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Loanwords in Iraqi Arabic
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Chapter ١

Loanwords in Iraqi Arabic

١.١ Introduction

Loanwords are words that are adopted by the speakers of one language from a different language (from the source language). A loanword can also be called a borrowing. The abstract noun borrowing refers to the process of speakers adopting words from a source language into their native language.English has gone through many periods in which large numbers of words from a particular language were borrowed. These periods coincide with times of major cultural contact between English speakers and those speaking other languages. The effects of the Renaissance begin to be seriously felt in England. We see the beginnings of a huge influx of Latin and Greek words, many of them learned words imported by scholars well versed in those languages. But many are borrowings from other languages, as words from European high culture begin to make their presence felt and the first words come in from the earliest period of colonial expansion.

Popular loanwords are everyday words. You might not even realize that some of them came from another language. Most loanwords are the result of cultural contact. Many of them describe food, the arts and entertainment. They make up a huge proportion of the words in any large dictionary of English. They also figure largely in the language of everyday communication.

١.٢ Aims of Study

This study aims to:

١. Investigates loanwords and how they are used

٢. investigate the areas in which English words are used in Spoken Iraqi Arabic

٣. What is meant by borrowing and how it can be achieved.

١.٣ Hypotheses

It is hypothesized that:

١. Iraqi Arabic has many loanwords from English

٢. The loanwords can achieved according to the areas ٣. The majority of loanwords are nouns.

١.٤ Procedures

The present study adopts the following procedures:

١. Presenting a theoretical background on loanwords with their definition
٢. It presents the borrowing and its definition.

١.٥ Limits

This study is limited to present an analysis of loanwords, How and where they can be achieved. It is limited especially to Iraqi Arabic words.

١.٦ Value

The study can be of value to those concerned linguistics and phonetics. And the linguists who want more information about loanwords.

Chapter ٢

This research tries to investigate the areas in which English words are used in Spoken Iraqi Arabic. It has been noticed that a variety of technical words related to the computer, Internet and mobile phone technology have been borrowed from English and become part of the language used by Iraqi Arabic speakers, especially computer, internet and mobile phone users.

No language can make progress as an international medium of communication without a strong power-base (Crystal, ٢٠٠٣:٧). This statement proves to be true when we consider the status of English language. English has grown into a primary language for international communication since the beginning of the ٢٠th century. Gaining the status of an international language can be attributed to many reasons: historical, economic, political and cultural (Kay ١٩٩٥: ٦٧). This present-day dominance which has made English a global language is primarily the result of two factors: the expansion of British colonial power, which peaked towards the end of the twentieth century, and the emergence of the United States as the leading economic power of the twentieth century.

From the beginning of the ٢٠th century, English has replaced French as the lingua franca of the whole world due to its prestigious status as the language of science, technology, innovations, communication, literature, entertainment, media, business and commerce (Trask , ٢٠٠٣:٢٠). In ١٩٥٧ the UNESCO reported that two thirds of the available literature in engineering is written in English.

As for the spread of English in the Arab world it has been the result of contact with Britain and USA. As for Iraq, the roots of this contact with English are traced back to the British occupation of Iraq in ١٩١٤, and later the mandate in ١٩٢١ (Kailani , ١٩٩٤:٤٧). But the traces of this contact have deepened as a result of the latest developments and innovations i science and technology, especially in the internet and mobile phone services, and to some extent, after the American-led invasion of the country in ٢٠٠٣ which was of military nature in the first place.

Loanwords from English are used in all languages, sometimes directly without any change, or with some modifications to cope with the morphological-phonological features of the borrowing language. This case is clear, to a great extent, with English loanwords used in Iraqi Arabic in the case of technical jargon in the area of computer, internet and mobile phone.

Borrowing

Borrowing is defined as "the introduction of a word (or some linguistic feature) from one language or dialect into another (Crystal, ١٩٩٢:٤٦). According to Rechards, et al (١٩٩٣:٤٠), borrowing refers to "a word or phrase which has been taken from one language and used in another language. Borrowing is achieved when one language import words from other languages to its own lexicon. It occurs when speakers of a particular language come in contact with speakers of a different language (Aronoff and Rees-Miller, ٢٠٠٣:٢١). New words or phrases can enter a language from another one in the form of direct borrowing. This process takes place when new words from a donor (source) language are introduced into a target (recipient) language (Fasold, et al, ٢٠٠٦:٢٩٤). Borrowing occurs when people from different cultures come into contact with each other. Consequently, they have many things to share and this leads to the process of acquisition and an extensive increase in vocabulary, which is accompanied by an increase in meaning (Mojela, ١٩٩١: ١٢).

