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Mutual Word Borrowings between the English and the Spanish Languages

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Abstract

The contemporary world witnesses growing popularity of foreign languages learning and their role in the modern society. The article is devoted to the problem of mutual borrowings from English and Spanish languages. The aim of the article is to investigate new tendencies in the English words borrowings, their establishment in the Spanish language and the other way round. The Spanish language is one of the most widespread languages in the world and it is a native language for different nationalities. On the other hand, English has borrowed quite a lot of Spanish words as well. The mutual enrichment of the languages makes the process of language teaching specific and it is important in the modern process of globalization where languages are the main resource of international cooperation. The article contains both theoretical and practical materials dedicated to the investigation of this problem. This article may be useful for a wide range of readers, students, scientists, linguists in the study of modern Spanish and English languages.

Keywords: Translation, Language, Language education, Globalization, International cooperation, Cultural heritage.

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Introduction

Development of international cooperation, widening of communication boards brought to the borrowings of foreign words, lifestyle and customs. Language is in constant interaction with culture, society and various fields of human activity and it is constantly developing, losing and acquiring new language elements, depending on cultural characteristics. The importance of foreign languages is obvious, since they are the means of communication in the global world.

In the modern society, languages are expanding and changing the set of familiar linguistic means through new borrowings (Voronina & Ismagilova, 2016; Palutina, 2015). The largest number of such borrowings falls on the English language. It is necessary to point out that the words of English origin are widely used not only by professionals of different areas, but also by most speakers of the Spanish language. Nevertheless, the English language is enriching by means of other languages too. On the one hand, it is a main language of international cooperation and it has an influence on many languages, especially in the area of language for specific purposes. English terminologies became an essential part of many languages and make the words international and well known. On the other hand, the prevalence of the English language became a reason for the borrowings from the other languages into English.

Language that is used as a main means of communication and is used by representatives of different cultures and nationalities couldn't stay unchanged (Takhtarova & Shigapova, 2015). This article is devoted to the issue of mutual borrowings from English and Spanish languages and their classification, as well as reasons of borrowings. In the article there are observations of two main reasons of the English words borrowings. First of all, the borrowings in the professional areas make the borrowed terms international and recognizable to a wide range of people. Another reason is the lack of origin terminology in the Spanish language itself. It is necessary to point out that nowadays, there are journals and magazines that insist on using Spanish terms instead of English borrowings even if they are widely used in the language. The process of mutual borrowings from English and Spanish is very ambiguous and many scientists are interested in the investigation of this scientific question.

Methodological Framework

The study used general scientific and private (linguistic) methods. For the study there were selected and analyzed 40 English borrowings used in the Spanish articles from «Elle» and «Vogue» magazines and 100 borrowings used in the sport magazines «El Mundo» and «El pais». Also there are given examples and classification of borrowings from Spanish into English to point out the role of the Spanish language in the enriching of the English language.

In this paper we tried to find out in which way the borrowings are important in the formation of modern Spanish and English languages and professional terminology. A lot of scientific works are devoted to the problem of borrowings in the Spanish language. Many scientists, such as K. Pratt (1980), E. Lorentz, L. Berdnikova (2004), L. Dehtyarenko and others (Cook, 2001) work in the field of English borrowings in the Spanish language; Baugh A. A. and Cable Th. studied Spanish borrowed units within the history of the English language, but did not attempt to classify them. F.R. Gonzalez in his monograph focused on the semantics of Spanish borrowings, but did not study their etymology. Thus, many questions still require a special study. We have analyzed 204 units borrowed from Spanish into English selected from the Internet resources and suggested a classification based on the degree of their assimilation.

Results

Borrowings from English into Spanish

There are two areas in the Spanish language especially affected by borrowings from English into Spanish: fashion and sport. This is due to the fact that these two areas are very international and changeable. There are two main ways of borrowings: 1) direct borrowings from the English language because of the lack of equivalents in the Spanish language itself and 2) language game by means of graphic and morphological hybridization.

There were analyzed 100 examples of borrowings from the English language in the field of sport and 40 examples in the field of fashion industry. The most common anglicisms in the sports industry are *el sport(18)*, *el futbol(16)*, *el boxeo(14)*, *el club(10)*, *el fitness(10)*, *playoffs(9)*, *el cardio-box(8)*, *athletic(8)*, *hockey(6)*. The main way is a direct borrowing: *ping-pong*, *wind-surfing*, *el club*, *el golf*, *el slalom*, *el aerobic*, *el cricket*, *el cricket-cricket*, *el rugby-rugby*, *el hockey-hockey*, *el golf-golf*, *rafting*, *skating*, *squash*, *puenting- bungee-dumping*, *jogging- hacer footing*. The second way is graphic hybridization, the method is that the design of the creation of new words with the help of graphical system of different languages: *jockey –el yoquei*, *el bádminton*, *el aeróbica*, *el basquetbol*, *el futbol*. One more method is morphological hybridization that is based on the change in the morphemes of words to adapt it into another language: *to sprint – sprinter*, *ski-esqui*.

