



RESEARCH PAPER**Semantic Modifications in Selected English Words borrowed in Majhi Dialect of Punjabi****¹Jamshaid Anjum* and ²Dr. Saqlain Hassan**

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ABSTRACT

The study aims to explicate any changes that take place when the English borrowed in words in the Majhi dialect of Punjabi are used by the native speakers of the dialect. Also, the study aims to elucidate the types of changes that take place during the process of borrowing in the Majhi Dialect of Punjabi. This study is significant to find the types of semantic changes which take place during the borrowing of English words used by the native speakers of the Majhi dialect of Punjabi thereby affecting the semantic range of the words of donor language. The research is both qualitative and quantitative. The data for this research has been collected through interviews of the 8 monolingual native speakers with equal number of both male and female participants with primary education. Bloomfield's framework of borrowing is applied in order to observe certain types of semantic changes. The results of study show that different types of changes take place during the borrowing process. Borrowing facilitates the native speakers at the cost of the donor language.

KEYWORDS Borrowing, Change, Lexical Items, Majhi, Modification, Source Text, Translated Text

Introduction

When we take human history into account, the language community looks to be very natural. The best organized medium for preserving human history is language. Media, contemporary technological developments, and political forces have facilitated greater communication amongst the world's vast linguistic communities. Linguistic change was an outcome of the communication within in the large global communities.

Whenever there is an interaction of one language with another or one language is passed down from one generation to another, the alteration in that language is a must. Languages of the weaker communities receive an impact of the languages of the strong communities. "Since every language is dependent, all of these affect one another." (Nadeem, 2008) p. 69.) The language change, as a result of integration between two languages, is called borrowing. According to Jeffers and Lehiste (1986, p.10) "changes in language take place at all linguistic levels such as semantic, syntactic, phonological and phonetic. These changes occur when the language-contact and linguistic items pass from a foreign language to the first language of the borrower." With this objective in mind, the researchers intend to examine the most common semantic changes of English borrowed words in the Majhi dialect of Punjabi.

English loan words in Majhi dialect came through technology and media. For this purpose, 20 common place English borrowed words in Majhi dialect are selected to investigate the semantic change that occurred in them. The current investigation is going to support the notion that the vocabulary of Punjabi has been enhanced through borrowing.

There are several English words which are borrowed in the Majhi dialect of Punjabi from English. But, the semantic- changes these borrowed words have undergone have been overlooked. The analysis is going to spotlight those semantic-changes. Our understanding will be enhanced through this investigation that how Majhi dialect of Punjabi brings semantic changes through borrowing from English. Additionally, this study will elaborate that how the Punjabi speakers have been using the words, borrowed from English, incorrectly. Similarly, the meanings the Punjabi speakers have given to these words are completely different from the original usage. Further, the study will also provide undeniable proofs that the Majhi dialect of Punjabi contains many vocabulary items of English language.

Language contact and borrowing

Hall-Lew (2002 p. 4) has briefly described that "Language change occurs naturally through borrowing, whereby a language picks up new terms from another and incorporates them into its own vocabulary." It is natural for speakers of all the languages to use the process of borrowing. "New words are frequently obtained through borrowing by the speakers of all languages." (Trask 1996, p. 18) Languages enrich each other through borrowing and lexical gap that exists between two languages is also filled through borrowing.

When two different languages come into contact with each other there is a cultural contact too.

The imperative condition for borrowing is to have overt and covert motive for the borrowing on the part of the speaker of the host language. Innovation in every era makes our linguistic system insufficient for use. our linguistic system is not that extensive to possess all the necessary terms which can explain these innovations. Hock and Joseph (1996) believed that the demand of decoding and encoding the ever changing world through languages motivates us for lexical borrowing.

Need is not the only motivation rather prestige is another factor that leads to the borrowing .When a speaker of a language takes over a new technical or religious concept ,new cultural item or reference to the foreign location he needs the vocabulary to accommodate these new concepts and references .this need induces speaker to invade the foreign word together with foreign article .Most easily borrowed words are cultural items (church ,sharbat ,shalwar ,hotdogs) and technological terms such as motor ,machine etc .On the other hand function words essential for syntax and basic vocabulary is never easily borrowed.

