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automobile spare parts as used by mechanics in Iraq' or the large number of French words used in the dialects of some North African Arab countries, namely, Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco.

It is no surprise, however, that many loans in a language are thrust upon that language from other languages with which it has been in contact for some reason or other. In other words a living language, in passing through various stages of development, will be in constant need of a new stock of lexical items to express new ideas and things) such that there is no way we can stop the flow (though gradual and often unnoticed) of borrowings. Indeed, we know of no language which seals off its borders to prevent foreign words from entering. This, however, does not mean that we are advocating the borrowing of foreign words when native equivalents are available, but in cases where loans may effectively serve our purpose and save us finding an equivalent which may sound extremely unfamiliar. Some of these borrowed lexical items are often assimilated thus making a perfect harmony with the rest of the vocabulary, and behaving exactly like any other native words. So, in borrowing from other languages, we can derive only their positive characteristics.

In summing up, we may state that an objection to the Loans wholly based on strong emotion or self-importance rather than on rationale is hardly justifiable, and any one arguing against this seems to be fighting a losing battle.

plicit also in the statement above is the indication that borrowing will inevitably occur as part of the historical development of language.

As previously shown, modern inventions have brought with them such numerous lexical items, as may be found in the cinema, television, space. Moreover, the rapid means of communication have made the world we live in a really small one, in which nations are now in contact with one another more than ever.

For a long time, 'purists' have been critical of borrowing new words from other languages. Their opposition seems to be based on the assumption that these may lead to the 'debas-ing' of their native language. This assumption is hardly tenable. There are many ways in which it can be argued that borrowing can positively contribute to the enrichment of language. The fact that language A, for example, borrows from language B, does not make language A any inferior to language B.

Languages vary considerably in their tolerance of foreign words. English, for example, seems to be more apt than any other European language to swallow and assimilate new Loans. English is less likely to find a native equivalent for those foreign words which appear to it as striking and Useful. This is also true of French to some extent (13). Arabic, however chiefly Standard Arabic seems to take a more cautious attitude to the imported loans. The objection to the introduction of foreign words into Arabic may be accounted for in terms of the conviction on the part of Arab purists that Arabic possesses such a wealth of lexical items that it can easily find an equivalent for any foreign word. The various dialects of Arabic, nevertheless] accommodate a great number of loans e.g. the names of