The similar situation is in the field of fashion industry. There are presented 35 direct borrowings: *glamour*, *nude*, *store* and the cases of morphological hybridization: *filmar*, *los shorts* and etc.

Borrowings from Spanish into English

The study of Spanish borrowings in English in our work is based on the consideration of historical processes that have influenced the interchange of lexical elements, the degree of assimilation, the semantic and etymological features of Spanish words in English. When analysing Spanish borrowed vocabulary, we found modern Internet resources that allow us to trace the chronology of borrowing Spanish words in English, their adaptation within the recipient language and to learn the original source of the appearance of a particular lexical element.

First of all, we studied the history of the penetration of Spanish borrowings in the English language. On the website of the Oxford English Dictionary we found an interactive map "OED in two minutes", which clearly demonstrates the formation of the lexical composition of the English language through borrowing, from 1150 to 2010. Thus, it was found that individual Spanish borrowings appeared in English in the 16th century (fanega, don). Presumably, the exchange of vocabulary took place with the joint participation of England and Spain in the crusades. However, the peak of Spanish words borrowing came in the 17th century after Christopher Columbus discovered America in 1492. This date contributed to the resettlement of the Spaniards in the New World and the enhancement of economic cooperation between Spain and European countries, including England. The country-colonizer transmitted not only goods, but also new words related to trade (carga, embargo), items of export and import (banana, guava), phenomena of nature (tornado), as well as to their own culture and way of life (hidalgo). It is worth emphasizing that at this time, borrowings took place, in general, at the expense of the British version of the English language and the Castilian version of the Spanish language. But already in the 19th century, as it was noted according to the interactive resource, the American English language came to the place of the recipient language, which began to adopt lexical elements from the Latin American versions of the Spanish language (quetzal, navajo). Probably, the change of participants in the borrowing process was due to the sharp expansion of borders, population growth and changes in the national composition of America after the sale of the Spanish colony Spanish Florida and the defeat of Mexico in the American-Mexican War of 1846-1848. In addition, in 1848, the California Gold Rush began, which led to a rapid increase in the number of immigrants, many of whom were from Latin America. It was at this time that American slang was formed, which, to some extent, was influenced by the Spanish language. Among slang words of the Spanish origin can be identified: booby - dummy, hombre - guy, loco - crazy. As for the 20th century, the Internet resource showed the active role of the Mexican version of the Spanish language in the transfer of new words (taco, chicano, machismo). This is not accidental, since

the Mexican Revolution of 1910-1917 and the US Immigration Act of 1965 gave impetus to the emigration of the Mexican population. Presumably, the borrowing of Spanish vocabulary stopped in 1995 and from that time no longer renewed.

The selected 204 Spanish borrowings were analysed according to the degree of their assimilation, and distributed among the following groups:

1) Borrowings, fully assimilated on a graphical and phonetic level.

The words belonging to this group are not numerous and characterized by a high frequency of use in speech. To such lexical units belong: *cork, canoe, barbecue*.

2) Borrowings, assimilated phonetically, but retaining the original graphic appearance.

These borrowing data can be seen from uncharacteristic combinations of letters such as doubled ll (llama) and rr (chaparral), and ending -ada (empanada), -uda (barracuda), -aro (Guacharo), -ero (caballero).

3) Borrowings assimilated graphically, but remaining original in their pronunciation.

This group includes words with palatalized sound "ñ", for example: *senor, senorita, pina colada*. In these borrowings, the Spanish grapheme, denoting a softened "ñ", was replaced in the assimilation process by an ordinary one, but phonetically these lexical units are similar to their Spanish variants.

As for grammatical assimilation, it went unnoticed due to the fact that almost all Spanish borrowings are nouns, and the formation of the plural in Spanish does not differ from English. However, semantically, many Spanish borrowed units could not adapt to the language of the recipient and still remain exoticisms, denoting the objects and realities of Spain and the countries of Latin America. Spanish borrowings are words of different thematic focus, so we made a perfect attempt to organize them on a semantic basis, which resulted in:

1) The semantic field "The World around".

This field consists of 79 words and is the most extensive among the remaining semantic fields. This section includes vocabulary from the lexico-semantic groups "Plants" (*avocado, maize*), "Animals" (*alpaca, cockroach*), "Natural phenomena" (*hurricane, pampero*), "Breeds and substances" (*carmine, zaratite*). However, many of these words, being biological and geographical terms, are not familiar to people, and, therefore, are used only by a narrow circle of persons with certain professions.

