

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

#### **5.0 Introduction**

This dissertation is a study on the non-English loanwords that have been borrowed into the four genres of the English language newspapers in Malaysia. They are the Entertainment News, Local News, Sports News and Education News. The focus has been to find out what these items are, the extent of the borrowing and then to group them according to loanwords and borrowed phrases in the four genres and semantic domains, to analyse the adaptations made, to assess the reasons for and effects of the borrowing, factors that influence borrowing, to arrive at conclusions regarding the findings and give some suggestions and recommendations for further research.

This chapter is divided into two sections. The first section looks at summary of main findings as a whole and discusses the patterns and processes of borrowing. Then it gives a comparison of the four genres. It discusses the effects of borrowing in English language newspapers in Malaysia and factors that influence borrowings. This section ends with general findings.

The second section deals with recommendations for further research. An overall analysis of the corpus has led to certain general conclusions and recommendations.

## **5.1 Summary of Main Findings**

### **5.1.1 Patterns of Borrowing**

Of the four genres investigated, it was found that the Local News section contained a significantly larger amount of borrowings than the other three sections namely Education News, Sports News and Entertainment News as seen in Table 4.1. This could probably be due to the fact that this section has the greatest degree of contact with social concepts, arts and communication unique to the eastern way of life.

In addition, the Local News section shares certain significant characteristics with the Entertainment News section. One of these is the fact that a larger percentage of borrowed items in these two sections which were obtained through the process of importation (Haugen, 1950) thereby indicating that these two sections make greater use of this process than the Education News and Sports News sections. The researcher therefore concludes that a greater degree of contact with local languages and foreign words encourages greater variety in the manner in which the borrowing is done. Perhaps this is due to the fact that greater contact with local languages has led to greater exposure to concepts and ideas unfamiliar to the culture of the English language. Hence, these two sections indicate more attempts to borrow and make use of existing words to express these concepts.

These findings seem to indicate that even in an area of spontaneous lexical innovation such as newspapers; there are still differences in the type and manner of borrowing according to the genres. It has also been found that there are more borrowings from the Malay language in the English newspapers in Malaysia. This could be due to the fact that the Malay language is the official language hence relates better to the people or

'*rakyat*' of Malaysia. For example, *Keranamu Malaysia*, *Muafakat dan Perpaduan*, *Membawa Tradisi Cemerlang ke Dimensi Baru* and others. These are concepts unique to the Malaysian people and culture, which portrays themes, and concepts for unity and patriotic reasons. The use of the local language brings the newspapers closer to home and the hearts of the people where they can comprehend the news better.

### **5.1.2 Processes of Borrowing**

The analysis of the borrowings in the English language newspapers has revealed only one process of borrowing and that is importation.

Importation of unassimilated loanwords is by far the most common process employed as it accounts for 100% of the borrowings in the corpus. The findings therefore suggest that the overwhelming number of importations could be largely attributed to three reasons:

1. The fact that there are no denotative equivalents in the English language to replace the foreign words.
2. The Convenience factor still plays a large part in the process at this stage.
3. The Prestige factor also still plays a large part in the process at this stage.

#### **a. Possible Effects of Borrowing of Loanwords in Newspapers**

From the sociocultural perspective, the effect is:

The process of acculturation plays a major part in borrowings in the newspapers. Therefore, loanwords referring to concepts, arts and communication, 164 - 43.5% are the far largest type of borrowings in this corpus. The borrowings redefine the

semantic range of the loanwords used today when compared to their use decades ago.

From the semantic domain, the effects are:

1. Writers are able to express contemporary issues more accurately because of semantic specialization and different connotations, which are observed by the use of loanwords.
2. Writers are more adventurous in the exploration of local concepts knowing that they can express themselves with loanwords.
3. Writers are able to depict the unique South East Asian setting and the western ideas and concepts side by side.

### **5.1.3 Factors that Influence Borrowing**

#### **a. Loanwords and Borrowed Phrases in the Four Genres**

The data shows that a number of factors are critical in the determining what formal modifications, if any, are made to the word:

- i. To preserve the identity of the foreign item

Some loanwords, especially the unassimilated ones are imported directly for instance in the field of culture, food and tradition to ensure intertranslatability. For example, the loanword *ikan bakar*, *sulh*, *pua kumbu* is borrowed directly to ensure that the linguistic and cultural identity of the borrowed word is not lost.

