
LEXICAL ANALYSIS OF ENGLISH BORROWINGS IN SARAIKI LANGUAGE

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ABSTRACT

The study titled as “Lexical Analysis of English Borrowings in Saraiki Language” aimed at bridging the hypothetical gap in the field of language contact and English borrowing in the regional languages of Pakistan. The objectives of English borrowings in Saraiki Language and its different kinds. The study was qualitative in nature. Twelve articles, six short stories and one short play written by the prominent writers of the Saraiki language were purposively selected as a sample to analyse English borrowings in the text. The writings selected for the analysis are being taught as part of the syllabus of the subject of Saraiki to the intermediate level students. The texts were analyzed by using thematic analysis. Almost 80 borrowed English vocabulary items were identified in the analysis of the selected writings. It was found that majority of the borrowed words (75%) had equivalents in Saraiki. Only 25 % words were identified with no equivalent in Saraiki language. Findings of the study also pointed out that borrowed words were accommodated in different domains of practical life including education, medicine, science and technology, sports, journalism and politics. This is an indication of a strong influence of English on Saraiki language and literature. The findings of the study have implications for the educationists and policy makers who design the courses of Saraiki that are offered at college of university level. The study concluded that the writers, students as well as speakers of the local languages may be informed about different aspects of borrowing by explaining how this practice can affect the local languages.

Keywords: Saraiki, Lexical analysis, Borrowing, English Language

INTRODUCTION:

Pakistan, with a large number of regional languages including Punjabi, Saraiki, Pashto, Balochi, Sindhi and Urdu as its national language, is an embodiment of multilingualism. Moreover, a considerable number of educated people use English as a medium of communication and education and it has been used as an official language in Pakistan (Rahman, 2006). Lexical borrowing, code-mixing and code-switching are some important features of such multilingual societies. The colonization of India by the English for centuries and the dominance of English speaking nations in every field of life have collectively prompted the use of English vocabulary in Saraiki.

The process of borrowing words from one language to the other starts with the process of language contact. It is a two-way process. However, the words from the dominant language are borrowed by the local languages and at times it is considered an important factor in the evolution of a new language. In the South Asian region English borrowings in different regional / local languages are closely associated with the colonial history of the Indian sub-continent. The colonizers brought English language to the sub-continent along with their colonial system and declared it as an official language. It dominated the local languages due to the prestige associated with it as a language of the ruling nation. A large number of vocabulary items penetrated the local languages in the form of loan translations and loan words (Farida, 2018). Although the Indian sub-continent won freedom in August, 1947 and two national states emerged on the map of the world in the form of India and Pakistan but the administrative and educational systems of the two countries kept on promoting this language (Farida, 2018). The use of English as a lingua-franca further enhanced its importance. Moreover, the spread of internet and different social media platforms in the recent days provided further encouragement for English borrowings into the regional languages of Pakistan.

Literature Review:

The number of languages spoken throughout the world is probably more than 6000 and each one of these offers millions of expressions and terminologies to enable its users to express themselves in a comprehensive manner. Goshkheteliani and Kikvadze (2017) assert that languages can be compared to living organisms which develop along with the society. Without this development a language can hardly survive. In this globalized world speakers who use different languages come into contact with each other and feel a desire to interact with each other. When languages come into contact through this process, there occurs an exchange of certain linguistic elements or features between the languages. Users of a language come to know certain words and expressions that are not found in their language and sometimes they are attracted to use the words from another language in their communication due to their personal interest in that language or sometimes because of the social prestige attached

to the other language or dialect (Ahmed et.al, 2019). Use of borrowed words in any language cannot be avoided. However, attention should be paid to the reasons and purposes of borrowing. With the passage of time, many borrowed vocabulary items get so much integrated in the system of a language that the users of that language forget the foreign origin of those words.

