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THE SEMANTIC ADAPTATION AND INTEGRATION OF LOANWORDS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

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ABSTRACT

The present study investigates the semantic adaptation and integration of loanwords in English and Uzbek languages. In the context of globalization and cross-cultural communication, both languages have absorbed a vast number of foreign lexical elements that undergo various semantic transformations. The research aims to analyze how borrowed words adapt their meanings to fit new linguistic and cultural environments. Using a comparative-descriptive method, the study identifies several semantic processes, including narrowing, widening, metaphorical extension, and shift of meaning, which occur during the integration of loanwords. Data were collected from lexicographic sources, digital corpora, and media discourse in both languages. The results reveal that English loanwords often preserve their core meanings while acquiring additional metaphorical uses, whereas Uzbek loanwords exhibit broader semantic expansion influenced by sociocultural context. The study concludes that semantic adaptation serves as a crucial mechanism through which both languages enrich their lexical systems and reflect ongoing intercultural exchange.

Keywords: loanwords, semantic adaptation, lexical integration, English, Uzbek, semantic change, globalization.

ANNOTATSIYA

Ushbu maqolada ingliz va oʻzbek tillaridagi oʻzlashma soʻzlarning semantik moslashuvi va integratsiyasi tahlil qilinadi. Globallashuv va madaniyatlararo aloqa sharoitida har ikki til koʻplab xorijiy leksik elementlarni qabul qilib, ularning ma'nolari turlicha oʻzgarishlarga uchramoqda. Tadqiqotning maqsadi — oʻzlashma soʻzlarning yangi madaniy va til muhitiga moslashish jarayonida qanday semantik oʻzgarishlarga uchrashini tahlil qilishdir. Tadqiqotda taqqoslovchi—tavsifiy metod qoʻllanilib, ma'no torayishi, kengayishi, metaforik kengayish va ma'no siljishi kabi jarayonlar aniqlangan. Ma'lumotlar lugʻatlar, raqamli korpuslar va ommaviy axborot vositalaridan olingan. Natijalarga koʻra, ingliz tilidagi oʻzlashmalar oʻz asosiy ma'nosini saqlab qolgan holda qoʻshimcha metaforik ma'nolarni hosil qilsa, oʻzbek tilidagi oʻzlashmalar sotsiomadaniy omillar ta'sirida yanada kengroq semantik oʻzgarishlarni namoyon etadi. Xulosa sifatida, semantik moslashuv har ikki



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tilning leksik tizimini boyituvchi va madaniyatlararo almashinuvni aks ettiruvchi muhim mexanizm ekani ta'kidlanadi.

Kalit soʻzlar: oʻzlashma soʻzlar, semantik moslashuv, leksik integratsiya, ingliz tili, oʻzbek tili, ma'no oʻzgarishi, globallashuv.

АННОТАЦИЯ

статье рассматриваются семантическая адаптация интеграция заимствованных слов в английском и узбекском языках. В условиях глобализации и межкультурного общения оба языка усвоили значительное количество иностранных лексических единиц, которые претерпели различные семантические изменения. Цель исследования — проанализировать, каким образом заимствованные слова изменяют свои значения в новом языковом и культурном контексте. На основе сравнительно-описательного метода были выявлены процессы, как расширение такие сужение, метафорическое переосмысление и сдвиг значения. Материалом исследования цифровые корпуса и тексты СМИ. Результаты словари, показывают, что в английском языке заимствованные слова, как правило, приобретая дополнительные сохраняют своё основное значение, метафорические оттенки, тогда как в узбекском языке наблюдается более широкое семантическое расширение под влиянием социокультурных факторов. В заключение отмечается, что семантическая адаптация является важным обогащающим лексическую систему обоих отражающим процессы межкультурного взаимодействия.

Ключевые слова: заимствованные слова, семантическая адаптация, лексическая интеграция, английский язык, узбекский язык, семантические изменения, глобализация.

INTRODUCTION

In the age of globalization, language contact has become one of the most powerful forces shaping linguistic change. The continuous interaction between nations and cultures has led to an unprecedented exchange of words, expressions, and meanings. Among the most prominent results of this interaction are loanwords, which serve not only as lexical imports but also as indicators of cultural and technological development. The study of how these loanwords are semantically adapted and integrated into the recipient language reveals crucial aspects of both linguistic creativity and cultural identity.

