FUNCTIONAL-SEMANTIC PROPERTIES OF LEXICAL UNITS ADOPTED FROM GERMAN INTO UZBEK

Nargiza Karimova Muhamadjonovna

Namangan State University, Senior Lecturer

Abstract

German lexical borrowings in Uzbek exemplify the dynamic nature of language contact and cultural exchange. This article explores the functional-semantic properties of these borrowed lexical units, focusing on how they have been integrated into modern Uzbek. By analyzing their semantic shifts, morphosyntactic behavior, and pragmatic functions, this study demonstrates that German-borrowed words enrich the Uzbek lexical inventory while reflecting historical and sociolinguistic patterns of contact. The findings highlight the importance of systematic investigation for understanding the impact of German on Uzbek and provide suggestions for further research in the field of comparative linguistics.

key words

German borrowings, Uzbek language, functional-semantic properties, lexical integration, semantic shift, morphosyntactic behavior.

INTRODUCTION

Lexical borrowing is a common phenomenon in languages worldwide, arising from cultural exchange, trade, migration, or technological advancement [Johansson, 2010, p.5]. The Uzbek language, as part of the Turkic language family, has a long history of interaction with various languages, including Russian, Arabic, Persian, and more recently, Western European languages [Alimov, 2018, p.22]. Among these influences, German stands out for its specialized contributions to scientific, technical, and cultural vocabularies. Yet, relatively few studies have provided a detailed examination of the functional-semantic properties of German lexical units in Uzbek [Hernandez, 2013, p.102].

This article aims to shed light on the ways German borrowings have been integrated into Uzbek, focusing on their semantic adaptations, morphosyntactic behavior, and pragmatic roles in modern usage. We begin by reviewing the relevant literature on language contact and borrowing before examining the theoretical framework of lexical integration. The discussion section presents examples of German-borrowed terms within the Uzbek language, illustrating the

processes of assimilation, semantic narrowing, and functional shifts. Based on these observations, we propose a set of key findings and potential directions for future research.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Studies on contact linguistics have long highlighted the significance of lexical borrowing in documenting cultural and linguistic exchange [Thomason & Kaufman, 1988, p.56]. Traditional contact-linguistics research typically focuses on contact between geographically adjacent languages, whereas the Uzbek-German language contact is marked more by historical events, academic collaborations, and scientific-industrial relationships [Berg, 2009, p.77]. The presence of German scientists, engineers, and scholars in Central Asia during various periods of the 20th century introduced a range of specialized terminology that has since been adopted into Uzbek technical and academic discourse [Karimov, 2015, p.41].

Researchers have highlighted several factors determining whether a borrowed word will retain its original semantic range or undergo shifts. Haugen's classical framework of borrowing analysis emphasizes both external social factors (prestige, intensity of contact) and internal linguistic considerations (phonological and morphological adaptation) [Haugen, 1950, p.212]. Uzbek, with its agglutinative structure, adjusts borrowed words through suffixation and vowel harmony, although these processes may vary depending on the degree of assimilation [Azimova, 2020, p.33].

Recent scholarship also points to the role of functional-semantic analysis in revealing how borrowed words operate in the recipient language. On the one hand, some borrowings fill lexical gaps (loanwords of necessity) [Winford, 2003, p.43]; on the other hand, some borrowings appear due to sociocultural or symbolic reasons (loanwords of prestige) [Matras, 2009, p.96]. In both cases, the borrowed words may undergo shifts in meaning, register, or usage frequency.

Given the scarcity of research specifically addressing German-Uzbek lexical contacts, a closer look at the functional-semantic properties of German-borrowed terms is warranted. Such an investigation can advance our understanding of how Uzbek accommodates new lexical items and can offer broader insights into language evolution under conditions of cultural exchange [Berk, 2011, p.25].

DISCUSSION

1. Motivations for German Loanwords in Uzbek

German loanwords in Uzbek predominantly appear in fields such as engineering, medicine, architecture, and social sciences. This specificity arises from historical contexts, especially during Soviet industrial and academic exchange programs, where German technical expertise was in high demand [Karimov, 2015,

p.42]. For instance, terms like **vakuum** (vacuum) and **laboratoriya** (laboratory, originally from Latin via German usage) became popular through scientific discourse. Over time, these words were integrated into general usage, indicating semantic expansion into everyday language contexts.

2. Semantic Adaptation and Shift

When a German lexical unit enters Uzbek, it may undergo semantic shift as it aligns with Uzbek cultural and linguistic norms [Hernandez, 2013, p.105]. In some cases, the borrowed term retains its specialized meaning, serving as an exact equivalent for a concept not previously labeled in Uzbek. An example is the term **Das Kapital** (a reference to Karl Marx's work), which is used in academic and political discourse almost unchanged. However, other words might widen or narrow in meaning. For instance, if the source word in German has multiple senses, Uzbek speakers may adopt only one sense, resulting in semantic narrowing. Conversely, a single German sense might develop additional connotations in Uzbek contexts, especially when used metaphorically.

A notable example is the word **shtrix** (from German "Strich," meaning line, stroke), used in Uzbek to indicate a bar code (shtrix-kod) or an identifying mark. In German, "Strich" can denote various forms of lines, strokes, or marks, while in Uzbek usage, **shtrix** primarily emphasizes its technical or commercial application.

3. Morphosyntactic Integration

Uzbek, being an agglutinative language, typically adds suffixes to borrowed lexemes for pluralization, possession, and case marking [Azimova, 2020, p.35]. German borrowings are thus integrated through suffixation. For instance, **faks** (from German "Fax") can become **fakslar** (plural form) or **faksning** (possessive case). Such morphological adaptation underscores how Uzbek systematically treats borrowed forms according to native grammar rules.