Literature Review

Borrowing occurs when the giant communities of language come in contact with one another. Haugen (1953) notes that "the contributive language never gets its loan words back so it is a kind of stealing." There is no permanent tool as to gauge the inevitable and intricate changes that take place in a language over the passage of time. As Lass (1980: cited in Wee 1998 p. 187) emphasizes that " to know the reason of a specific change

occurring in language is impossible to be known because of complex mechanisms of language." Lass (1980) further states that "it is also impossible to foresee when a change will take place and what that change is going to be."

Sabtu (2011, p. 03) believes that "the process of borrowing helps masses across different nations built a better understanding of their cultures and at the same time it reduces vocabulary gap and improves the vocabulary." Fantini (1985, p.146) classifies borrowing in two types "adjusted borrowing' having the tendency to take after the characteristics of donor language and 'pure borrowing' which holds that traits of the native lexeme in it"

The possibilities of the sematic modifications start opening for the loan words soon after these words go over the cultural and linguistic limits. Weinreich (1963, p. 53-55) believes that "majority of the loan words experience semantic changes in them as a result of the borrowing process." The use of native English expressions by the non-native speakers in their own culture and social settings in order to perform various activities under different circumstances leads to semantic alterations.

There is always a possibility of change in the loan words when these words enter into another language as well with the passage of time. This may be because of lack of complete understanding of the meaning or use of a word in its language of origin or the speakers use these words with no knowledge the source words. Another reason can be that the speakers of the borrowed words feel no motivation to save the original meanings of the words as these words come from a foreign language. The current needs and tends, flexibility of meanings and form of the loan words help the speakers to effortlessly embrace the host language structures. (Kay, 1995 p.72)

The change in the context also results in semantic changes. The biggest factor that contributes of the semantic change, in the process of borrowing, is the host-language ecology. The speakers are compelled to incorporate social and cultural traits of their society due to the ecology.

Hall- Lew (2002, p. 08) rightly defines the sematic changes of the borrowed words as "two communities use a single term in two separate ways based on the conventions of the respective community. The process of borrowing is founded on the community-speaker usage and linguistic background of the speaker(s)"

Semantic changes not only result in the change of the meanings but also there occurs loss of meanings from the semantic system. There occurs n change in the form of the word though. Trask (1996, p. 42) assert that " the sematic modifications has either of the two results i.e. semantic narrowing or broadening. The confinement of from general to ore specify terms is 'narrowing' relation of a word to wider terms is 'broadening'."

The linguists have been discussing the semantic-change mechanism for a long time. Geeraerts (2009, p.12) differentiates between onomasiological and semasiological methods. He states that "through semasiological methods, the existing words get a new meaning while through onmasiological methods, a new item states the notion."

Linguists have always proposed various sorts of categorization outlines for semantic variations. Many different types of semantic change have been introduced by Paul (1920), Stern (1933), Ullman (1942) and Bloomfield (1933). These consist of litotes, metaphor, broadening, narrowing, hyperbole, degeneration, metonymy, elevation, and

synecdoche. Each one of these different alterations takes place in both native and nonnative speakers of a given language.

Material and Methods

Qualitative approach will be used for data collection. The primary approach for gathering data will be interviewing. A qualitative analysis will be performed on the Collected information. 8 monolingual speakers of Punjabi language with basic education are going to be interviewed as a population for this objective. An even number of male and female participants are going to be selected for interview. The ages of the participants are 25-40 years. Though these speakers have no understanding of the English system of semantics yet they tend to borrow words in their native language. The accuracy of these loan words will be judged through Oxford's Advance Dictionary. The replies of participants will be gauged with the aforesaid tool.

The researchers have decided to analyze the responses of the participants with the help of Bloomfield's semantic change theory. According to the theory, lexical items can experience degeneration, elevation, synecdoche, weakening, broadening, narrowing, hyperbole, and litotes, among other types of semantic changes.

