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INTERNATIONAL

LANGUAGE UNITS AND THEIR ACQUISITION IN THE LANGUAGE

UNIDADES LINGÜÍSTICAS INTERNACIONALES Y SU ADQUISICIÓN EN EL IDIOMA

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ABSTRACT

Language evolution and lexical enrichment constitute fundamental aspects of linguistic development, as they reflect and facilitate the adaptation of communication systems to rapidly changing societal needs, particularly in contexts of technological and scientific advancement. Despite extensive research on language change, there remains a significant gap in understanding the qualitative aspects of lexical enrichment processes, specifically how the mechanisms of word creation and adoption reflect a language's developmental stage and cognitive foundations, rather than merely quantifying new terminology. Thus, this research aims to examine the relationship between societal changes and linguistic development, focusing on how language systems adapt through vocabulary enrichment and renewal processes, particularly in the context of the Azerbaijani language. The study reveals that language development is not merely measured by the quantity of new terms but by the quality and methodology of lexical enrichment. Findings demonstrate that obsolete words naturally fall out of use while new terms emerge, reflecting societal innovations and changes. This process is particularly evident in scientific and technological domains, where daily innovations demand new linguistic expressions. These findings have significant implications for understanding language development, suggesting that methods and principles of language enrichment are intrinsically linked to cognitive processes and consciousness, contributing to our understanding of how languages evolve in response to societal changes.

Keywords: Azerbaijani language, Terminology, International terms, Borrowed words.

RESUMEN

La evolución de las lenguas y el enriquecimiento léxico constituyen aspectos fundamentales del desarrollo lingüístico, ya que reflejan y facilitan la adaptación de los sistemas de comunicación a las necesidades sociales en rápida evolución, en particular en contextos de avances tecnológicos y científicos. A pesar de la amplia investigación sobre el cambio lingüístico, sigue habiendo una brecha significativa en la comprensión de los aspectos cualitativos de los procesos de enriquecimiento léxico, en particular, cómo los mecanismos de creación y adopción de palabras reflejan la etapa de desarrollo y los fundamentos cognitivos de una lengua, en lugar de simplemente cuantificar la nueva terminología.

Por lo tanto, esta investigación tiene como objetivo examinar la relación entre los cambios sociales y el desarrollo lingüístico, centrándose en cómo los sistemas lingüísticos se adaptan a través de procesos de enriquecimiento y renovación del vocabulario, en particular en el contexto de la lengua azerbaiyana. El estudio revela que el desarrollo lingüístico no se mide simplemente por la cantidad de nuevos términos, sino por la calidad y la metodología del enriquecimiento léxico. Los hallazgos demuestran que las palabras obsoletas caen naturalmente en desuso mientras surgen nuevos términos, lo que refleja innovaciones y cambios sociales. Este proceso es particularmente evidente en los dominios científicos y tecnológicos, donde las innovaciones diarias exigen nuevas expresiones lingüísticas. Estos hallazgos tienen implicaciones importantes para la comprensión del desarrollo del lenguaje, ya que sugieren que los métodos y principios del enriquecimiento del lenguaje están intrínsecamente vinculados a los procesos cognitivos y la conciencia, lo que contribuye a nuestra comprensión de cómo evolucionan los idiomas en respuesta a los cambios sociales.

Palabras clave: Idioma azerbaiyano, Terminología, Términos internacionales, Palabras prestadas.

INTRODUCTION

The integration of cross-linguistic vocabulary is a dynamic phenomenon representative of contemporary global communication. This linguistic evolution takes place along a number of paths and reflects the increasingly close interaction between societies (Nakhaie, 2020; Vakhrusheva et al., 2023). The primary ways in which vocabulary borrowing occurs involve direct linguistic borrowing, filling in the lacuna in the recipient language vocabulary (Ismagilova & Martynova, 2019). Sustained cultural interactions further enrich this process, for example, gastronomic terminology may act directly on linguistic diffusion. This has been accelerated to a huge extent by the digital revolution, with one particular influential donor language being English due to its prominence in global digital discourse (Heer et al., 2024). Moreover, other factors such as trade, international mobility and/or nowadays formal education systems also create conduits for vocabulary transmission, enabling direct linguistic exchange between distinct speech communities. Indeed, standardization of terminology, more especially in the scientific and technological fields, allows linguistic unification in the variety of language communities (Brown & Auer, 2024; Gruzova, 2019).

