



ENGLISH BORROWINGS IN CONTEMPORARY UZBEK: MORPHOLOGICAL ADAPTATION AND COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTIONS

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Abstract. The influence of English on contemporary Uzbek has become increasingly visible in technology, education, business, media, advertising, and digital communication. This thesis examines English lexical borrowings in Uzbek and discusses their main adaptation processes and communicative functions. Particular attention is given to morphological integration, semantic specialization, hybrid verbal constructions, and the social role of English-origin vocabulary. The study is based on a review of linguistic literature on language contact and lexical borrowing. It argues that English loanwords are not merely foreign elements inserted into Uzbek speech. Many borrowed items are adapted to Uzbek grammatical patterns through plural, possessive, and case suffixes, while others combine with Uzbek verbs. English borrowings contribute to the naming of new concepts and support participation in global professional and digital environments. At the same time, their rapid growth raises questions about terminology standardization and the preservation of clear Uzbek equivalents.

Keywords: English loanwords, Uzbek language, lexical borrowing, morphological adaptation, semantic change, digital communication, globalization.

Introduction

Language is closely connected with social development. When society changes, language changes as well. New technologies, international education, economic cooperation, entertainment, and online communication introduce new objects, ideas, and practices into people's daily lives. Languages respond to these developments by creating new words or borrowing vocabulary from other languages.

English has become one of the most influential languages in the modern world. It is widely used in information technology, science, business, international education, media, and social networking. For this reason, English lexical units are increasingly borrowed by many languages. Uzbek is also affected by this process.

In contemporary Uzbek, English-origin words can be found in everyday speech, official communication, advertisements, educational materials, online platforms, and professional terminology. Words such as internet, online, smartfon, blog, post, link, meeting, training, marketing, brand, project, and deadline have become familiar to many speakers.



The purpose of this thesis is to discuss the ways in which English loanwords are integrated into contemporary Uzbek and to explain their major communicative functions. The work focuses on the following questions:

1. Why are English words borrowed into Uzbek?
2. How do English-origin words adapt to Uzbek grammar?
3. How do their meanings change in Uzbek communication?
4. What social and communicative functions do these borrowings perform?

Language Contact and Lexical Borrowing

Lexical borrowing is a natural linguistic process. It occurs when speakers of one language adopt a word from another language. Haugen (1950) describes borrowing as the reproduction of linguistic material from one language in another. Borrowing is especially common in vocabulary because new words can be adopted more easily than grammatical structures.

Weinreich (1953) explains that language contact takes place when speakers use more than one language in their communication. Such contact can produce lexical borrowing, code-switching, and semantic change. In the Uzbek context, contact with English is strengthened by international media, foreign-language education, digital technology, professional communication, and global business.

A borrowed word may pass through several stages. At first, it may be used only by people who know English or work in a particular professional field. Later, it can become common in media, education, advertising, and informal speech. Finally, it may receive grammatical endings and become integrated into the vocabulary of the recipient language.

English borrowings in Uzbek are therefore not accidental. They reflect practical communication needs and the influence of global culture. Some words are borrowed because they name new technological concepts. Others become popular because they are internationally recognizable or associated with modern professional identity.

English Loanwords in Different Spheres of Uzbek Communication

English-origin vocabulary is used in several important areas of contemporary Uzbek communication.

The first major area is information technology. Many devices, software programs, and online tools were originally developed in English-speaking environments. As a result, words such as browser, file, folder, server, software, app, login, password, download, and upload are widely understood by users of digital technology.

The second area is online communication. Social-media platforms have introduced words such as post, story, comment, like, share, follow, stream, blogger, and content. These words often refer to specific actions or features of a digital platform. For example, a post is generally understood as a publication on a social-media page, while like refers to a positive online reaction.

The third area is business and economics. English terms such as marketing, brand, manager, startup, business, budget, project, partner, and investment occur in professional



speech, advertising, and business-related media. These words may be used because they are part of international business vocabulary.

The fourth area is education and professional development. In this sphere, speakers may use training, workshop, grant, certificate, presentation, feedback, and course. Such terms are common in international programs, private educational centers, and academic communication.

Morphological Adaptation of English Loanwords

One of the most important features of English loanwords in Uzbek is their adaptation to Uzbek morphology. Uzbek is an agglutinative language. This means that grammatical meanings are expressed through suffixes attached to a word stem.

