



ON THE PROBLEM OF BORROWED WORDS AS A LINGUISTIC PHENOMENON IN THE KOREAN LANGUAGE

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Article history:	Abstract:
Received: 24 th July 2025 Accepted: 20 th August 2025	The study of the vocabulary of the Korean language has always been of great interest to linguists, since the vocabulary is replenished by borrowing from foreign languages. The study of borrowings from the English language (often called "Konglish") is one of the pressing issues in linguistic research. The problem of borrowing (Konglish) has always attracted the attention of linguists, the linguistic nature of borrowing (Konglish), the process of incorporation of foreign words and meanings into the system of the borrowing language, understanding the hidden processes of interaction between two languages - the source language and the borrowing language - have not yet received full coverage.
Keywords Konglish, Korean language, English language, linguistic phenomenon, type, linguistic origin, native language, foreign language	

As is known, no language is capable of existing in a closed space, linguistic communication acts as one of the main factors in the development of any language. In the research of V.V.Khimik it is noted that "... any speech in general is a constant and steady change, development, creativity, since speech accompanies, serves, and often stimulates material and spiritual creation, production and reproduction, renewal of the old and generation of the new in material life, in science, in spiritual culture"¹. Modern Korean is characterized by a tendency to increasingly use transcribed transliterated words or phrases, mostly of English origin. This phenomenon is essentially the result of translation decisions².

Social and economic changes that took place in Korean society in the 90s affected the lexical fund of the language, the rich potential of which turned out to be insufficient for naming new phenomena of reality in the process of intensive international communication. At present, the influence of English as the language of international communication is clearly manifested in the Korean language. For this reason, in this article, neologisms-borrowings (Konglish) from the English language, including its American variant, are chosen as the object of research. The study of borrowings (Konglish) is one of the most important problems in the circle of linguistic research in the context of intensive expansion of language contacts. No language can do

without the natural and logical process of borrowing elements from other languages. Hence the relevance of this study.

Despite the fact that the problem of borrowing (Konglish) has always attracted the attention of linguists, the linguistic nature of borrowing (Konglish), the process of entry of foreign words and meanings into the system of the borrowing language, the understanding of the hidden processes of interaction between two languages - the source language and the borrowing language - have not yet received full coverage. In addition, the process of borrowing itself at the present stage of language development has its own characteristics:

– the dynamic growth of science and technology causes a large influx of borrowings, thereby activating the borrowing process:

1) 러시아 내 베스트셀링 모델 리오 (국내 병 프라이어)의 높은 수요가 실적을 견인했다. *High demand for the best-selling Rio model (the bottle's national pride) in Russia has led to increased profits.*

Theoretically, any language can include an unlimited number of borrowed words (Konglish). At the same time, the system of the borrowing language limits the replenishment of the language with foreign elements, and these restrictions are not quantitative at all - the limit is the criterion for the implementation of foreign-language elements, determined by the structural and

¹ Khimik V.V. Poetics of the low, or Common speech as a cultural phenomenon. SPb.: Philological faculty of 1871. SPbSU, 2000. - 272 p.

² Vaganova N.V. Modern borrowings from the English language: semantic and word-formation aspect: on the

material of Anglicisms of the end of the 20th - beginning of the 21st century in the modern Russian language. Diss... Cand. Philological Sciences, Nizhny Novgorod, 2005.



semantic norms of the borrowing language. In most works devoted to the problem of borrowing (Konglish), the main emphasis is on the results of borrowing³.

Research devoted to the problems of borrowing (Konglish) mainly touches upon lexical and grammatical issues, while the phonetic side of this problem has not been fully explored; there is no detailed analysis of English borrowings of the 19th - 20th centuries in the sociolinguistic aspect and classification of borrowings by various spheres of life. Such information is necessary for a systematic description of borrowings in the light of the theory of language contacts.

The problem of language interaction, the nature of language contacts and the results of such contacts, first of all, the emergence of borrowings have long attracted the attention of scientists, philologists, sociologists, and cultural scientists. Borrowings (Konglish), as a direct consequence of language contacts, have repeatedly been the object of research on the material of various languages, including the Korean language, for example: 1) 최근에는 테슬라 모터스, 스페이스 X 등 하드웨어 산업에서 세계 최강의 위치를 복원하고있다⁴. It is currently rebuilding its world-leading positions in industries such as Tesla Motors and Space X.

2) 프로젝트 방식의 학부 수업이 그러한 예다⁵. One such example is project-based learning for students.