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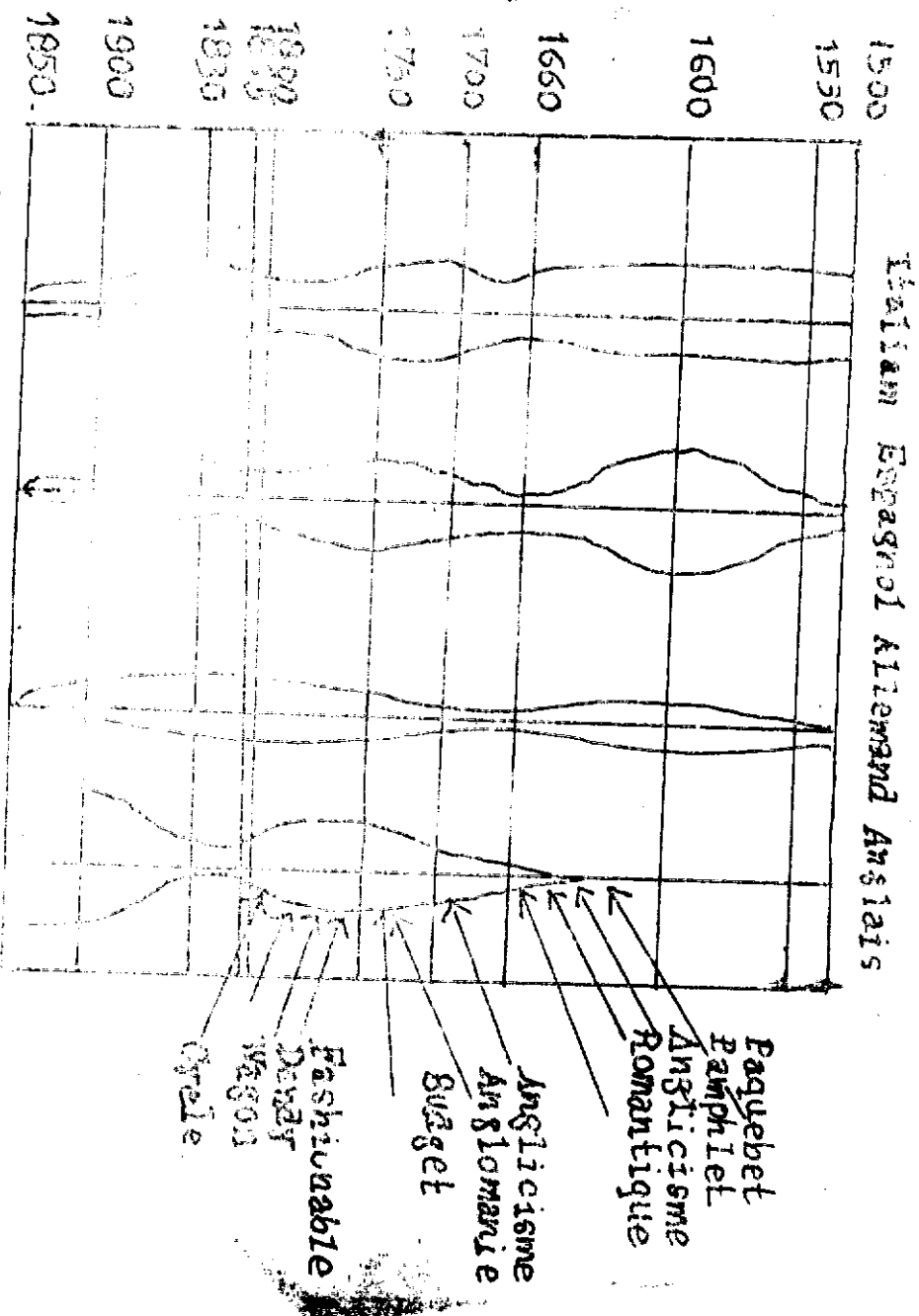
(13) Eric Partridge: *The World of Words*, p. 37.

AMERIQUE	....	....	....	....	36	25	21	7	....	89
LATINE.....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
AMERIQUE DU	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
NORD. ..	....	....	....	....	....	3	3	2	....	8
AFRIQUE.....	....	....	....	....	....	1	3	8	3	15
CRECS.....	8	4	5	3	1	2	..	....	....	23
HEREUX. ..	9	1	2	5	2	2	1	1	....	23
	87	84	143	151	595	549	443	630	101	2886

(11) Pierrs Guiraud, *Les mots etrangers*, Collection "Que sais je" PUF 1965, p. 6.

Guy Rand's table, reproduced below, indicates the extents to which French borrowed from other languages. Note in particular the number of Arabic and English words that have crept into French (!!)

[illegible]



and English. A relevant table by Matore is provided hereunder (10). The table shows that the influence extends over five countries, beginning in the Sixteenth Century and into the Twentieth Century. In the Eighteenth Century English was the language from which French borrowed most. Second in importance were German and Italian and last was Spanish which the lost influential role it had played from the Fifteenth Century to the end of the Seventeenth Century as shown by Matore's table.

In the light of the preceding exposition, the assumption that lexical borrowing is a normal linguistic phenomenon has been firmly established. One might even go a little further and state that lexical borrowing is an 'infection as it were, to which no language can be permanently immune. It is inextricably related to an essential characteristic of language, namely, productivity: the potential ability of language to say new things and deal with new situations. So in the course of time, each lexical item requires a slightly or even markedly different meaning from the others to cope with any new rising situation. Lexical borrowing is therefore an indispensable process in that the consequent richness of vocabulary is largely due to it. Borrowing provides a wealth of synonyms or nearsynonyms by means of which the most subtle shades of meaning can be exactly expressed (12).

