

ENGLISH BORROWINGS IN THE BURMESE LANGUAGE

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Abstract

This study is concerned with the words borrowed from English into the Burmese language and the adaptations the words have gone through in the process of borrowing. The main objective of the study is to determine which type and manner of borrowing occurs most in the Burmese language and which area of human activity contains the most borrowings. Data for the present study was drawn from Burmese monolingual dictionary called *Myanmar Abidan* (1978) (2006), and was analyzed using Haugen's classification framework. The findings revealed that the influence of English borrowings on the Burmese language is mainly in the form of partial substituted loanwords. None substituted loans are minimal due to the fact that when words are borrowed, they undergo some form of phonemic transformation, before they are accepted into the borrowing language. Therefore, phonemic substitution is the most common type of adaptation of English loans into Burmese. Grouping English borrowings into different categories according to thematic fields revealed that science and technology was the domain with the highest number of borrowings.

ABSTRAK

Kajian ini berkaitan dengan kata-kata pinjaman dari bahasa Inggeris kepada bahasa Burma dan adaptasi yang telah dilalui oleh kata-kata pinjaman tersebut di dalam proses peminjaman. Objektif utama kajian adalah untuk mengenal pasti jenis dan cara pinjaman yang terbanyak sekali dalam bahasa Burma. Objektif seterusnya adalah untuk mengenal pasti bidang aktiviti manusia yang mana yang paling banyak mengandungi kata pinjaman. Data kajian telah diambil dari sebuah kamus monolingual bahasa Burma dipanggil *Myanmar Abidan* (1978) (2006), dan data dianalisis menggunakan rangka klasifikasi Haugen. Hasil kajian menunjukkan bahawa pengaruh pinjaman bahasa Inggeris keatas bahasa Burma adalah sebahagian besarnya berbentuk penggantian separa. Sementara kata pinjaman langsung sangat minimal. Pengumpulan kata-kata pinjaman bahasa Inggeris kepada beberapa kategori berdasarkan medan tema telah menunjukkan bahawa domain sains dan teknologi mempunyai jumlah kata pinjaman yang terbesar.

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LIST OF SYMBOLS USED

/k:./	phonemic transcription
/ / / /	slashes are put before and after each syllable
[]	phonetic transcription
() or ‘ ’	English word/s
/ : /	symbol (:) in phonemic transcriptions indicates vowel lengthening
/ <u> </u> /	an underlined word in a listing indicates a comparison between an English and a Burmese sound or words
Vol	= volume
C	= consonant
V	= vowel
n	= noun
v	= verb
adj	= adjective
p.	= page
no.	= number