As regards borrowing, a distinction is to be made between two main types: direct and indirect. Direct borrowing occurs when words from the foreign language are incorporated into the linguistic system of the borrowing language, and become part of it (Higa, ١٩٨٠:٢٨٥). On the contrary, indirect borrowing is clear when the meaning, sense or concept of the foreign term is taken, not the word itself. This leads to the formation of polysemous words. A word referring to a known concept in the borrowing language has its meaning extended to refer to new concepts in the foreign language (Mojela, ١٩٩١:١٩)

Borrowing is one of the most frequent ways of acquiring new words, and speakers of all languages do it. Why should people be so eager to borrow somebody else's word? There are several reasons, but the simplest one is that the word is the name of something genuinely new to speakers of the borrowing language. Another reason is that, one language may possess words for which there are no equivalents in the other language. There may be words for objects, social, political, and cultural institutions and events or abstract concepts which are not found in the culture of the other language. It often happens that one culture borrow from the language of another culture words or phrases to express technological, social or cultural innovations. In general, borrowing is the process of importing linguistic items from one linguistic system into another, a process that occurs any time two cultures are in contact over a period of time.

Loanwords

The borrowed words are called loanwords. According to the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (٢٠٠٦: ٨٦٧), a loanword is "a word from another language used in its original form. But this word is not always used in its original form, it may be adapted for use in the borrowing language. This is true with lexical borrowing, the commonest type of borrowing, which leads to some modifications to match with the linguistic rules and structure of the recipient language, through a process called adaptation. Adaptation occurs not only at the phonological level, but also at the morphological level.

Words are generally loaned when two different cultures come into contact with each other. This might be because of immigration, trade, fashions, food, technologies, wars or colonization. Historically, borrowing occurred for political, educational, cultural, scientific, economic and technical reasons (Crystal, ٢٠١٠: ٤٨). But practically, borrowing occurs to meet three basic requirements: novelty, prestige or to fill a gap to meet urgent needs (Trask, ٢٠٠٣: ١٨).

It is to be noted that the majority of loanwords are nouns. This is attributed to many reasons. First of all, nouns are more numerous than other parts of speech. Secondly, new things are more likely to be denoted by nouns. Finally, nouns are easier to accommodate with the grammatical system of the borrowing language. This is quite evident with the majority of loanwords used in this study in the fields of computer internet and mobile phone.

Loanwords used in Iraqi Arabic

The main objective behind this research is to focus on the loanwords that are borrowed from English language and to be used in spoken Iraqi Arabic. It is to be noted that some of these results match the causes mentioned by Trask (٢٠٠٣:١٨-١٩) and Fasold (٢٠٠٦:٢٩٤) which are focused on novelty and prestige. Added to these, are two important factors. First, practicality and ease of use, since the use of SA translation is sometimes impractical (especially in everyday use of language) , timeconsuming, or it may be difficult to find exact or accurate translations for some of the loanwords, e.g., مكالمات فائتة for 'missed call for spam' for تكنلوجيا الاتصال بين رسائل غير مرغوب فيها for 'icons', ايقونات '

الاجهزةfor Bluetooth ذاكرة الوصول العشوائي for RAM ماسح يقوم بالتقاط الصور
في الحاسوب وادخالهاfor scanner ، نوع من الشبكات المحلية اللاسلكية for " Wi-Fi, etc.
Therefore, it is the tendency among the majority of IA speakers to resort
to English to avoid the complexity, formality and impracticality of SA
translations. Second, modernity; the desire to be up-to-date and be in
line with the growing trends towards globalization, by borrowing words
which are used by people all over the world.

As regards question ٦, which tries to explore the way the informants use
these technical terms (as verbs and nouns) in their daily use, the
majority of the subjects (٤٢ respondents: ٨٤٪) have used English words
(written in Arabic letters) rather than their Arabic translation, e.g كوبي
- جيك الأيميل - انتي فايروس - داون لودfor copy, antivirus, download , check
theemail. A large number of the subjects have used a mixture of English
and Arabic words, a case which is quite common in everyday use of such
دزلي مسج ، كنسل البرنامج ، وين الموبايل ، فرمت الجهازfor technical words, e.g.,
format the computer, where is the mobile phone, cancel the program,
send me a message. Very few of the subjects (٥ respondents: ١٠٪) have
used Arabic words rather than the original English words, e.g., - امسح —
اخزن / نسخ رسائل حمِل الحاسوب — سماعاتfor save, download the computer,
copy, headphones, delete, messages.