The process of borrowing can by no means be hindered or stopped. For one thing, it is so gradual that the new words get absorbed by the texture of the 'borrowing' language. Im-

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(10) George Matore: *La methode en Lexicologie Domains Francais*, p. 84.

(12) C.E. Eckersley and J.M. Eckersley: *A Comprehensive English Grammar*, p. 492.

The other group on the other hand, comprises 'open class' items. That is, the class is open in the sense that is indefinitely extendable e.g. nouns, adjectives, adverbs and verbs<sup>(9)</sup>

We shall therefore be concerned with the latter group as it is the class that includes those parts of speech that are more susceptible to borrowing for the reasons outlined above. In terms of frequency, the borrowing of these parts of speech seem to vary widely so that nouns score the highest percentage, and expressions the lowest. These findings were the result of an investigation carried out by one of the authors of the present work as illustrated by the following table:

Nouns constituted	86%
Adjectives and nouns	4%
Verbs	4%
Expressions	0.2%
Interjections	0.5%
Adjectives	

The question that may be raised now is why nouns, in particular, constitute the highest percentage in the above list. To answer this question, one has to look at the vast numbers of words borrowed from other languages. These words, as was stated earlier, are mainly names of objects introduced with modern inventions, long with the names of their inventors, or they may be terms expressing new ideas and things needed in a particular field of study e.g. politics, technology etc

Turning our attention now to the interrelation between English and French, we find that the French language has been influenced by four languages, namely, Italian, Spanish, German

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(9) R. Quirk, S. Greenbaum; *A University Grammar of English*, p. 19.



tarboosh (brimless felt cap worn by some Muslim men). mo-  
hair ( cloth made from the fine silky hair of the Angoragoat )

### **Foods and Drinks**

kebab ( dish of small pieces of meat, seasoned and roasted  
on skewers).

arrack (strong alcoholic drink).

### **Geography and Travels**

sahara (desert).

fellah (peasant).

### **Mathematics**

algebra

algorithm

cipher

### **Music**

guitar (from the Arabic word gaytharah).

In the light of the above survey and the illustrative lists  
of borrowing, the passage of numerous scientific, literary and  
artistic terms from Arabic into English and French should co-  
meas no surprise (8).

### **Why are some parts of speech more readily borro- wed than others?**

It is not difficult to see why certain parts of speech are  
more frequently borrowed than others. The parts of speech  
are viewed as falling into two groups] namely, 'closed system  
items, and 'open-class' items. Items are closed in the sense  
that they cannot be extended by the creation of additional  
members, that is, why we rarely invent or adopt or borrow  
a new or additional pronoun. This group includes articles,  
demonstrative, prepositions, conjunctions and interjections.

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(8) For further details, see the article by A.M. Hassan, "The  
Influence of Arabic upon European Languages", A Com-  
parative Study.

Some people, however, seem to prefer the borrowed words to those of their native language, as they are felt to be either more easily pronounced, or because of their exotic flavour.

### **Cultural Dominance**

The term 'dominance', as used in this paper refers to the natural phenomenon of borrowing when two or more cultures get in touch with one another; the language belonging to the 'superior' culture is viewed as a rich source from which other languages derive their stock of lexical items. In the golden age of Arabic Islamic civilization, Arabic was a language of a superior civilization. It follows that English, French and some other European languages borrowed a number of their learned words from Arabic. The influence of Arabic upon European languages was immense. The contact of the Arabs with Europeans during the Middle-Ages had a far-reaching influence which was later to be seen in the amount of lexical borrowing and various other aspects of human activity. Some of these words were borrowed directly from Arabic and some through Spanish and Latin.

