

Morphological Descriptive Study of Borrowings In Iraqi Undergraduate Students

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ABSTRACT

Most languages tend to borrow a new concept or word from other languages for different reasons. These new words are adapted in a way to resemble the native words in form, phonemes, spells, and even within the morphemes. They are treated as native words. Even though, native speakers of these languages are not aware of the fact that these are foreign words, not their native words. These words are merged in their native language to be part of it. The Iraqi dialect is full of these types of words (borrowed and loan words) which need further investigation. To obtain the aim of this study, a qualitative research strategy (observation technique) has been used to collect the data and then underline reasons and opinions for further knowledge of this phenomenon. Then, inter-rater reliability was used to maintain data reliability in observation procedures by comparing the agreement in three observational patterns or intervals of time. Each observational pattern or interval had lasted for three months. Followed by using (CVR) Lawshe's Method to obtain the validity of the population data. To demonstrate a crucial result that the Arabic language is a mixed language that tends to show aspects of morphological borrowings.

Keywords: Observational Method, Morphological Borrowings, Borrowed and Loan words, Root Morphemes, Derivational Morphemes, Inflectional Morphemes.

1. Research Background

Borrowings have historically occupied a crucial role in traditional linguistics, as they have been viewed as one of the main causes of language change, besides the sound analogy and sound change. Although linguistics borrowings have gained a particular interest, morphological borrowings have generally involved less attention in linguistic researches (Jaafar, Dzakiria, & Singh, 2021, pp. 1-23). Linguistic investigation at that time claimed that borrowing of inflectional morphemes was undesirable. Recently, the interest has been shifted to morphological borrowings and their roles in language transfer and language change through history. Even

though, recent studies claim that there is no pure language. All languages are mixed in a way or another and influence each other (Amiridze, Arkadiev, & Gardani, 2017, pp. 1–3).

Linguistically, Morphology is the study of words, how they are shaped, and their relationships to alternative words within the same language. It analyses the structure of the word and parts of the given word like root morphemes, derivational morphemes, and inflectional morphemes. It also looks to intonation, parts of speech, word stress, and the meaning and pronunciation of the words that can be changed by the context. It completely differs from lexicology, which is the study of word formation and how they form vocabularies within a language, and morphological typology, which is the hierarchical classification of languages based on words utilized. Morphemes are the smallest meaningful units in the language. They differ from words in which they cannot stand alone by themselves since they are not identical to words. When morphemes could stand by themselves, they called root because they own meaning by themselves (like the morpheme bat). Derivational Morphemes, on the other hand, do not own meaning in themselves, but they change the grammatical category of the given words like -er, -ion, etc. while, Inflectional Morphemes do not change the grammatical category of the words like -ed, -s, etc., (Greavu, 2017; Roberge & Durkin, 2011).

Dalton-Puffer (1996, pp. 1–3) stated that unlimited scholarly attention has been paid over the last decades to sound changes and sound developments. He claimed that the significance of lexical borrowings studies has been diminished while the studies of morphology borrowings have moved to prominence. Adding that derivational morphology has always occupied a precarious in-between situation, a type of Cinderella status as it was. For those who were interested in the borrowings of morphology and lexicon, derivational morphology has the ‘in-between’ position that is related to both. Mangrio (2016, pp. 2–3) on the other hand illustrated that whenever a language borrowed words from other communicative languages, they borrowed the affixation too, whether derivational or inflectional, to be part of their native patterns. Giving an example of Urdu (an Indic language closely related to Hindi but written in the Persian script and having many borrowed words from Persian and Arabic) used some Arabic and Persian borrowed derivations as their native patterns with or without any morphological modifications. Mangrio (2016) claimed that even though the receptor or target language (Urdu) used some derivational morphemes from the source languages (Persian or Arabic), there was no need to borrow the whole words but just some borrowed morphemes. In other words, Urdu used Arabic and Persian borrowed morphemes as its native affixations. For example, the word ‘alilmi’ which means ‘unawareness’ is broken into three morphemes; the Arabic prefix ‘la’ which means ‘un’, the Arabic stem ‘ilm’ which means (knowledge/ awareness), and the native Urdu suffix ‘i’ which use to convert the noun ‘lailm’ into adjective ‘lailmi’.

