



# **HISTORICAL AND SOCIOLINGUISTIC ASPECTS OF ENGLISH LOANWORDS IN THE KARAKALPAK LANGUAGE**

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## **ABSTRACT**

*After the independence of Uzbekistan in 1991, the linguistic situation changed significantly. Globalization, technological progress, international education, and digital communication facilitated more direct contact with English. Consequently, modern English lexical units began entering the Karakalpak language both directly and indirectly. This study investigates the historical stages, sociolinguistic causes, and linguistic mechanisms of English loanword adoption in the Karakalpak language. The analysis demonstrates that the borrowing process can be divided into two major periods: indirect borrowing through Russian during the Soviet era and direct or mixed borrowing in the post-independence period. The research also identifies extralinguistic factors such as globalization, technological development, and economic transformation, as well as linguistic factors including nominative necessity and terminological precision. The findings highlight the dynamic nature of lexical borrowing and its role in the modernization and development of the Karakalpak lexicon.*

Language contact is a fundamental phenomenon that has shaped the development of languages throughout human history. When speakers of different languages interact through trade, migration, political integration, cultural exchange, or technological cooperation, linguistic elements are frequently transferred from one language to another. Among these elements, lexical units are the most easily transferable. As a result, lexical borrowing has become one of the most visible manifestations of language contact. In the modern era, the influence of English on the vocabulary of many languages has increased significantly due to globalization and technological progress. English has become the dominant language of international communication, science, information technology, and global media. Consequently, English lexical units are actively borrowed by many languages across the world. The borrowing of English lexical units has become one of the most significant processes influencing the vocabulary development of many languages in the modern world. The Karakalpak language, belonging to the Turkic language family, has also experienced substantial lexical changes under the influence of global linguistic contact. However, the process of English loanword adoption in the Karakalpak language differs historically and

sociolinguistically from borrowing patterns observed in many other languages. During most of the twentieth century, English-origin lexical units entered the Karakalpak language primarily through Russian as an intermediary language due to the sociopolitical and linguistic environment of the Soviet Union. Russian functioned as the dominant language of education, science, administration, and international communication, which resulted in the indirect transmission of numerous English-based international terms into Karakalpak. These borrowings were often subject to phonological adaptation, morphological integration, and semantic reinterpretation within the structure of the Karakalpak language. The Karakalpak language has also experienced lexical changes influenced by external linguistic contacts. Historically, the Karakalpak language has been influenced by Persian, Arabic, and Russian. In recent decades, however, English has emerged as an increasingly important source of lexical borrowing.

Despite the global spread of English loanwords, the process of borrowing in the Karakalpak language has developed under unique historical conditions. Unlike languages where English words entered directly through international communication, in Karakalpak many English-origin lexical items were historically mediated through Russian. This was primarily due to the sociopolitical context of the Soviet Union, where Russian functioned as the dominant language of science, education, administration, and technological discourse. The aim of this article is to analyze the historical development, causes, and mechanisms of English loanword borrowing in the Karakalpak language. The research focuses on identifying the sociolinguistic factors that influenced the borrowing process as well as examining the linguistic adaptation of loanwords within the phonological and morphological system of the Karakalpak language.

The phenomenon of lexical borrowing has long been a subject of linguistic research. One of the earliest systematic studies of language contact was conducted by Weinreich (1953), who examined the structural consequences of language interaction in multilingual societies. Weinreich emphasized that language contact often leads to the transfer of lexical items and structural features between languages.

Haugen (1950) further developed the theoretical framework for analyzing lexical borrowing. He proposed that borrowing involves several stages, including importation and substitution. Importation refers to the adoption of a foreign word into the recipient language, while substitution refers to the adaptation of that word to the phonological and morphological structure of the recipient language. Crystal (2003) discusses the global spread of English and its influence on world languages. According to Crystal, the rise of English as a global lingua franca has resulted in the widespread borrowing of English vocabulary across different linguistic communities.

Research on loanword adaptation has also been conducted in various languages, including Korean. Kenstowicz (2005) examined the phonological processes involved in the adaptation of English loanwords into Korean. Similarly, Kang (2010) analyzed how phonetic perception influences phonological adaptation in Korean loanword phonology. Studies focusing on Turkic languages have demonstrated that lexical borrowing often reflects historical and sociopolitical conditions. In many cases, intermediary languages play a significant role in the transmission of loanwords.

Research on the Karakalpak language has shown that numerous English-origin terms entered through Russian, especially during the Soviet period. However, with the increasing influence of globalization and digital communication, direct borrowing from English has become more common in recent decades.

The borrowing of English lexical units into the Karakalpak language can be divided into two main historical stages.

1. Indirect borrowing during the Soviet period (1920–1991)

2. Direct and mixed borrowing during the post-independence period (1991–present)

**The Soviet Period: Indirect Borrowing through Russian.** During the Soviet era, Russian served as the dominant language of education, science, and administration. As a result, most international terminology entered the languages of the Soviet Union through Russian. In the Karakalpak language, English-origin words rarely entered directly from English sources. Instead, they were borrowed through Russian translations of scientific literature, technical manuals, and administrative documents.

Examples of such loanwords include:

telefon

radio

traktor

kombayn

atom

These lexical units were first standardized in Russian and later adapted to the phonological and morphological system of the Karakalpak language.

**Extralinguistic Causes of Borrowing.** The borrowing of English lexical units in the Karakalpak language is influenced by several extralinguistic factors. Globalization has intensified international cultural and economic interactions, which has increased the influence of English as a global language.

The development of digital technology has introduced numerous new concepts that require new lexical terms.

Examples:

Internet - internet

Blog - blog

Website - veb sayt

Online – onlayn

**Economic Transformation.** The transition to a market economy introduced new economic concepts that required lexical representation.

Examples:

Business – biznes

Marketing - marketin

Management - menedjment

Investment - investment

**Linguistic Causes of Borrowing.**

**Nominative Necessity.** New objects and phenomena require lexical representation. When no equivalent term exists in the native language, borrowing becomes a natural solution.

Terminological Precision. International scientific communication requires standardized terminology. Therefore, many English technical terms are borrowed with minimal modification.

**Mechanisms of Linguistic Adaptation.** Loanwords entering the Karakalpak language undergo several adaptation processes.

Phonological Adaptation. Foreign words are modified to conform to the phonological structure of the Karakalpak language.

Morphological Integration. Loanwords are integrated into the grammatical system through affixation.

Examples:

internet → internet-ke

blogger → blogger-ler

Semantic Adaptation. Some borrowed words develop new meanings or narrower meanings within the Karakalpak language.

The analysis shows that the borrowing of English lexical units in the Karakalpak language reflects broader sociolinguistic transformations in Central Asia. The shift from indirect borrowing through Russian to more direct borrowing from English illustrates the impact of globalization and digital communication.

The borrowing of English lexical units into the Karakalpak language is a dynamic process influenced by historical, social, and linguistic factors. Two major stages can be identified: indirect borrowing through Russian during the Soviet period and direct borrowing in the post-independence era.

The increasing presence of English loanwords demonstrates the integration of the Karakalpak language into global communication networks while maintaining its structural linguistic identity.

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