

English Lexical Borrowings in Kashmiri – Revisited

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Language can't remain stagnant; therefore it changes from time to time either by incorporating new words from another language or by extending the meanings of already existing words. Lexical borrowings are important for the development and growth of any language. If a language doesn't accept a new word or a language is protected from coming in contact with other languages, it will lead to its death.

Language contact is one of the major reasons of lexical borrowings. Most of the time when two languages come in contact with each other it results in the influence of one language on another. One of the prominent arenas which is influenced by language contact is vocabulary i.e. words of one language get incorporated into the other language. This incorporation of words of one language into another is borrowing. Borrowing is the outcome of language contact and words can go in both directions between the two languages in contact. However, it is not symmetrical mostly, more words can go from one side to the other and the process of borrowing is not random. One of the common reasons of borrowing a word from another language is the need of a word for referring to a concept, which is new to its speakers. Therefore, the inadequacy in the language prompts its speakers to use a word from a foreign language. It also depends on many other factors like power, prestige, and status of the source language and also on the attitude of people towards it, which makes the objects, and ideas it brings desirable and useful to the borrowing language. Sometimes a language enjoys the status of being more prestigious, powerful and of a higher status among people. To enhance the status of the

native language a word from the language of a higher status is chosen. In this article, I have thrown a fresh light on the English borrowings in Kashmiri.

Keywords: Lexical Borrowings, Kashmiri, Borrowings, English Lexical Borrowings in Kashmiri – Revisited

Kashmiri as called by its native speakers or Kashmiri as called by non native speakers is spoken mostly in the valley of Kashmir in India and by Kashmiris settled outside Kashmir. Kashmiri is classified to be the part of the Dardic group of the Indo- Aryan Family as per the general consensus amongst historical linguists. The variety spoken in and around Srinagar is considered to be the standard, which is widely used in the media and literature. Kashmiri has been under the influence of Urdu on one side and English on the other side. Most Perso - Arabic words have come through Urdu into Kashmiri whereas most English words found their way in Kashmiri through the contact with British. It won't be wrong to say that it is the historical background of Kashmir, which has been primarily responsible for the language contact of Urdu and English with Kashmiri.

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Language in India www.languageinindia.com ISSN 1930-2940 19:3 March 2019

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Definitions and literature review of Borrowing

In linguistics, borrowing usually refers to lexical borrowing, which happens mostly when one language comes in contact with another, but in some cases structural (phonological, morphological and syntactic) patterns can be borrowed as well. Haspelmath (2009: 38-39) distinguishes material borrowing (the borrowing of “sound-meaning pairs, generally lexemes”) and structural borrowing (“the copying of syntactic, morphological or semantic patterns”).

According to Martinet (1966: 163) borrowing is a particular example of interference already established (i.e. accepted and used) in the recipient language.

Borrowings have been used as “to refer to the incorporation of foreign elements into the speakers’ native language” (Thomason & Kaufman 1988:21), i.e. as a synonym of adoption (Thomason Kaufman uses the term substratum interference for ‘imposition’, and interference as a cover term for ‘borrowing/adoption’ and ‘substratum Interference/ imposition’).

According to McMahon (1994:204) borrowings can get integrated into language or added to language.

As per Wardhaugh (2000:37), the motivation for borrowing and the extent to which lexical borrowings can occur depend on different social factors that vary from one contact situation to another.

The two reasons that have been mentioned most of the times are “need” and “prestige” and that is what has been found in the present research. The main reason for borrowing words is found to be the need for that word and to some extent the high prestige of English language. Nowadays, English being spoken widely as a global language has influenced most languages of the world and Kashmiri is not an exception. English has made its presence felt prominently in most domains in Kashmiri. The reason for this is Kashmiri is used only at home whereas the official language is Urdu and the medium of

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instruction in Educational institutions is either Urdu or English. Apart from it, most students prefer to go to English medium schools rather than Urdu medium schools unless they are economically not sound.