Although linguists showed a great deal of interest in studying contact-induced grammatical modifications, the borrowings of morphological patterns and formatives have been deliberated as a rather infrequent phenomenon. Gardani (2018, pp. 1-2) clarified that Morphological borrowings have been raised from very limited data information, therefore constructing relatively intuitive generalizations like the inflectional morphemes are more resistant to borrow than the derivational morphemes. Claiming that languages do not have an accurate idea of the universal range of this phenomenon once morphological borrowing is essentially an uninvestigated topic. Recently, linguists tried to overcome this limited data information by ever-growing investigations on comprehensive grammar and adequate empirical studies to reach this objective or goal.

Saade (2020, pp. 1-4) demonstrated that any language could be a mixed-language of two or three or four other languages especially in form of inflectional and derivational borrowings. The Maltese language is a good example of this phenomenon when Maltese derivational affixes are borrowed from Italian/Sicilian besides Arabic and English derivational morphemes. This type of morphological borrowing could be a direct or indirect form. The direct form of morphological borrowing in the Maltese language could be a hybrid formation or even a hybrid neologism as a stronger indicator of integration than a new formation with an Italian basis. While an indirect form of morphological borrowing is applied on Arabic roots mixed with Italian derivations. Saade (2020, pp. 6) argued that “some affixes show preferences for certain non-Italian etymological strata: {-aġġ} only applies to Arabic Maltese bases, while {-bbli} and {-zzjoni} apply only to English bases (except proper names). The affixes {-tur} and {-tura} are most variable and apply to English as well as Arabic Maltese bases. For two affixes, {-nza} and {-i(e)tà}, no hybrid formation was found in the corpus”. Salimovna (2020, pp. 1) stated that “some French words penetrated the English language as a result of cultural and economic ties between the English and French peoples. During the Middle English period, English borrowed over 10,000 French words. About 75% of these words have survived in the vocabulary of modern English”. He insisted on the idea of economic and cultural ties on the borrowing morphology.

However, the current study “Morphological Descriptive Study of Borrowings between English and Arabic Language” differentiates between two forms of morphological borrowing, the morphological borrowing of loan words and those of borrowed words depended on Sapir (1921) scale of Borrowed Words and Haugen (1950) scale of Loan words. Thus, American German linguist Sapir (1921) defined borrowed words as “The necessities of the linguistic interferences bring the speakers of one language to direct or indirect borrowed words from those of neighboring or culturally dominant languages”. So, borrowed words represent the source language (English). While the American Norwegian linguist Haugen (1950) defined loan words as “a word that is transferred from a donor language to a recipient language”. In other words, loan words represent a receptor or target language (Arabic). The reason behind this classification in this study is the fact that loan words (according to Haugen) are Arabic words that need to modify to follow the English linguistic system adding inflectional and derivational morphemes to them. Whereas, borrowed words are foreign words that need to modify to follow the Arabic linguistic system by adding inflectional and derivational morphemes to them.

2. Research Gaps

This study is unique and different from other studies in these points: -

1- A plethora of previous studies like Durkin (2020), Gardani (2020), Greavu (2014), Andersen & Graedler (2020), Koliopoulou (2020), Salimovna (2020), and Chen, Irwin & Xing (2020) stated that English, French, Romanian, Norwegian, German, and Chinese are mixed languages. This study comes to ensure that the Arabic language is in turn mixed like these languages mentioned before.

2- There are a few studies on the morphology borrowings between two contact-induced languages (English and Arabic). So, this study comes up to cover this gap by providing good feedback on this field.

3. Research Objectives

The objective of this study surrounds two main aims:

1- Provide that there are no completely unmixed languages and that morphological borrowings exist in the Arabic Language.

2- Then, present a full descriptive study about the morphology borrowings between two contact-induced languages (English and Arabic). Describing which one of the three morphemes (Root morpheme, derivational morpheme, inflectional morpheme) is common and mostly used in the borrowings of the English Language and the Arabic language.

