Borrowings In The Chinese Language As A Result Of China's Cultural Dialogue With English-Speaking Countries And The Russian-Speaking Community

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this study is to examine Chinese lexical borrowings from the point of view of China's cultural contacts with other countries. The authors of the article pay special attention to English and Russian borrowings, causing the penetration of English and Russian vocabulary into the Chinese language by an increasing number of cultural contacts between the respective countries. The scientific novelty of the study is the consideration of cultural and linguistic contacts from the standpoint of a single harmonious process of interaction. As well as the systematization of English and Russian lexical borrowings in Chinese in the paradigm of cultural contacts through language communication of speakers of Chinese, English and Russian.

The result of the study is the classification of forms and types of cultural and linguistic contacts, the systematics of forms of foreign borrowings and the identification of the predominant type of borrowings from English and Russian languages in Chinese with an explanation of the motives for borrowing specific groups of words of foreign vocabulary from the point of view of contacting foreign language communities.

Key words and phrases: Chinese culture; Chinese language; cultural contact; language contact; Chinese borrowings; borrowed forms and types; English borrowings in Chinese; Russian borrowings in Chinese.
To achieve the above goal, the following research objectives were formulated: the first is to systematize the forms and types of cultural and linguistic contacts, the consequences of which are the appearance of borrowed vocabulary in the Chinese language. The second task is to study the types of foreign borrowings that enter the Chinese language through cultural and linguistic contact with foreign-speaking communities, in particular with English-speaking countries and Russian speakers. The third and final task, which also represents the practical significance of the study, is to group English and Russian lexical borrowings, while substantiating the motives for the penetration of one or another layer of vocabulary from the point of view of cultural contact with the formulation of a further conclusion about English and Russian borrowings in Chinese.

To solve the tasks set, the following theoretical research methods were used: the method of critical analysis and synthesis of language material, the formalization method and the deduction method.

The theoretical basis of the study was the works of Zakhvatayeva K. S. [1], Nava S. S. [5], which describe the mechanisms of cultural and linguistic contacts; the works of Nochvina N. A. [6] and Tan Ying [8], analyzing Chinese borrowings, and articles by Komarnitskaya A.I., Baranova T.V. [4] and Jiang Ying, Shipanovskaya L.M. [9], in which English and Russian borrowings in Chinese are considered from the point of view of language contacts.

1. Relationship between culture and language in China

Chinese culture has always been heavily oriented towards the word in all its manifestations. Thus, only a person with extensive knowledge of the works of traditional Chinese philosophers and thinkers, able to compose various texts in accordance with strictly established rules, could build a career in China [13, p. 80].

The Chinese language, in turn, has undergone a number of significant changes over its centuries-old culture, which has turned it from an elementary sign system into a real treasure of the Chinese people, which contains great cultural value.

1.1. Lexical borrowings in Chinese

As known, language is a dynamic, constantly evolving system [6]. Thus, the Chinese language is still undergoing constant changes due to various political and cultural processes taking place in the world.

One of the reasons for this development is cultural contacts, which entail linguistic integration. As a result of the interaction of languages, cultural interference occurs - changes in the language system under the influence of another language. In turn, one of the results of interference is lexical borrowing [1, p. 169].

Lexical borrowings are lexical units based on copying the internal or external structure of the corresponding words in other languages [4, p. 198].

1.2. Cultural contacts

Traditionally, in the history of China, four most active periods of borrowing foreign vocabulary are distinguished:
1. Eastern Han Dynasty (25–220 AD);
2. the end of the Qing Dynasty;
3. political and economic reforms in 1978;
4. modern period since 1990 to the present [8, p. 165].

As can be seen from the presented systematization, the integration of foreign cultures and languages is not a short-term trend. The first use of the term 译语 [yìyǔ] "translated words", denoting borrowings, was used during the Tang Dynasty (618 year).

The motives for cultural contacts in China were explained by the broad military and trade policy pursued by the Chinese authorities. Thus, trade relations were established, which contributed to the communication of foreign merchants with the local population, which could not but affect the culture and language of China. So, for example, in the process of interaction between British merchants and Canton-speaking Chinese, pidgin English appeared [7, p. 292].

In the 21st century, China is one of the leading countries in the political arena, and the motives for cultural and linguistic contacts have also changed. Thus, new requirements are put forward for communication and interaction between countries to solve any local and global problems and issues.

Now, thanks to the integration of foreign cultures into Chinese society, the language can be considered from the point of view of a universal means of both interethnic and intercultural communication [4, p. 197].