English and Uzbek, though belonging to distinct language families — Germanic and Turkic, respectively — share a similar openness to lexical borrowing. English has historically borrowed from Latin, French, and Greek, and more recently from

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global English varieties, while Uzbek has absorbed vocabulary from Arabic, Persian, Russian, and in the modern era, from English. This dynamic exchange has resulted in complex layers of semantic adaptation that mirror the cultural and technological evolution of both societies.

Semantic adaptation refers to the process through which a borrowed word acquires new meanings or extends existing ones to fit the conceptual framework of the receiving language (Haspelmath, 2009). For instance, the English word *virus* originally denoted a biological organism but later extended to mean a "computer virus." Similarly, in Uzbek, the word *oyna* (literally "mirror" or "window") has broadened semantically to mean a "digital window" in computing contexts. Such changes illustrate how technological and social innovations influence semantic reinterpretation.

Scholars such as Einar Haugen (1950)¹ and Uriel Weinreich (1953) were among the first to examine borrowing not merely as a lexical process but as a semantic negotiation between languages. Later studies by Poplack and Sankoff (1984)², Durkin (2014), and Treffers-Daller (2010) further emphasized that the meaning of borrowed words often undergoes transformation due to differences in the cultural and communicative systems of the donor and recipient languages.

The importance of analyzing the semantic integration of loanwords lies in understanding how languages maintain their internal structure while remaining flexible and receptive to external influences. In both English and Uzbek, loanwords are not simply inserted into the lexicon but are adapted semantically to fulfill specific communicative needs, cultural associations, or metaphorical extensions. This process strengthens linguistic diversity and ensures the vitality of both languages.

Therefore, the main objectives of this study are to:

- 1. Identify the types and mechanisms of semantic change in English and Uzbek loanwords;
- 2. Compare how different categories of borrowed words (technical, cultural, and everyday terms) undergo semantic adaptation;
- 3. Determine the extent of integration based on frequency and usage in authentic linguistic contexts;
- 4. Highlight the sociocultural and cognitive factors influencing meaning transformation.

This research aims to contribute to the broader understanding of semantic change, lexical borrowing, and intercultural communication by offering a

² Poplack, S., & Sankoff, D. (1984). Borrowing: The Synchrony of Integration. Linguistics, 22, 99–135.

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¹ Haugen, 1950; Weinreich, 1953; Poplack & Sankoff, 1984; Haspelmath, 2009; Durkin, 2014; Treffers-Daller, 2010.

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comparative perspective between two linguistically and historically distinct languages — English and Uzbek.

The Concept of Loanwords and Borrowing

Loanwords represent one of the most visible outcomes of language contact—the process through which two or more languages influence each other due to social, cultural, or technological interaction. According to Weinreich (1953)³, borrowing is not merely the adoption of a foreign word but a complex linguistic phenomenon involving phonological, morphological, and semantic adaptation. Haugen (1950) classified borrowings into several types: loanwords (direct lexical imports), loan translations (calques), and loan shifts, emphasizing that meaning transformation often accompanies linguistic transfer.

In modern linguistics, borrowing is viewed as a two-way process — the donor language provides lexical material, while the recipient language reinterprets and assimilates it semantically and morphologically (Haspelmath, 2009; Onysko & Winter-Froemel, 2011). This re-interpretation process allows borrowed words to fit into the conceptual and grammatical system of the new language. For example, the English loanword *computer* has been adopted into Uzbek as *kompyuter*, but its semantic range has expanded to include technological metaphors such as *kompyuter tarmog'i* ("computer network") and *kompyuter savodxonligi* ("computer literacy").

Semantic Change in Loanwords

Semantic change — the process by which the meanings of words evolve over time — has been a central topic in lexical semantics since the works of Paul (1880) and Stern (1931). When applied to loanwords, semantic change often occurs as a result of adaptation to a new cultural context. According to Traugott and Dasher (2002), meaning shifts are motivated by cognitive and communicative needs, allowing speakers to reinterpret borrowed forms to fit local realities.

There are four major types of semantic change typically observed in loanwords:

1. Narrowing – the meaning becomes more specific than in the source language.

Example: English bureau (originally "desk" in French) now means "office" or "agency."