According to Romaine (1989) borrowing is the process of integrating vocabulary items from one language to another. Muysken (1999) argued that borrowing usually consists of loan words which are integrated according to the morphological and phonological system of the language that absorbs the words. Hudson (1996) asserted that borrowing refers to the process of mixing two different language systems. Sometime, the concept of borrowing is confused with code switching. Poplack (1980) mentions that there is a clear difference between the two as borrowing involves integrating single word to a recipient language while use of phrases or complete sentences refers to code-switching. However, Farida (2018) maintains that this definition could not be applied to every language system. Pakistani users for example, make use of word level code-switching instead of extended expressions. Hudson (1996) stated that in borrowing no particular attention is paid to the origin and phonological or semantic features of the borrowed word where as it is not so in the code-switching process.

Borrowing:

Borrowing is the use of adopted vocabulary items that have been taken from another language (Yule, 2010). Linguistic borrowing and change in the meanings of borrowed words have been influenced by different psychological and social factors (Labov, 2010). According to Haspelmath (2008) some behavioral, sociocultural and historical aspects may also be effective in encouraging the linguistic borrowing and it is very much evident while studying English borrowings into Saraki language. It is a complex process as the meanings and linguistic nature of the borrowed items undergo a transformation under the influence of the recipient language.

Leech (1981) asserted “Semantics have often seemed to spend an immoderate amount of time puzzling the meaning of meaning”. Hence, it is quite a challenging task for a linguist to have a good understanding of the ever evolving meaning of a borrowed vocabulary item.

Different terminologies have been used by various scholars to explain the process of borrowing and its various kinds. Renowned contact linguist Kachru (2005) described different concepts that stimulate the loaning process in various languages. First, there is the ‘deficit hypothesis’ which argues that loaning is encouraged due to linguistic gaps in the recipient language. It asserts that vocabulary is borrowed from other languages as there are no alternatives for specific expressions in the recipient language. Whereas, the ‘dominance hypothesis’ points out towards the social prestige and dominance of a particular language that motivates the users of less prestigious

dialects to borrow vocabulary from the dominant language or dialect. This sort of borrowing from English to the local languages has been termed as Englishisation. The borrowed vocabulary items are subject to regulations of the recipient language to start the process of integration of loan words into the new language. Sometimes, the borrowed words are combined with the affixes from the recipient language to produce hybridized vocabulary. According to Bloomfield (1993) cultural borrowing and direct borrowing are the two kinds of borrowing. Cultural borrowing refers to the contact of two distinct languages and exchange of vocabulary between them. While dialect borrowing refers to borrowing from same speech area. Haugen (1950) used the term necessary borrowing to denote the borrowed words which have no equivalent in the recipient language and the term unnecessary borrowing was used to describe the vocabulary which was borrowed despite the presence of equivalent words in the recipient language. Myers-Scotton (2002) used the terms cultural and core borrowings in place of necessary and unnecessary borrowing. Moreover, the terms established and nonce borrowing were used by Poplack and Sankoff (1984) where established borrowings referred to words without alternatives while nonce borrowing referred to borrowed words with equivalents in the recipient language.

Greavu (2017) described the loan vocabulary items in four categories which was in line with the categorization by Haugen (1950) and described a loanword as a word that has been adopted by the recipient language and is in use in the same sense as it is used in the donor language. However, a loanword undergoes a grammatical transformation and is integrated into the recipient language. Loan shift is another kind of borrowed word that undergoes a semantic change in the recipient language. Loan translation and a calque is the third type where the word is taken from a language and translated into the recipient language. Finally, loan-blend refers to the category of words which are formed by combining a part of the loanword with a part from the native language.

There has been an increase in the popularity of English throughout the world in all the walks of life. It is almost impossible to achieve any prestigious status without a sound knowledge of this language. It has been promoted at national as well as international level due to its importance as a global language. It is necessary to know this language to be able to communicate with foreigners and receive education at foreign universities. Moreover, it is helpful in understanding English literature and the culture as well as living standards of the developed nations (Goshkheteliani & Kikvadze, 2017)

In this age of modernization and globalization, media plays a key role in spreading information to the masses. Social media as well as the mainstream media have an important part in introducing new words in a language. Cross-cultural communication on different online forums also contributes to the establishment of new terms. The

ever-evolving developmental scenario in the fields of computer science, media and information technology prompted the use of English lexis in Saraiki language.

