

# Correlation of the prototype and borrowing in the aspect of the semantic evolution of the Russian language vocabulary

Svetlana Bakhtina  
Chuvash State University,  
Cheboksary, Russia

Ekaterina Kozhemyakova  
Chuvash State University,  
Cheboksary, Russia

Alena Nikitina  
Chuvash State University,  
Cheboksary, Russia

Tatyana Pavlova  
Chuvash State University,  
Cheboksary, Russia

Elena Ignateva  
Chuvash State University,  
Cheboksary, Russia

**Abstract** — The article discusses the relationship between prototype and correlative borrowing in the aspect of contact linguistics. The process of assimilation of foreign lexis implies its adaptation at various levels of the receiving language, including the lexical one. Semantic assimilation of a foreign lexeme is the central point in its development. Adaptation at the level of semantics is a process that involves inclusion of a foreign word in the lexical system of the receiving language and leads to a change in the volume of semantic values of the original lexical item. In this paper, the authors have developed and described the types of semantic modifications of borrowings in diachrony, which has recently become most relevant in light of language contacts intensification. The mechanisms of semantic transformations of foreign words, which ultimately supplement various lexical and thematic groups of the Russian language, are also revealed. Different types of changes at the level of semantics are connected with differences in quantitative and qualitative character, which is expressed in the tendency to change the original semantic structure of the word.

**Keywords** — *foreign word; native word; borrowing; prototype; adaptation; semantic assimilation; correlation.*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Borrowing lexical items from one language to another is a natural and fairly widespread process resulting from linguistic contacts in different spheres of public life. The lexical system of a language is sensitive to all changes occurring in society because the lexis is one of the most mobile and changeable levels of the language. According to M.A. Nikulina, "a language that, for objective reasons, is experiencing a shortage of language means to designate new realities in a certain area of special communication, seeks to compensate for them at the expense of another ... language. [7]. The need to use borrowing is explained by the fact that sometimes "the Russian word does not cope with the expression of a complex of meanings" [3]. Recently, interest in learning foreign lexis has increased: there are quite a few works devoted to the contrastive examination of various languages, the description of specific lexical and thematic groups, the disclosure of problems of terminological borrowings, etc. This is primarily due to the tendency to increase the vocabulary of the Russian language at the expense of foreign lexemes.

The reasons for borrowing are different. At one time or another, the development of a language is dominated by a specific factor: a forced mixture of languages as a result of expansion; fashion for a specific language; the desire for compactness, expressed in the use of borrowing instead of descriptive turnover; elimination of polysemy native words and others. For example, at the present stage, in addition to external causes (strengthening political or cultural connections between nations, free access to the Internet and the media, "migration processes that affect the sociolinguistic situation of many countries" [12]), there are also purely linguistic factors what are the tendencies to terminologization or economy of language means (replacement of composite concepts by monosyllabic borrowing), filling gaps in the language, and also "the need for a more accurate expression of certain concepts in semantic terms" [4]. The borrowing process is not intended to encroach upon the originality of the receiving language, but on the contrary enriches it to some extent. It is necessary to take into account the fact that the lexical system of the Russian language is in a state of certain equilibrium when the tendency to excessive borrowing is constrained by the need for fixity and stability.

The problem of linguistic interactions has a rather long history of study; nevertheless, in Russian linguistics there is no unambiguous approach to distinguishing such concepts as "foreign lexis" and "borrowed lexis/borrowing". The term "foreign lexis" is rather voluminous, therefore, in our opinion, it can include all foreign words and expressions that come from another language, that is, non-original from the point of view of origin. In the research literature there is a broad understanding of the term "borrowing", in which the transition of any language units — lexemes, syntagmas, etc. — is considered as such from one language to another as a result of contacts between them. We are in the position of those researchers who call borrowing a lexical item in the presence of certain signs and suggest that a good reason to consider a non-original word as a borrowing is to match its three criteria: 1) fixing in the dictionary/dictionaries; 2) frequency of use; 3) use in various styles of speech (at least three). Thus, a prerequisite for attributing a foreign unit to

borrowing is a high degree of its assimilation in the borrowing language, caused by a communicative need.