For example, in 2011, due to rising prices for rare earth metals, many foreign companies decided to move their production to China. As a result, a large number of foreign enterprises are now concentrated in China, which enhances the interference of Chinese culture with the cultures of foreign powers [7, p. 292].

In addition, the interest of foreigners in Chinese culture also affects the integration of the Chinese language with the languages of other countries, which is realized through the communication of tourists with the Chinese and the manifestation of interest in Chinese literature, leading to an increase in lexical borrowings in the Chinese language.

2.1. Forms and types of cultural and linguistic contacts

The above examples of the diffusion of Chinese culture and language are determined by the theory of language contacts, which was developed in the works of many scientists: E. Sapir, N. S. Trubetskiy, I. A. Baudouin de Courtenay, L. V. Shcherba and others [9, p. 144].

On the basis of this theory, a separate linguistic paradigm has been created, called "linguistic contactology", which studies the cultural and linguistic processes that occur as a result of contacting communities that speak different languages and are carriers of different cultures [1, p. 165].

The process of language contact is the interaction of two languages (A and B), during which elements from language A are integrated into language B, or speech (text) generated in language B contains elements of language A. At the same time, foreign words or morphemes are fixed in the receiver language [1, p.167], [8].

Language contact inevitably provokes cultural interaction, which in turn leads to "cultural contacts". Thus, cultural contact inevitably leads to the modification of each of the interacting cultures, which inevitably affects the language [5, p. 28].
It is important to pay attention to the fact that cultural and linguistic contacts must be considered together as an integral part of the cultural dialogue. This is due to the fact that the borrowing of foreign language elements is possible only in the conditions of intercultural communication, which, in turn, implies the parallelism of two mechanisms [1, p. 167].

Based on the foregoing, it can be argued that cultural and linguistic contacts are a system of interconnections between communities speaking different languages in a certain time period. The flow of cultural contact largely depends on the languages of the peoples participating in communication. There are two forms of language contacts, classified according to the degree of correlation of the contacting languages:

1. Distal - linguistic contact, carried out in conditions of monolingualism in the absence of a close connection between languages and realized only in borrowings;
2. Proximal - language contact, which is realized in the conditions of bilingualism and direct language contact, the result of which may be a modification of one of the languages [1, p. 167].

The second form, in turn, is divided into natural and artificial forms, the main criteria of which are the characters of the communication situation:

- natural arises in the course of direct communication between speakers of different languages during joint activities;
- artificial implies a specially created environment for learning the language [1, p. 167].

That is, language contact implies the presence of bilingualism, but there are types of bilingualism that do not include language contact. Thus, it can be argued that language contact is also associated with the active interaction of two communities that communicate in different languages.

Within the framework of cultural contacts, a donor culture and a recipient culture are singled out. At the same time, borrowed elements are not copies in their pure form, but often acquire a new look depending on the identity of the recipient people [5, p. 28].

According to the nature of language communication, the following types of language contacts are distinguished:

1. unilateral influence, realized at one linguistic level;
2. bilateral impact at one linguistic level of a particular language;
3. bilateral influence at different linguistic levels of one language;
4. bilateral impact at different linguistic levels of two languages [1, p. 167].

Linguists also distinguish several types of language contacts:

1. Instrat - a situation of language contact, in which on the territory of one society with their own language there are islands of another linguistic community;
2. Perstrat - the interaction of languages, limited to the areas of science, technology and spiritual culture [1, p. 169].

The adaptation process in Chinese is more complicated than in alphabetic languages. Therefore, sometimes not only words, but also elements of foreign words need to be changed [1, p. 197].

2.2. Scientists' opinion
Scholars often have different opinions on the question of what counts as a borrowed word. The main difficulty in identifying borrowings in Chinese lies in the isolating typology of the Chinese language. So, in the process of borrowing, foreign words, especially their phonetic shell, are completely catalyzed [10].

According to the Chinese linguist Wang Li, only words formed with the help of transliteration or Chinese word formation can be considered borrowed. However, Tsen Qixiang argues that calques should also be considered as borrowed words [Cit. by: 8, p. 165].

3. Chinese borrowing system
Chinese lexical borrowings can be divided into the following types:
1. Phonetic borrowing. A type of borrowing in which Chinese characters are used that are similar in sound to reproduce the sound shell of a word [4, p. 200].
2. Semantic borrowing. A type of borrowing characterized by copying the internal (semantic) structure when translating foreign words into Chinese [8, p. 166]
3. Mixed lexical borrowing. A type of borrowing in which words are formed from parts of different languages. They are divided into phonetic-semantic and semantic-phonetic borrowings.