4. Research procedures (methodology)

Trochim et.al. (2015) stated that in any descriptive study the best technique to be used is the observational techniques especially in studying a certain unique population. They add that this technique is, even more, stronger than a hypothesis, because in a hypothesis we assume an issue or problem we expect to observe. While in observational technique does not need to put an assumption to discover at the end of the study it is right or not. It goes directly to the environment, observes the issue. and gives the results. Torchim et.al. (2015) established a rule in descriptive research approaches that, the observational technique is so strong invalidity than other techniques. Its validity strength is measured by the time spent observing the environment. Whenever the time spent by more than three months, ex: a year and above, has a strong validity because the population being observed will repeat the same words and could be tested or observed more than once. Moreover, the findings of observational research are considered strong or valid theoretically and practically.

However, the observational technique is used to draw inferences between the sample and the population when the variables are not under the control of the researcher due to logistical constraints or ethical concerns. But it proves a general view of the variables under investigation besides it gives important information about some points that the researcher may miss unconsciously (Rosenbaum, 2017). Observation, as the name denotes, is a way or method of collecting data through watching. The process of collecting observational information is delegated as a participating study because the observer needs to inundate his/herself in the setting where the respondents are while taking notes or/and recording (Omona, 2013).

4.1 Research Location of Observation Method

A research Location (research site) is a place where people conduct their search. The most popular research sites comprise universities, clinics, hospitals, field research sites, and research institutes. Furthermore, researchers in observational methods should have the same cultural background for better incomes. Those who do not have cultural connections with the research community may have some difficulties in conducting ethnographic research with this community (Mudambi, Narula, & Santangelo, 2018).

The research site of the observational techniques is in the middle of Iraq, Diyala Governorate, Al-Yarmouk University College (Diyala). The participants speak the Arabic language as their first or native language.

4.2 Sampling of the Observational Method

The sample of the qualitative research approach (Observation Method) was determined by the use of convenience sampling. It is a sampling technique that qualitative researchers use to recruit participants who are easily accessible and convenient in the observational research study. Often this may include the use of geographic sites and resources that make the recruitment of participants appropriate. An example of this is the observer who wanted to examine volunteers of the policy adjustment and decided to use a university within the area where he/she works to recruit volunteers. Another example conceivably tackled is a professional observer who is an associate to a professional institute or organization and wants to enroll or recruit volunteers within that institute or organization (Etikan, I., Musa, S. A., & Alkassim, 2016).

However, convenience sampling was used in the present study “Morphological Descriptive Study of Borrowings between English and Arabic Language”. The English borrowed and Arabic loan words were observed in the students’ speech of different ages and wrote them down in notes for further analysis.

In other words, convenience sampling is for Iraqi undergraduate students at Al-Yarmouk University College, Diyala Governorate, Iraq. This professional organization (Al-Yarmouk University College) is where the first researcher works as a member. So, it is convenient to recruit volunteers through the contact information available to the members of this College.

4.3 Data and Source of Data of Observation Method

The data and source of data were collected from a complete observation method to Arabic native undergraduate students at Al-Yarmouk University College, Diyala Governorate, Iraq. The Complete observation method is the best way to observe the environment without interfering or directing the population. So, the contact information obtained from this method would be in a high level of validity due to the participants were not aware they are under observation and behave freely, not in a way they think they should do.

The data collected by this method is subdivided into two types of borrowings (Borrowed and Loan words) based on the following classifications:

1. English Borrowed Words based on the linguist Sapir's (1921) Classification of Borrowed Words. An American German linguist Sapir (1921) defined borrowed words as “The necessities of the linguistic interferences bring the speakers of one language to direct or indirect borrowed words from those of neighboring or culturally dominant languages”.
2. Arabic Loan Words based on the linguist Haugen's (1950) Classification of Loan words. An American Norwegian linguist Haugen (1950) defined loan words as “a word that is transferred from a donor language to a recipient language”.