The main object of study in this research is new lexical units in the modern Korean language, borrowed (Konglish) from English, the ways of their distribution and the sphere of use in the host language. The analyzed group of lexical units of Anglo-American origin is considered in parallel as part of the vocabulary of the modern Korean language and in its professional-stylistic variants, as well as at the level of everyday speech activity of native speakers of this language, determined by their speech-cultural competence. Much attention is paid to the reasons or factors contributing to the borrowing of vocabulary from the English language. At the same time, it is important to establish the socio-political conditions for the penetration of Anglicisms and describe the lexical-semantic spheres of their use. The functioning of this intensively expanding lexical group reflects a wide range of social processes taking place in modern Korea. This active layer of the lexical system of the language, on the one hand, testifies to the scientific and technical progress that the country is experiencing,

which is involved in the processes of globalization, on the other hand, the problem of Anglicisms is an interesting object for sociolinguistic observations, which also turns out to be a constant and specific "patient" of the language policy, the implementation of which is entrusted to the Korean linguistic society.

The study of modern borrowing methods (Konglish) in comparison with the processes of past stages of language development makes it possible to show the tendencies of language development, to talk about the relationship of intralinguistic and extralinguistic factors in certain periods of language development. Thematic and ideographic classification of borrowings allows us to draw a conclusion about the change in both the conceptual and linguistic picture of the world of the people, about new phenomena in its social life that require linguistic fixation⁶.

The issue of language contacts in general and borrowings in particular has always been relevant for the Korean language. At the end of the 20th – beginning of the 21st centuries, the unprecedented expansion of English vocabulary served as the basis for close attention and study of this phenomenon by philologists. Consideration and analysis of this problem is one of the main historical and lexical tasks in modern linguistics. The increase in the number of cultural, scientific, political and economic ties between Korea and English-speaking countries has led to an expansion of contacts between the Korean and English languages.

Borrowings often represent terms that represent a significant layer of new vocabulary. In the lexicology of language, the opinion is that new borrowed vocabulary accumulates, not having time to adapt, floods the native language, blurring its boundaries, threatening its integrity. The language we are studying is no exception, since the Korean language has repeatedly experienced stages of replenishment with new borrowed vocabulary. On the one hand, this was facilitated by objective factors, namely the social significance of economic vocabulary, a large number of new borrowings (Konglish) in the field of terminology, the need for semantization, description of the methods of entry and adaptation of borrowed (Konglish) terminological neologisms into the Korean language.

On the other hand, let us turn to the practical application of terms. In the modern world, the tendency to use English for international communication is

³ Zaslavskaya T.I., Ryvkina R.V. Sociology of economic life. Essays on theory, - Novosibirsk: Nauka, 1991.

⁴ 한인 일보. 우즈베키스탄 한인 정보지. 타슈켄트. 2018. 01. 19. – P. 25.

⁵ 한인 일보. 우즈베키스탄 한인 정보지. 타슈켄트. 2018. 01. 19. – P. 25.

⁶ Volodina E.G. Lexical borrowings from the English language in the modern Turkish language: on the material of periodicals. Diss... Cand. Philological Sciences, - Moscow, 2007.



especially evident in the field of tourism. Tourism is one of the leading and most dynamic sectors of the world economy, which plays a significant role in the formation of the gross domestic product, ensuring employment of the population and activating the foreign trade balance. As a rule, knowledge of a foreign language is required from employees of the hotel industry, from people providing carrier services, from travel agents, from those responsible for travel safety - in most cases, English.

At the end of the 20th – beginning of the 21st century, the Korean language becomes an active acceptor of lexical units from the English language, and the borrowing process becomes widespread. The main feature of the modern borrowing process is the fastest phonetic, graphic, grammatical, semantic and word-formation adaptation of new Anglicisms in the recipient language. The functioning of a large number of Konglish in the modern Korean language has set new tasks for researchers: on the one hand, to comprehensively study the influence of new foreign vocabulary on the system of the Korean language, and on the other hand, to identify patterns of integration of borrowings into the phonetic, lexical, word-formation and grammatical systems of the recipient language.

Thus, over the past decades, in various areas of the modern Korean language: scientific, journalistic, business, borrowed vocabulary, names, terms, etc., characteristic of the stage of transition to a market economy, have appeared and are actively used. At the same time, borrowed vocabulary is mostly absent from dictionaries, since lexicographic work presents difficulties in quickly recording and explaining the numerous words and expressions that arise in the modern Korean language.

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