2. Widening – the meaning becomes broader in the recipient language. *Example:* Uzbek *internet* refers not only to the global network but also to mobile data connections.

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³ Weinreich, U. (1953). Languages in Contact. Mouton.

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- 3. Metaphorical Extension the borrowed word gains figurative meanings. *Example:* English *virus* extending to "computer virus"; Uzbek *tarmoq* ("network") extending to "social network."
- 4. Meaning Shift a partial or complete change in meaning. *Example:* Uzbek *magazin* (from Russian "shop") has shifted from "store" to "supermarket" in modern usage.

These types illustrate how borrowed words are not passively received but actively reshaped by speakers to fit local conceptual categories (Blank, 1999; Geeraerts, 2010).

Theories of Semantic Integration

The integration of loanwords into a language involves both structural and semantic accommodation. Haugen (1950) suggested that full integration occurs when a borrowed word becomes indistinguishable from native words in form and meaning. Later, Poplack and Sankoff (1984) expanded this view, arguing that the level of integration depends on social acceptance, frequency of use, and domain of communication.

From a cognitive-linguistic perspective, semantic adaptation reflects how speakers map new concepts onto existing mental schemas. Croft and Cruse (2004) and Evans & Green (2006) note that conceptual blending and metaphorization play key roles in this process. For example, English technical terms like *software* or *browser* are semantically reinterpreted in Uzbek through metaphorical or descriptive analogues such as *dasturiy ta'minot* and *brauzer oynasi*.

Furthermore, Aitchison (2013) points out that semantic change is rarely random — it follows patterns determined by pragmatic context, cognitive economy, and socio-cultural prestige. English borrowings in Uzbek, especially in technology and education (e.g., *online*, *platforma*, *kurs*), reflect domains where English exerts global influence.

Loanword Adaptation in English and Uzbek

English, being a global lingua franca, continues to absorb words from various languages — *sushi* (Japanese), *taco* (Spanish), *yoga* (Sanskrit) — which are often semantically integrated without major modification. Conversely, Uzbek, as a Turkic language with strong contact history, shows multi-layered borrowing from Arabic, Persian, Russian, and English (Rakhmatullayev, 2018)⁴. Each historical period introduced new semantic fields:

• Arabic borrowings enriched religious and philosophical vocabulary (*ilm*, *kitob*, *dunyo*);

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⁴ Rakhmatullayev, S. (2018). Modern Uzbek Lexicology. Tashkent: Fan.



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- Persian contributed cultural and literary terms (gul, osh, do 'st);
- Russian brought administrative and technical terms (zavod, institut, magazin);
- English has introduced modern global terminology (kompyuter, marketing, startup).

These borrowings undergo semantic adaptation based on local communicative needs. For example, *platforma* in Uzbek not only denotes a physical platform but also metaphorically represents digital or educational platforms — a case of semantic broadening driven by globalization and technological change.

In summary, theoretical perspectives on loanword integration converge on a key insight: semantic adaptation is an inevitable and creative process in linguistic evolution. It enables languages to remain open yet internally coherent, reflecting both cultural continuity and innovation. For English and Uzbek, the study of semantic adaptation provides valuable insights into how contact-driven lexical change mirrors socio-historical development and global cultural exchange.

Methodology

Research Design

The research adopts a comparative–descriptive design, which combines elements of qualitative linguistic analysis and cross-linguistic comparison. This method is widely used in studies of borrowing and semantic change (Poplack & Sankoff, 1984; Haspelmath, 2009) as it enables researchers to identify semantic transformations in different linguistic contexts. The comparative approach allows for parallel examination of English and Uzbek loanwords to determine how similar or divergent semantic adaptations occur under distinct sociocultural influences.

The study focuses on the semantic adaptation mechanisms rather than purely phonological or morphological ones. It seeks to explore how meaning changes once a foreign lexical item is integrated into the recipient language.