4.4 Data Validity and Reliability of Observation Method

Data validity refers to whether a study measures or observes what is supposed to measure or observe. Torchim et.al. (2015) stated that a complete observation is the best way to observe the environment without interfering or directing the population to obtain validity. Since the observation methods are said to lack validity when the participants are aware they are under observation. Therefore, complete observation is used to overcome this issue.

Data reliability refers to the consistency of the measuring device in the observational method. The observational measurement maintains similar results in similar circumstances. DeMonbrun et al (2015) stated that the common way of assessing the reliability of the observation technique

is by comparing the rating of two or more observation agreements over time or with observers. Therefore, inter-rater reliability was used to maintain data reliability in observation procedures by comparing the agreement in three patterns or intervals of time. Strictly speaking, three patterns of time are used in this method. Each pattern or interval has lasted for three months as the following:

1- Time Interval 1

In this interval, the observation method has lasted for (3) Months which was (March, April, and May) in 2019. The researcher observed (722) borrowed and loan words in the time interval (1), subdivided into (661) borrowed words, and (61) loan words.

2- Time Interval 2

In this interval, the observation method has lasted for (3) Months which was (October, November, December) in 2019. The researcher observed (741) borrowed and loan words in the time interval (2), subdivided into (680) borrowed words, and (61) loan words.

3- Time Interval 3

In this interval, the observation method has lasted for (3) Months which was (October, November, December) in 2020. The researcher observed (780) borrowed and loan words in the time interval (1), subdivided into (719) borrowed words, and (61) loan words, see the following figure:

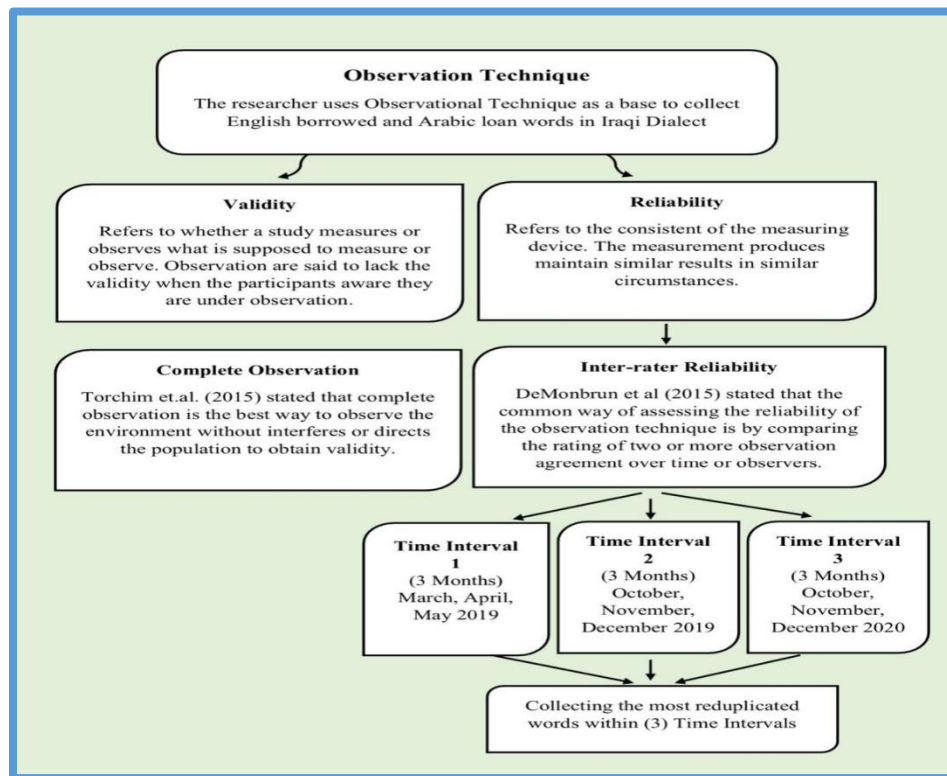


Figure (1)Observational Technique Outline

5. Validity of Data Analysis

The community under investigation, Arabic undergraduate students in Iraq, is closed (a closed community intentionally limits the links with outsiders, outside communities, and has an ethnic, religious, or political nature). So, any kind of visual or audio documents seems to be impossible due to the community's cultural nature. Thus, written documents were the only method used in data documentation. After collecting the data, the validity of data analysis was the next step to be used as an alternative to the visual or audio documents. The data of the participants were revised and checked by three professional panelists in applied linguistics (one professor and two associate professors) who have work experiences from (25-40) years and have Arabic backgrounds as their native language.