Some of the words, which have been in use actively in Kashmiri for quite some time, are given below. I have not dealt with the detailed morphological analysis, however, I have thrown some light on the usage of the borrowed words and the use of inflections in different domains. These words are very common and widely used by people irrespective of their age, gender, education etc.

Most of the words which are borrowed are due to the expansion of the vocabulary in modern technology or words for concepts which had not been the part of the Kashmiri culture.

Borrowings	As pronounced by Kashmiris	Common Inflections
	<u>Technology</u>	
Radio	re:ḍio	re:ḍioas peṭh
TV	TV	tu jas peṭh
Computer	kampuṭar	kampuṭaras peṭh, kamputaran peṭh
Internet	intarnet	intarneṭas peṭh
Software	saṭṭve:r	saṭṭve:ras
Website	websait	websaiṭi peṭh
Browser	brawzar	brawzaras manz
Server	SARVAR	SARVARASI MANZ
Server	-----	SARVARṬ tṣhu davun
Charge	tṣa:rdz	tṣa:rdzas thavun
Charger	tṣardzar	tṣardzaras
Mobile	mobail	mobailas , mobailuk naaw
Missed Call	mised ka:l	warriyah mised ka:lṭ

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Language in India www.languageinindia.com ISSN 1930-2940 **19:3 March 2019**

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Charges	tʃardzez	-----
Prepaid	prepaid	prepaidas
Postpaid	postpaid	postpaidas
Call alert	ka:l əlɜ:t	ka:l əlɜ:tɪ
Call waiting	ka:l vertɪŋg	ka:l vertɪŋgɪ manz
Barr	bar	-----
Telephone	ʧelifəun	ʧelifəunas
ISD	-----	-----
STD call	STD ka:l	STD ka:lɪ
STD (meaning phone booth)		
Lab or laboratory	leɪb	leɪbɪ
Cable	keɪbəl	keɪbɪ peʃh
Channel	tʃɑnəl	tʃɑnɪ
Station	steɪʃən	steɪʃənas peʃh

Mode of Transport

Bus	bʌs	bʌsɪ manz
Stop (bus stop)	stɔ:p	stɔ:pəs peʃh
Station (railway station)	steɪʃən	steɪʃənəs peʃh
Rail	reɪl	reɪlɪ manz
Rail	reɪl gaed	reɪlɪ ga:di manz
Train	ʧrem	ʧremɪ manz
Counter	kaʊntər	kaʊntərəs peʃh
Line (meaning que)	laɪn	laɪnɪ
Auto	a:tə	a:təʊəs manz

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Truck	ṭrak	ṭraki manz
Driver	ḍreivʌr	ḍreivʌras, ḍreivʌran
Conductor	kandʌktʌr	kandʌktʌras, kandʌktʌran
One way	vʌn vei	vʌn veras
Speed breaker	sipi:ḍ bre:kar	sipi:ḍ bre:karas peṭh
Highway	harwei	harweijas peṭh
Speed	sipi:ḍ	sipi:di
Parking	pa:rking	pa:rkingi manz
tourist	ṭu:rist	ṭu:ristʌn
jeep	ji:p	ji:pi
two wheelar	ṭu:vi:lar	ṭu:vi:laras
three wheelar	ṭri: vi:lar	ṭri: vi:lar

Education

School	saku:l	saku:las manz, saku:li
University	junivʌrsiti:	
Teacher	ṭi:tʃar	ṭi:tʃari or ṭi:tʃaras
Syllabus	selibas	selibasas manz
Attendance	eṭandʌns	-----
Register	radzistʌr	radzistʌri peṭh
Stapler	ste:plar	ste:plari
Copy (meaning notebook),	kə:pi:	
Question Paper	kʌstʃʌn pe:par	kʌstʃʌn pe:paras manz
Answer sheet	ʌ:nsar si:t	ʌ:nsar si:tʌs peṭh
Additional sheet	ʌḍiʃnal si:t	ʌḍiʃnal si:tʌs peṭh