In their responses to question ٧, which deals with how IA speakers use
the plural forms of loanwords, the analysis has shown that nearly all the
subjects use the sound feminine plural form: سيديات — رامات — مسجات —
فايلات — موبايلاتfor files, mobile phones, messages, rams, CDs
As for question ٨, in which they were asked to translate certain
sentences into Arabic, nearly all of the subjects have used the English
words as if they were IA words, and thus applying the rules of both SA
دزلي مسج — هذا لابتوبه — وين الموبايل — جيك الايميل — لا تخابرنيand IA syntax: for
this is his laptop, don't call me send me a message, check the email,
where is the mobile?
The process of questionnaire and data analysis has revealed many
modifications and changes underlying the use of English loanwords by IA
speakers. These modifications, which are basically morphological and
phonological, occur due to the influence exerted by the linguistic rules of
IA in a process called adaptation (see Fasold, ٢٠٠٦:٢٨٣,٢٩٥). The
modifications or adaptations occur in these respects:

١_ Morphological Changes

The most significant morphological changes occur in number, gender, possession, the definite article, negation and word formation. Most of these findings coincide with other researchers (El-Khalil ١٩٨٣; Kailani ١٩٩٤; Al-Saqqa ٢٠٠١) who investigated the area of morphological changes in English loanwords when used in Arabic.

A_ Number

It is known that English has only two numbers; singular and plural. Arabic, on the other hand, has three; singular, dual and plural.Theduality morpheme is a characteristic of Arabic which doesn't exist in English. Duality in English is expressed by using: two + plural noun (two books), or by using the word 'both' (both girls). In SA it is generally expressed by adding the duality morpheme /a:n/ (in the nominative) and /ayn/ (in the accusative) to the singular noun, e.g., : كتابان kitaba:n/ كتابين kitabayn (two books) . As regards IA, only the accusative morpheme /ayn/ is used to refer to both cases, and often with some modification in vowel quality /ein/ to match the phonological system of this variety of Arabic.
It is quite evident that IA treats English loanwords as if they were native forms by adapting them to its syntactic and morphological rules. This process of adaptation is clearly seen in the examples below:

Original Singular Form	IA Adapted Singular Form	IA Adapted Dual Form
CD	سي دي / si:di:/	سي ديين /si:dijein/(two CDs)
Email	ايميل / i:meil/	ايميلين/i:melein/(two emails)
File	فايل / fa:jil/	فابلين / failein/ (two files)

As for the plural form of English loanwords used in IA, it is made by using the sound (regular) feminine plural, by adding the plural morpheme /a:t/. Consider the
following examples.

Original(English) Plural Form	IA Adapted Plural Form
CDs	سيدييات /si:diya:t/
Email	ايميلات /i:meila:t/
File	فايلات /faila:t/

B_ **Gender**

As regards gender, all English loanwords, which are considered as neuter in the English gender system, are used as masculine nouns in IA. This can be verified by applying the masculinity morpheme /ah/ attached to the elliptical imperative form when referring to the singular nouns, e.g., (للبرنامج) فرمته (للكومبيوتر) fermitah/ (format the computer), كنسلة /kensilah/(cancel the program), or when referring to the elliptical questio: (/ وينه؟)weinah/ in) وين السيدي Where is the CD?). But when pluralized,
English loanwords are treated as feminine nouns in that all plural forms are made by using the sound feminine plural morpheme /a:t/ as was shown in the above examples.
Out of the ١٠٥ loanwords surveyed in this study, only a few words are considered as feminine nouns (message, fan, camera, password). This is clearly seen by using the femininity morpheme (ha) attached to the elliptical imperative form سيفها / : seijivha/ for سيفها / للمسج seijivha lilmesidʒ/ (save the message), صلحها / seliha/ for صلّح / الفان selih ilfan/ (repair the fan); and also to the elliptical question when referring to the singular nounsوينها / weinha/ in /weinha ilkamira/ (where is the camera),وينها / weinha/ in وين/ الباس وورد wein ilpa:swo: rd/(where is the password).