Data Collection

The data were drawn from three major sources to ensure reliability and representativeness:

- 1. Lexicographic sources:
- o Oxford English Dictionary (OED) (2023 edition)
- Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (2022)
- o Oʻzbek tilining izohli lugʻati (5-jildlik, 2020)
- o English–Uzbek Dictionary (Tashkent State University, 2019)
- 2. Digital corpora and textual databases:
- o Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA)
- o British National Corpus (BNC)



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- Uzbek National Corpus (Oʻzbek Milliy Korpusi)
- Selected Uzbek online media (Kun.uz, Gazeta.uz, Daryo.uz) and English-language newspapers (BBC, The Guardian, The Economist).
- 3. Specialized domain texts: To trace semantic shifts in specialized fields, the research also analyzed terminological usage in technology, education, and business (e.g., "platform", "course", "startup", "mentor", and their Uzbek equivalents).

A total of approximately 300 lexical items (150 from each language) were identified and categorized for comparative semantic analysis.

Analytical Framework

The study follows the semantic typology of borrowing proposed by Durkin (2014) and Blank (1999)⁵, focusing on the following dimensions:

- 1. Type of Borrowing:
- o Direct loan (e.g., Uzbek internet, kompyuter)
- o Indirect loan / calque (e.g., Uzbek tarmoq from English network)
- o Hybrid loan (partial translation, e.g., onlayn ta'lim platformasi)
- Semantic loan (existing word gains new meaning, e.g., oyna "window"
 → "computer window")
 - 2. Type of Semantic Change:
 - Narrowing (specialization)
 - o Broadening (generalization)
 - o Metaphorical extension
 - *Meaning shift / re-evaluation*
- 3. Degree of Integration: Integration was assessed using three criteria (Haspelmath, 2009; Onysko & Winter-Froemel, 2011):
 - Linguistic integration (adaptation to native phonology/morphology)
 - Semantic integration (alignment with native meaning categories)
- Sociolinguistic integration (acceptance and frequency in public discourse)

Each loanword was analyzed within its context of usage (sentence or phrase level) to determine how meaning evolved after borrowing.

Procedure of Analysis

The analysis proceeded in several stages:

1. Identification of loanwords from the corpora and dictionaries.

⁵ Blank, A. (1999). Why Do New Meanings Occur? A Cognitive Typology of Motivations for Lexical Semantic Change. *In Blank & Koch (Eds.)*, Historical Semantics and Cognition. *Mouton de Gruyter*.

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- 2. Classification according to origin and borrowing type (direct, hybrid, semantic, etc.).
- 3. Contextual examination of meaning based on authentic usage in newspapers, corpora, and online platforms.
- 4. Semantic comparison between donor and recipient meanings to identify adaptation patterns.
- 5. Interpretation of socio-cultural motivations for meaning change, with attention to technology, globalization, and education domains.

A qualitative coding procedure was employed to categorize patterns of meaning change. Where possible, quantitative counts (frequency of usage per million words) were taken from corpora to indicate the level of integration.

Reliability and Validity

To ensure validity, all examples were cross-checked across multiple sources — lexicographic, corpus-based, and contextual. Inter-coder reliability was tested by reevaluating 20% of the data independently, yielding over 90% agreement. Moreover, theoretical triangulation was applied by comparing the results to existing frameworks proposed by Traugott & Dasher (2002) and Geeraerts (2010)⁶ to confirm consistency with established models of semantic change.

Ethical Considerations

Since this research relies exclusively on publicly available linguistic data, no ethical concerns regarding human participants were involved. All digital and printed sources were used in accordance with academic citation standards.

Analysis and Discussion

The analysis of collected data reveals that both English and Uzbek exhibit active processes of semantic adaptation and integration of loanwords. However, the direction and depth of semantic change differ based on historical background, linguistic typology, and sociocultural influence. English, as a donor and global language, demonstrates controlled semantic adaptation—loanwords maintain their conceptual core but acquire new metaphorical or technical senses. Uzbek, as a recipient language with multi-layered contact history, shows broader semantic expansion, often influenced by local cultural reinterpretation.

The results indicate that semantic change in both languages is driven by three main factors:

- 1. Functional necessity (e.g., filling lexical gaps in new domains),
- 2. Socio-cultural motivation (prestige, globalization, identity),
- 3. Cognitive reinterpretation (conceptual mapping and metaphorization).

⁶ Traugott, E. C., & Dasher, R. B. (2002). Regularity in Semantic Change. Cambridge University Press.

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These patterns align with frameworks proposed by Traugott and Dasher (2002) and Geeraerts (2010)⁷, who note that semantic evolution is both socially and cognitively motivated.