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Centre	senṭar	senṭaras
Paper pin	pe:par pin	pe:par pinṭ s3:th
Rubber (eraser)	rabar	rabarṭ s3:th
officer)	aphsar	aphsaran, aphisaras
Drill	ḍril	ḍrilṭ
Duty	ḍu:ṭi:	ḍu:ṭi:jṭ peṭh

Trade and commerce

Business	bizinis	bizinisas
Business man	bizinis mæn, bizinis me:n	bizinis mænas
Import	impo:rṭ	-----
Export	eksportṭ	-----
Show room	ʃou ru:m	ʃou ru:mas
Factory	fekṭri	fekṭrijan
Sale	se:l	se:lṭ peṭh
Company	kampani:	kampani:jan
Call Centre	ka:l senṭar	ka:l senṭaran
Bank	benk	benkas manz
Saving	seving	sevingṭ manz
(meaning savings account)		
Recurring	rekaring	rekaringṭ manz
Fixed	fiksad	fiksadaṣ manz
ATM		

Home and Kitchen

Gas	ge:s, gæs	ge:sas, gæsas
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Cylinder	surrender (ge:s m3tɪ is also used) 'ge:s da:nɪ (from daan) or ge:s tʃu:lɪ (taken from hindi/Urdu Chulla)(gas stove)	
Burner	barnar	
Cooker or pressure cooker	cukar	cu:karas manz or preʃar cukaras manz
Rice cooker	rais cukar	rais cukaras manz
Grinder	gramɖar	gramɖaras manz
Mixer	miksar	miksaras manz
Juicer	dzu:sar	dzu:saras manz
Tent	ʃent	ʃentas manz
Blower	blo:var	blo:varas manz
Heater	hi:ʃar	hi:ʃaras peʃh
Geyser	gi:zar	gi:zaras
Mug or jug	mag	magas manz
Bottle	boutal	boutali

Cosmetics

Powder	pouɖar	-----
Eyeliners	ar lamar	ar lamari
Lip liner	lip lamar	lip lamari
Mascara	maskar	maskari
Lipstick	lipsaʃik	lipsaʃiki
Gel	dzal	-----
Vaseline	va:slin	-----
Pin (hair pin)	pin	pinɪ s3:th

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Rubber band rabar bænd rabar bændɪ sɜ:th

Health related

Tension ʃenʃan ʃenʃanan, ʃenʃanas

Doctor ɖa:kʃar ɖa:kʃaras

Nurse naras narsɪ

Ward va:rɖ va:rɖas

Pressure preʃar preʃarɪ sɜ:th

Sugar ʃugar ʃugarɪ sɜ:th

Heart (for heart problem) ha:rʃ ha:rʃɪ sɜ:th

Aids eiɖas eiɖasɪ sɜ:th

Cancer kʌnsʌr kʌnsʌr

(many people say wʌɭʃi doud meaning cancer)

Gout gavuʃ gavuʃɪ sɜ:th

Syringe siri:ndz siri:ndzɪ sɜ:th

Injection indzekʃʌn indzekʃʌnɪ sɜ:th

Miscellaneous (words added due to turmoil)

Crackdown kreɪk or kræk ɖʌn kreɪk or kræk ɖʌnas manz

Searchlight sɜ:rtʃ laɪʃ sɜ:rtʃ laɪʃɪ sɜ:th

Bunker bankar bankaras manz

Military mili:ʃari: -----

Army a:rmi: -----

Curfew kɜ:rʃju: kɜ:rʃju:as manz

Parade pəreɪɖ pəreɪɖas manz

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march-past	ma:rtʃpa:s	ma:rtʃpa:sas manz
Grenade	grene:d	grene:ɖi s3:th
Interrogation	ɪnʃro:gæʃən	ɪnʃro:gæʃənas manz
AK47	AK47	AK47
Encounter	enkaʊnʃər	enkaʊnʃəras manz
Bomb	bʊm	bʊmɪ s3:th
Commando	kəma:ndʊ	-----
Militant	miliʃənt, miliʃən	miliʃəntən

Analysis and Observations:

