ENGLISH BORROWINGS IN THE BURMESE LANGUAGE

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UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA
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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

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Abstract ii
Acknowledgements iv
Table of Contents v
List of Tables x
List of Figures xi
List of Symbols xi

CHAPTER ONE : ENGLISH BORROWINGS IN BURMESE : A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

1.0 Introduction 1
1.1 Background to the Study 1
1.2 Statement of the Problem 3
1.3 Aims of the Study 4
1.4 Significance of the Study 4
1.5 Limitations Of The Study 6
1.6 Historical Perspective of the Burmese Language 7
  1.6.1 Burma and Its Languages in General 7
  1.6.2 Burmese Language 9
  1.6.3 Spread of the Burmese Language 11
1.7 Influence of World Languages on the Burmese Language 12
  1.7.1 Influence of English on the Burmese Language 13
  1.7.2 Influence of Pali on the Burmese Language 16
  1.7.3 Influence of Hindi and Urdu on the Burmese Language 18
  1.7.4 Influence of Chinese on the Burmese Language 20
  1.7.5 Influence of Japanese on the Burmese Language 22
  1.7.6 Influence of Malay on the Burmese Language 23
CHAPTER TWO : REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.0 Introduction

2.1 Description of Borrowing
   2.1.1 Definition of Borrowing
   2.1.2 Factors Determining Borrowing
   2.1.3 Identification of Borrowings
   2.1.4 Classification of Borrowings

2.2 Transcription of Burmese Words

2.3 Related Studies
   2.3.1 English Loans in the Chinese Language
   2.3.2 English Loans in the Malay Language
   2.3.3 English Loans in the Sri Lankan Language
   2.3.4 English Loans in the Japanese Language
   2.3.5 English Loans in the Russian Language

2.4 Conclusion

CHAPTER THREE : METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

3.1 Source of Data
   3.1.1 *Myanmar Abidan*

3.2 Collection of Data
   3.2.1 Identification of Borrowed Words
   3.2.2 Transcription of Borrowed Items

3.3 Analysis of Borrowed Lexical Items

3.4 Haugen’s Theoretical Framework
   3.4.1 Loanwords
      3.4.1.1 None Substitution
      3.4.1.2 Partial Substitution
3.4.1.3 Complete Substitution 65
3.4.2 Loanblends 66
  3.4.2.1 Marginal Loanblends 67
  3.4.2.2 Compound Loanblends 67
  3.4.2.3 Tautological Loanblends 68
3.4.3 Loanshifts 69
  3.4.3.1 Loan Translations 69
    3.4.3.1.1 Literal Loan Translations 70
    3.4.3.1.2 Loan Renditions 71
  3.4.3.2 Syntactic Calques 71
  3.4.3.3 Semantic Extensions 72
3.5 Conclusion 72

CHAPTER FOUR : ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

4.0 Introduction 74
4.1 Distribution According to Type of Borrowing 75
  4.1.1 Loanwords 76
  4.1.2 Loanblends 76
  4.1.3 Loanshifts 77
4.2 Distribution According to Manner of Borrowing 77
  4.2.1 Loanword Category 77
    4.2.1.1 None Substitution 78
    4.2.1.2 Partial Substitution 79
    4.2.1.3 Complete Substitution 80
  4.2.2 Loanblend Category 81
    4.2.2.1 Compound Loanblends 82
    4.2.2.2 Tautological Loanblends 83
  4.2.3 Loanshift Category 84
4.3 Phonological Adaptations in Accordance With Native Phonemes 86
  4.3.1 Retaining of Initial Sound Pattern 86
  4.3.2 Adaptation of /f/ and /v/ Sounds 88
4.3.3 Changes in /s/ Sound
4.3.4 Dropping or Replacing of Final Consonant Sounds /s/, /l/ and /r/  90
4.3.5 Replacing Final Nasalized Codas  92
4.3.6 Functions of Glottal Check /\n/  93
4.3.7 Adaptation of /r/  96
4.4 Syllabic Structure of Borrowed Words  97
4.4.1 Common Syllabic Structure  97
4.4.2 Increase in Syllables of a Borrowed Word  99
4.5 English Borrowings in Thematic Domains  99
4.5.1 Domains of the English Borrowings  100
  4.5.1.1 Science & Technology  101
  4.5.1.2 People  103
  4.5.1.3 Things  105
  4.5.1.4 Recreation  106
  4.5.1.5 Law & Politics  107
  4.5.1.6 Clothing/cloth  108
  4.5.1.7 Measures  109
  4.5.1.8 Transport  109
  4.5.1.9 Food/Drinks  110
  4.5.1.10 Military  111
  4.5.1.11 Time  111
  4.5.1.12 Nature  112
  4.5.1.13 Education  113
  4.5.1.14 Economy  114
  4.5.1.15 General  114
4.6 Conclusion  115

CHAPTER FIVE : CONCLUSION

5.0 Introduction  117
5.1 Summary of Findings  117
  5.1.1 Corpus  118
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.1.2 Type of Borrowing</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.2 Manner of Borrowing</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.2 Patterns of Phonological Adaptations</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.3 English Borrowings in Thematic Domains</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.4 Results of Borrowings</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2 Significance and Implications of the Study</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.3 Suggestions for Further Research</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.4 Conclusion</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>References</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix A</td>
<td>133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix B</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix C</td>
<td>136</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LIST OF TABLES

Table 4.1: Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Borrowed Items According to the Type of Borrowing 75
Table 4.2: Distribution Of Loanwords According to the Manner of Borrowing 78
Table 4.3: Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Loanblends According to the Manner of Borrowing 81
Table 4.4: Distribution of Borrowed Words According to Thematic Domains 100
Table 4.5: Frequency of Loans in Science and Technology Category 102
Table 4.6: Frequency of Loans in People Category 104
Table 4.7: Frequency of Loans in Things Category 105
Table 4.8: Frequency of Loans in Recreation Category 106
Table 4.9: Frequency of Loans in Law & Politics Category 107
Table 4.10: Frequency of Loans in Clothing Category 108
Table 4.11: Frequency of Loans in Measures Category 109
Table 4.12: Frequency of Loans in Transport Category 110
Table 4.13: Frequency of Loans in Food & Drink Category 110
Table 4.14: Frequency of Loans in Military Category 111
Table 4.15: Frequency of Loans in Time Category 112
Table 4.16: Frequency of Loans in Nature Category 112
Table 4.17: Frequency of Loans in Education Category 113
Table 4.18: Frequency of Loans in Economy Category 114
Table 4.19: Frequency of Loans in General Category 114
LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1.1: Myanmar and Its Neighbours 12
Figure 2.1: Methods of Romanization and Transcription in Burmese 40

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
/_______/ 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