However, (CVR) Lawshe's Method was used to obtain the validity of the population data. This method is based on the question: Are the population data measured by the observational method of the current study **1)** corresponding, **2)** somehow corresponding, or **3)** not corresponding to the pronunciation of Iraqi undergraduate students? The panelists answered this question and gave their value according to Lawshe's scale of 'corresponding, somehow corresponding, or not corresponding'. The three panelists stated that the population data measured by this observational method are corresponding to the performance of Iraqi undergraduates' pronunciation, while the scale 'somehow corresponding', and 'not corresponding' get zero value. The following Lawshe's formula was used to obtain the population data validity ratio:

$$CVR = \frac{ne - \frac{N}{2}}{\frac{N}{2}}$$

where (CVR) is a symbolism to the population data validity ratio, (ne) is a symbolism to the number of panelists who responded 'corresponding', and finally (N) is the total number of the counseled panelists. The panelists' responses were applied to this formula:

$$CVR = \frac{3 - \frac{3}{2}}{\frac{3}{2}}$$

$$CVR = 1$$

In the interpretation of the CVR result, according to Lawshe's Method, the CVR can value between (-1) to (+1). The closer value to the positive (+1), the more essential CVR could be. The closer value to the negative (-1), the more not essential CVR it is. In this pilot CVR, the number of panelists who responded 'the population data are corresponding to the performance of Iraqi undergraduate pronunciation' is (3), all the panelists responded 'corresponding, and (0) no one of the panelists responded 'somehow corresponding', and 'not corresponding'. So, the result of CVR is (1) which has a very high ratio of the population data validity according to Lawshe's Method.

5. Finding of The Study

Arabic Native speakers in Iraq used to borrow and loan words from/to the English language with morphological borrowing of root, derivational, or inflectional morphemes. Making a variety in the types of borrowings used within the Iraqi dialect. However, the statistical analysis of table (1)

illustrates ‘Morphological Descriptive Study of Borrowings between English and Arabic Language’ which can be far explained in the following table:

Table(1)Morphological Borrowings FormsBetween English and Arabic Language

Morphemes	710 words			
	Borrowed 649 words	N.%	Loan 61 words	N.%
Root	577	81.27 %	57	8.03 %
Derivational Morphemes	68	9.58 %	4	0.56 %
Inflectional Morphemes	4	0.56 %	∅	∅

The data collected, from the Iraqi/Arabic community by using the observational technique, demonstrates 710 borrowed and loan words. Dividing between (649) borrowed words and (61) loan words. The overall percentages show that 81% of the borrowing words come in the form of root morphemes, while 9 % in form of derivational morphemes hit a low percentage in inflectional morphemes about 1%. Meanwhile, loan words illustrate 8% in the form of root morphemes, and about 1% in the form of derivational morphemes to show no value in inflectional morphemes. In details, borrowed words - words that are borrowed from the English Language into the Arabic Language - formed the biggest number of borrowings (649 words), see the following figure:

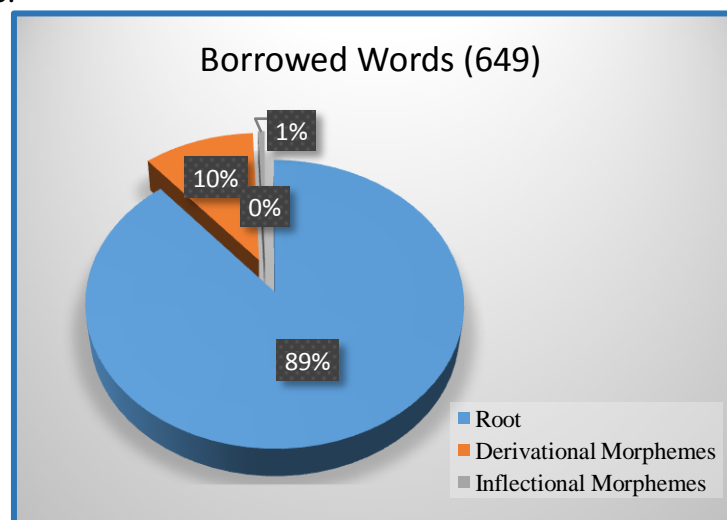


Figure (2) Borrowed Words Proportions

Figure (1) shows that 89% of the borrowed words that the Arabic language borrowed from English are in the form of the root. Arabic speakers tend to borrow words and use them in the form of root morpheme. Derivational morphemes are taking the proportion of 10% while inflectional morpheme 1% only. Loan words, on the other hand, show another portion, see the following figure:

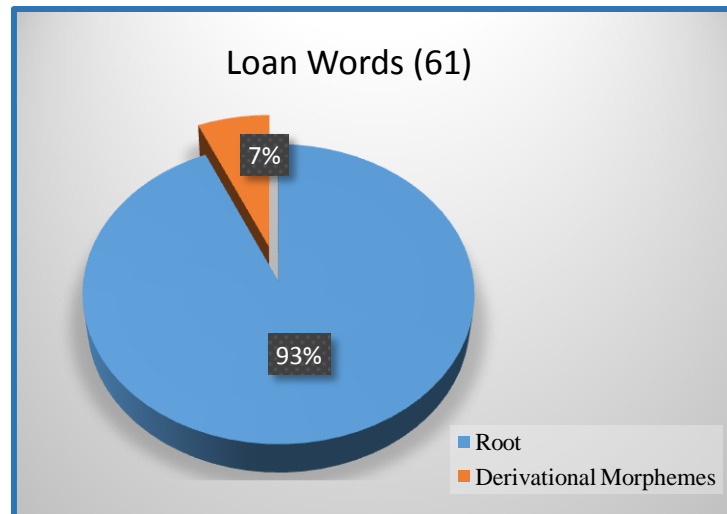


Figure (3) Loan Words Proportions

Figure (2) shows that 93% of the loan words that the Arabic language loans to the English language are in the form of the root. English speakers tend to loan words and use them in the form of root morphemes. Derivational morphemes are taking the proportion of 7% while inflectional morpheme shows no value at all. However, from the above mentioned, we formed up a result that whenever a language borrows from other languages, they simply tend to borrow in the form of root morphemes.

6. Discussion

The main differences, however, between borrowed and loan words lie in the subtle meaning of the two synonyms. Sapir's (1921) and Haugen's (1950) scales were followed in this study. Loan words represent native words that need to modify to follow the English linguistic system by adding inflectional and derivational morphemes. Whereas, borrowed words are foreign words that need to modify to follow the Arabic linguistic system by adding inflectional and derivational morphemes. Thus, for better discussion, analyzing the results is divided into two parts as the following:

6.1 Loan Words

Before we start to differentiate between the two synonyms, we should decide what is language to start from. In other words, deciding what is the native language and the foreign language under investigation. Because what is understood to be borrowed in a language could be loaned in another. For example, the word 'cotton' is a loan from Arabic (Arabic gives this word to English). While the same word could be treated as a borrowed word from English concepts 'borrowed from Arabic'. However, in this study, loan words mean the Arabic Native words that are given to the English language. So, loan words will follow the English linguistic system, e.g:

1- Alcoholic

Contains the Arabic noun 'alcohol' followed with the English derivational morpheme '-ic' to change the grammatical category from noun in 'alcohol' to adjective in 'alcoholic'.

2- Arab

This loan word changes the subtle meaning of the word from native regions of people to mean one person of Arab region by adding the English derivational morpheme ‘-ian’. While the English derivational morpheme ‘ic’ will change the subtle meaning of the loan word to a Semitic language.

3- Alphabetical

Contains the Arabic noun ‘alphabet’ followed by the English derivational morpheme ‘-ical’.

4- Hieroglyph

Contains the Arabic noun ‘Hieroglyph’ followed with the English derivational morpheme ‘-ic’.