2) The semantic field "Culture of Spain and Latin America".

This semantic field includes 40 words on the topic "Kitchen" (*burrito, paella*), "Music" (*castanets, guitar*), "Dances" (*flamenco, salsa*), "Games and traditions": (*corrida, rodeo*). Due to the fact that Spanish culture items are gaining increasing popularity in the modern world, the borrowings of this group are the most assimilated in English speech.

3) Semantic field "Human activity".

This section includes 35 Spanish loans related to human policy activities (*alcalde, infante*), economy (*peso, real*), jurisprudence (*garrote, vigilante - vigilant*), military affairs (*grenade, guerilla - partisan*) and trade (*contraband*). But to a greater extent these words are historicalisms that appear only in highly specialized sources.

4) Semantic field "Life".

The 26 borrowed units of this semantic field belong to the lexico-semantic groups "cafeteria" (*cafeteria, ranch*), "clothes and textiles" (*poncho, sombrero*) and "devices" (*lasso, machete*) and are characterized by low frequency of use.

5) The semantic field "Man".

This semantic word includes 24 words that give a person a subjective assessment (*amigo - a friend, bravado - brave*) describing him or her in terms of objective physical characteristics (*mulatto, sambo*), as well as his social position (*majordomo*).

The analysis revealed the percentage of Spanish borrowings from different semantic fields, which showed that 39% of the total vocabulary consists of words from the semantic field "The World around", 20% - "Culture of Spain and Latin America", 18% - "Human activities", 12% - "Life", 11% - "Man."

In addition, during the research hypothesis was put forward that most of the Spanish borrowings came to English indirectly (Oxford English Dictionary). This means that the Spanish language was just a channel of transmission, and the words themselves take their roots in other sources.

Indeed, referring to the online resource Online Etymology Dictionary, we found that many of the selected words are etymologically not Spanish. But for more accurate research results we also used another site - Dictionary.com, where you can also get a brief information on the etymology of an English word. Having studied both Internet sources, we determined that most Spanish borrowed words originate from the Latin language. So, 31 borrowed units of this type were found, among them: armada, indigo, oregano, patio, plaza - area. In addition, 9 borrowings from the Arabic language, widely used in the territory of Spain during the Muslim dominance, were singled out. The words from this language source include: adobe - raw,

alfalfa - lucerne, lime, merino, tuna. But, in general, the vocabulary originating in these languages is not popular in daily speech, and rather inferior to borrowings from the languages and dialects of the indigenous peoples of America, denoting, basically, plants consumed throughout the world.

Discussion

A lot of researches were connected with studying of mutual borrowings from different languages, but in spite of the fact that a lot of researches were done, some aspects of mutual borrowings were not fully studied. There are borrowings caused by the lack of equivalents in the origin language and necessity to name the terms and objects that are widely spread and used in other languages. Nevertheless, there are borrowings caused by the popularity of a word in a modern society that makes them international and widely borrowed even if there are several original words in the language itself with the same meaning. One more ambiguous question is assimilated borrowings. These words change their graphic, morphology and become new words of the language with the same meaning. This creativity makes the language vivid, but simultaneously these words substitute original terms. This process of assimilated borrowings isn't studied properly and it is difficult to give an exact opinion about the reasons of borrowings from another language and transformation according to the language system of a new language, at that time in the language there are original words with this meaning.

Conclusion

Sometimes new words enter the language and sometimes become its essential part or they have a translation that preserves the literal meaning of the origin language. It is an active change formed under the influence of different processes. The enrichment of the languages may be explained as necessity of cultural and spiritual development of generations. It is interesting that at the present time there is an opposite trend of preserving the national identity and activating the Spanish words themselves to denote certain terms in the sphere of sports. Spanish sports newspapers tend to use the vocabulary of their native language in their articles. Journalists choose the equivalents of borrowed words in their native language. Many speakers of the Spanish language believe that English borrowings destroy the culture, traditions, customs, characteristics and uniqueness of the Spanish language. Scientists believe that borrowings can be introduced into the language only in the absence of a word with the similar meaning in the Spanish language itself. The situation with the fashion industry differs from

the area of sport. It should be noted that the number of borrowings in the magazines of the fashion industry is increasing. This phenomenon contributes to the emergence of new terms in the field of fashion in the Spanish language. Nevertheless, the English language is also under the influence of the Spanish language, in spite of the fact that it is a main language of international cooperation. It says about the close relations between languages and allows guessing that this process is vivid and many new borrowings will appear in the both languages.

Recommendations

This study has both theoretical and practical importance. It contains a lot of examples of borrowings and their usage and meanings in the languages. Some specific words show that the process of borrowings is very vivid and creative. This information can be interesting for linguists studying borrowings processes, students studying English and Spanish languages, advertising professionals who are connected with these terminology.

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