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THE INFLUENCE OF ENGLISH ON CHINESE IN THE MODERN REALITIES

The influence of English on Chinese in the modern realities is considered in the article. The connection between two languages is traced and proved that the influence of English on Chinese would only increase for many reasons. On the one hand, to speak English is considered to be one of the key abilities in the modern Chinese society. On the other hand, there is an even more important reason which affects personal interests because a lot of companies in China require knowledge of the English language. The third urgent factor is the «Europeanization» of modern Chinese youth, caused by the penetration of European and American cultures through the Internet and the media.

Keywords: *English, Chinese, phonetic borrowings, semantic borrowings, phonetic-semantic borrowings, abbreviations.*

Today the world is in the process of constant development. This is all happening because from year to year new discoveries are made in the field of technology, medicine, art, etc. Relations between states and the situation in the world as a whole are also constantly changing. Various events are taking place in different regions and countries.

Changes are also taking place in almost every language in the world. There is a

need to designate in speech certain things, events or phenomena that appeared as a result of these processes. As far as we can see, in the context of globalization, English has become the language of international communication and is increasingly influencing other languages of the world.

The Chinese language is no exception. Why? And the answer is this. It is also undergoing changes associated with the influence of English on it. Some words and expressions become obsolete and go out of use, and some are new, the so-called neologisms, which in turn are formed by various ways of word formation, one of which is borrowing.

Thus, in the course of this article, we will consider the problem of borrowings in Chinese in the context of the increasing influence of the English language as a global language of international communication. This will expand knowledge in the field of word formation and etymology of words, which in the future may facilitate the work with translation to a certain extent, as well as deepen general knowledge about the language.

English today has become something without which we cannot imagine our life. Nowadays, we are increasingly confronted with it, even in everyday life, due to the dynamic process of globalization [1].

Considering the English language in a more global sense, the well-known scientists Kachru and Nelson divided all variants of the use of the English language into three concentric circles [2].

The inner circle is considered to be the so-called «English world». It includes such countries as Great Britain, Ireland, former British colonies that later became the first US states, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Canada, as well as various islands in the Caribbean, Indian and Pacific Oceans.

The outer circle consists of those countries where English is spoken has official or historical («special») significance. It consists of the member countries of the Commonwealth of Nations (which largely formed the British Empire), including such densely populated countries as India, Pakistan; as well as others such as the Philippines, influenced by English-speaking countries. Here is higher education, legislative and

judicial power, internal trade, etc. may be carried out primarily in English.

The expanding circle comprises those countries where English doesn't play any official role, but nevertheless it performs important functions, in particular, in the conduct of international business. By the 21st century, the number of non-native English speakers far outnumbered the latter.

At the moment, English has been transformed into the language of the global Internet, the global economy, business, politics, the education system, etc. Society is increasingly subject to the process of globalization, and as a result, we are faced with the increasing role of the English language as the only means of international communication.

Today English is taught in every school and university in every country. More and more people are beginning to speak English because their work is in one way or another connected with affairs abroad or with foreigners within the country. Even English slang, such as «cockney», is quite famous all over the world due to its popularization in the media. China and its people are no exception. However, the problem is that for some reason it is very difficult for them to learn English at a high level. We may even discover a special kind of «peculiar» English, «Chinglish», which is found nowhere else but China [3]. Li [4] cites the example of Huang Yui, chairman of the International Federation of Translators, who noted that words such as, for example, «ok», «bye», «cute», «modern» and «guitar» seeping into everyday Chinese can have a detrimental effect on the identity of the Chinese language and also break its «linguistic harmony». Yui said, «If we don't pay enough attention to this issue and don't take action to stop the mixing of Chinese and English, Chinese will no longer be a pure language in a couple of years». Huang, being head of the China International Publishing Group, one of China's largest publishing houses, who visited a university in the US, fears that the increase in the flow of English words and phrases into the Chinese language could pose a threat to his future. As soon as China embarked on a policy of reform and opening up, it began to absorb European culture and language with all its might. The number of popular Western brands is increasing, English-language television is widespread, and a huge number of students want to learn

English.