This linguistic phenomenon may yield multiple advantages among which are: easy communication in a multicultural context; deeper cross-cultural enrichment; professional

mobility within the global market; and, perhaps, even cognitive development due to enrichment of the linguistic repertoire (Berken et al., 2017; Craig & Xiong, 2022; Pan et al., 2024). Furthermore, this process is also contributing to the development of specialized vocabularies in technical fields where a precise communication is vital, such as medicine, aeronautics, information technology, among other areas. This acquisition of similar vocabulary thus stands not only as a linguistic phenomenon but also as a basic method of worldwide integration and mutual understanding in our rapidly intermingling world. These linguistic tools are, therefore, intrinsically related to the phenomenon of multilingualism, which enables meaningful exchange between communities of different languages (Guzikova, 2019).

In this regard, international words constitute a large part of borrowed vocabulary. A substantial portion of these international elements comprises borrowed lexical items, characterized by orthographic similarity and shared semantic content across multiple language systems. In general, any word, to be properly classified as international, must fulfill the requirement of its usage in at least three separate linguistic systems. The etymology of these words can be followed either directly to the source languages or via intermediate languages; and the etymological dictionaries usually refer to their original source, in the source language, rather than to their international status. This linguistic feature is not a matter of pure facilitation in communication but a basic mechanism for global integration, scientific development, and cultural exchange. What's more, their development has gone hand in glove with international business, diplomatic exchange, and cultural exchange, underlining even more their importance to life in modern times. As said before, this international communication system allows standardization in certain domains while simultaneously permitting linguistic diversity—a fine balance between the needs of global communication but also cultural heritage preservation (Dobrovolskaya, 2020; Zikrullayeva, 2021).

Considering the previous elements, the goal of this research is to briefly examine the dynamic relationship between language evolution and societal changes, with particular focus on how linguistic systems adapt through vocabulary enrichment, international term adoption, and lexical borrowing processes in scientific and technological domains. In the study was employed a multi-methodological approach, including documentary analysis, logical-deductive analysis to establish relationships between social changes and linguistic adaptation, and descriptive analysis to document patterns of vocabulary creation and borrowing. Through this methodological framework tries

to capture both diachronic changes in language use and synchronic patterns of vocabulary adaptation.

DEVELOPMENT

Scientific and technical terminology has a significant international character by its essence, because in modern times, every new discovery and achievement of science and technology becomes the property of all nations. The socio-political development of peoples is also inherently related to the emergence of international socio-political terminology. Each language interprets science through its own means, and the basic units of this system are words. All languages have their own terminological systems for different fields. The fact that scientific information is comprehensible to speakers of different languages makes the convergence of terminological systems a reality. The naming of a new scientific concept takes place in a specific language. In other languages, during the initial period, a new word finds its place in the form in which it was created. Gradually, the process of its adaptation to the new language takes place. Currently, the trend of direct acquisition of new words has intensified. Of course, certain phonetic changes can be observed in words during this time. The reasons for phonetic changes are related to the phonetic norms of each language. Thus, it is clear that in modern times, the phenomenon of identity and similarity of field terms across different languages is occurring. The unification of terminological systems at the international level has emerged as a result of this phenomenon.

The concepts of international words and international terms have not yet been sufficiently defined. Many researchers define international words as those recorded in different linguistic systems that have similar semantic, graphic, phonetic, and morphological features (Abayev & Baskakov, 1958, p. 58). Some researchers consider words to be international if they are used in at least three languages. According to O.B. Sakhray, if a word is used in multiple languages, it can be classified as an "internationalism." The optimal situation in creating international terms occurs when both the external form and internal meaning of the term, as well as its definitive-descriptive content, are maximally similar across diverse languages. The set of terms created under such optimal conditions forms the international stock common to the world's languages (Sadygova, 2002, p. 123).

Until recently, internationalist traditions and characteristics of peoples and nations were at the heart of human cultural factors, which were termed "international culture" or "international cultural factors." The concept of "international," translated from Arabic, means "between nations" and represents communication and mutual relations

among all nations and peoples on Earth. From this perspective, it is logically and scientifically sound to understand this concept at the level of "humanity" or "universal" today. Moreover, it is crucial to note that the formation of human cultural factors is connected with such international elements.

The human factors of culture are not spontaneous processes. They require the interaction of national cultures, mutual enrichment, and convergence as necessary developments. The interaction of national cultures takes place in various areas. This interaction occurs mainly through socio-political foundations and artistic and aesthetic aspects. In the process of interaction, national cultures shed negative and outdated cultural trends and elements that impede not only cultural but also social progress. Instead, the cultures undergoing the process of interaction are enriched with new aspects and traditions, which ensures the formation of human factors.

