
STAGES OF ENGLISH INFLUENCE ON THE UZBEK LANGUAGE

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Abstract

The article examines the historical stages of English influence on the Uzbek language. The growing role of English in globalization, education, technology, business and digital communication has significantly affected the development of modern Uzbek vocabulary. The study analyzes the major stages of English influence, beginning with indirect borrowing through Russian during the Soviet period and continuing through educational reforms, digitalization, internationalization and contemporary language policy. The research demonstrates that English influence on Uzbek is a gradual and multifaceted process shaped by social, political and cultural factors.

Keywords: English influence, Uzbek language, lexical borrowing, globalization, language contact, digital communication, language policy, vocabulary development.

Introduction

Language contact is one of the most important sources of linguistic change. Throughout history, languages have interacted with one another through trade, migration, education and cultural exchange. Such interactions often result in lexical borrowing, which enriches vocabulary and enables languages to express new concepts and realities.

The influence of English on the Uzbek language represents a significant example of contemporary language contact. Unlike some linguistic changes that occur suddenly, English influence on Uzbek has developed gradually through several historical stages. Each stage reflects specific political, social and technological developments that increased contact between Uzbek speakers and the English-speaking world. This article aims to analyze the main stages of English influence on Uzbek and to explain the factors that contributed to the spread of English-based vocabulary.

Literature Review

The study of language contact and borrowing has attracted considerable attention from linguists. Weinreich (1953) emphasized that lexical borrowing is one of the most visible consequences of language contact. Haugen (1950) described borrowing as a process involving adaptation and integration into the recipient

language. Crystal (2003) highlighted the growing global influence of English and its impact on national languages.

Research on modern Uzbek linguistics indicates that English has become one of the most influential sources of new vocabulary in recent decades. Scholars note that globalization, educational reforms, digital technologies and international communication have accelerated the spread of English borrowings in Uzbek. These factors have created different stages of linguistic influence that continue to shape contemporary Uzbek vocabulary.

Stages of English Influence on Uzbek

The Indirect Stage during the Soviet Period

The first stage of English influence on Uzbek can be described as an indirect stage. During the Soviet era, Russian served as the primary language of administration, science and education. As a result, many international terms entered Uzbek through Russian rather than directly from English.

Although some borrowed words were originally English in origin, Uzbek speakers usually encountered them in Russian-adapted forms. This stage familiarized Uzbek speakers with international vocabulary and prepared the foundation for later direct English influence.

The Beginning of Direct Influence after Independence

The second stage began after Uzbekistan gained independence in 1991. Political and economic reforms increased international cooperation and strengthened connections with the global community. English gradually became more important as a language of education, diplomacy and international communication.

Unlike the Soviet period, English vocabulary started entering Uzbek through direct contact with English-language materials, foreign organizations and international educational programs. This marked the beginning of direct English influence on Uzbek vocabulary.

Educational Modernization and Internationalization

The third stage was characterized by educational reforms and increasing internationalization. The expansion of foreign language education significantly increased the visibility of English in Uzbek society.

Terms such as grant, kredit, modul, test, and prezentatsiya became common in educational discourse. English gained prestige as a language associated with academic achievement, professional development and international opportunities. As a result, English vocabulary spread beyond classrooms into broader social communication.

Digitalization and Internet Communication

The fourth stage is closely connected with digitalization and the rapid development of internet technologies. Social media platforms and online communication created new channels for English influence.

Words such as sayt, fayl, blog, post, kontent, chat, and platforma became widely used. Social networks accelerated the spread of English-based vocabulary, especially among younger speakers. Expressions like layk bosmoq, trendga chiqmoq and kontent yaratmoq illustrate how English words combine with Uzbek grammatical structures.

Business and Economic Development

The fifth stage emerged through economic reforms and international business cooperation. As Uzbekistan expanded its participation in the global economy, English business terminology became increasingly visible.

Words such as marketing, menejer, investor, biznes, and startup entered everyday professional communication. These terms reflect the growing role of entrepreneurship, innovation and international economic relations in modern Uzbek society.

Institutional Support and Language Policy

The sixth stage is associated with stronger governmental support for foreign language education. Educational reforms and language policies promoted the study of English throughout the country.

Particularly important was the adoption of policies aimed at improving foreign language instruction and increasing access to international educational resources. As English education expanded, English terminology became more familiar in schools, universities and workplaces.

Mass Media and Popular Culture

The seventh stage is linked to the influence of mass media and popular culture. Television programs, online platforms, entertainment industries and social media contributed to the spread of English vocabulary.

Words such as fashion, challenge, casting, and trend became popular among young people. Frequent exposure through media helped these words move from specialized communities into general public usage.

Morphological and Semantic Integration

The eighth stage involves the deeper integration of English borrowings into the Uzbek linguistic system. Borrowed words begin to accept Uzbek suffixes and participate in Uzbek grammatical patterns.

Examples such as onlaynlashtirish, blogerlar and internetda demonstrate morphological adaptation. At the same time, some borrowings undergo semantic changes. For instance, kontent in Uzbek is often associated specifically with digital media, while the English word content has a broader meaning.

Normalization and Selective Use

The final stage can be described as normalization and selective acceptance. Society gradually determines which English borrowings are necessary and which can be replaced by Uzbek equivalents.

Many English-origin terms become stable because they name concepts that previously had no equivalent in Uzbek. At the same time, linguists emphasize the importance of preserving linguistic identity and avoiding unnecessary borrowing when effective Uzbek alternatives exist.

Conclusion

The influence of English on the Uzbek language has developed through several interconnected historical stages. Beginning with indirect borrowing during the Soviet period, English influence expanded through independence, educational reforms, digitalization, economic development and globalization. Today, English continues to shape modern Uzbek vocabulary while adapting to Uzbek phonological, grammatical and semantic norms.

The study demonstrates that English influence is not a sudden phenomenon but a gradual process reflecting broader social and cultural transformations. Understanding these stages contributes to a better understanding of language change and the development of modern Uzbek vocabulary.

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