Exploring the Semantic Changes in Persian Loan Words Used in Brass Industry of Moradabad

Md. Shariq, Ph.D. Scholar

Abstract

The concept of Semantic Change and Borrowing is the major concern of the present study and it focuses on the terminologies borrowed from Persian language which are used in Brass Industry of Moradabad. Consequently the study attempts to raise some of the pertinent questions like; what happens to a new or complex terminology once it has been formed, coined, or borrowed from another language, and is used by a larger number of speakers? What changes does such a word (Terminology) undergo? Nowadays terminology is recognized as an independent branch of science, its close links with linguistics determine the dominating role of lingual principles in formation of terminology. The lexical aspect of those principles supposes to respect the specifies of the terminological stratum in the general lexical

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system of language, the interrelations of terms and non-terms, terminological and general vocabulary, the connections between terminology and professionally, socially, territorially, historically and stylistically limited lexical layers, etc.

Key Words: Borrowing, Semantic change, Semantic Broadening, Semantic Narrowing, Semantic Shift.

1.1 Introduction

This study aims to highlight the semantic modifications of Persian loanwords in Moradabad Brass Industry. The meaning will be different from the original meaning because of the borrowing process. According to Tsujimura (1996), when borrowing takes place, some changes in semantic contents of the original words seem to be usual. It also seems that the different origin of loanwords contribute to a certain orientation that the words carry. Due to the reasons above, this research is intended to examine the semantic changes that occur in loanwords.

Despite the high level of standardisation and internationalisation, there are many deeply rooted cultural, communicational, and linguistic differences in all domain related specialised terminologies.

A conception of "termeme" gives for the words of various parts of speech a possibility to allocate a definite place within terminological systems and terminological vocabulary in general. The "termeme" is a conceptually united combination of termination with a term as the central member and words of other parts of speech as secondary members. Vitally important principle follows as well from such aspect like- Semantic one (differentiation of the meaning of terms and elements of terms, the separating of the semantic functions of terms of different structures, etc.)

1.2 Borrowing

Terms existing in one language can be introduced into another language by means of borrowing. This refers to the full adoption of terms from contemporary languages during the process of secondary term formation. Some loans of this type of borrowing prove successful and are fully incorporated into a foreign language.

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Language borrowing has been an interest to various fields of linguistics for some time. (Whitney 1875, Saussure 1915, Sapir 1921, Pedersen 1931, Haugen 1950, Lehmann 1962, Hockett 1979, Anttila 1989). In language borrowing, loanwords are only one of the types of borrowings that occur across language boundaries.

According to Hock (1986: 380), "the term borrowing" refers to the adoption of individual words or even large sets of vocabulary items from another language or dialect." This process is called borrowing although the lending language does not lose its word, nor does the borrowing language return the word. A better term might be "copying" but "borrowing" has long been established in this sense and words that are borrowed are called **loan words** (Trask, 1996).

In many cases, the most compelling motivation to borrow words is "need". There are new innovations in every era. Our linguistic system does not possess all the necessary terms to explain these innovations. It is much easier to borrow terms rather than invent new ones. Hock and Joseph (1996) asserted that the need for us to decode and encode the ever-changing world around us through language is the ultimate motivation for lexical borrowing.

The need to borrow has become a necessity in today's borderless world. With a lot of traveling and migration, languages borrow from one another to fill any existing gap in their lexis. Such borrowing can only be enriching each other's language.

In order for a language to borrow from another language certain conditions must be met. These are the conditions required in many of the instances of borrowing: Two or more distinct languages come into contact. As a result there is cultural contact; Speech community is either bilingual or multilingual; the speaker of the borrowing language must understand, or he thinks he understands the particular utterance in the source language. The speaker of the borrowing language must have some motive, overt or covert, for the borrowing.

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The Moradabad Brass Industry has also borrowed words from Persian language. This study presents the interpretation of loanwords in Domain Specific language (Knowledge Process) at Semantic levels (differentiation of the meaning).

1.3 Why and What to Borrow?

As discussed above the motivation for borrowing which most readily comes to mind is NEED. But need does not call for all borrowings. The reason for the borrowing must be sought in a different area, namely PRESTIGE. If the speakers of a given language take over new cultural items, new technical, religious concepts, or references to foreign locations, fauna, flora, there obviously is a need for vocabulary to express these concepts or references. The easiest thing, then, is to take over the foreign word together with the foreign article or idea.

Most easily borrowed are words referring to technology (e.g. machine, engine, motor) and names for new artifacts and other cultural items (e.g. telephone, refrigerator, hot-dog, skirt).

Usually basic vocabulary (e.g. *eat, drink, rest, sleep; moon, sun, rain; do, has, have, be*) and function words essential in syntax (e.g. the define article *the*, or conjunctions like *and, or, if, which, where* and *when*) are not so easily borrowed.

1.4 Semantic Change

In what follows we shall deal in detail with various types of semantic change. Semantic change, also known as semantic shift or semantic progression describes the evolution of word usage usually to the point that the modern meaning is radically different from the original usage. In historical linguistics, semantic change is a change in one of the meanings of a word. Every word has a variety of senses and connotations which can be added, removed, or altered over time, often to the extent that cognates across space and time have very different meanings.