C_ **Possession**

The possessive case in IA is expressed by using one of the possessive bound morphemes attached to the nouns they modify. A significant difference between English and Arabic is that possessives (which function as determiners) are free morphemes in English in that they can occur by themselves (Aitchison ١٩٩١; Eastwood ٢٠٠٥; Yule ٢٠١٠), while in Arabic they are bound morphemes in that they are attached to other free morphemes (Alkhuli, ٢٠٠٧: ١٠٧-١٠٨). Another difference is that possessives (determiners) in Arabic come after the nouns, while in English they come before the noun they modify (ibid: ١٣٤). Notice the examples below in which the possessive morphemes are underlined

١. /i:/ with first person singular: لابتوبي / labtobi:/ (my laptop), موبايلي /mobaili:/ (my mobile), كامرتي / kamirti:/ (my camera).

٢. /ak/ with second person singular (masculine): لابتوبك / labtobak/ (your laptop), موبايلك / mobailak/

٣. /kum/ with second person plural (feminine and masculine): لابتوبكم /labtobkum/ (yourlaptop), موبايلكم / mobailkum/ (your mobile), كامرتكم /kamirtkum/ (your camera).

D_ The Definite Article

Definiteness in SA is expressed by using the definite article أل /ʔal/ which precedes singular and plural nouns, e.g., الحاسوب /ʔ al hasoob/(the computer), الملفات /ʔalmalafa:t/ (the files). But in IA it is modified to /ʔil/ before the so-called lunar letters, oreven by deleting the /l/ sound (ʔi) before the so-called solar letters (Abboud, ١٩٨٣ citedin Wikipedia). Notice the following examples:

١- The definite article /ʔil/:
المسجات /ilmesidʒat/ (the messages), يوأس بي /ʔ iljuːesbiː/(the USB), إل أيكون /ʔilaikon/(the icon)

الفايلات /ʔ ilfaijilat/ (the files) الموبايل /ʔ،ilmoːbaijil/(the mobile phone), /ʔilkomp(b)juːter/ (the computer).

٢- The definite article /ʔi/:
The negative form / ماكو ma:ku:/ (no) is used before nouns to indicate
negation, e.g., /ma:ku: konekʃin/ (no connection), /ma:ku: akses/ (no access).
InBaghdadi dialect, the negative form مدا /_meda/ meaning (not/no) is used
before the verb,e.g., /medaykenik/ (not connected/no connection).

E_ **Word Formation**

The process of borrowing from English has introduced a variety of words which have become part of IA. This often happens when languages come into contact with one another. Thus, it is "possible to add to the lexicon of a language indefinitely by pillaging the vocabulary of other languages"(Katamba, ١٩٩٣:٦٦). Depending on English loanwords, IA has created and formed new words, but with some adaptations to match its morphonological system. These newly-formed words are verbs, nouns, adjectives and clipped forms.

١_ **verbs**

New verbs are introduced into IA, which are originally derived from the loanwords, but with some morphological and phonological adaptations to match the system of the recipient language. Consider the examples below:

Original Verbs (Infinitive)	Adapted Verbs(Infinitive)	Adapted Verbs (Imperative)
١. to save	إسييف /iseijiv/	سيّف seijiv/
٢. to connect	اكنك /ikenik/	كنّك kenik/

Sometimes the verbs سوّي / sawi:/ or إعمل /ʔimal/(do, make, have) are used before
the noun forming a verbal phrase. These two verbs are referred to as light verbs since "they have little or no semantic content of their own and serve only to provide a usable verbal form of an item which carries the semantic content of a verb but which is formally a noun"(Trask, ٢٠٠٣:٢٧). This is shown in these examples:سوي داون لود/ _ sawi: daunlo:d/(download), سوي/مسكل / اعمل مسكول — sawi:-?mal misko:l/meskil/ (make a missed call), نوّت /nawit/ (make a note), سوي جات / sawi: tʃat/ (have a chat).
A very common phenomenon, as shown in the examples above, is that IA speakers use a mixture of Arabic and English words in a process calledloan-blend (as shown earlier) in which both English and Arabic words are used together.

٢_ Adjectives

Some newly-coined adjectives, which are originally derived from English verbs, are used by a large number of internet, computer and mobile phone IA users. Below are some of these adjectives:

Original English Words   Adapted IA Adjectives

١. format/   إمفرمت/imfarmat/

٢. connect /   إمكنّك/imkenak/

٣_ Nouns

New nouns are coined by blending an English loanword with an IA word or by using the English word alone. The researchers have noticed some nouns of this type,
e.g. مصلح كومبوترات / mosalih kompju:tera:t/ (computer mender or technician) مصلح موبايلات / mosalih mobaila:t/ (mobile phone mender), مبرمج كومبيوترات/ mobarmidʒ kompju:tera:t/ (computer programmer), دزاينر / dizainer/ (designer).