Research studies focused on borrowing from English to the local languages have been conducted by various researchers in Pakistani context. Sipra (2013) conducted a study to investigate the English borrowings in Urdu. The researcher described the attitudes of Urdu speakers towards English and its influence on Urdu language. Aslam et. al, (2020) analyzed the semantic change in the English borrowings used in Urdu. Moreover, Yasmin (2018) analyzed the vocabulary items borrowed by the users of Sindhi language by using a quantitative approach and found that lexical gaps were the reason behind English borrowing in Sindhi language. Unfortunately, there has been a lack of attention to the study of language contact and English borrowings in the context of Saraiki language. Owing to the importance of English as a lingua franca in this era of globalization, there is need to analyze the outcomes of contact between English and Saraiki. The present study is an effort to fill this gap

Objectives of the Study

The study was aimed at achieving the below mentioned objectives.

- 1- To investigate the English borrowings in Saraiki Language.
- 2- To find out different kinds of borrowed words used in Saraiki.

Research Questions

The study was aimed at finding answers to the following questions.

- 1- What borrowed vocabulary is currently being used in Saraiki language?
- 2- What are different kinds of English borrowings used in Saraiki.

Procedure of the study

Type of the study

The study was qualitative in nature. It aimed at describing the nature of English borrowings in Saraiki language by using a qualitative mode of enquiry.

Design of the study

The descriptive research design was suitable to conduct the study as it was focused at investigating the borrowing practices of Saraiki speakers and writers by using a qualitative mode of enquiry.

Sample of the study

Twelve articles, six short stories and one short play written by the prominent writers of the Saraiki language were purposively selected as sample to analyses English borrowings in the text. The texts selected for the analysis are

being taught as part of the syllabus of the subject of Saraiki to the intermediate level students. It is taught as an optional subject at this level.

Data Analysis

The texts were analyzed by using thematic analysis. First of all, the texts were read and coded. Borrowings from English were identified and categorized on different grounds. The words with Saraiki equivalents were separated from words without Saraiki equivalents.

Findings

Nature of lexical borrowing;

Almost 80 borrowed English vocabulary items were identified in the analysis of the selected texts. It was found that majority of the borrowed words (75%) have equivalents in Saraiki. Only 25 % words were identified with no equivalent in Saraiki language. The detail of the borrowed vocabulary items has been provided in the table 1.

Table 1

List of Borrowed Words

Category	List of borrowed items
words having no equivalents in Saraiki	lorry, theater, writ, culture, philosophy, radio, colony, gas, tractor, dish antenna, toss, motorway, chimney, camera, police, NGO, VCR, Smuggle etc.
Words having equivalents in Saraiki	Mission, loot, library, courts, kilometer, miles, February, March, bus, public, adjuvant, college, university, hospital, laboratory, stadium, guard, propaganda, system, seat, machinery, plate, leader, time, minute, list, research, scholar, professor, doctor, jail, barracks, geography, jeep, rally, tank, publisher, officer, rush, stage, fashion, media, cricket, football, badminton, polo, currency, focus, counter, calculator, cut, journalist, feature, purse, note, motor, society, rhythm, speaker, item, etc.

Considerable number of English borrowings which have Saraiki equivalents indicate the tendency of Saraiki writers to prefer English words instead of Saraiki equivalents while expressing the concepts related to those words. It is an indication that such words are not meant to bridge the gap in in Saraiki language rather they have been borrowed due to the prestige attached to the English language which is a reference to dominance theory proposed by Kachru (2005). The borrowing of vocabulary items with no Saraiki alternatives is aimed at expressing the concepts which cannot clearly be stated by using Saraiki words as indicated by Kachru (2005) in

the deficit hypothesis. The meanings of such expressions, in spite of being translated in the local language, cannot be stated clearly. Hence, it becomes a necessity in such a situation to make direct use of English words in order to ensure the accurate expression of meaning.

Domains of borrowing

In this part, the researcher has described the findings related to the domains of practical life which absorbed the borrowed vocabulary as found by analyzing the texts selected as sample. The most prominent domains that accommodated the English loan words include education, media, science and technology, sports, journalism, law, politics and culture. The table below describes the borrowed vocabulary items in detail.