Good knowledge of English for Chinese youth becomes an important condition for a successful career and entry into the global community, just as China itself is expanding its activities and influence in all areas around the world.

According to a study conducted among readers of a Chinese newspaper, 90% of all respondents noted that China is indeed gripped by the «fever» of learning English. Half of them believe that the ability to speak English is one of the key skills in modern Chinese society, one reason is that China has been opening up to the outside world over the past decades. People wanted to know what was happening outside of China (especially in Europe and America). The second, even more important reason, which is personal, is that many companies in China now require knowledge of the English language. In fact, based on the data of this study, 70% of people use English at work, 80% believe that knowledge of English can provide them with a better job or boost their career growth [5]. The main purpose of the article is to trace the influence of English on Chinese in the modern realities.

There is not a single language in the world without borrowings from other languages. Moreover, in some languages, the share of borrowed vocabulary can make up a large part of the total number of words. For example, in English, about 70% of words are either borrowed or derived from French. Only 30% are counted to be native ones. Native words are subdivided into two groups, namely, Indo-European and Common Germanic. To this layer belong words denoting kinship (father, mother, etc.); important objects and phenomena of nature (the sun, the moon, etc.); names of animals and birds (cat, wolf, etc.), names of parts of a human body (heart), some numerals (one, two, three, etc.).

It can be said with great assurance that the largest group of borrowings are French ones. Most of them came into English during the Norman conquest. French influenced not only the vocabulary of English but also its spelling, because documents were written by French scribes as the local population was mainly illiterate, and the ruling class was French. Runic letters, remaining in English after the Latin alphabet was borrowed, were substituted by Latin letters and combinations of them. There are

the following semantic groups of French borrowings. E. g. words relating to government (administer, state, empire, government, etc.); to military affairs (army, war, banner, soldier, battle, etc.); to jurisprudence (advocate, petition, sentence, etc.); to fashion (coat, collar, lace, pleat, etc.); to jewelry (topaz, emerald, pearl, etc.); to food and cooking (lunch, dinner, restaurant, champagne, appetite, to roast, to stew, etc.).

Borrowing is a process, as a result of which some foreign language element appears and is fixed in the language (primarily a word or a full-valued morpheme). Borrowed vocabulary reflects the facts of ethnic contacts, social, economic and cultural ties between language communities [6].

Borrowing is a process that is also inherent in the Chinese language, and therefore deserves consideration and study. The Chinese language belongs to the languages of the isolating type, its structure is built in such a way that the penetration of foreign vocabulary is to a certain extent difficult. This is also caused by the peculiarities of Chinese character writing. It is also worth considering the fact that in the past, China was closed for a long time and was isolated from the outside world. But nevertheless, and despite the fact that Chinese and English are absolutely opposite, in modern Chinese there is still a certain layer of borrowed vocabulary from English.

Borrowing (外来) is an element of a foreign language (word, morpheme, syntactic constructions, etc.) that has moved from one language to another due to linguistic contacts, as well as due to the process of transition of elements from one language to another. When a word enters the language of another nation when borrowing a new object or concept, on the one hand, the meaning of the word does not change. The types of borrowing that interest us are borrowings from the English language that appear in Chinese in various ways. These are phonetic, semantic, phonetic-semantic borrowings and alphabetic abbreviations. Phonetic borrowings (音) reproduce the external sound shell of foreign words, i.e., in other words, convey their sound. Moreover, the degree of phonetic adaptation can be different (complete, incomplete or partial). Here are the examples of phonetic borrowings from English words [7]:

pudding – 布丁(buding);

pizza – 彼 (biza);

chocolate – 巧克力 (qiǎokèlì);

lemon – 檬 (ningmeng);

brandy – 勃地 (bó lán dì);

vazelin – 凡士林 (fán shì lín);

ohm – 欧姆 (ōu mǔ);

radar – 雷 (léi dá);

SONAR – 声 (shēng nà);

OPEC (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries) – 欧佩克 (ōu pèi kè).

It should also be noted that type of phonetic borrowings, when hieroglyphs are not only, so to speak, a phonetic transcription of a foreign word, but also at the same time retain its semantic meaning. That is, the semantic component, as it were, is superimposed on the sound form of the word. However, there are relatively few words of this type in Chinese. For example: 绷带 (bēngdài) – (Eng. bandage) (绷 bēng «tighten», + 带 dài «tape», «strip»).