Haugen [1950: 212-213] in his model, defines the linguistic changes resulting from borrowing using two key terms – importation and substitution. In the importation, the original form and pronunciation of a particular feature are retained as part of the transfer process from the source language to the recipient language, while the substitution is said to have occurred when the borrowed feature changes in form or pronunciation. This is what has been seen in our data. After analyzing the data given above, it has been observed that it is the root word which is being borrowed. The borrowed words undergo phonological changes as per the recipient language which is Kashmiri. Inflections are used from Kashmiri to nativize the word. E.g suffixing (i) or (as) as in *kampuʃaras peʃh*, *TV jas peʃh*, *ʃremi manz*, etc. Similarly, inflections from Kashmiri are added for pluralization as in *kampani:jan*, *ka:l senʃaran*, etc. This is what Poplack & Sankoff (1984: 130) point out “once a term is accepted into the speech community, and adapted into a particular phonological form, it is that form which is transmitted across generations in much the same way as monolingual neologisms”. This is what is happening in case of borrowings in Kashmiri. The words which are borrowed have become an integral part of the language and are being carried on from generations to generations along with the influence of L1. The interference of the speakers' L1 is clearly apparent in borrowed

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words. As an example, instead of saying “school” the word is pronounced as /saku:l/ or lipstick is pronounced as /lipastik/. Insertion of a vowel is due to the influence of L1.

From the observations, it was concluded that the words which are mostly borrowed are nouns and the most important reason and the motivation for borrowing words especially nouns from English to Kashmiri is the need to refer to the ideas or things for which a word in Kashmiri is not available or has become archaic. For example for the word school earlier people used “zabar zaet or madras” but at present hardly anyone uses this term. Similarly, the various semantic fields which have been listed above, most of the words are related to modern technology like rice cooker, mixer grinder etc. for which words are not available in Kashmiri. Also, the semantic field listed in Miscellaneous, the words were borrowed due to the turmoil in Kashmir and they became the part of the vocabulary because of the frequent usage.

Whereas the above given words have their equivalents in other Indian Languages like Hindi and Urdu, Kashmiri seems to lack the proper vocabulary updating process in place, therefore the new words added from English are taking their place in Kashmiri without being replaced by a Kashmiri equivalent.

Conclusion:

Many languages of the world borrow words temporarily from other languages and in the due course of time the borrowed words are substituted by native words. Though it does not seem to happen in case of Kashmiri rapidly, some English words have been replaced by Kashmiri words by extending the meaning of existing words. For example ‘ge:s m3tɪ’ is used for “gas cylinder”, ‘ge:s da:nɪ or ge:s tʃu:lɪ ’ is used for “gas stove”. It is worth mentioning that both ‘m3t and da:n’ were present in the Kashmiri vocabulary for different concepts. Moreover, there are Kashmiri words for typhoid, chicken pox, fever etc. However, at large the borrowed English words have become the integral part of the Kashmiri vocabulary and the chances of replacing them by native words in the near

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future don't seem to be overwhelming. The reasons for not using the existing Kashmiri words for the borrowed words are:

1. The rapid spread of English language through different modes like media, school, and social network. Using English words is becoming a norm not only among educated people but also not so educated people of the society
2. The higher prestige attached to English language is also one of the biggest reasons for using English lexical items in Kashmiri. People are deliberately using English words because of their attitude towards English as a language of civilized and upper class people and Kashmiri as a language of less educated or illiterate class.

Therefore, Kashmiri is susceptible to losing the words which are already in the language due to the less use of a word which is present in its vocabulary or due to the use of English word for it used most commonly by people. Also, this is the reason why new words are not coined for the concepts of modern technology because already English lexical items have got integrated in Kashmiri so well that it won't pave way for the need of updating lexical items in Kashmiri. Moreover, even if the new words are coined by Kashmiri linguists, acceptability and their use by people will not be encouraging due to their attitudes towards Kashmiri Language.

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Language in India www.languageinindia.com ISSN 1930-2940 19:3 March 2019

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Language in India www.languageinindia.com ISSN 1930-2940 19:3 March 2019

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