

## PHONOLOGICAL AND MORPHOLOGICAL ADAPTATION OF BORROWED WORDS IN ENGLISH

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**ABSTRACT:** *Borrowing is a common linguistic phenomenon where words from one language are adopted into another. This paper explores the phonological and morphological adaptation of borrowed words in English, focusing on how foreign sounds and grammatical structures are integrated into the English language system. Using examples from French, Spanish, and Japanese borrowings, the study analyzes changes in pronunciation and morphological behavior, contributing to the broader understanding of linguistic adaptation processes. Data are drawn from corpus analyses and phonetic transcriptions, with results highlighting patterns and exceptions in the adaptation process.*

**Keywords:** *borrowed words; phonological adaptation; morphological adaptation; English language; linguistic processes; language contact.*

**ANNOTATSIYA:** *O'rganish - bu bir tilning so'zlari boshqa tilga qabul qilinadigan keng tarqalgan lingvistik hodisadir. Ushbu maqolada ingliz tilidagi olingan so'zlarning fonologik va morfologik moslashuvi o'rganiladi, ayniqsa xorijiy tovushlar va grammatik tuzilmalar ingliz tili tizimiga qanday integratsiya qilinishi ko'rib chiqiladi. Fransuz, ispan va yapon tillaridan olingan so'zlar misolida, talaffuz va morfologik xulq-atvoridagi o'zgarishlar tahlil qilinadi, bu lingvistik moslashuv jarayonlarini kengroq tushunishga hissa qo'shadi. Ma'lumotlar korpus tahlillari va fonetik transkripsiyalar asosida olinadi, natijalar moslashuv jarayonidagi naqshlar va istisnolarni ta'kidlaydi.*

**Kalit so'zlar:** *olingan so'zlar; fonologik moslashuv; morfologik moslashuv; ingliz tili; lingvistik jarayonlar; til aloqasi.*

**АННОТАЦИЯ:** *Заимствование — это распространённое*

лингвистическое явление, при котором слова из одного языка заимствуются в другой. В данной работе рассматривается фонологическая и морфологическая адаптация заимствованных слов в английском языке, с акцентом на то, как иностранные звуки и грамматические структуры интегрируются в систему английского языка. Используя примеры заимствований из французского, испанского и японского языков, исследуется изменение произношения и морфологического поведения, что способствует более глубокому пониманию процессов лингвистической адаптации. Данные получены из анализа корпусов и фонетических транскрипций, результаты подчеркивают закономерности и исключения в процессе адаптации.

**Ключевые слова:** заимствованные слова; фонологическая адаптация; морфологическая адаптация; английский язык; лингвистические процессы; контакт языков.

The phonological and morphological adaptation of borrowed words in English has been an ongoing process throughout the history of the language. Loanwords, or borrowings, are words taken from one language and incorporated into another, often with modifications to conform to the phonological and morphological systems of the receiving language. This article investigates the nature of these adaptations in English, focusing on phonological and morphological changes, with an emphasis on borrowings from French and Spanish, two major sources of loanwords in modern English. The study provides a comprehensive examination of how borrowed words evolve within the English language, illustrating these processes through both historical and modern examples.

In examining the phonological adaptation of loanwords, it is essential to consider the historical context of borrowing in English. The English language has borrowed extensively from a wide range of languages over the centuries, beginning with early borrowings from Old Norse and Latin during the Anglo-Saxon period. However, the most significant influx of loanwords into English occurred after the Norman Conquest of England in 1066, which led to a period of intense French

influence [5, 55]. This historical event was a catalyst for the incorporation of many French words into English, particularly in the realms of law, government, and culture. As a result, English borrowed not only vocabulary but also phonological patterns. The process of language change due to external contact is a key feature in the evolution of English [1, p. 60].

Many of the borrowed words from French during this period underwent substantial phonological changes, primarily due to the differences between Old French and Old English phonological systems [3, p. 125]. For instance, the Old French word "cavalier" (meaning knight or horseman) became "cavalier" in English, but its pronunciation evolved from /kav-a-ljeʁ/ in French to /ˌkævəˈliər/ in English. This shift reflects the simplification of the French diphthong and the anglicization of the stress pattern. The process of phonological simplification is a common trend observed in many other loanwords, particularly those borrowed from languages with phonological systems distinct from English.