The data are examined in five categories keeping in view the different type of semantic changes that take place in these lexical items. First category will reveal the narrowing process in these English borrowings. Second category will discuss that how English borrowing has undergone through broadening process in Punjabi (Majhi dialect) 3rd group of words will talk about the degeneration process. Another process metonymy also manifests itself. In the 4th category 5th group will focus on the semantic change that renders a radically different meaning to the borrowings from their original usage.

Results and Discussion

Borrowed Lexeme: Madam

Meanings in English: A respectful way to addresses a woman in social

Meanings in Punjabi: A lady teaching in the female school.

Analysis of the Data: Although no change in the grammatical category of the word is observed, the semantic range of the word has been associated to a particular person and situation.

Borrowed Lexeme: Motor

Meanings in English: 1. a device that provides motive power for a car or other moving object, particularly one that runs on electricity or internal combustion 2. A vehicle. 3. starting or causing movement or motion.

Meanings in Punjabi: Electric water drawing pump.

Analysis of the Data: During the process of borrowing, there has occurred no alteration in the grammatical category of the words but of course, the world has become limited in the range of its use

Borrowed Lexeme: Cooler

Meanings in English: 1. A container used to keep food or drinks fresh and cold respectively. 2. A refrigerator

Meanings in Punjabi: The container to store water.

Analysis of the Data: The word hasn't undergone any grammatical change but the range of its meanings have been narrowed down. The word in its loan language is a noun and it remained a noun in the borrowed language.

Borrowed Lexeme: Register

Meanings in English: 1. An official list of names or item. 2. specific dimension for a voice or instrument of music 3. add details or a record to an official list or a directory

Meanings in Punjabi: The responded it to be a collection of papers used for writing on.

Analysis of the Data: The respondents don't have the foggiest notion of the other meanings of this word. The semantic range is narrowed. But, the grammatical category has remained intact despite the borrowing process.

Borrowed Lexeme: Gallery

Meanings in English: 1. A place or room where the work of art is displayed. 2: A storage place in a mobile phone where the data like pictures, videos and images etc. are saved. 3: An upper floor or balcony that extends from a hall or the church's the interior rear or sidewall to offer space for musicians or an audience.

Meanings in Punjabi: A passage way present inside the house.

Analysis of the Data: No change in the grammatical category is observed in the word during borrowing but the range of the words is narrowed to one from its possible three meanings in the donor language.

Borrowed Lexeme: Bank

Meanings in English: 1. The place for disposing or withdrawing money 2: a brim area along the riverside

Meanings in Punjabi: The place of the depositing or withdrawing money.

Analysis of the Data: The process of borrowing didn't affect the grammatical category of the donor language but the range of the meanings has been narrowed down by the speakers of the host language.

Borrowed Lexeme: Bulb

Meanings in English: 1. a rounded underground storage organ that is unused throughout the winter and is found in some plants, particularly those in the lily family. It consists of a short stem encircled by fleshy scale leaves or leaf bases. 2. a light bulb

Meanings in Punjabi: A round closed dome like closed shape of glass used for the lighting purpose.

Analysis of the Data: The meanings range of the word has been narrowed although no change in the grammatical category of the word is observed.

Borrowed Lexeme: Mobile

Meanings in English: 1. able to move and be moved with ease or freedom. 2. A cell phone 3. an ornamental piece that is suspended and can rotate freely in the air

Meanings in Punjabi: All the respondents of the host language only used this word relating it to the cell phone or mobile phone.

Analysis of the Data: The word has experienced a narrowing of the range when this word is used by the native speakers of the host language. It is observed that the speakers of the host language used the borrowed word accurately in its grammatical category.

Borrowed Lexeme: Tension

Meanings in English: 1: The situation of being stressed (noun) 2: application of force to something which needs to be stretched

Meanings in Punjabi: Mental stress.

Analysis of the Data: The grammatical category of the word remained constant in both the donor and the loan language. But the range in which the word is used in the donor language has been narrowed down once the word is borrowed and used by the native speakers of the host language.