Table 2
List of Borrowed Words

Domain	Borrowed words
Education	College, university, library, laboratory, philosophy, research, publisher, professor
Science and technology	Machinery, lorry, bus, tractor, internet, machine, camera, calculator, motor, speaker etc.
Journalism and Politics	Media, camera, propaganda, journalist, feature, focus, stage, leader, TV, VCR, theater, dish antenna,
Sports	Stadium, football, badminton, polo, cricket, toss, rally, mile, kilometer
Law	Writ, court, police, officer, jail, guard, smuggle, loot, barracks
Medicine	Hospital, laboratory, doctor
Daily life	Culture, public, rush, society, time, plate, rhythm, minute, list, currency, note, cut, item, February, March etc.

Education appears to be the most important field where English words have been frequently adopted in the selected Saraiki writings. Secondly, use of lexical items like machinery, lorry, bus, tractor, internet, machine, camera, calculator, motor etc. have been borrowed in the field of science and technology. Medicine is another vital domain with considerable number of English borrowings. As United States of America and other English speaking nations are the largest producers of medicine and medical equipment, it is understandable that English language provides the vocabulary for this field. In addition to it, a large number of words have been identified in the domains of journalism and politics. Apparently, social media and internet seem to be the factors that

encourage the use of English lexis in these fields as these are closely related to internet and media. Similarly, sports and culture, due to the dominant effect of globalization, have accommodated considerable number of English words. Although Saraiki equivalents are available for many vocabulary items, the cultural and economic dominance of English language motivate the users to opt for the English words.

Discussion

The identification of English borrowings in the Saraiki language and literature and their frequent use in different fields of life indicates that there is breadth in the use of English loanwords in Saraiki language. Words from different lexical categories like nouns (e.g. college, hospital, media etc.), verbs (e.g. cut, rally, focus) and adjectives (e.g. 'public' as used in the phrase 'public college') have been identified in the analysis of the selected texts. However, the findings of this study indicated that 90 % of the borrowed items were nouns while the occurrence of the other categories was very less as compared to nouns. Moreover, findings of the study revealed that most of the borrowed words were simply adopted into the Saraiki language as loanwords. The tendencies of loan-shifting and loan-blending were scarcely found in the texts analyzed by the researcher. However, the borrowed words have been integrated into the Saraiki lexical system by applying the rules of Saraiki to the borrowed items, e.g. for making plural forms of nouns. The noun 'bus' is pluralized as 'bussan' and the noun 'library' is pluralized as 'librariyan' under the influence of recipient language.

Findings of the study also pointed out that borrowed words were accommodated in different domains of practical life including education, medicine, science and technology, sports, journalism and politics. This is an indication of a strong influence of English on Saraiki language and literature. However, in this age of technological advancement and globalization, lexical borrowings related to science and technology can hardly be avoided. English has influenced almost all the languages of the world in the context of globalization and scientific advancement.

Conclusion

Globalization has caused the spread of English language throughout the world as it is the only medium of communication that bridges the gap between nations and brings societies close to each other. Moreover, it has considerably influenced the local languages of Pakistan including Saraiki. The findings of the current study indicate both positive as well as negative aspects of the situation. The introduction of modern terms and ideas relating to scientific and technological advances to the Saraiki language can be useful. However, the unnecessary borrowing of English words for the expressions having proper counterparts in Saraiki will affect the Saraiki lexis negatively. In spite of the fact that the number of English loan expressions at present is very small as compared to the stock of Saraiki vocabulary, it can become alarming with the passage of time. It is emphasized that the outcome of the research is important for Saraiki speakers, writers and policy makers. First of all, the results of the research may help the Saraiki writers to reflect back on the linguistic practices they have been following especially, by making them realize that this can lead to domination of English over their language (Philipson, 1992). In the second place, the findings of the research have implications for the educationists and policy makers who design the courses of Saraiki that are offered at college or university level. The writers, students as well as speakers of the local languages may be informed about different aspects of borrowing by explaining how this practice can affect the local languages.

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