usual lower prestige variety or language to a higher prestige). , code switching (which includes alternation of two languages within a single sentence), code alternation mechanism of interference in which bilinguals use one of their languages in one set of environments and the other language in a largely different set of environments (Ibd:2001:261), language creation such as Pidgin and Creole, bilingual mixed languages, Structural diffusion or structural convergence which this can happen when languages are in extensive, long-term contact or even language death that happens when language shift involves the last remaining group of speakers of a language. But the major outcome is borrowing and since this study focuses on borrowing as an outcome of language contact, it will be given more concern as follows.

Types of Language Contact

Languages contact in various ways. Accordingly, different types of language contact are identified; the first type is called direct contact. In this type the speakers of one language turn up in the midst of speakers of another due to certain reasons such as invasion or immigration. The second type of language contact is labeled as indirect contact which is resulted from mediation of literature or nowadays through new technology such as TV, radio, internet, etc... (Thomason, 2001: 4).

There is another classification based on the sort of relationships between the languages affected which is termed as “natural borrowing” and “intimate borrowing”. Furthermore, there is a sort of classification based on the hierarchy of the speech varieties affected; accordingly two types of language contact are identified which is borrowing between national languages and dialect borrowing. Formal classification is another type which is based upon the degree of modification of lexical units of the source language, (Capuz, 1997:82), which in turn leads to the typology between loanwords and loan translation.

The last type of classification is done on the basis of the linguistic level of the target/receiving language affected by the language contact mechanism, accordingly there is formal borrowing, which includes phonetic and graphic borrowing as it affects the form but not meaning, morphological borrowing, semantic borrowing, lexical borrowing, syntactic borrowing, phrasological borrowing and pragmatic borrowing.

Borrowing

When speech communities come into contact, they import features from the odd language to their native language. So, it can be stated that borrowing is an outcome of language contact. Sapir (2001: 2) points out that the simplest kind of influence that one language may exert on another is the “borrowing”. Borrowing or loan words is defined differently by linguists. Simply it implies that one language takes linguistic elements(s) from another language and makes it as an inseparable part of the language in order to expand the languages vocabulary.

It is observed that borrowing occurs in both directions (i.e.) between the donor language and the recipient one, but Kemmer (2011: 1) points out that there is an “asymmetry” that more words go from one side to another.

Linguists define borrowing differently. For Crystal (1992:46) borrowing means the “introduction of a word or some other linguistic features from one language or dialect into another”. And for Mahwi (2010:143) 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”.

However, other linguists like Rendón (2008: 547) borrowing does not only include the borrowing of verbal linguistic elements, but it also includes non-verbal elements of communication such as gestures, gazes and movements since language use is not separable from movements between the speaker and the addressee, such as *emblem* for “ok”.

It is believed that languages borrow those words from other languages which are not available in it, as Robins (1996:354) points out that “whenever and wherever there are contacts of any sort between the speakers of different languages, speakers will make use of words from other languages to refer to things, processes, and the ways of behavior, organizations ,or thinking for which words or phrases were not available or convenient in their own language” ,cited in Yan Deng (2009:33).

Classification of Borrowing

Linguistics who work in the field of language contact, classify borrowed words or items differently. One of the well-known classifications is the one done by Haugen (1950) , who distinguishes between **loanwords**, a process of borrowing in which there is a complete copy of the form and meaning of the borrowed item with **loanblends**, **which** are words of two parts: a copied part and a native part and the third class ob borrowed words which is labeled as **loanshifts**, where only the meaning is shifted.

Another taxonomy of borrowing is that is done by Myers-scotton (2002-239). For her borrowed words are of two categories **cultural borrowings** and **core borrowings**. The former includes words for new objects or non-object concepts, while the latter are words that duplicate already existing words.

Moreover, borrowed words are classified according to the borrowed aspect into phonetic borrowings, translation loans, semantic borrowings, and morphemic borrowing. Phonetic borrowing can be found in all languages. When a word is borrowed from a language, it is borrowed with its spelling pronunciation and meaning then undergoes assimilation. Sometimes the spelling, structure, meaning word paradigm of the borrowed words are also changed ,or even the position of stress is influenced by the phonetic system of the borrowing language. Sapir (1921-3) in his discussion on the way languages affecting each other, states that “The borrowing of foreign words always entails their phonetic modification. There are sure to be foreign sounds or accentual peculiarities that do not fit the native phonetic habits. They are then so changed as to do as little violence as possible to these habits”. There is another form of borrowing which is termed as “phonological borrowing”, that occurs when adopts new sounds or changes already present sounds under the influence of another language that is contacted with, (De Kuthy,2001: 1).