Borrowed Lexeme: Cassette

Meanings in English: 1. a plastic unit that is sealed and holds a length of film, audio tape, videotape, or another material wound on two spools for use in a recorder, playback device, or other device.

Meanings in Punjabi: Referring to the rectangular piece of plastic used to be inserted into the tape recorder to listen to songs.

Analysis of the Data: The word has experienced no change in its grammatical category yet the word has come to be used restricted to one specific object.

The Semantic changes seem to occur when it is narrowed. This change in the loanwords is quite normal. The unfamiliarity of speakers of the host language with the donor language's contexts is the primary cause of this semantic change. The analysis of the data has shown that the grammatical categories of the words in the host language haven't experienced any change.

Elevation is a process in borrowing in which the negative words of the donor language are presented being positive in the host language. This section focuses on the process of elevation.

Borrowed Lexeme: Drink

Meanings in English: 1. The process of taking some liquid in the mouth and drink. 2. The process of consuming alcohol.

Meanings in Punjabi: to drink any kind of liquid which is drinkable

Analysis of the Data: The data analysis shows that the originally the word has a negative meaning in the donor language. But when the word is used in the host language through borrowing, the negative aspect of the meaning is removed resulting in elevation of the word of the donor language.

Degradation is the process in which a word of the donor language presents negative meanings when it is used by the native speakers of the loan language. This happens because the word crosses the cultural and social boundaries. This section will demonstrate the process of degradation during the borrowing process.

Borrowed Lexeme: Sex

Meanings in English: 1: referring to the gender division i.e. masculine and feminine

Meanings in Punjabi: The activity in which people touch their organs

Analysis of the Data: Commonly, it is referred as a physical activity. Through the process of borrowing, the positive word has been presented as negative though retaining its grammatical category.

Borrowed Lexeme: Sugar

Meanings in English: 1: A crystalline sugar-like material derived from different plants, particularly sugar cane and sugar beetroot, that is mostly sucrose and used as a sweetener in food and beverages

Meanings in Punjabi: Diabetes. an abnormality in metabolism that results in excessive thirst and pee production.

Analysis of the Data: The analysis of the data shows that the word has been degraded. Though the word is used positively in the donor language referring to a substance extracted from sugarcane and sugar beets, it is presented negatively when it is used by the native speakers of the host language.

This section illustrates how the words of the loan language undergo a thorough change when these words are used by the native speakers of the loan language.

Borrowed Lexeme: Paper

Meanings in English: Material manufactured in thin sheet from the pulp of wood and used for writing on.

Meanings in Punjabi: Exams

Analysis of the Data: The grammatical category of the word didn't change. It remained as noun but semantic category of the word is changed to only the process of examinations which takes place in the educational process. The actual meanings of the borrowed word have been changed.

Borrowed Lexeme: Number

Meanings in English: **1:** An arithmetical value, expressed by a word, symbol, or figure, representing a particular quantity and used in counting and making calculations. **2:** The digits to make a call on mobile phone. **3:** the digits to measure the size.

Meanings in Punjabi: **1.** Marks or score obtained in exams. **2:** Referring to the size of the shoes.

Analysis of the Data: The grammatical category of the borrowed word didn't experience any change. It remained noun but the semantic meanings of the word are changed to "Marks obtained in exams or size of the shoes".

Borrowed Lexeme: Copy

Meanings in English: **1.** A duplicate of something. **2:** the act of imitating someone or action

Meanings in Punjabi: a small collection of paper bound together used to write on.

Analysis of the Data: No change in the grammatical category of the word is observed. It remained noun but the semantic meanings of the borrowed word are completely transformed to an object used for writing on.

Borrowed Lexeme: Shopper

Meanings in English: **1:** A person who does the act of shopping.

Meanings in Punjabi: A small plastic bag used for shopping

Analysis of the Data: The semantic meanings of the word are altered though the grammatical category of the word remained unchanged.

Borrowed Lexeme: Back to Back

Meanings in English: Something or building that is built adjacent to each other.