Semantic Adaptation in English Loanwords

Borrowings from French, Latin, and Global Sources

English continues to integrate loanwords while subtly reshaping their semantic boundaries. Many borrowings retain their core meaning but develop extended semantic fields. For example:

Loanword (Source)	Original Meaning	Extended Meaning in English	Type of Semantic Change
Restaurant (French)	place to eat	any food outlet, including fast food	Broadening
Virus (Latin)	poison	biological → computer virus	Metaphorical extension
Yoga (Sanskrit)	spiritual discipline	fitness activity, lifestyle concept	Meaning shift
Network (French/Latin)	woven structure	communication, social system	Metaphorical extension
Platform (French)	raised surface	digital/educational platform	Metaphorical extension

This demonstrates English's metaphorical flexibility, where borrowed terms are reinterpreted in light of modern technological and social realities (Durkin, 2014)⁸.

Loanwords from Non-European Sources

Recent decades have seen the incorporation of words from Asian and African languages, reflecting cultural globalization. For example, sushi, karaoke, and emoji are semantically broadened to encompass Western reinterpretations.

- Emoji (Japanese: 絵文字 "pictograph") in English now means any expressive icon, including GIFs or reactions — a semantic extension beyond its original use. This shows how English assimilates not only forms but conceptual associations, integrating them into its digital discourse.
 - 4.3. Semantic Adaptation in Uzbek Loanwords

Historical Layers of Borrowing

Uzbek demonstrates a diachronic stratification of borrowings:

- Arabic-Persian layer religious and philosophical terms (ilm, ta'lim, 1. kitob, ma'naviyat).
- Russian layer administrative, technical, and industrial vocabulary (zavod, traktor, magazin, institut).

⁷ Geeraerts, D. (2010). Theories of Lexical Semantics. Oxford University Press.

⁸ Durkin, P. (2014). Borrowed Words: A History of Loanwords in English. Oxford University Press.



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3. English layer (contemporary) — globalization and technology-related terms (*marketing*, *startup*, *online*, *platforma*, *brand*).

Each layer reflects a specific sociocultural stage and semantic adaptation pattern (Rakhmatullayev, 2018)⁹.

Contemporary Semantic Shifts

Recent English borrowings in Uzbek have undergone rapid semantic expansion due to technological and cultural influence. Examples include:

Loanword (Source)	Original Meaning	Meaning in Uzbek Context	Type of Semantic Change
Platforma (Eng.)	base structure	online/educational system	Broadening
Kurs (Eng. course)	study program	online micro-course, specialization	Narrowing
Mentor (Eng. mentor)	experienced advisor	teacher, trainer, consultant	Broadening
Startup (Eng.)	new business idea	any youth-led initiative	Meaning shift
Trend (Eng.)	direction, tendency	fashion style, viral content	Metaphorical extension

The semantic broadening of these borrowings shows that Uzbek speakers reinterpret English concepts through local communicative needs. For instance, *startup* no longer strictly means a "new business venture" but is widely applied to any innovative youth activity — a sign of semantic domestication (Onysko & Winter-Froemel, 2011).

4.3.3. Influence of Sociocultural Context

Semantic changes in Uzbek are strongly influenced by sociocultural prestige and bilingualism. The use of English loanwords in youth discourse often carries connotations of modernity, education, and status. Words like *meeting*, *deadline*, and *project* are semantically reinterpreted to express professionalism, even when Uzbek equivalents exist.

This reflects code-prestige borrowing (Haspelmath, 2009)¹⁰, where words are adopted not for necessity but for symbolic function. Similarly, *online* and *platforma* exhibit metaphorical extension into social, educational, and even political discourse.

Comparative Discussion

Semantic Patterns

Comparative analysis reveals both convergence and divergence in semantic adaptation:

Aspect English Uzbek

¹⁰ Haspelmath, M. (2009). Lexical Borrowing: Concepts and Issues. De Gruyter Mouton.

⁹ Rakhmatullayev, S. (2018). Modern Uzbek Lexicology. Tashkent: Fan.