5- Other loan words like (balsam, camel, canon, carat, cipher, coffin, crimson, delta, elixir, emir, gazelle, ghoull, giraffe, haboob, harsh, henna, hummus, jerboa, mummy, nadir, noble, safari, saffron, sandal, sash, Satan, sesame, shatter, sheriff, and other loan words) are kept their Arabic linguistic system because they are resembling English linguistic system. Besides all these loan words are nouns. So, there is no need for morphological borrowing adaptations.

6.2 Borrowed Words

Morphological borrowing adaptations are used when the Arabic language borrows from English. Some borrowed words are kept in the same original morphology. Other English borrowed words are modified to follow the morphological system of the receptor language (Arabic Language), e.g:

1- Action

Contain the English stem ‘act’ and the English derivational morpheme ‘-tion’.

2- Afriqi (African)

The borrowed word contains the English stem ‘Africa’ and the English derivational morpheme ‘-n’. but when Arabic borrowed this word, the English derivational morpheme ‘-n’ is shifted to ‘-i’ with a slight phonological adaptation to resemble the Arabic linguistic system.

3- Ameriqi (American)

The borrowed word contains the English stem ‘America’ and the English derivational morpheme ‘-n’. but when Arabic borrowed this word, the English derivational morpheme ‘-n’ is shifted to ‘-i’ with a slight phonological adaptation to resemble the Arabic linguistic system.

4- Aristoqrati (Aristocratic)

The borrowed word contains the English stem ‘Aristocrat’ and the English derivational morpheme ‘-ic’. but when Arabic borrowed this word, the English derivational morpheme ‘-ic’ is shifted to ‘-i’ with a slight phonological adaptation to resemble the Arabic linguistic system.

5- Bacteria (Bacterial)

The borrowed word contains the English stem ‘Bacteria’ and the English derivational morpheme ‘-al’. but when Arabic borrowed this word, the English derivational morpheme ‘-al’ is shifted to ‘-ya’ with a slight phonological adaptation to resemble the Arabic linguistic system.

6- Basement

This borrowed word contains the English stem ‘Base’ and the English derivational morpheme ‘-ment’. Arabic borrowed this word with its original morphological borrowing without modification.

7- Citation

This borrowed word contains the English stem 'Cite' and the English derivational morpheme '-tion'. Arabic borrowed this word with its original morphological borrowing without modification.

8- Collection

This borrowed word contains the English stem 'Collect' and the English derivational morpheme '-tion'. Arabic borrowed this word with its original morphological borrowing without modification.

9- Electroniyaat (Electronics)

This borrowed word contains the English stem 'Electron' and the English derivational morpheme '-ic' and English inflectional morpheme '-s'. Arabic borrowed this word with its original morphological borrowing without modification. but when Arabic borrowed this word, English derivational and inflectional morphemes '-ic' and '-s' are shifted to '-yaat' with a slight phonological adaptation to resemble the Arabic linguistic system.

10- Location

This borrowed word contains the English stem 'locate' and the English derivational morpheme '-tion'. Arabic borrowed this word with its original morphological borrowing without modification.

11- Looti (looter)

The borrowed word contains the English stem 'loot' and the English derivational morpheme '-er'. but when Arabic borrowed this word, the English derivational morpheme '-er' is shifted to '-i' to resemble the Arabic linguistic system.

12- Receiver

This borrowed word contains the English stem 'receive' and the English derivational morpheme '-er'. Arabic borrowed this word with its original morphological borrowing without modification.

7. Conclusion

The Arabic language is mixed of different languages. It tends to borrow more than loans to the English language. Both languages are borrowed in the form of root morphemes while the other types of morphemes show a low portion. In comparison, the number of loan words is lower than that of borrowed words since most Arabic words were loaned to English in the 16th and 17th centuries. When Arabic culture contributed to science and provided the world with inventions in different fields. Such contributions need names and items to convey their meaning and from this reality comes the loan words. On the other hand, borrowed words are new and most updated due to new life technology. There is a newly borrowed word each week if not each day.

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