In addition, the process of formation, development of the lexical-semantic system of the Russian language, as well as the semantic modification of borrowings is considered by us in the aspect of contact linguistics and in terms of diachrony. The latter is important because the study of changes in the lexis of a language from the perspective of the diachronic slice makes it possible to trace the emergence and formation of phenomena that characterize its state at the present stage, as regards the processes associated with borrowing lexis. When borrowing, the meaning of lexemes is often modified in a semantic sense, because mastering foreign lexis "... leads to a change in its semantic structure" [5].

In this article, we also rely on such concepts as "prototype", "borrowing" and "correlation". Using these terms, we face certain difficulties: genetically borrowing can be associated with different source languages, and sometimes the source of borrowing is difficult to determine. Due to the fact that sometimes it is not possible to establish a source language, we will consider it the one from which the lexeme has passed into the receiving language. By "prototype" we mean a more representative version of a foreign word with a high degree of regularity of use. "Correlation", which implies the interdependence of concepts and phenomena, in our case means the connection of the prototype (a foreign word with the original meaning) and borrowing.

## II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Research methods are determined by the goals and objectives. The main method is a comparative-typological, which allows revealing the general and differences in the semantics of different languages. The descriptive method was used to interpret semantic modifications of the lexis and to analyze the meaning of the prototype and correlative borrowing; the continuous sampling method was used when working with lexical material, the contextual method was used to establish the value of lexemes.

## III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The semantic transformation of a foreign word is a difficult and sometimes unpredictable way. The study of the adaptation process of the lexis involves various difficulties since the lexical unit can be viewed both from the perspective of historical lexicology and from the point of view of modern language use.

In comparative linguistics, specific lexical and thematic groups became and become the object of study (Superanskaya A.V., Berkovich T.L., and others); semantic assimilations of borrowings from various languages Vorobyev Yu.A., Timirgaleeva A.R., Sytina N.A., Gabdreeva N.V., Manoli I.Z., Yunaleeva R.A., etc.). Diplomatic terminology (Sergeev F.P.), military lexis (Sorokoletov V.P.), lexis of the educational sphere (Zaitseva L.A.), etc. were analyzed from the perspective of the modern state and in diachronic. However, despite close attention to the study of foreign lexis, there is no single classification of semantic transformations that occur in the meaning of a lexeme in the process of its borrowing.

In this article, we propose a new universal classification of semantic transformations of foreign lexis, consisting of seven models of prototype semantic reception in the Russian language and covering various source languages and thematic groups. The use of this classification in the study of individual lexical units allows us to trace the history of the development of words in Russian. The classification of certain types of correspondences of the native word and borrowing can be used in the study and description of various lexical and thematic groups, as well as in the educational process in order to enhance mental activity in lectures and seminars and improve the efficiency of the educational process [13, 14, 15].

Our comparative analysis of the semantic structure of the prototype and the correlate allows us to distinguish several basic types of correspondences.

1. Preservation of value while maintaining the motivating attribute.
2. Value concretization.
3. Modification of semantics with the identity of form.
4. Development of transferred meaning.
5. Terminologization.
6. Resemantization.
7. Loan translation.

*Preservation of value while maintaining the motivating attribute.* Lexical units, which are based on the motivation feature, are recognizable; their meaning becomes clear provided that the recipient knows the language from which they were borrowed. In the source language at the time of borrowing, a certain lexical unit can have a single meaning, in which it begins to be used in Russian. The reason for this transition is often the lack of a similar name in the receiving language. The semantics of these words is not veiled. The basis of borrowing with preservation of the motivating attribute can be based on a literal translation: *cheese pie* (English literal "Cheesecake"), *jack boots* (French literal "Big boots"), *decor* (French literal "Decoration"), *beef steak* (English literal "Piece meat"). Often an important role is played by associative links: *chips* (English literal "Cuttings") is a product, fried in oil in the form of crispy slices, *chaud-froid* (French literal "Heat and cold" is roast meat with cold dressing. It is noteworthy that sometimes the word enters the Russian language indirectly, that is, through some other language, and then it is perceived as initial borrowing. Those transformations that occurred with the lexical unit in the intermediate language are unknown to us. Consider as an example the word *market* (Polish literal "Square" is a place for retail or small wholesale trade; the field of commodity circulation), which was borrowed from Polish into Russian in the same meaning as it was used in it, although it came into Polish from German in the sense of "ring, circle".

This type of semantic transformation is presented at all stages of the evolution of the Russian language to a greater or lesser extent.

