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SIGNIFICANCE OF ARABIC LANGUAGE IN DEVELOPMENT OF WORLD LANGUAGES



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Abstract. *Arabic language has played a pivotal role in the enrichment and advancement of numerous languages worldwide, influencing linguistic structures, cultural expressions and expanding their vocabulary. This article explores the importance of Arabic in shaping other languages through historical interactions. Arabic’s contribution is most evident in languages such as Spanish, French and English, where it has left a lasting imprint on everyday vocabulary and specialized terminology. The integration of Arabic words into these languages not only enriched their lexicon, but also served cultural and scientific development. The article analyzes the main word combinations, their historical origin and use in modern languages, and shows the permanent influence of the Arabic language on global language development and communication. The influence of Arabic is examined in the context of its wider synonymy and role in fostering intercultural exchange, showing how the language helped shape the linguistic landscape in Europe and beyond.*

Key words: *Arabic language, Spanish, French, English, cultural exchange, loanwords, lexicon*

Introduction

We all know that the countries of the world are in constant cooperation in economic, cultural, political and other fields. Language is, of course, the main tool for establishing such cooperation. It is difficult to imagine the development of any industry without his participation. After all, language is the main means of information exchange between people.

According to linguists, although there are about 5,621 languages and dialects in the world, only 500 of them have been studied in depth. Among the languages of the world, Arabic and English stand out as the richest languages in terms of vocabulary. It is estimated that English has more than 2.5 million words, while Arabic has more than 3.5 million words. It is known in linguistics that the richness of a language is often measured by the number of its synonyms, Arabic has more than a hundred words for "desert", emphasizing its synonymy. This unique quality has made the Arabic language the focus of linguistics, not only because of its rich vocabulary, but also because of its influence on the vocabulary development of many other popular languages, including Spanish, French, and English. In this article, we aim to study the influence of Arabic on different languages and their origins. It is no exaggeration to say that almost all advanced languages of the world have words and phrases that are accepted at different levels. In some cases, these foreign words are so seamlessly integrated that their origin is almost unrecognizable. This has always been one of the most pressing issues for linguists. From this point of view, let's analyze to what extent the words that have passed from the Arabic language have entered and been assimilated into other languages.

- Words borrowed from Arabic make up 8% of Spanish.
- In French, this percentage is 5.1%.
- For the English language, Arabic-derived words make up about 0.5% of the vocabulary, with around 400 words documented as having Arabic origins in the Oxford English Dictionary.

About Arabic-to-Spanish Loanwords (Language-Culture Connection)

Interaction and cooperation between languages often leads to word exchange, where words are transferred from one language to another. Certain conditions are necessary for a word to pass from one language to another. These conditions are based not only on contact, neighborhood or territorial proximity between the two languages, but on interaction, cooperation and the phenomenon of bilingualism that arises as a result of this interaction. Similarly, the integration of Arabic words into Spanish has an important historical basis.

If we look briefly at this history, the early inhabitants of Spain included groups such as Celts from Gaul¹ and Iberians² and Ligurians³, whose origins are somewhat obscure. Later, the Greeks and Carthaginians ruled these lands, and then the Romans retained control until the 5th century. After the Romans, the Germanic tribes took

¹ **Celt**, a member of an early Indo-European people who from the 2nd millennium BCE to the 1st century BCE spread over much of Europe.

² **Iberian**, one of a prehistoric people of southern and eastern Spain who later gave their name to the whole peninsula.

³ **Ligurian**, any member of a collection of ancient peoples who inhabited the north western Mediterranean coast from the mouth of the Ebro River in Spain to the mouth of the Arno River in Italy in the 1st millennium BC.

over and eventually succumbed to the Visigoths⁴. The Visigoths ruled until the arrival of the Muslims who crossed the strait separating North Africa from Europe in 711 and occupied southern Spain. Since then, this strait has been known as Gibraltar, named after the legendary Muslim leader Jabal Tariq, which translates from Arabic as "Mountain of Tariq".

In this region, known as the center of cultural and scientific development, the Arabs established the state of Andalusia. The population mainly spoke two languages, Arabic and Romani. Before the arrival of the Muslims, Spanish speakers mainly spoke Latin and Romance languages. The fusion of Arabic and Spanish cultures led to a profound influence of the Arabic language on the Spanish language. Many words borrowed from Arabic during this period have survived in modern Spanish. Below are some of these words:

Azúcar

Arabic origin: السكر

Azúcar is a Spanish word derived from the Arabic al-sukkar (السكر).

It means "sugar" in English.

Over time, Spanish speakers have modified some words of Arabic origin, most of which start with the letter al and start with the Sun letters, and azúcar is one example - al (ال) has been replaced by a.

Aceite

Arabic origin: الزيت

Aceite is another Spanish word of Arabic origin. It is derived from the Arabic word **al-zayt**. The definite article **al** (ال) in Arabic is assimilated into the word, and the **a** is used in the Spanish form **aceite**. **Aceite** means 'oil' in English.

Albaricoque

Arabic origin: البرقوق

The word Albaricoque is a Spanish word of Arabic origin, which means "apricot".

This word is one of the Spanish words that preserves the article al (ال).

We can see a similarity between the Spanish and Arabic words here—the original Arabic word is al-burquq (البرقوق).

