

The Most Common Loanwords in The Lexicon of The Korean Language

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Abstract: This article analyzes the formation, origin, and usage of neologisms and loanwords in the Korean language. Neologisms, especially words borrowed from English and other foreign languages, are linked to the social, economic, and cultural development of Korean society. The article discusses the various sources of loanwords in the Korean language, their usage, adaptation, and cultural adjustment. An analysis of the most frequently used loanwords in contemporary society is also included.

Keywords: Neologism, loanwords, English language, Korean language, globalization, foreign languages, phonetic adaptation, technology, economy, culture, youth.

Introduction: "It is time to establish a new system that will lay a solid foundation for teaching foreign languages in our country for the future. As we aim to build a competitive state, our graduates from schools, lyceums, colleges, and higher educational institutions must be proficient in at least two foreign languages," states our esteemed president Shavkat Mirziyoyev in his speeches.

In our country, within the framework of implementing the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on "Education" and the National Program for Personnel Training, a comprehensive system for teaching foreign languages has been created. This system aims to form a harmonious and well-rounded generation of modern thinkers who are directed towards the global community. Our esteemed president Shavkat Mirziyoyev has adopted several decisions and decrees regarding the education of well-educated and highly qualified young people. Notably, the presidential decree PQ-5117 on May 19, 2021, on the measures to improve the activities of popularizing foreign language learning, and the decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated August 11, 2017, on improving the quality of teaching foreign languages in educational institutions, are part of this initiative.

METHOD

Language reflects all the changes occurring in society

and shapes the thinking of an entire nation, not just an individual. The changes in the current globalization process lead to the adoption of new words or the creation of their equivalents. Neologisms are entirely new words or existing words that are assigned new meanings to represent objects or concepts. Most neologisms in dictionaries are primarily related to leisure, economics, and internet terminology.[9] Today, we can find them in the vocabulary of all languages. The term "neologism" comes from Greek (neos logos), meaning a new word. O. Akhmanova defines this term as "a word or phrase created (emerged) to designate a new (previously unknown) object or to express a new concept" [1]. New words and phrases that are widely used in speech but not included in dictionaries are also considered neologisms. The neologisms in the Korean language include words formed by adding syllables from Korean, English, and Chinese linguistic layers, as well as acronyms created by shortening sentences. "Slangs," i.e., certain shortened jargon words, are also considered neologisms in Korean and are rapidly developing among youth as "trendy" words.

DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

The origin of modern Korean loanwords is primarily related to the English, Chinese, Japanese, and other foreign languages, and their formation and usage are

closely linked to the social, economic, and cultural development of Korea. The main sources and their influence are discussed below:

English language: English is the primary source of loanwords in modern Korean. The influx of English words has increased as a result of Korea's integration into the global economy and culture, especially after World War II.

Technology and Science: 컴퓨터 (keompyuteo – "computer"), 인터넷 (inteonet – "internet").

Business and Economy: 미팅 (miting – "meeting"), 스타트업 (seutateueop – "startup").

Pop Culture: 팬 (paen – "fan"), 아이돌 (aidol – "idol").

Characteristics: Adaptation: English words are adjusted to the Korean phonetic system. "Konglish" words: English expressions used only in Korean. For example, 핸드폰 (haendeupon – "mobile phone").[3]

Chinese language:

The Chinese language has influenced Korean for over a thousand years, particularly in terms of economy, religion, and traditional terminology. Sino-Korean words: 경제 (gyeongje – "economy"), 투자 (tuja – "investment"). Many Chinese loanwords are based on Hanja (Chinese characters) and are often used in formal speech.

Japanese language:

Loanwords from Japanese appeared during the Japanese occupation of Korea (1910–1945). Today, some Japanese words are still in use, such as 기업 (gieop – "corporation") and 회장 (hoejang – "chairperson").

Other sources:

Words from French, German, and Italian have also entered Korean, but their impact is more limited compared to English.