*Value concretization.* Actualization in the speech of a lexical unit in one meaning is "for designation of one concept, compression of all information in a single sign is

one of the important conditions of oral communication” [4]. We have identified a large layer in the lexis of the Russian language, which includes borrowing with clarification of meaning. This process implies a demonstration of a change in the original lexical meaning of a word in the receiving language in the direction of its refinement. This is expressed in the fact that foreign names of realities in Russian are used in a narrower meaning, that is, they become hyponyms. Yu.S. Chernyakova notes “the method of the specification is aimed at clarifying the meaning of the nominative lexical unit of the source language by replacing it with a unit of translational language with a more specific meaning [11]. The transformation result is lexemes that are more compact in terms of semantics. For example, the French word *jelly* (French literal “Frost”) entered the Russian language in the specific meaning “frozen mass of juices or meat”. The basis of this name is common for the Russian and French word sign “cold”.

Consider the process of specifying values in the host language on the example of the word *speculator* (it is from Latin. *speculatio* is “tracking”). In German, the prototype has the meaning “to speculate about the upcoming deal; to make such transactions with great profit.” In the Russian language in the dictionaries, the pejorative coloring of this word was fixed, with a predominance of a negative seme “illegal transaction, crime”: “an economic person engaged in speculation” [6].

Thus, we can conclude that in the process of adapting to the Russian lexical system, non-original lexical units acquire greater semantic concretization. From our point of view, this is explained by the fact that the foreign word with volumetric semantics does not have the corresponding reality in the Russian language.

*The modification of semantics with the identity of form* is another type of correlation of the prototype and borrowing. Considering the semantics of lexemes in diachronic, we come to the conclusion that at all stages of the development of the Russian language there was a group of borrowings in it, characterized by a significant change in semantics. Over time, the etymon is transformed and the word has a new modified meaning: more voluminous, narrowed, or portable.

The process of narrowing the value of borrowing is understood in different ways. In a broad sense, this is a modification of the conceptual scope and a decrease in the number of values. We understand by the term “narrowing of meaning” the word abbreviation. The narrowing of the meaning of the borrowed word can occur both at the time of its entry into the Russian language, and in the process of development. Consider this process on the example of the word casting (English literal “Cast”). In the source language, the prototype has several meanings: 1) throwing; 2) dropping horns; 3) approximate calculation 4) distribution of roles, selection of actors; 5) casting, cast; 6) casting; 7) transport of rock; 8) the mounds of earth formed by worms; 9) emetic mass. The modern explanatory dictionary of the Russian language cites the following meanings of this word: 1) determining the composition of performers, selecting actors for cinema, television, theater; 2) public viewing of girls (usually during beauty contests), as well as models, fashion models for the subsequent demonstration of samples of

fashionable clothes. As you can see, the correlate in Russian verbalizes only a small part of the values of the prototype [2].

Consider the currently used in various styles of speech the word *make-up*. The English prototype has several meanings: 1) face paint, cosmetics, 2) face paint and costume of an actor, 3) composition, 4) make-up, fiber, 5) fiction, 6) layout. In Russian, only the meaning of “face paint, cosmetics” was actualized [6]. In this case, the borrowing verbalizes a partial volume of the originally nominated items.

The German word hacker (English literal “Hack”) in the source language has several meanings, one of which is “programmers who fix bugs in software”. Borrowed by the receiving language, it is used in the field of computer technology only in the sense of “amateur computer programmer, penetrating into other people's databases for the purpose of entertainment or to obtain secret information” [6]. In the present period, by the way, this borrowing has stimulated derivational derivatives, especially in computer slang: “hackish”, “hacking”, “hack”.

Consider the process of narrowing the value of the example of the German word *büchse* (sample bottle) (German literal “tin”), which is the source language has the generic meaning “can; tin; shotgun”. In Russian, *byuksa/byuks* (sample bottle) is “a glass thin-walled glass with a ground-in lid; used in analytical practice” [10].

These examples confirm the thesis that a change in the semantics of borrowing on the basis of the receiving language in the direction of decreasing the number of meanings is an active process involving various lexical and thematic groups. The reasons for this transformation of semantics are different, but the main, in our opinion, is the need to specify the concept and limit the scope of borrowing.