- ii. Context of use of the Borrowed Words

The kinds of items borrowed in each genre depend on the need of the user to convey the message. Some loanwords have over the years lost their popularity and some on

the other hand, have become even more popular. For example, *Majulah Malaysia* when compared to *Malaysia Boleh*. More Islamic words are used in the newspapers today when compared to the studies on Malaysian English in the 1980's. This shows that the use of the language changes with time. People will borrow words from a language they feel comfortable with in imparting their intended message. The context of use and users play an important role in determining the kinds of words borrowed.

### iii. Extension of Meaning

In this era of computers different users have used words over and over again for different purposes for their daily needs. So what has happened inevitably is that these borrowed words have developed a range of meanings, which may be still similar to its original state but now with new meanings attached to it. Such a combination would foster the enrichment of language and culture. Hence, emerges an English language unique to the locals who can convey their message meaningfully to others.

### iv. Everyday use of the language

The genre with the most borrowings will usually be the genre, which relates to people's everyday lives and what they believe in. News with contemporary ideas and concepts set against the culture and traditions of the Malaysian people has the most number of words. This can be seen in this study where the genre on Local News has the most number of words and that is 208. The purpose for such borrowings is to let the people identify with the language they use to relate their own experiences in the context of use.

## **b. Semantic Domains**

A number of reasons seem to repetitively inform decisions regarding borrowing in the data investigated:

- i. To express those notions, fields of knowledge, concepts and things for which the English language has no equivalents. For example, *Rukun Tetangga*, *Pasar Malam*, *Panggung Prima*, *Muhasabah Diri*.
- ii. To preserve accuracy of the meaning transferred from the foreign lexical item to the loanword. For example, *prana*, *pondok panas*, *tabla*.
- iii. To give expression to new experiences and perceptions. For example, *jiran wanita*, *tandoori*, *laman nuraini*.
- iv. To cope with the changing needs of society, where the use of titles before names of very important people in Malaysia is more evident. These are words like *Datuk*, *Datin*, *Tan Sri*, *Datuk Seri* which have given man and woman alike a new perception of identity that have been around but which have earlier not received due attention.
- v. To aid in broadening the scope of ideas, with more focus on contemporary issues, outlook and developments. For example, *e-skop*.
- vi. To generate new ideas and concepts. For example, *Malaysia Boleh*.

#### **5.1.4 General Findings**

The effects of borrowing are far-reaching and deep. In newspapers, borrowing of loanwords may have a profound effect on readers. As a result of reading the newspapers with more contemporary concerns and perceptions, the readers own perceptions and world-view may be expanded, knowledge will be transferred and traditional assumptions and conventions may be questioned and challenged. The significance is great.

It cannot be denied that the borrowing of loanwords has expanded the lexicon of the English language used in Malaysia. With that, the role of the language has broadened and the language itself has become more versatile.

i. The most important observation is the influence of other languages used in Malaysia.

Lexical items from these other languages are borrowed into nativized English in Malaysia.

The ML has a major influence on the nativized lexical items of ME. This is understandable since the ML is the official language and used widely in Malaysia. In fact, Venugopal (1994) points out that a particularly evident trend of English in Malaysia today is the transfer of lexical items.

The influence from local languages especially the ML shows there is an adaptation of language use (Baskaran 1987). The linguistic manipulation of the multilingual context in Malaysia has to be seen from the point of view of the effectiveness within the context of use in terms of emotional effectiveness, stylistic effectiveness and effectiveness in terms of identity.

ii. The second finding is that more nativized lexical items are used when the topics or issues discussed are cultural or local. The closer the topics are to home, the more nativized are the lexical items.

iii. One other important factor for the survival of ME is the intelligibility among Malaysians. The use of these borrowings indicates a step towards acceptance of local languages in the English language newspapers in Malaysia.

iv. Formal acrolect or mesolect

The more formal acrolect is strongly linked to educational background. The audience and readers who are in the higher education bracket use this lect. Many of the speakers and writers are institutionalised. Lexical items like *bomoh*, *kampung*, *Rukunegara* and use of the titles such as *Yang Berhormat*, *Datuk* are common items used by the mass media.