Trask (1994) has focused some issues of meaning change of the words in *Language Change*. Like other aspects of language, the meanings of words can change over time. One of the significant statements Trask made is that there are two common types of change in meaning: broadening and narrowing of meaning. It is necessary to note that many other types of change can also occur (Trask, 1994: 41).

The study of semantic change can be seen as part of etymology, onomasiology, semasiology, and semantics. This is necessary not only because of the interest the various cases present in themselves but also because a thorough knowledge of these possibilities helps one to understand the semantic structure of words at the present stage of their development. The development and change of the semantic structure of a word is always a source of qualitative and quantitative development of the vocabulary.

1.4.1 Semantic Broadening

Semantic Broadening is the process by which the meaning of a word becomes broader or more inclusive than its earlier meaning. This occurs when a word with a specific or limited meaning is widened. The broadening process is technically called *generalization*. An example of widening is the word *kã:Ta:*, which originally meant 'thorn' and is broadened to encompass the meaning of 'fork, thorn, hook, balance, a specific part of lathe machine'.

Some other examples from Brass Industry of Moradabad are as follows

Examples:

1. *diwa:r gari:*

Original meaning	'a decorative cloth to adorn wall'
Meaning in Brass Industry	'a console, wall decorative, hanging vase'

2. *dastka:ri:*

Original meaning	'handwork'
Meaning in Brass Industry	'engraving, handicraft'

3. *kama:ni:*

Original meaning	'a bow'
Meaning in brass Industry	'a bow, arch, spring'

4. *marammat*

Original meaning	'repair'
Meaning in Brass Industry	'repair, welding, to furnish, to rasp'

The examples above clearly show the broadened area of a single term which is borrowed from Persian language in domain specific language (language of Moradabad Brass Industry). The meaning in Brass Industry is widened and covers broader categories than its original meaning in Persian.

1.4.2 Semantic Narrowing

This happens when a word with a general meaning is by degrees applied to something much more specific. An example of narrowing is the word *cakka:* which originally meant 'any kind of wheel' and is narrowed to encompass the meaning of 'a large brass sheet circle'.

The constant development of industry, agriculture, trade and transport bring into being new objects and new notions. Words to name them are either borrowed or created from material already existing in the language and it often happens that new meanings are thus acquired by old words.

Examples:

1. *Koba:*

Original meaning	'to beat, to hammer, to knock'

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Meaning in Brass Industry	'a wooden instrument use to crush coal'

2. *da:na:*

Original meaning	'grains'
Meaning in Brass Industry	'a spot on metal sheet made by press'

3. *Shikanja:*

Original meaning	'grip, an action of catching thieves by police'
Meaning in Brass Industry	'a part of power press use to hold dies'

4. *khoncha:*

Original meaning	'a trey, cover, lid'
Meaning in Brass Industry	'an ashtray used for hookah'

5. *mekh*

Original meaning	'a peg, nail, spike, pin'
Meaning in Brass Industry	'an instrument of tinker'

The examples above clearly show the narrowed area of a single term which is borrowed from Persian language in domain specific language (language of Moradabad Brass Industry). The meaning in Brass Industry is narrowed and covers fewer categories than its original meaning in Persian language.

1.4.3 Semantic Shift

Semantic shift is a process in which a word loses its former meaning and takes on a new, but often related, meaning. Sometimes a series of semantic shifts occurs over an extended period of time, resulting in a meaning that is completely unrelated to the original sense of a word. More recently, the word gay has undergone a dramatic and unusually rapid set of shifts. Just a few generations ago this word was typically used in the sense of "lively, happy." It then came to designate "homosexual," and a phrase such as "a gay film" would be interpreted in this sense (O'Grady, 2005).

Examples:

1. *darja:*

Original meaning	'rank'
Meaning in Brass Industry	'an iron template'

2. *farshi:*

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Original meaning   'carpet'

Meaning in Brass Industry   'water pot of hookah'

3. *huqqa:*

Old meaning   'trick'

Meaning in Brass Industry   'hookah'

4. *maratba:n*

Old meaning   'sort, arrange'

Meaning in Brass Industry   'a jar'

The examples above show the semantic shift where the meanings of the terms are changed in receptor language. The original meanings of the terms are lost in domain specific language (language of Moradabad Brass Industry) and the new meanings are formed.

1.5 Conclusion

To conclude this study we can say that the easiest task for any language community is to borrow the terms of donor language than to create new ones. The reason for adopting terms from donor to receptor language is the need. There are instances of semantic change along with the borrowing of terms. Words are semantically changed and have different meaning with its lexical meaning as most of them are created according to the user's needs. The semantic change of words is occurred because the word is constantly used and what is intended by speaker is not exactly same in a period time. If a different intention for a word is shared by the speech community and becomes established, a semantic change has occurred. The most common types of semantic changes are broadening and narrowing of meaning. However the changes at Phonological, Morphological and Structural levels are also occurred.

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Md. Shariq, Ph.D. Scholar
Department of Linguistics
Aligarh Muslim University
Aligarh − 202002
Uttar Pradesh
India
Shariq7771@gmail.com

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