In phonetic-semantic borrowings, one component conveys the sound, and the second is a semantically significant lexical unit. Semantic-phonetic borrowings are words in which the first part expresses the meaning, and the second is represented by a phonogram.

In the future, within the framework of our study, lexical borrowings from English and Russian languages in Chinese as a result of China's cultural contacts with English-speaking countries and Russia (the former USSR) will be considered and systematized.

3.1. English borrowings in Chinese
At present, Chinese, like many other languages of the world, mainly borrows words from English. English, being an international language, expands its expansion into the culture of other countries [8, p. 166], [4, p. 197].

The relative percentages of English borrowings in Chinese by area of use are as follows:
1. Mode of life – 21.2 %, for example: 苏达[sūdá] “soda”;
2. Natural Sciences – 18.3 %: 重水 [zhòngshuǐ] “heavy water”;
4. Humanities – 12.6 %: 生活质量 [shēnghuózhìliàng] “the quality of life”;
5. Politics – 9.3 %: 沙文主义 [shāwénzhǔyì] “chauvinism”;
The remaining 13.8% is slang and food [10], [6].

Borrowings, like language in general, are constantly in the process of development and change. This trend is due to the fact that borrowings are not only the result of linguistic, but also cultural contact [4, p. 198].

The phonetic differences between English and Chinese demonstrate the reason why the pronunciation of English words changes during the process of borrowing. Sounds that are not
typical for the language, in turn, are excluded. For example: 秀[xiù] from English "show", 迪斯科[disīkē] from English "disco", 桑那[sāngnà] from English "sauna" [4, p. 200].

Considering English borrowings from the point of view of the result of language contact, we can say that they appear as a result of an increase in the dynamics of the language space, due to the multiple type of language contacts, that is, the interaction of China with English-speaking countries in a specific area of human life.

So, one of the reasons for the integration of English into Chinese is scientific and technological progress. Thanks to this process, English phonetic borrowings appeared in Chinese such as: 因特网[yīntèwǎng] from English "Internet", 克隆[kèlóng] from English "clone", 奔腾[bēnténg] from English "Pentium", etc.

The English language also influences other areas of the Chinese community, as a result of which semantic borrowings with new connotations appear: 蜜月[mìyuè] (蜜 "honey" + 月 "moon") "Honeymoon", 摇篮曲[yáolánqǔ] (摇篮"cradle" + 曲 "song") "lullaby".

Examples of mixed lexical borrowing of English words: 保龄球[bǎolíngqiú] (保龄 phonogram + 球 "play") "bowling", 威士忌酒[wēishìjìjiǔ] (威士忌— phonogram + 酒 "wine") "whiskey".

There is also alphabetical borrowing of English words by letters of the Latin alphabet: BB(bye-bye) "bye", IC (Isee) "I see", URQ (youarecool) "you are cool", and etc. [4, p. 203], [2, p. 450].

Thus, we can draw the following conclusions about English borrowings in Chinese:
1. English borrowings in Chinese appear through an artificial proximal form of language contact, which is the result of the globalization of the English language and the direct influence of the global English-speaking community on China.
2. Thanks to the cultural integration of the world community, scientific and technological progress and the trend of Western fashion, there are a large number of borrowings in the Chinese language, formed both with the help of phonetic, semantic, mixed types of lexical borrowing, and letter borrowing of words.
3. English borrowings appear due to the bilateral interaction of two languages at different linguistic levels.
4. English borrowings are words that are widely used in various areas of Chinese society, from household to technology sphere.

3.2. Russian borrowings in Chinese
Speaking about Russian borrowings in Chinese, it should be noted that they are determined by the territorial proximity of the speakers of Chinese northeastern dialects and representatives of the Russian community in Primorsky Krai [9, p. 145].

The penetration of Russian borrowings into the Chinese language is characterized mainly by the oral route, when the words characteristic of the Russian-Chinese pidgin passes into the Chinese literary language (Putonghua) [9, p. 145].

This trend is associated with historical and socio-cultural factors that contributed to the contact of languages and their speakers in the late XIX - early XX centuries and at the present time [9, p. 145].
As a result of cultural and linguistic contacts, the Harbin Russian-Chinese pidgin appeared, into which, in an instrat situation, a large amount of Russian vocabulary penetrated. The Chinese authors Yin Shichao and Li Rong compiled the “Dictionary of the Harbin Dialect”, which lists borrowed Russian words from various spheres of human life: バラ士 [bālāshì] "barzha" (in English barge), 八杂市儿 [bāzáshìr] "baza" (in English market), 比瓦 [bīwā] "pivo" (in English beer), 戈比旦 [gēbǐdàn] "kapitan" (in English captain), 酥哈利 [sūhālì] "sukhari" (in English crackers), etc. [9, p. 145].