French: 카페 (kape – "café").

Italian: 피자 (pija – "pizza").

1. Modern Processes and Neologisms:

In recent years, the influx of foreign words has accelerated due to globalization and technological advancements. For example:

Hybrid Neologisms: 라떼 아빠 (latte appa – "latte dad").

Cryptocurrency and IT: 블록체인 (beullokkchein –

"blockchain"), NFT.

Most of the modern loanwords in Korean are derived from English, but they are adapted to the Korean cultural and phonetic system. These words not only add linguistic richness but also reflect Korea's global influence.

The Formation and Usage of Loanwords in Korean:

Loanwords in Korean language have specific patterns in their formation and usage. They are mainly borrowed from foreign languages, especially English, and adapted to the Korean culture and context. Below is a detailed overview of their formation and usage:[6]

Formation: a) Direct Transliteration: Words are adapted to the Korean writing system (한글) as closely as possible to the original pronunciation. This method is often used for brand names, technologies, and international terms. Examples: 컴퓨터 (keompyuteo – "computer"), 인터넷 (inteonet – "internet"), 카페 (kape – "café").

b) Word Shortening: Shortening is widely used in the Korean language. This method applies not only to foreign words but also to their combinations. Examples: 버스 (beoseu) – "bus" (derived from "omnibus"), 샘플 (saempeul) – "sample", 아파트 (apateu) – "apartment".

c) Combination or Compounding: Foreign words are combined in Korean to form new words. Examples:

월드컵 (weoldeukeop) – "World Cup".

핫도그 (hatdogeu) – "hot dog".

d) Adjustment to Spelling and Pronunciation: Foreign words are modified according to Korean phonetic and grammatical rules:

브랜드 (beuraendeu) – "brand",

시스템 (siseutem) – "system",

프로젝트 (peurojekteu) – "project".

Usage: a) In Daily Life: Many foreign words are actively used in modern technologies, food, fashion, and everyday life:

티셔츠 (tisyeocheu) – "T-shirt",

콜라 (kolla) – "cola",

핸드폰 (haendeupon) – "handphone" (mobile phone).

b) In Business and Technology: Loanwords are an integral part of professional conversations in the business and technology sectors:

미팅 (miting) – "meeting",

프레젠테이션 (peurejenteisyeon) – "presentation",

스타트업 (seutateueop) – "startup".

c) In Youth and Pop Culture: Foreign words are considered fashionable among young people and are widely used in musical and entertainment contexts:

팬 (paen) – "fan" (enthusiast),

아이돌 (aidol) – "idol" (famous singer or actor),

쇼핑 (shyoping) – "shopping". [9]

d) In Official and Scientific Discourse: In scientific, medical, and technological fields, foreign terms, especially those derived from Latin or English, are commonly used:

바이러스 (baireoseu) – "virus",

에너지 (eneoji) – "energy",

글로벌 (geullobeol) – "global".

1. Challenges and Specifics:

Change in Meaning: Some words change their meaning when used in Korea, either differing or expanding their original meaning. For example:

서비스 (seobiseu) – "service" (in Korea, it refers to additional services or gifts).

Cultural Adjustment: Foreign words in Korean are adjusted to the local pronunciation and style, making them distinctive.[7]

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, neologisms emerge in response to societal needs and become permanent in usage. Like in many other countries, neologisms in Korea are actively used in various fields, especially in technology and by the younger generation in daily speech. It is assumed that loanwords entering the language are initially borrowed from another language, and upon deeper examination, we may find that their origin belongs to another nation entirely. The increasing number of English neologisms in the Korean lexicon and the issues with spelling errors in neologisms is an important issue. Therefore, it is essential to avoid fragmented views when perceiving the influence of foreign language cultures, as it can weaken the national culture. Like everything else, moderation must be maintained when borrowing words, and they should undergo a 'filter' before being accepted.

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