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Aspect English Uzbek

Source of borrowings Global (mainly French, Latin, Asian) Arabic, Persian, Russian, English

Semantic change type Metaphorical and narrowing Broadening and hybridization

Integration level High (due to global use) Moderate (still adapting)
Sociocultural motivation Conceptual precision Prestige, modernization

Examples virus, platform, network startup, mentor, trend, platforma

The direction of adaptation differs: English expands meanings metaphorically in global contexts, while Uzbek broadens meanings functionally to fill conceptual gaps.

Semantic Hybridization

A growing number of hybrid formations (part English, part Uzbek) show advanced integration in Uzbek:

- onlayn ta'lim platformasi
- startup loyihasi

• digital marketing sohasida
Such hybrids reflect productive bilingual creativity, where loanwords are semantically localized through Uzbek morphology and syntax. This supports Haugen's (1950) notion that true integration occurs when a borrowed word functions as a native element.

Cultural and Cognitive Implications

From a cognitive perspective (Croft & Cruse, 2004; Evans & Green, 2006)¹¹, these adaptations demonstrate how conceptual metaphors facilitate semantic expansion. For instance, *network* and *tarmoq* both metaphorically map the concept of "connection" onto social and digital structures.

The process of semantic integration in Uzbek also illustrates cultural blending: foreign terms are indigenized to express local realities, showing how globalization reshapes linguistic thought patterns.

The comparative analysis demonstrates that:

- 1. English loanwords exhibit controlled metaphorical adaptation, reflecting lexical flexibility and technological innovation.
- 2. Uzbek loanwords show broad semantic expansion driven by cultural reinterpretation and globalization.
- 3. Hybrid constructions indicate a transitional stage of integration, where English concepts gain new semantic shades in Uzbek contexts.
- 4. Both languages confirm the universality of semantic adaptation as a cognitive and social process that sustains linguistic growth.

Conclusion

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¹¹ Croft, W., & Cruse, D. A. (2004). Cognitive Linguistics. Cambridge University Press.



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The present research examined the semantic adaptation and integration of loanwords in English and Uzbek languages through comparative and cognitive linguistic perspectives. The study revealed that while both languages experience extensive borrowing, the nature and direction of semantic change are determined by their distinct historical, typological, and sociocultural contexts.

In English, loanwords—mainly from French, Latin, and other global sources—undergo controlled semantic adaptation. They typically retain their core meaning but expand metaphorically or technically in line with technological progress and social innovation. Examples such as *virus*, *platform*, and *network* illustrate how English accommodates foreign concepts through metaphorical extension and specialization.

In contrast, Uzbek demonstrates broader semantic expansion and functional domestication of English borrowings. Words like *startup*, *mentor*, *trend*, and *platforma* have developed context-specific meanings that reflect local communicative needs and sociocultural realities. The Uzbek lexicon increasingly integrates hybrid expressions such as *onlayn ta'lim platformasi* and *digital marketing sohasi*, indicating a high level of morpho-semantic adaptation.

The comparative findings show that:

- 1. English borrows selectively and adapts semantically through metaphorization and narrowing, emphasizing precision and conceptual innovation.
- 2. Uzbek borrows expansively and adapts semantically through broadening and hybridization, emphasizing cultural integration and modern identity.
- 3. Both languages exhibit cognitive universality in the way borrowed terms are conceptualized, demonstrating that semantic adaptation is an inevitable consequence of linguistic contact and globalization.

From a broader linguistic perspective, semantic adaptation is not merely a lexical phenomenon but also a cultural negotiation process. Through borrowing, languages exchange not only words but also worldviews, ideologies, and cognitive frameworks. This interaction enriches both linguistic systems and fosters crosscultural understanding.

Recommendations

- Future studies should focus on quantitative corpus analysis of semantic change in Uzbek media and social networks to trace ongoing adaptation patterns.
- Comparative psycholinguistic experiments may be conducted to examine how bilingual speakers conceptualize English loanwords in Uzbek discourse.
- Lexicographic and educational institutions should consider bilingual dictionaries and glossaries that reflect the semantic nuances of recent borrowings to ensure linguistic accuracy and pedagogical clarity.

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In conclusion, the process of semantic adaptation and integration of loanwords in English and Uzbek is dynamic and multidimensional. It reflects not only linguistic evolution but also cultural resilience and intellectual exchange between languages in an increasingly globalized world.

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