The Heihe Chinese dialect is also characterized by a large number of phonetic borrowings of Russian words: 谷瘪子 [gǔbiězi] "kupets" (in English merchant), 西米旦 [xīmǐdàn] "smetana" (in English sour cream), 克非儿 [kèfēiér] "kefir" (in English kefir); mixed lexical borrowings: 马合烟 [mǎhéyān] "makhorka" (in English shag), 马林果 [mǎlínguǒ] "malina" (in English raspberries); and semantically borrowed vocabulary: 马神 [mǎshén] "mashina" (in English car), 壁里搭 [bìlǐdā] "plita" (in English plate) [9, p. 146].

Meng Lu's analysis of Russian borrowings in northeastern Chinese dialects makes it possible to single out the following groups:

1. names of products, wine, vodka and tobacco products: 里道斯 [lǐdàosī] "litovskaya kolbasa" (in English Lithuanian sausage), 格瓦斯 [géwǎsī] "kvas" (in English kvass);
2. names of clothes and shoes: 布拉吉 [bùlāji] "plat'ye" (in English dress), 波金克 [bōjīnkè] "botinki" (in English boots)
3. household item names: 喂得罗 [wèidéluō] "vedro" (in English bucket), 宾金油 [bīnjīnyóu] "benzin" (in English gasoline), 巴扬琴 [bāyángqín] "bayan" (in English accordion);
4. names of units of measurement and currencies: 古棒 [gǔbàng] "kubometr" (in English cubic meter), 卢布 [lúbù] "rubl'" (in English ruble) [Cit. by: 9, p. 145–146].

Based on the fact that Chinese linguists recorded only non-equivalent borrowed vocabulary, only 12% of the vocabulary was included in the Modern Dictionary of the Chinese Language [9, p. 146].

The military-political alliance of 1924 between the USSR and China contributed to the appearance of even more Russian words in Chinese: 苏维埃 [sūwéi'āi] "sovetskiy" (in English Soviet), 前线轰炸机 [qiánxiànhōngzhàjī] "frontovoy bombardirovshchik" (in English frontline bomber) etc.

The development of trade relations also contributed to the replenishment of Chinese vocabulary with new words belonging to both the field of marketing and industry: 动产 [dòngchǎn] (動 "dvigat'sya" (in English to move) + 产 "imushchestvo" (in English property)) "movable property"; 贸易战 [màoýìzhàn] (贸易 "torgovlya" (in English trade)) + 战 "voyna" (in English war) "torgovaya voyna" (in English trade war). The dynamics of the cultural space also increased: 芭蕾舞 (芭蕾 - fonetic (in English phonetician)) + 舞 "tanets" (in English dance)) "balet" (in English ballet) [6].

Thus, a contact continuum occurs, that is, a continuous linguistic evolution of contact languages, for which the emergence of:

1. social motivation of native speakers, necessary for the qualitative assimilation of the language-lexicator;
2. samples of the target language in the form of native speakers or script [1, p. 169].

Thus, we can draw the following conclusions about Russian borrowings in Chinese:

1. Russian borrowings are territorial and localized on the border area of China and Russia. They carry a proximal character in a natural form, which is determined by the direct communication of native speakers of the Chinese and Russian languages, which is realized through linguistic and cultural contact.

2. Due to the similar phonetic shell of the Chinese and Russian languages and the oral transmission of language material, the phonetic type of borrowings prevails.

3. Russian borrowings in Chinese appear due to the two-way diffusion of languages at the same linguistic level.

4. Russian borrowings are rooted words denoting objects and phenomena that have firmly settled in the life of the Chinese inhabitants of northeast China.

4. Conclusions

Summing up the above, it should be noted that a large number of factors, including the isolation of the Chinese language, structural features and hieroglyphic writing, to some extent hinder the penetration of foreign vocabulary into the Chinese language [6].

However, the development of a national culture, including the national language, cannot be carried out in an isolated environment. This is due to the fact that culture is a constantly evolving system that requires cultural contacts, which in turn lead to language contacts.

Thus, the cultural contacts of China with other countries, which began in the 1st century BC and continuing to this day, constantly put pressure on one of the most ancient cultures in the world - the Chinese. But despite the fact that English and Russian are at the stage of cultural synthesis with Chinese, this does not lead to the loss of the originality of China's culture, but only increases the cultural and linguistic achievements of this country, among which lexical borrowings have found their place.

References