English:

#### **Names of birds, animals and fishes:**

albatross (a large sea-bird. The English word is often a modification of the Arabic word *alcatras*).

gazelle (from the Arabic word *algazel*).

abbacore (large sea-fish from the Arabic *albacora*).

#### **Chemistry**

The English word *alchemy* was borrowed from Arabic *alkemya*, *Articles of Clothing and Textiles*

damask (from the Arabic *diamasq*)

words may be used to bridge a 'gap' in the native language. This is particularly true of the names of modern inventions. So' instead of taking pains to find equivalent words for these inventions, some languages quickly and freely borrow the foreign names of these inventions, French being a case in point. Suffice it to look at the many words that the French press borrowed from American English. These borrowings express onomastic conceptions such as geographical names indicating, for example, launching-bases such as Cap Canaveral; NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration). French has also borrowed such American English words as: boosters, break-off, briefing, check, cockpit, countdown, space] etc.

Nouns which used to be mythological have turned into scientific terms e.g. Jupiter, Saturne, Gemini, Atlas, Cosmos etc.(7)

There are other modes of borrowing by means of which new words from other languages are introduced. Wars some times may create a special atmosphere for borrowing. It seems that most war-like terms pass from one language to another during wartime, as was the case when the Americans entered Paris. For this reason, the relationship between the conquerer and the vanquished is one of the considerable significance as far as borrowing is concerned. A number of Arabic words entered the French language during the French occupation of Algeria. Most of these words were taken from the Algerian dialect; but these words are not necessarily related to war.

mehari, casbah, cleb, toubib, mahboul, macache  
goum] burnous, bezek, kif-kif etc.

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(7) Louis Guilbert; *Le Vocabulaire de L'astronautique* pp. 274-277

Any linguistic interaction presupposes the presence of two persons, at least—one who produces the language and one who receives it. That is, why it is often said that language does not occur in a vacuum—it is continually affected by external influence and other languages with which it is in contact..

Most of the external borrowings are 'learned borrowings' provided mostly by modern inventions in the fields of science and technology e.g. telephone, thermodynamics' etc. On looking at the foreign plurals in English' one finds that they are commoner in technical usage than in everyday language e.g. formulae' bacilli' bacteria etc. Other external borrowings seem to penetrate gradually by appearing first as colloquial speech alternatives' and then spreading until they are socially acceptable(5).

If' however, the sense of the term 'borrowing' is broadened to cover not only words which have been taken from Classical languages but also words which have been created in recent times by the deliberate combination of parts of Greek and Latin words' then it must be said that most modern scientific terms of modern inventions such as automobile' cinema' television' telephone' etc. have been indirectly borrowed from Greek and Latin (6).

### **Why languages borrow from one another**

Stated below are some of the more obvious reasons for borrowing:

Lack or absence of equivalent words in the native language, or the feeling that the borrowed lexical item is more convenient for use than the native counterpart. Thus 'borrowed

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(5) Jean Aitchison' *op. cit.*, p. 133.

(6) John Lyons, *Introduction to Theoretical Linguistics*, p. 26.

words. To fulfill this requirement' a language looks for sources to borrow from. These sources may be found within or outside the language, and hence:

### **Internal and External Borrowing**

Language derives its stock of new lexical items either from resources within the language, as in the case with the common processes of word formation or from resources outside the language' as in the case when a language borrows new words from other languages. British English' for example' borrows new word formations from American English as illustrated by the following examples:

Nouns formed from Verbal Phrases e.g.

a. stop-over

a. check-up

a. hand-out etc.' or

Verbs formed from nouns e.g.

to pilot (a plane)

to captain (a team)

to radio (a message) etc.

It will be noted that word formation may take place within one single variety as well.