Lemon

Arabic origin: (ليمون)

Here we can see the similarity between the Spanish word and the Arabic word lymun.

⁴ The **Visigoths** were the western tribe of the **Goths** (a Germanic people) who settled west of the Black Sea sometime in the 3rd century CE.

It is a Spanish-derived and two-syllable word that resembles Spanish in sound and structure. This word means "lemon" in English.

Guitar

Arabic origin: قيثارة

As we all know, this word is also called "guitar" in our English language, and guitarra, which refers to the same musical instrument, is a Spanish word derived from the Arabic qīṭārah.

About the introduction of Arabic words into the French language (direct and indirect connections)

The role of the Arabic language in the enrichment of the French vocabulary is incomparable. It is known from history that in the Middle Ages, the influence of the Arabic language grew stronger, especially during the period of the Islamic rule on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea and the development of Arab culture, science, and philosophy during the period of Arab colonization in Spain. Mainly in the Middle Ages, words belonging to the Arabic language entered the French language through the Spanish language. Because at that time, Spain was occupied by the Arab caliphate, and Muslims ruled these regions. Not only in Europe, but in the entire Eurasian and African continent, the position of the Arabic language was at a high level. During this period, words were assimilated into the French language through orthographic changes and direct assimilation of words. Below are some of them.

About the introduction of Arabic words into the French language (direct and indirect connections)

Café

One of France's favorite drinks - Café is derived from the Arabic word qahwa (قهوة). In the 12th century, Venetian merchants brought coffee with them to Europe, but coffee beans did not reach Parisian cafes until 1657. Today, coffee is an important part of the French diet, often served with tartine de confiture (bread with jam).

The word café means coffee in English

Mesquin

This word also exists in Italian and Spanish and translates as "meschino and mezquino". But its origin goes back to the Arabic word miskīn (مسكين). This word means "poor" in English. The French use it to refer to people who are "deprived of generosity", i.e., "stingy". It is often used among Arabic-speaking French.

Magazine

This word, which means "store" or "supermarket" in French, is also borrowed from Arabic. They used makḥāzin (مخازن) in the sense of "storehouse". This word is also used in the English language in the sense of "shop".

Almanac

Almanac (also known as almanack or almanac)

Almanac is derived from the Arabic word almanakh (المناخ), which means weather in French.

About the introduction of Arabic words into the English language

The introduction of Arabic words into the English language also has a long history. As we mentioned, at the beginning of the 8th century, the Arabs conquered the Iberian Peninsula, or present-day Spain and Portugal, and ruled these areas. These forces were known as the Moors. During the period of their occupation, the Arabic language spread throughout the region and became widely used among the masses, harmonizing with the Latin language spoken by the local population. [1, 784]

Over the next several centuries, Christian-led forces controlled the Iberian Peninsula. However, by this time, the language spoken there was predominantly Arabic. The main reason for this is that during those times, many written sources and key documents were in Arabic. [2, 120]

Most of these words are still preserved in English. As the Latin language began to influence the English language, some Arabic words were also transferred to the language. Many words still in common use in English today have Arabic roots. We will analyze some of them below.

Admiral

Arabic origin: "amīr al-bihār" (أمير البحار)

amīr al-bihār, "commander of the seas", a title used in Sicily and continued in Sicily by the Normans as "admiralius maris", and successively adopted by the Genoese and the French. The English form in the reign of King Edward III (14th century) was Se Amireli. The introduction of "D" was undoubtedly influenced by the reference to the Latin word "admire". This word also means admiral in Uzbek language.

Algebra

Arabic version: "al-jabr" (الجبر)

Originally, this word was taken from the name of the book "Al-jabr wal-muqabala" by our great scholar Muhammad ibn Musa al-Khorazmi, which was the basis of the science of arithmetic, which the whole world now calls "algebra".

The word "algebra" entered the English language in the 15th century.

Sofa

Its Arabic form is "suffah" (صفاة).

The Arabs used the word "suffah" for a wooden or stone reclining seat placed in front of the doors of oriental houses. At present the word is used among the English in the sense of a seat intended for sitting.

Cotton

Arabic version: "qutun" (قطن).

The word cotton first appeared in English in the late Middle Ages. It came from the Arabic word qutun via Anglo-French and Old Italian.

We can continue the list of such words up to a hundred. We have brought to your attention only the most used of them. Based on our research, it can be concluded that Arabic acquisitions are one of the languages that have a significant place in the enrichment of the lexicon of many world languages, the expansion of word formation, and the formation of phrases. Arabic loanwords are so ingrained in these languages that even today the word has an alternative in those languages, but many peoples do not give up those words.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the influence of Arabic on world languages is both profound and long-lasting. The rich history of cultural exchange and the intellectual contribution of the Arabic language have left an indelible mark on languages such as Spanish, French and English, where many Arabic words have seamlessly entered everyday vocabulary. These words, many of which have survived for centuries, tell the story of cross-cultural interaction and shared knowledge. From scientific achievements to culinary terms, the legacy of the Arabic language continues to shape global communication and understanding. The acquisition of words from the Arabic language is not only a linguistic phenomenon, but also a proof of the interdependence of human cultures, the development of languages through cooperation and exchange. When we study these expressions, we remember the role of language in bridging the gap between people, strengthening understanding, and enriching the tapestry of human history.

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List of Internet resources

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