Since the media plays an important part in “propagating” lexical items, it is possible that, certain lexical items at the mesolectal level will move up to the acrolectal level. This is especially so if these items are used in the mass media. These nativized lexical items may slowly become stabilized lexical items if they begin to fulfil a real need. Historically, indigenisation takes place in situations where the functions of English experience a gradual shift within a society as English becomes a language of personal interaction within a community and as it comes to take on more and more communicative functions. (Richards, 1979).

These are some of the general findings made. They may very well indicate creativity and motivation in using these lexical innovations. According to Kachru (1990) these



kinds of findings show the real world situation in the Outer Circle, which involves interlocutors using English and local languages as additional languages. The interlocutors in such interactions expect a functional range of varieties and they certainly adopt the strategies of borrowing depending on the participants. In this case, the newspaper writers and the readers who would adopt the strategies mentioned above in their use of the English language.

## **5.2 Recommendations**

This research focused only on the use of borrowings in the four genres of the English newspapers. The study was conducted based on the words or phrases that are borrowed from local and foreign languages. In the course of writing this dissertation, the researcher has discovered scope for the following areas of research.

### **5.2.1 Electronic media and mass media**

The use of the mass media especially the electronic media such as radio, television and the computer could be a source of language data for further investigation regarding trends of borrowing. In the researcher's point of view it could be generally claimed that the electronic media has more direct influence than the printed media on the most number of people in any society. Therefore the lexical innovations in the language used in these media would have a significant impact on the lexicon of the language.

Apart from newspaper writing, future researchers are recommended to look into the use of English in magazines, travel brochures, ESL textbooks (mathematics and science too), instructions in leaflets and catalogues.

### **5.2.2 Phonology of the English language**

The effect of Malay or local language borrowings on the phonology of the English language would also merit fuller investigation especially as used in the mass media and other spontaneous areas of lexical innovation.

### **5.2.3 Semantic Adaptation**

The present research has been carried out with one aspect of the lexis of ME that is borrowed words. It is recommended that future research explore other lexical features such as words related to SBE but used differently in ME. The words and expressions in this category may not be new but their usage in Malaysian English differs from SBE.

### **5.2.4 Syntax**

This study only concentrates on the lexical and phrasal level. Therefore, other aspects of linguistics such as syntax and discourse are also interesting areas to explore. The study could be conducted in a school environment, in government offices such the courts, hospitals or the registration office and even in the private sector such as in banks, colleges or in the management sectors.

### **5.2.5 Malaysian English**

Future researchers can also look into the mesolectal and basilectal varieties or colloquial ME: code-mixing and code-switching. It is important to see when, where, with whom and why people use both of these varieties. Its context of use will give a better understanding of the use of these varieties.

The study of the effects of borrowing from local and foreign languages on the English language is an on-going process as the two languages are constantly in contact. Further research in this area would be of immense benefit to the study of language development in this country.

#### **5.2.6 The Study of Short Messaging Service (SMS) in Mobile Phones**

The messages received in mobile phones could be an interesting area of research. It is important to find out what kind of English words are used, are there slang words, short forms and borrowings from other languages when sending a message. The researcher could look at a few variables to make a conclusion on the type of English used in these messages. The researcher could look at variables such as the sender and receiver, the age group, and the type or types of messages sent. This may establish new findings to see if there is a Malaysian English of a new technological era emerging?

#### **5.2.7 A Comparison of Borrowing in 1970 and in the present**

Since the influence of communication media is immense, especially from non-English sources, we can ask to what extent this influence actually is integrated into everyday life. The study can examine one specific aspect of such influence - the usage of local or foreign terms in the English newspapers. Different from the present study, this research can look at newspapers from two different times such as one from 1970 and the other, the present time.

### **5.3 Conclusion**

The main findings of this study in four selected genres, Education News, Sports News, Entertainment News and Local News show that the genre with the most borrowings is

the Local News section. The most common semantic domain is on Social Concepts, Arts and Communication. This study has established that of the four genres, the Local News section had the most loanwords and among the semantic domains the Social Concepts, Arts and Communication domain had the most loanwords. The findings seen from the formal criteria show that all the loanwords fall into the unassimilated category and this is similar to Heah's (1989) claim that this category shows that this is the beginning stage of borrowing in a language.

It cannot be denied that to use borrowings appropriately one must not only be able to use the Malay or local languages well but should also have a good command of English too. This is because if one has a good command of the language then one can understand the meaning of the word or words in the English language newspapers in Malaysia.