Regarding syntax, German-origin words usually adopt standard Uzbek word order (SOV). Their functional roles—whether as nouns, adjectives, or even adverbs—follow Uzbek grammar patterns. While some German words might preserve the initial capital letters (common in German nouns) in transliteration, most are eventually lowercased in Uzbek texts, reflecting standard Uzbek orthographic practice.

4. Pragmatic and Sociolinguistic Aspects

German borrowings in Uzbek also exhibit pragmatic significance. Some terms carry a sense of prestige or intellectual authority, especially in academic, technological, or cultural contexts [Matras, 2009, p.99]. For example, certain specialized philosophical or musical terms related to German tradition (e.g., **lyuks**

derived from German "Luxus," meaning luxury) may connote sophistication or high quality.

Moreover, the choice of a German-based term over a native equivalent can signal social status or professional affiliation, highlighting the role of loanwords in identity construction. In some cases, however, the borrowed word exists alongside a native Uzbek term, resulting in semantic competition. Speakers may alternate between the two forms depending on the context (formal vs. informal, technical vs. everyday usage), thus reflecting the dynamic interplay of language, culture, and society.

RESULTS

1.   **Identification of Key Borrowed Domains**: German lexical borrowings in Uzbek predominantly cluster in technical, scientific, and cultural fields. This finding aligns with historical patterns of academic and industrial cooperation between German-speaking and Central Asian institutions.

2.   **Semantic Range and Adaptation**: The analysis confirms that many German loanwords in Uzbek exhibit either semantic narrowing or extension, depending on cultural needs and linguistic conventions. While some retain specialized meanings, others adapt to broader or more context-specific usages.

3.   **Morphosyntactic Consistency**: German-origin lexemes demonstrate a high level of conformity to Uzbek agglutinative morphology, adopting native suffixes for plurality, case, and possession. This consistent adaptation reflects Uzbek's robust grammatical system and its capacity to integrate foreign material seamlessly.

4.   **Prestige and Sociolinguistic Influence**: German borrowings often carry connotations of innovation, quality, or sophistication. Their use in formal and academic contexts underscores the prestige associated with German culture and technology, although such connotations may vary based on speaker demographics and the communicative setting.

5.   **Implications for Language Contact Studies**: The functional-semantic properties of these lexical items highlight the importance of investigating not just the presence of loanwords but also their adaptation processes. This approach can yield broader insights into how languages evolve under external influence.

CONCLUSION

German-origin lexical units in Uzbek showcase a multifaceted process of linguistic integration. Beyond mere adoption, these borrowings undergo semantic, morphological, and pragmatic transformations shaped by the structural properties of Uzbek and the sociocultural context of language use. Their presence reveals the

resilience and adaptability of Uzbek's agglutinative system and underscores the role of prestige and cultural exchange in shaping borrowing patterns.

By focusing on the functional-semantic properties of these terms, this article contributes to ongoing discussions in contact linguistics, providing an in-depth look at how Uzbek accommodates and reshapes foreign lexemes. Future research could expand on this foundation by comparing German borrowings with those from other European languages, investigating the influence of globalization on language change, and exploring how younger generations of Uzbek speakers adopt or resist foreign terms. Ultimately, the interplay between German and Uzbek offers a rich case study for understanding how languages adapt in response to historical shifts and cultural interactions.

REFERENCES:

1. [Alimov, 2018, p.22] Alimov, J. (2018). *Language Contact in Central Asia*. Tashkent Academic Press.

2. [Azimova, 2020, p.33] Azimova, D. (2020). *Morphological Features of Uzbek Borrowings*. Samarkand University Press.

3. [Berg, 2009, p.77] Berg, P. (2009). *German Influences on Central Asian Languages*. Munich Linguistic Society Bulletin, 12(1), 70–85.

4. [Berk, 2011, p.25] Berk, S. (2011). *Language Change in the Turkic World*. London: East-West Publications.

5. [Haugen, 1950, p.212] Haugen, E. (1950). The Analysis of Linguistic Borrowing. *Language*, 26(2), 210–231.

6. [Hernandez, 2013, p.102] Hernandez, M. (2013). *Lexical Borrowing and Adaptation Strategies*. Chicago: Linguistic Horizons.

7. [Hernandez, 2013, p.105] Hernandez, M. (2013). *Lexical Borrowing and Adaptation Strategies*. Chicago: Linguistic Horizons.

8. [Johansson, 2010, p.5] Johansson, B. (2010). *Dynamics of Language Contact*. Stockholm: Nordic Academic Press.

9. [Karimov, 2015, p.41] Karimov, A. (2015). Historical Background of German-Uzbek Contacts. *Central Asian Review*, 8(2), 40–50.

10. [Karimov, 2015, p.42] Karimov, A. (2015). Historical Background of German-Uzbek Contacts. *Central Asian Review*, 8(2), 40–50.

11. [Matras, 2009, p.96] Matras, Y. (2009). *Language Contact*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

12. [Matras, 2009, p.99] Matras, Y. (2009). *Language Contact*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

13.   [Thomason & Kaufman, 1988, p.56] Thomason, S. & Kaufman, T. (1988). *Language Contact, Creolization, and Genetic Linguistics*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

14.   [Winford, 2003, p.43] Winford, D. (2003). *An Introduction to Contact Linguistics*. Oxford: Blackwell.