Translation loans are word-for-word translation where the notion is borrowed from the donor language but it is expressed by lexical units of the recipient. Additionally, semantic borrowings are

“such units when a new meaning of the unit existing in the language is borrowed”, (Ha remy: 2011,12-13) and it occurs with relative languages which have common words but with different meanings. Furthermore, morphemic borrowing refers to the borrowing of affixes and finally there is syntactic borrowing.

Factors on Borrowing

There are different factors that affect borrowing; Internal or linguistic and external (social and psychological) factors. Within the linguistic factors is the nature of relationship between these languages such as the typological relationships Haspelmath (2008:11) refers to this factor as “structural compatibility” which has been invoked as explaining resistance to borrowing. Weinreich (1953:3) is in the view that borrowing is only possible between structurally similar languages. And among the external or social factors such as the duration and the power of contact between the languages Haspelmath (2008, 10) points to this factor as a main factor and refers to it as “widespread bilingualism” and is often labeled as “intensity of contact”. Genealogical relatedness is another external factor which implies that related languages are more likely to borrow from each other.

Moreover, the size and the power or language domination of a language is also called language prestige. It is worth mentioning to state the various relationships are held between languages when they come into contact in contact situations. De Kuthy (2001: 5) states that if “If both groups are of equal **prestige** (neither is dominant over the other), then the languages enter into a similarly egalitarian relationship (called an **adstratal** relationship)” in this case borrowing occurs both directions, but if “If one groups is dominant over the other, then the language of the dominant group is the **superstratum** language, accordingly borrowing occurs from the superstratum language to the substratum one than the reverse, (Ibid, 2001:5). .

It is sometimes claimed that different cultures have different views towards borrowing, a behavior that is known is purism which explains the number of the borrowed words in the language. In this concern, Sapir (1921:2) points to the resistance to the borrowing of words, he states that “ the psychological attitude of the borrowing language itself towards linguistic material has much to do with its receptivity to foreign words” . Onysko (2004:59-64) found two reasons for borrowing English words into German, which are *semantic motivations* when new products and inventions are accompanied by their basic English words and *emotive* as English has the modernity, hip and educated image.

There are also historical factors that also have a major role in borrowing. Ngom (2002:46) states this fact that “in the same manner that the statistical comparison of borrowings between languages reveals the nature of the past and present relationships between communities, the examination of the semantic fields of loan words shows the domains of contact and influence between communities”.

In her study, Sabir (2013: 394) points to some factors that lead most Kurdish speakers to borrow and use English loan words, such as modernity of English language and better image, length of the native Kurdish terms as compared to the English ones, flexibility of use, and sometimes loanwords are used by some people to show off or to fill the lexical gap in the language.

Borrowing in Kurdish Language

Kurdish language like any other language has contacted with other languages from the history up to day such as Persian, Turkish, Arabic, English etc...Therefore the language has undergone change and different words have been borrowed from the languages which are genetically related or unrelated. Kurdish academy for language shows that in (%13.8) of the words recorded in Wahbi and Edmonds' (1961) dictionary are loan words from different languages as Arabic, Persian, European and Turkish languages. Presently, due to the development of Kurdish society through technology that leads to the faster contact among societies and individuals, the advent of transportations means, globalization of English

language...etc one observes that Kurdish language, like all other live languages, is affected by other languages, especially English and thousands of words have been borrowed to the language faster than before..

Media, in its all forms, as a major means of language contact have a great role in the introduction of new terms and linguistic elements to the language. Through which, different vocabularies related to different semantic aspects are rushed into languages.