English-origin words can receive Uzbek suffixes for plurality, possession, and case. For example:

- postlar — posts
- postga — to the post
- postni — the post
- linkni — the link
- meetingda — at the meeting
- reportim — my report
- deadlinegacha — until the deadline

These examples show that English lexical roots can function according to Uzbek grammatical rules. The suffixes are Uzbek, but the lexical stems are borrowed from English. This is a clear sign that loanwords are becoming integrated into the Uzbek language system.

Yoqubjonova and Yoqubjonova (2025) state that English loanwords in Uzbek texts often receive suffixes for pluralization and case marking. Their research demonstrates that these words are not always used in their original English forms. Instead, they are modified according to Uzbek grammatical patterns.

Hybrid verbal constructions are also common. In such constructions, an English word combines with an Uzbek verb. Examples include:

- download qilmoq
- upload qilmoq
- share qilmoq
- save qilmoq
- print qilib olmoq
- like bosmoq

These expressions illustrate how speakers combine international technological vocabulary with Uzbek grammar. The English component provides the central meaning, while the Uzbek verb makes the expression grammatically functional.





Semantic Adaptation

Loanwords may change their meaning after entering another language. This process is known as semantic adaptation. A borrowed word may retain its original meaning, gain a new meaning, or be used only in a narrow context.

For example, the English word *post* has different meanings, including a job position, a mail service, and an online publication. In Uzbek, it is most often used to mean a publication on a social-media platform. Its meaning has become more specialized.

The word *like* also demonstrates semantic specialization. In English, *like* may express preference or similarity. In Uzbek online communication, it normally refers to clicking a positive reaction under a post, photograph, or video.

Similarly, the word *story* originally has a broad meaning in English. In digital communication, however, it is often used to refer to temporary visual content shared through a social-media application. This specialized meaning is understood by many Uzbek users because of their regular contact with online platforms.

Kuchkarov (2025) notes that English words entering Uzbek undergo phonetic, morphological, and semantic adaptation. Semantic change is therefore an essential stage in the integration of loanwords.

Communicative and Social Functions

English loanwords perform several functions in contemporary Uzbek. First, they help speakers name new concepts. Many technological and professional terms entered Uzbek at the same time as the objects or practices they describe. Borrowing the original term can be faster than creating and popularizing a new equivalent.

Second, English loanwords support international communication. Professionals in technology, business, science, and education often use internationally recognized terminology. A shared vocabulary can make it easier to exchange information with people from different linguistic backgrounds.

Third, loanwords may express modernity and professional identity. For example, English terminology is often associated with information technology, entrepreneurship, marketing, and digital culture. Speakers may use such terms to show familiarity with current trends or to identify themselves as members of a professional community.

Fourth, English borrowings may be economical. In some contexts, a borrowed word is shorter or more familiar than a long descriptive Uzbek phrase. However, this does not mean that every English word should replace an Uzbek equivalent. Clear Uzbek terminology remains important, especially in education, government communication, and public information.

Challenges of English Borrowing

Although lexical borrowing is a natural process, it may create certain challenges. One challenge is inconsistent spelling. A borrowed English word may be written in several ways, especially in informal online communication. This can cause uncertainty for writers, students, translators, and editors.



Another challenge is accessibility. Not every speaker understands English-origin terms equally well. Young people and technology professionals may use English loanwords frequently, while older speakers or people outside particular professional fields may find them difficult to understand.

A further issue is terminology standardization. In some areas, Uzbek alternatives may already exist, but English terms remain more popular because of international influence. Linguists, translators, teachers, and specialists should consider which terms are necessary borrowings and which can be replaced with clear Uzbek equivalents.

A balanced approach is needed. Loanwords should not be viewed only as a threat to Uzbek, because they can enrich the language and help speakers describe new realities. At the same time, the development of Uzbek terminology is necessary to ensure that public communication remains understandable and inclusive.

Conclusion

English loanwords have become an important feature of contemporary Uzbek. Their use is especially visible in technology, online communication, business, education, media, and everyday speech. These words are borrowed because they name new concepts, connect speakers with international terminology, and reflect the influence of global culture.

The integration of English loanwords into Uzbek is not limited to vocabulary. Borrowed English stems can receive Uzbek plural, possessive, and case suffixes. They can also combine with Uzbek verbs to form hybrid expressions such as download qilmoq and like bosmoq. In addition, their meanings may become more specialized in Uzbek communication.

The study of English loanwords is important because it reveals how Uzbek responds to social and technological change. Future research may use authentic texts from media, social networks, educational materials, and professional communication to examine the frequency and development of English-origin vocabulary in greater detail.

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