New lexical items can be made through the various processes of word formation as when making new words by adding suffixes such as: -ise, -isation. to adjectives or nouns eg. decimalize, departmentalize etc., or when making new words combining part of one word with part of another eg smog. in by English (smoke+fog) and dukhab in Arabic (dukhan+dhabab)

External borrowings, on the other hand constitute the central part of the present paper, and will therefore, be treated in much greater detail.

on the grounds that this borrowing may adversely affect the 'purity' of their native language, seem to be ignorant of the basic characteristics of living languages which show some growing tendency towards absorbing new elements. These elements may be borrowed from sources within or outside the language. For the sake of exemplification, we have drawn relevant examples from three living languages, namely, Arabic, English and French.

Moreover, a language, being a social activity, will constantly be in need of the borrowed elements. to replace, for example, words which have become obsolete, as these words may not express new concepts adequately as in the case with modern inventions, which have brought with them new items. These items must have labels to name them. The majority of such new words seem to come from science and technology, psychology, sociology, economics and politics(4).

No one embarking on a linguistic study can afford to ignore the significance of the oft-quoted expression 'language is a living thing'. Living things grow and change and so does language. One need not be a language expert to find out why this is true. Languages pass through various stages of development. There are words which have been dead for a long time and new words which have taken over. One has only to look at some of the words used by pre-Islamic Arab poets; these words are now archaic and regarded as 'linguistic fossils. Being a medium of communication' a language must consequently be adapted to meet the new needs arising from new situations. Such being the case, a language is bound to require new

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(4) See the relevant section in *English Idioms* by Seidle, Mc-Mordie, pp. 1-9.

"It is a general observation that languages borrow words but do not borrow their grammar from other languages"(2). Consequently, our discussion will be confined to the borrowing of lexical items only.

Lexical borrowing, however, may not be direct, but via translation. This linguistic phenomenon is known as the 'calque' or 'loan translation'. Calque means a 'tracing' and is a lexical item whose elements have been directly translated from one language to another. The French, for example, have borrowed the word "sky-scraper" but translated into "gratte-ciel"(3). This type of borrowing is ignored in the present treatment.

The term "borrowing" as used here covers those lexical items which pass from one language to another, which may or may not undergo some kind of modification. There are already several terms in the literature relating to borrowing e.g. 'loan words', 'borrowed element', 'peregrianism', and 'alienism'.

### **The Aim of the Paper**

Our intention in this paper is to highlight the significant role of lexical borrowing as a major source of enriching language, by dint of constantly providing them with new elements. It goes without saying that lexical borrowing is a normal and healthy phenomenon inextricably related to an essential characteristic of language, namely, productivity, that is, the potential ability of language to express new concepts and cope with novel situations. We shall argue that those who do not tolerate the introduction of new elements into their languages

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(2) Albert C. Baugh: *A History of the English Language*, p. 200.

(3) Jean Aitchison: *General Linguistics*, p. 146.

## **Modes and purposes of Lexical Borrowing with Special Reference to Arabic, English and French**

**R.M.Q. Agha and Dr.T.A. Abdullah**

### **INTRODUCTUON**

It was not until the discovery that Sanskrit was related to Greek and Latin and other languages of Europe that Scholars began to raise such questions as how to account for the similarities in the vocabularies of languages in contact e.g. French and English, and languages which are far apart, and belong to different language families e.g. Arabic as compared with English and French. It has been stated that much of the resemblance observed in the vocabularies of these languages can be accounted for in terms of their borrowing from one another. "It is a well-known fact that languages in geographical and cultural contact borrow from one another quite freely for words tend to travel across geographical and linguistic boundaries together with the object or custom to which they refer"(1). For obvious reasons, of course, one would expect a greater amount to resemblance between English and French (both being Indo-European) than between these two languages, on the one hand, and Arabic, on the other, the latter being a non-European language.

The key term in the above introduction is 'borrowing'. It is with borrowing or, more specifically, with 'lexical borrowing' that we shall be concerned since the influence of one language upon another is most pronounced in the vocabulary.