Observing this linguistic phenomenon, Sabir (2013) conducted a study on the loanwords on visual media of Kurdish political programmes to recognize to which extend Kurdish politicians, announcers and editors make use of English loan words during these programmes. For this purpose, she analyzed a number of programmes in GK, NRT, KNN, ZAGROS and PAYAM satellite channels. She got results that of six hours of discourse (141) words have been used with the frequency of (870). She analyzed the loans semantically into different fields , such as Political and Military Terms ,Technology terms , Administrative terms, Economic Terms, Ideology and beliefs, Activities and events, Jobs, titles and statues, scientific and social terms and Others or Miscellaneous . The following tables are samples of those loans from her study:

Table (1) :Political and Military Terms

No.	In Kurdish	Phonetic transcription	English loans	Frequency	E/NE	Part of speech
1.	تیرۆرست	[tīrorist]	Terrorist	5	E	N.
2.	تاکتیک	[taktik]	Tactic	1	E	N.
3.	لاستیکی	[lastiki]	elastic	1	E	N.
4.	ئەلتەرناتف	[alterätiv]	Alternative	1	E	N.
5.	ئورگان	[organ]	Organ	1	NE	N.
6.	پەرلەمان	[parlamān]	Parliament	99	E	N.
7.	کابینه	[kābina]	Cabinet	59	E	N.
8.	پیلان	[pilān]	Plan	3	E	N.
9.	جینۆساید	[cinosaid]	Genocide	1	E	N.
10.	فیدرال	[fidrāl]	Federal	3	E	adj.
11.	نەجیندە	[acinda]	Agenda	3	E	N.
12.	گروپ	[grūp]	Group	33	E	N.
13.	فیتو	[vito]	Veto	10	E	N.
14.	پارت	[part]	Part	5	E	N.
15.	کۆنگرێس	[kongrēs]	Congress	1	E	N.
16.	رژیم	[rižēm]	Regime	2	E	N.
17.	ریفۆلیۆسن	[rivoliwšn]	revolution	1	E	N.
18.	رژیم	[rižēm]	regime	2	E	N.

19.	لیدەرلێس	[lyderlës]	leaderless	1	NE	Adj.
20.	مۆتۆر	[motor]	motor	1	E	N.
21.	مۆب	[mob]	mob	3	E	N.
22.	سیمیئار	[symynar]	seminar	1	E	N.
23.	پۆلیسی	[polisi]	policy	5	E	N.
24.	کۆنفیدرالی	[konfedrali]	Confederacy	1	NE	N.
25.	مین	[mîn]	Mine	5	E	N.
26.	بۆمبارانی کیمیایی	[bombārāni kimiāi]	Chemical bombardment	4	E	N.
27.	موساد	[musād]	Muss ad	1	NE	Adj

Table (2): Technology terms

	In Kurdish	Phonetic transcription	English loans	Frequency		Part of speech
28.	وێبسايت	[websait]	Website	1	NE	N.
29.	ئینتەرنەت	[itarnet]	Internet	1	NE	N.
30.	تەلەفزیۆن	[telefizyon]	Television	3	NE	N.
31.	میدیا	[midyā]	Media	15	E	N.
32.	کۆد	[kod]	code	1	E	N.
33.	فەیس بوک	[fais buk]	face book	1	NE	N.
34.	ژورنال	Zhornal	journal	1	E	N.
35.	مەسج	[mesic]	Message	9	E	N.
36.	ستۆدیۆ	[stodyo]	studio	1	NE	N.
37.	سیناریۆ	[sinaryo]	scenario	10	NE	N.
38.	تەلەفۆن	[talafon]	telephone	1	NE	N.

Table (3): Administrative terms

	In Kurdish	Phonetic transcription	English loans	Frequency	N/NE	Part of speech
39.	تیم	[tīm]	Team	1	E	N.
40.	قونصلیه	[qunsuya]	Council	4	E	N.
41.	پیلان	[pilān]	Plan	5	E	N.

42.	پروژه	[proʒa]	Project	19	E	N.
43.	پوست	[post]	Post	9	E	N.
44.	ديسپلین	[disiplin]	Discipline	1	E	N.
45.	كونفرانس	[konfräns]	Conference		E	N.
46.	راپورت	[raport]	Report	3	E	N.
47.	سیستم	[sistam]	System	29	E	N.
48.	کادر	[kādr]	Cadre	18	NE	N.
49.	لیست	[list]	List	2	E	N.
50.	فایل	[fäil]	File	1	E	N.
51.	پروگرام	[progrām]	Programme	9	E	N.
52.	سیکتور	[sektar]	Sector	7	E	N.
53.	کومسیون	[komsyon]	Commission	2	E	N.
54.	ئورگانیک	[orgānik]	Organic	1	E	Adj
55.	کونگره	[kongra]	Congress	8	E	N.
56.	سەندیکا	[sandikā]	Syndicate	1	NE	N.
57.	کۆنەلیزن	[koaližn]	Coalition	1	E	N.
58.	ریفورم	[reform]	Reform	1	E	N.
59.	کۆنترۆل	[kontrol]	Control	5	E	N.
60.	ئوتوریتی	[otoriyi]	authority	1	E	N.
61.	ئەکتیف	[aktiv]	active	1	E	N.
62.	کەمپین	[kampin]	Campaign	4	E	N.
63.	فراکسیون	[fraksiyon]	Fraction	1	E	N.
64.	مانیفیست	manifest	manifest	2	E	N.

