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Daryna Zhuravlova

*Kyiv National University of Technologies and Design
(Kyiv, Ukraine)*

Yana Boiko

*Kyiv National University of Technologies and Design
(Kyiv, Ukraine)*

ADAPTATION OF LOANWORDS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE IN THE CONTEXT OF INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION

In today`s globalized world, multiculturalism is one of the main characteristics of the development of society. It implies constant interaction among different nations, cultures and languages, which is especially evident in the field of international communication.

In this context, the English language serves as a global means of communication, ensuring mutual understanding between representatives of different cultural communities. One of the most important mechanisms of its development is lexical borrowing, which reflects the process of cultural exchange. A distinctive feature of the English language is its rich vocabulary, which exceeds any other language of the world. Throughout its history, English has always been open to borrowing words from various languages worldwide.

The study aims to analyze how loanwords are adapted in the English language within multicultural contexts and to examine their role in intercultural communication.

A loanword is a word, taken from another language and modified in terms of grammatical and phonological form, spelling, or meaning in accordance with the norms of the English language. They are most prevalent in the fields of art, music, culinary,

fashion, science and journalism. Their relevance is supported not only by historical tradition, but also by the need for cultural enrichment and openness to global influences (Пономаренко, 2025). Borrowed words, when entering English, undergo a process of adaptation that ensures their effective functioning within the language. This adaptation occurs at the phonetic, grammatical, and lexical-semantic levels.

Phonetic adaptation covers the process of adjusting foreign words to the sound system of the English language. Since the phonetic systems of different languages may differ significantly, English speakers adapt the pronunciation of loanwords according to their own linguistic norms. This is reflected in the simplification of complex sound combinations or the replacement of sounds that do not exist in English. This process is expressed through assimilation.

According to this, loanwords can be divided into the following groups (Lőrincz, 2025):

1. Fully assimilated borrowings: *table, people, face, river, wall, street*.
2. Partially assimilated borrowings, which include: graphically and phonetically not fully assimilated borrowings: *café, protégé, technique, choir*; grammatically not fully assimilated borrowings: *analyses – analysis, datum – data, bacterium – bacteria*; semantically not fully assimilated borrowings: *kimono, borsh, sombrero, sushi*.
3. Barbarisms – words that have not been assimilated by speakers: *de facto, per se, a priori, alter ego, coup d'état*.

Grammatical adaptation also plays an important role in the adaptation of loanwords, because it ensures the integration of them into the morphological system of the English language. When entering a new linguistic system, words start to follow its grammatical rules. For example, nouns acquire typical for English plural forms: *pizzas, emojis, tacos*.

In the context of intercultural communications, borrowed words perform not only a linguistic, but also a cultural function. They represent specific concepts, ideas and features of particular cultures that often do not have direct equivalents in the English

language. Words such as *sushi*, *yoga*, *borshch* act as carriers of cultural heritage and contribute to mutual understanding in a multicultural environment. In some cases, the meaning of a borrowed word in English may differ from its original definition, becoming partially changed or generalized. This also contributes to the way different cultures are being represented in English, facilitates intercultural communications and accelerates the process of globalization.

Thus, adaptation of loanwords is not only a technical linguistic process, but also a complex cultural phenomenon. In the Ukrainian context, words such as *borshch*, *maidan*, *hryvnia* serve as a good example of this, as they have entered the English language to denote realities specific to Ukraine. Through such borrowings, elements of culture are transmitted at the global level, contributing to a better understanding of Ukraine in the world.

In conclusion, the adaptation of borrowed words is an important part of the functioning of the English language in a multicultural environment. It ensures effective communication among representatives of different cultures around the world, helps with a mutual understanding and makes English a flexible tool of global communication. As a result, English functions not only as a language of international relations, but also as a means of intercultural dialogue.

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