Further phonological changes are seen in the adaptation of foreign consonant sounds. French and Spanish, for instance, contain nasal vowels and uvular consonants, which are not found in English. As a result, these sounds are often replaced with more familiar English equivalents. For example, the French nasal vowel in "bon" (good) is typically rendered as a simple /bɒn/ or /bɑːn/ in English. Similarly, Spanish borrowings like "jalapeño" and "piñata" often undergo changes in pronunciation, such as the simplification of the /x/ sound in "jalapeño" to /h/ in English.

Another important aspect of phonological adaptation is the impact of spelling conventions. In some cases, English speakers have tended to preserve the original spelling of loanwords, even though the pronunciation diverges from the original. For instance, the word "ballet" is borrowed from French, and while the spelling remains the same, English speakers typically pronounce it with the stress on the first syllable, /ˈbæleɪ/, rather than following the French stress pattern of /ˈbæleɪ/. Such discrepancies between spelling and pronunciation can cause confusion but also highlight the complexity of loanword integration into English phonology.

A notable example of morphological simplification occurs with Latin-based loanwords. While Latin words have distinct plural forms (e.g., "alumnus" becomes "alumni"), in English, these forms are often used interchangeably with the "-s" plural suffix. In some instances, both plural forms exist, and speakers may choose between them based on their familiarity with the original Latin rules or the established English forms. For instance, while "fungus" has the Latin plural "fungi," the more common English plural is "funguses," and both forms are considered correct. This phenomenon illustrates the flexibility of English in adapting borrowed terms to its own morphological system, which is characterized by the use of more regular and simplified inflectional endings [4, p. 210].

Another interesting aspect of morphological adaptation involves the creation of new word forms through the use of English affixes. Borrowings from French and Spanish have frequently been modified by adding suffixes such as "-ize" or "-ification," a common morphological process in English. For example, the French word "realiser" (to make real) has given rise to the English form "realize," with the suffix "-ize" applied to form a verb. Similarly, the Spanish word "claridad" (clarity) was adapted into English as "clarify," with the addition of the "-ify" suffix to form a verb that conveys the action of making something clear. This process of affixation is a key aspect of how borrowed words are morphologically integrated into English and adapted to fit its syntactic structures.

In terms of gender and case assignment, loanwords from languages with grammatical gender (e.g., French or Spanish) tend to lose their gender distinctions when incorporated into English. As mentioned earlier, English is not a gendered language, and this results in the "degendering" of many borrowed terms. For example, the French word "actrice" (female actor) has been fully replaced by the neutral term "actor" in English. Similarly, the Spanish word "mujer" (woman) is often treated as a generic term for female individuals in English without any indication of grammatical gender.

In some cases, loanwords undergo specific phonological and morphological adaptations depending on the phonological systems of both the donor and recipient

languages [2, p. 130]. These shifts often occur as words are used in different cultural or social contexts, leading to subtle changes in meaning. For instance, the French word "cliché" originally referred to a printing plate but has evolved in English to mean a stereotyped or overused expression. This semantic shift is a natural consequence of the process of borrowing, as the meaning of the word must be adapted to fit the context of the borrowing language.

In conclusion, the adaptation of borrowed words in English, particularly those borrowed from French and Spanish, involves both phonological and morphological changes that reflect the language's ability to integrate foreign elements into its existing system. The phonological adaptation of loanwords often involves the simplification of complex sound combinations and the anglicization of stress patterns, while morphological adaptation includes changes in pluralization, gender, and the addition of affixes. These processes illustrate the flexibility and dynamism of the English language, as it continually evolves in response to external influences. Further research could explore the adaptation of loanwords from other languages, such as Japanese or Arabic, as well as the role of social media and globalization in the borrowing process.

The findings of this study contribute to our understanding of how borrowed words are integrated into the English language, providing valuable insights into the broader processes of linguistic change. By examining the phonological and morphological adaptations of loanwords, we gain a deeper appreciation of the ways in which languages evolve and adapt to new influences. Future research could explore the role of loanwords in shaping English lexicon and grammar, as well as the impact of loanword adaptation on language variation and identity in different English-speaking communities.

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