

# Typology of borrowings in linguistics

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**Received:** 21 December 2024; **Accepted:** 23 January 2025; **Published:** 25 February 2025

**Abstract:** This study investigates the typology of borrowings in linguistics, focusing on the processes, types, and adaptation mechanisms of borrowed words in various languages. Borrowings, also known as loanwords, occur when one language adopts words from another due to contact and cultural exchange. The research classifies borrowings into types such as lexical, phonological, morphological, and semantic borrowings. Special attention is given to the comparative typology of English and Uzbek borrowings, highlighting their phonetic and semantic changes. The findings contribute to understanding the dynamics of linguistic change and cross-linguistic influence.

**Keywords:** Borrowings, loanwords, typology, linguistic adaptation, lexical borrowings, semantic borrowings, phonological changes, morphological changes, cross-linguistic influence.

**Introduction:** Language is a dynamic system that evolves over time through various internal and external factors. One of the most significant factors influencing linguistic change is the phenomenon of borrowing, where languages adopt words and expressions from other languages. Borrowings occur due to cultural contact, trade, conquests, technological advancements, and the spread of religions and ideas. They enrich languages, introduce new concepts, and help bridge cultural gaps. In linguistic studies, the analysis of borrowings is essential for understanding language interaction and evolution. The typology of borrowings plays a crucial role in linguistics as it categorizes different types of borrowings and explains their adaptation processes. The study of borrowings helps linguists understand how languages influence each other, how new lexical items are integrated into a language, and what changes occur in the meaning and form of borrowed words. For languages like English and Uzbek, which have a history of significant contact with other languages, this topic provides insights into their development and vocabulary expansion. Borrowing, also referred to as lexical borrowing or loanword adaptation, is defined as the process by which one language adopts words or expressions from another. Haugen describes borrowings as "linguistic material taken over by one language from another without translation." According to Thomason and Kaufman, borrowings occur when speakers of a language incorporate foreign elements due to direct or indirect

contact with another linguistic community. General Linguistics continues to seek a comprehensive and reliable classification of linguistic borrowing or interference, which involves the transfer of linguistic elements between two speech varieties, primarily two languages. In Uzbek linguistics, scholars such as Karimov (2001) and Tursunov (2012) have analyzed the historical and contemporary impact of borrowings, categorizing them based on their sources and adaptation patterns. The reviewed literature provides a foundation for classifying and analyzing borrowings in English and Uzbek. While numerous studies have focused on individual languages, few have undertaken a comparative approach. This study aims to fill that gap by exploring the typological similarities and differences in borrowings across these two languages. Lexical borrowing is the most prevalent form of transfer between languages. From the early stages of research, some scholars have attempted to outline a system for categorizing borrowing and interference. However, these efforts have consistently faced significant challenges. Despite the variations in borrowing classifications, they can be simplified into four fundamental types:

- a) Classifications based on the relationship between the languages involved: for instance, "cultural borrowing" and "intimate borrowing," as identified by L. Bloomfield.
- b) Classifications based on the hierarchical relationship

between the speech varieties involved: such as borrowing between national languages and "dialect borrowing," also discussed by Bloomfield. The levels at which transference occurs as follows: "phonological," "orthographic," "morphological," "semantic," "lexical," "phraseological" and "pragmatic" Since some categories are significantly broader than others, it becomes essential to develop internal classifications.

Several linguists have proposed different types of borrowings based on linguistic features:

- Lexical Borrowings: The most common form, involving the adoption of words and expressions, e.g., 'ballet' (from French) and 'tsar' (from Russian).

- Phonological Borrowings: Involves adopting phonetic patterns or sounds from another language. This type often results in new phonemes being introduced into the borrowing language.

- Morphological Borrowings: Occurs when languages adopt affixes, morphemes, or word-formation patterns from others. Morphological borrowing is a debated category, as some scholars have questioned the possibility of directly transferring morphemes. Since H. Schuchardt's work, many researchers have argued that morpheme borrowing occurs indirectly. Specifically, certain morphemes within borrowed words are perceived as particularly frequent in the influx of loanwords in a language. Speakers analyze these loanwords, recognize these morphemes, and become familiar with their use. Over time, these morphemes may become productive in the recipient language.

- Semantic Borrowings: Involves adopting new meanings for existing words due to influence from another language. For example, the word 'mouse' acquired a new meaning in English due to technological influence. Semantic borrowing involves the transfer of a sememe or unit of meaning. When the words involved share a certain formal or semantic similarity, scholars, such as Haugen and Humbley have suggested the following classification:

A) Homologues: In this case, the words display a similarity in meaning but differ significantly in form. This type of borrowing is essentially a proper translation and is often referred to as a "semantic loan translation" or "semantic calque." Typically, both words share a primary, literal meaning. The word in the model language then conveys a new, often metaphorical meaning to the borrowing language. This phenomenon is sometimes described as "borrowed metaphors."

b) "Analogues." Both words show analogy in form as well as in meaning. Therefore, the semantic transaction between them is quite easy: analogues are more

common than homologues, at least in Western languages. This kind of semantic borrowing arises easily in the process of translation and in the speech of bilinguals: they are known as "false friends." We can see this process with another term taken from the influential jargon of politics in the USA: in English, conventional has the literal primary meaning of "customary, traditional", but in political jargon it has developed the sense of "non-nuclear (weapons)", that is, "traditional (weapons)." The linguistic factor of formal and semantic similarity, and the strong influence of American political vocabulary result in the adoption of the new meaning by French "conventional" and Spanish "convencional". For example, the American English term "hawk" has two main meanings: a primary one, "bird of prey," and a metaphorical one, "hard-line politician" (in political jargon). Since the French word épervier and the Spanish word halcón share the primary, literal meaning with the English term, they can also adopt the secondary metaphorical meaning.

The study of borrowings in linguistics highlights the dynamic and evolving nature of languages influenced by cultural contact, historical events, and societal changes. Borrowings, whether lexical, phonological, morphological, or semantic, play a crucial role in shaping the vocabulary and structure of languages. Through the analysis of English and Uzbek, this research has demonstrated how languages integrate foreign elements, adapt them to their phonetic and grammatical systems, and, in some cases, even create new meanings. The comparative typology of borrowings between English and Uzbek reveals both similarities and differences in the way these languages have absorbed foreign influences. English, with its history of extensive contact with Latin, French, and Norse, has developed a highly diverse lexicon through borrowing. Uzbek, influenced by Persian, Arabic, and Russian, has similarly enriched its vocabulary, particularly in fields such as administration, religion, and technology. The degree of adaptation in both languages depends on linguistic structures, phonological compatibility, and sociolinguistic factors such as bilingualism and language policy.

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