However, one point should be specially emphasized: this does not mean the elimination of national cultures or their melting into standardized forms. The transfer of values from one national culture to another and their assimilation might create the impression that national cultures are severed from their roots, as if the connection between their past and future development is broken. But in reality, through the process of assimilating the cultural experience of other peoples and the achievements of world culture, the revival, renewal, and further development of independent national traditions takes place through a creative approach to the assimilation of non-national material. Human and international traditions combine with national traditions, elevating them to new heights and becoming an internal strengthening stimulus for national cultures. All of this leads to the conclusion that the national form, as a method of cultural organization and development, remains a historical regularity as long as nations and national differences continue to exist.

International words and terms are different concepts. In terminology, there are many terms that are used in the same way across multiple languages. Therefore, it is appropriate to study international terms as a separate group in terminology. However, not every term borrowed from another language has the status of an international term. The transformation of a borrowed term into an international term is the result of a specific process. Regarding the process of term internationalization, S. Sadygova writes: "There are at least three stages for a term to reach the international level. Those three stages are: source language " intermediate language " receptor language."

A word is formed in a specific language. After a period of time, these words are transferred to other languages. Unlike common words, terms are more likely to be transferred from one language to another. When this process follows the transition chain given above, the transformation of a borrowed term into an international term is achieved. Ancient Greek and Latin played great roles in the creation of international terms. The main reason for this is that Greek was the classical language of science, and Latin was the language of Renaissance science. The tradition of creating terms based on these languages in the Middle Ages further expanded this process. However, in the modern world, this tradition is not as prevalent in the lexical layer of language, especially in technical fields. Words created now carry the characteristics of their source language and become internationalized in this way.

As mentioned, there are borrowings from various languages in modern Turkish. Throughout its centuries-long history, the Turkish language has interacted with many languages and borrowed words from them. When words are transferred from one language to another, their component parts are also transferred.

Regarding borrowing, the main criteria for determining the degree of assimilation of a borrowed word include: formal adaptation to the phonetic and morphological norms of the receiving language, usage in different functional styles, development of derivatives, compliance with the word-formation rules of the receiving language, ability to form combinations with native words, incorporation into phraseological units, and distinction from close synonyms (Dyakov, 2003, pp. 35–43).

L. Krysin puts forward four criteria for a word to be accepted as a borrowing: 1) the receiving language's ability to express the word from another language graphically and phonetically; 2) assignment of the borrowed word to certain grammatical classes and categories of the language; 3) semantic independence of the borrowed word; 4) development in at least two functional styles and use as a term in a specific terminological system (Krysin, 1968, p. 35). K. Yeryomina considers the first two of these four criteria to be the main ones. According to Yeryomina, the presence of the other two criteria is not necessary. The author accepts just two criteria: 1) the possibility of graphic-phonetic expression of the borrowed word in the target language; 2) the use of the word according to the grammatical norms of the language (Eremina, 1980, pp. 9–10). These criteria for defining borrowed words and loanwords should also be applied to other types of word borrowing. Additionally, borrowed words differ from loanwords in several features.

As mentioned above, for words to become international, they must be transferred through an intermediate language. "Intermediate language refers to the leading, official language in countries that have peoples who speak many languages. The intermediate language itself adopts units from the source language, in which case it plays the role of a receptor language. After transferring that term to a third language, it is considered an intermediate language, and the third language becomes a receptor language."

International words can also be categorized by geographical areas. For example, V.V. Akulenko identified five areas of international terms (Akulenko, 1961, p. 61):

1. European-American area.
2. Former USSR territory.
3. The area of languages of the Near and Middle Eastern peoples.
4. The area of languages of India and the Indian Ocean region.
5. Far Eastern area.

CONCLUSIONS

This study confirms the dynamic nature of language and its capacity to adapt to social changes, particularly in the scientific and technological domains. It has been demonstrated how the linguistic system responds to emerging communicative needs: while some terms fall into disuse, new ones arise to express contemporary concepts and innovations, thus demonstrating the vitality and capacity for renewal of language. In the research is also highlighted the fundamental role that international vocabulary and linguistic borrowings play in communication between different linguistic communities. It has been verified that the integration of international terms not only facilitates the standardization of communication in specialized fields such as medicine and technology but also promotes cultural exchange and mutual understanding among diverse societies. Lastly, the results obtained indicate that lexical enrichment constitutes an essential indicator of a language's development and vitality. Our analysis suggests that the methods and principles underlying this enrichment are closely linked to the cognitive processes and cultural consciousness of its speakers. This study of vocabulary borrowing and creation mechanisms has provided new perspectives on linguistic evolution in response to external influences, thus contributing to the broader debate on multilingualism and the preservation of cultural heritage in a globalized context.

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