Semantic borrowings («calque») are a designation of the meanings of foreign words in Chinese characters or, simply put, are a translation into Chinese. That is, they seem to copy the meaning and convey it through hieroglyphs. Hence the name «calque». What distinguishes semantic borrowings from phonetic borrowings, it is that in their sound and graphic form they are not different from the Chinese traditional vocabulary due to the fact that they are built from Chinese lexical units and according to Chinese word composition rules. They freely come into use and function easily in speech. Examples of semantic borrowings are here [7]:

马力 mǎlì (马 mǎ «horse» + 力 lì «power») – horsepower;

动产 dòngchǎn (动 dòng «to move» + 产 chǎn «property») – movable property;

生产力 shèngchánlì (生产 shèngchán «to produce» + 力 lì «force») – productive forces.

In addition to phonetic and semantic borrowings in modern Chinese there are also mixed formations. These are called phonetic-semantic borrowings which are characterized by two main types of foreign borrowings. In these formations, one of the components is a semantically important lexical element, and the other more or less conveys the sound of the borrowed word. For example,

威士忌酒 wēishìjǐjiǔ (威士忌 wēishìjǐ – phonorecord + 酒 jiǔ «wine») – whiskey;

保龄球 bǎolíngqiú (保龄 bǎolíng – phonorecord + 球 qiú «to play») – bowling.

The next method of borrowing mainly uses the letters of the Latin alphabet. As a rule, these are words or names from the English language or from Chinese phonetic writing which is called «pinyin». These are often abbreviations.

In China, among the modern young generation, it is quite common to find abbreviations in speech, and sometimes individual words in a foreign language (mainly in English). Today it can even be considered «fashionable» to use English words in speech simply to diversify the vocabulary or to demonstrate one's erudition. The reason for this, most likely, is the «Europeanization» of modern Chinese youth, caused by the penetration of European and American cultures through the Internet and the media. An example of this phenomenon is the abbreviations of ordinary everyday phrases used for quick and convenient typing of SMS messages, as well as messages in Internet chats and social networks. For example, today you can often find the following abbreviated versions of English expressions. For example,

BB – Bye Bye;

CU – See You;

IC – I see;

URQ – You are cool;

RUThere – Are You there?

Among such abbreviated expressions, there are also graphic abbreviations that have numbers in their composition, which replace a certain word, but at the same time perform the same sound function. For example,

F2F (Face to Face) – «face to face», «tete-a-tete». In English the number 2 (two) is consonant with the particle «to», and therefore the number replaces the word (for convenience and speed of typing).

L8R (later) – «later». This variant is similar to the previous one. Only in this case the number 8 (eight) replaces three letters that form the consonant syllable «ate».

It is also worth paying attention to the abbreviations of Chinese words.

GG (哥哥 gēge) – «elder brother»; JJ (姐姐 jiějie) – «elder sister»; MM (美美 měimei) – «pretty», «handsome».

In modern Chinese there is also a variety of loanwords, consisting of letters of the Latin alphabet and Chinese characters. E.g. IP 电话 (IP diànhuà) – «Internet telephony».

English abbreviations can often be found in official or business contexts.

WTO – World Trade Organization;

IFM – International Monetary Fund;

NBA – National Basketball Association;

APEC – Asia Pacific Economical Cooperation.

In conclusion, we can say that this article contains a brief overview of borrowed English words and expressions, as well as ways to translate them correctly, without knowledge of which the translator may encounter certain problems when working with translation. Considering the fact that Chinese speakers, especially in specific social and professional groups, often prefer the use of words of English origin due to the fact that they are more accurate and economical, the need to know borrowings from other languages is only increasing. As for modern Chinese youth, this phenomenon can also be considered as a «kind of fashion».

In general we observe a significant influence of English language into modern Chinese. With China's current policy of integrating into the world economy, this influence of English on Chinese can only be expected to increase. Accordingly, when

teaching Chinese, it is necessary to pay attention to authentic discourse and the influence of the English language in modern conditions.

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