Meanings in Punjabi: Photo state without missing a single page

Analysis of the Data: The semantic meaning of the borrowed word is altered without any alterations in the grammatical category of the word.

Borrowed Lexeme: Surf

Meanings in English: A foam line formed on the surface of the seawater.

Meanings in Punjabi: a detergent used for washing clothes

Analysis of the Data: The grammatical category of the borrowed word remained unchanged but the semantic meanings of the borrowed word is having thoroughly been changed to only detergent used for washing and cleaning clothes.

Borrowed Lexeme: Suzuki

Meanings in English: A method developed by Shinischi Suzuki in which young children are taught how to play violin

Meanings in Punjabi: Referring to the small van manufactured by the Suzuki company of Japan. This van is used for carrying luggage and other goods from one place to another.

Analysis of the Data: Though the grammatical category of the borrowed word remained same yet there is thorough shift in the semantic meanings of the word.

Borrowed Lexeme: Extension

Meanings in English: A part that is added to something to enlarge or prolong it.

Meanings in Punjabi: A wire which is attached to the switch board

Analysis of the Data: The word doesn't undergo any shift in the grammatical category but certainly the semantic meanings of the word have undergone a shift.

Borrowed Lexeme: Switch

Meanings in English: Change something to another

Meanings in Punjabi: referring to the toggle switch used to plug in.

Analysis of the Data: Semantic meanings of the borrowed word have changed while the grammatical category remained intact.

Borrowed Lexeme: Remote

Meanings in English: Something which is distant

Meanings in Punjabi: A device to control the functionality of the TV

Analysis of the Data: The word has gone through a shift in both the grammatical category and shift in the meanings. The adjective has been changed into noun and the meanings of a far off place have been changed to remote control for controlling TV.

Another process through which the meanings of the donor language face semantic alterations is metonymy. Metonymy is defined as when part of something is referred to whole and vice versa.

This section will investigate that how metonymy plays the part in the sending a word from the donor word under change when the word is used in the host language.

Borrowed Lexeme: Telephone

Meanings in English: An electric device fixed at one place used for communication.

Meanings in Punjabi: Referring to the process of making a call.

Analysis of the Data: Making a call is the function of the telephone, it is not telephone itself.

The meanings of a word a completely changed because of its close association with the telephone.

An additional list of English loanwords that have changed semantics in Punjabi (Majhi dialect) is available.

Thus far, no theorist has taken up these modifications. One of the contributing factors to this semantic change is the influence of cultural and social ideologies. When they find themselves in a situation where their own language is lacking in lexicon, speakers of the host language will occasionally give new meanings to loanwords. The idea of metonymy, which is predicated on the strong association between two objects, can be used to explain this change.

Data Discussion

The data analysis of the study has revealed that during the process of borrowing, there are certain semantic changes i.e. narrowing, degradation, upgradation and complete shifts have taken place. The grammatical categories of the borrowed words didn't change in case of narrowing, degradation and upgradation process when the native speakers of the host language used the words of donor language. Moreover, in the process of borrowing shifts where the meanings of the donor language have completely been changed, the grammatical categories have also been seen to have experienced an alteration.

Conclusion

The current study aimed to investigate the Semantic modifications that take place during the process of borrowing where the words of English donor language are used by the native monolingual speakers of Majhi dialect of Punjabi. Initially the study aimed to find out the answer of the question that how do the semantic modification occur during the process of borrowing from English into Majhi dialect of Punjabi? The study has revealed that there are various types of changes that take place. The most prominent ones are the narrowing down the range, degradation, upgradation of the donor language and finally, the a through transformation of the meanings of the donor language into host language. There a number of words which have been borrowed by Punjabi language from English because of the close contact of the languages with each other. Borrowing facilitates the native speakers of the host language at the cost of its semantic loss and change in the grammatical categories.

In the future, the studies can be conducted to investigate the factors which help the native speakers of the host language to maintain the grammatical categories of the borrowed words although the meanings undergo several sorts of changes.

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