٤_ Clipping

Clipping is a process in which part of a word or a phrase is reduced to a shorter form, retaining the same meaning and word class (Bauer, ١٩٩٤: ٢٣٣; Stockwell & Minkova, ٢٠٠٣: ١٠; Katamba, ٢٠٠٥: ١٨٠). There are three main types of clipping: front, back and median (middle) (Bauer ١٩٨٣; Quirk & Greenbaum, ١٩٨٩). The data of the study included few examples of these types. Front-clipping in which the first part of a word or a phrase is shortened or deleted is seen in these examples:
Interne → net, hard disk → disk, yahoo messenger → messenger / yahoo, internet explorer→ explorer. In back-clipping the last part of a word or a phrase is deleted, e.g., missed call → miss call, website → web, restart → re'sit (clipping + modification), mobile phone → mobile, software → soft, hardware → hard. As for middle clipping in which shortening occurs at both ends, we did not find examples of its type in our data.

٢_ Phonological Changes

The process of data analysis has revealed that the pronunciation of most loanwords used in IA is adapted to fit its morphological-phonological rules. This is an obvious phenomenon that characterizes the process of borrowing, especially when the donor and the recipient languages have different sound systems. This difference will create pronunciation problems for IA speakers, but these problems can be solved in two ways. First, speakers tend to reproduce the foreign pronunciation in their language. Second, if this doesn't work, they try to pronounce the loanwords as if they were native words. This occurs through adaptation by replacing the donor language sounds by the nearest phonetic equivalents in the recipient language taking into consideration its morphological system (see Higa, ١٩٨٠: ٢٨٥; Trask, ٢٠٠٣: ٢٤; Fasold and Linton, ٢٠٠٦: ٢٧٨; Fromkin, ٢٠٠٩:٥٠٥). Look at the following examples:

Original Pronunciation (English)   Adapted Pronunciation (IA)

connect /kənekt/   /kenik/

save /seiv/   /seijiv/

cancel /kænsl/   /kensil/

format /fɔːmæt/   /fermit/

On the contrary, some loanwords are pronounced nearly the same as their original forms. This is clear in words like these: CD, fan, case, attachment, message (n.), USB, headphone, download, email, flash memory, document, presentation, antivirus, Bluetooth, menu, shutdown, username, etc.

Chapter ٣

Conclusion

As long as there is cultural contact among languages, borrowing is a common and natural process. This applies to the English loanwords in the area of computer, internet and mobile phone used in IA. The main objective of this research was to investigate the areas in which English words are used in Spoken IA, and how they behave morphologically and phonologically when used in everyday situations. The ١٠٥ words which constitute the data of the study are restricted to technical terms which have been introduced into IA by virtue of technological advances, modernity and globalization.

The results of the questionnaire analysis have shown that the majority of IA users of the computer, internet and mobile phone prefer to use the loanwords related to these three fields in their original forms rather than their SA translations. This is because they believe that the English form is more practical, easier and up-to-date to use.

At the morphological level, the data analysis has shown that IA speakers tend to use English loanwords in the three fields (computer, internet, mobile phone) as if they were Arabic words, by applying the morphological rules of their native language to the newly-borrowed words. The data analysis has also revealed that the most significant morphological modifications occur in number, gender, possession, the definite article, negation and word formation.

As regards the phonological aspect of loanwords, the analysis has shown that the pronunciation of a large number of these words has been modified or adapted to match the sound system of the recipient language (IA), while some other words are directly used with their original (English) pronunciation.

It is pertinent to remark here, that the process of borrowing has added some sort of flexibility and dynamism to colloquial IA in the sense that it has activated its morphological rules to create newly-formed words, and this has led to an increase in its lexicon.

The process of borrowing from other languages, and English in particular, is a never-ending one. Therefore, more new words will enter Arabic due to cultural, economic, educational contact, technological advances, revolution of information and globalization. This calls for more research to be conducted on loanwords in other fields. Attention should also be directed to investigating Arabic words existing in other languages such Persian, Turkish, English, and this will be the task of academics and researchers.

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