Table (4): Economic Terms

	In Kurdish	Phonetic transcription	English loans	Frequency	N/NE	Part of speech
65.	بانک	[bānk]	Bank	1	E	N.
66.	بودجه	[būdca]	Budget	73	E	N.
67.	بیزنيس	[biznes]	Business	13	E	N.
68.	رۆل	[rol]	Role	22	NE	N.
69.	شانس	[acinda]	Agenda	3	E	N.
70.	ستراكتور	[straktor]	structure	1	E	N.
71.	ديكتاتور	[biznes]	Business	13	E	N.
72.	کۆمپانیا	[kompānyā]	Company	4	E	N.

73.	كوالیتی	[kwaliti]	Quality	1	E	N.
74.	كوانتیتی	[kwantiti]	quantity	2	E	N.

Table(5) :Ideology and beliefs

No.	In Kurdish	Phonetic transcription	English loans	Frequency	N/NE	Part of speech
75.	ديموكراسی	[demokräsı]	Democracy	28	E	N.
76.	ئهریستۆقرات	[aristokrät]	Aristocrat	6	E	N.
77.	دیکتاتور	[diktatori]	Dictatorship	11	E.	N.
78.	سایت	[säit]	Site	1	E	N.
79.	سۆشبال ديموكرات	[soşyäl democrät]	Social democrat	4	E	N.
80.	ريفراندوم	[rifrändom]	Referendum	3	E	N.
81.	نازیزم	[näzizm]	Nazism	1	NE	N.
82.	دیکتاتور	[diktätör]	Dictator	1	E	N.
83.	ئايدیا	[äidyä]	Idea	3	E	N.
84.	فیزن	[vižn]	Vision	1	E	N.
85.	توتالیتاریزم	[totalitälitärizm]	Totalitarianism	1	E	N.
86.	ناسیونالیست	[nasyonlist]	Nationalist	1	E	Adj.
87.	فه یلهسوف	[Failasüf]	Philosopher	2	E	N.
88.	فیدرالی	[fedräl]	Federally	11	E	Adv
89.	لیبرال	[libräl]	Liberal	8	E	Adj.
90.	ستالینی	[stalini]	Saltiny	1	NE	Adj
91.	توتالیتاریان	[totalitarian]	totalitarian	1	E	Adj.
92.	ديموكراتی	democracy	democracy	5	E	N.
93.	مینتالیتی	[mentality]	mentality	3	E	N.
94.	ریپوبلیکانیزم	[ripablikanizm]	republicanism	1	E	N.
95.	مینتال	[mental]	mental	1	E	Adj.
96.	نازی	[nazi]	Nazi	1	NE	N.
97.	فاشیزم	[faşizm]	fascism	2	NE	N.
98.	سیکیولاریزم	[säkyularizm]	secularism	3	E	N.
99.	لوجیک	[locik]	logic	1	E	N.
100.	ئایدیۆلۆجی	[aidyoloci]	ideology	3	E	N.
101.	مینتال	[mental]	mental	1	E	Adj.
102.	سیکیولەر	[sekyula]	secular	2	E	N.

Conclusion

Though languages have different methods of increasing its vocabulary, but the major one remains the basic, which is called “borrowing”. Borrowing is one of the linguistic outcomes of language contact and is found in all languages. Kurdish language like all other languages got and gets contact with other varieties; as a result various words from different languages rush into the language. Some of the words are borrowed as they are without change but others undergo certain changes, whether phonological, morphological...

Borrowing mechanism occurs due to different factors, such as historical, political, economic, language power or prestige and globalization.

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APPENDIX

Abbreviations

Adj. = adjective

E = equivalent

GK = gali Kurdistan

KNN = Kurdish news network

NRT = Nalya Radio and TV.

NE = non-equivalent

N. = noun