The expansion of the value of the borrowed unit implies an increase in the semantic volume of the correlate in comparison with the prototype. An example of expansion is the German word *resort* (German, literally “Place of treatment”), which in Russian is most often used to mean “an area that has natural medicinal means (mineral water, mud, climate, etc.) and the necessary conditions for their applications” [9]. However, in modern Russian, the resort is also called a “resting place”.

The borrowed word *Gastarbeiter* (migrant worker) (German literal “Guest and employee”) has evolved semantic derivatives on the basis of the borrowing language. If in the source language migrant workers are called contract workers, living and working outside their own country, in the Russian language additional meanings have developed “low-paid worker” and “working illegally”.

The history of the word legionary, who came to the Russian soil from the German language in the sense of “legion soldiers, special military units”, is interesting. Now the correlate on Russian soil is developing an additional meaning “athlete performing in foreign clubs, contract teams” [10].

The modification of semantics on Russian soil is characteristic of the word *quest* (English literal “search”), which in English is used in the meaning of “search”. At the initial stage of borrowing, this term was called “the genre of

computer games, during which the player must, using the information obtained in the course of the game, find something, that is the ultimate goal" [10]. Nowadays, not virtual heroes are popular all over the world, overcoming an obstacle course for the sake of winning a prize or defeating an opponent, but real quest rooms or territories across the whole city, where the hero solves logical problems and puzzles and eventually reaches the game goal. Note that in the original language the name "quest" was a proper name and was used in the name of the computer games of the adventure genre, then on Russian soil this term was assigned to all games of a similar nature and became a common name, and later, as a result of the expansion of the semantic volume "a real game for a team of several people".

Thus, the process of expanding the meaning of words affects lexical units, more or less adapted to the system of the Russian language, since as a result of the cognitive activity of a native speaker of this language, some of these semes are updated and others are neutralized. As a result, this leads to a semantic change of the lexeme. We believe that the expansion of the semantic volume can occur due to de-ideologization of a group of words; the penetration of words from one sphere of meanings into another, when connotative semes are formed; as a result of associative reasoning. This type is typical for borrowing, replenishing various lexical and thematic groups of a language at different stages of its development.

*The development of transferred meaning.* The transferred meaning may be the result of secondary semantic borrowing during the transition to the receiving language of an additional seme, may develop on the basis of the receiving language, or be borrowed immediately from the source language. The use of the word in a figurative meaning implies the existence of implicit connections between the meaning of the word-prototype and the derived lexical meaning of borrowing-correlate.

The figurative meaning of borrowing may appear as a result of indirect nomination when metaphorical, metonymic or associative relations between the primary and derived values become dominant. For example, the word *canape* (French literal "Small sofa") was borrowed by Russian from French in the original meaning of "soft bench". After a while, bread with a hard crust was called that, on which a thick layer of some soft edible substance was put: fish, chicken, fresh vegetables and greens. Thus, there was a transfer of values based on the association.

The Portuguese word *caste* (Portuguese literal "genus, generation"), which is literally exorcism and means a separate group of people in some countries, separated as a result of performing a specific social function, began to be used in Russian with a negatively-estimated coloring: "a closed group, protecting its isolation and privileges" [9].

Often, the figurative meaning is formed on the basis of a common seme. In the Russian word *salt* under the influence of the French prototype (the French word *sel* has several meanings: sharpness, piquancy) the meaning of "wit" is formed [8].

The reason for the appearance of the transferred meaning is often the subjective perception of the word; the desire to save language means, allowing you to use a previously

borrowed word to denote new concepts or interpretation through the prism of emotions. We have noticed that recently words in Russian have been adapted, demonstrating rich expressive and stylistic possibilities.

*Terminologization.* Terminologization of lexis is considered by researchers in the aspect of the formation of highly specialized terms that supplement specific areas of the language. We have identified a tendency to supplement the terminological system of the Russian language with borrowed lexis that is part of the thematic group "Food", which is fundamentally new. By terminologization, we mean rethinking the basic meaning of a lexical unit, during which various semantic processes are realized (narrowing, transferred meaning, or expanding the semantics of a word). The main factor by which the general lexis can be referred to a term is the use of this word to explain or characterize elements of other term systems. The concept of a word-term begins to be thought of as specific and gradually disagrees with the concept of a word similar to the sound shell, but belonging to the general lexis. For example, the process of terminologization has touched the French word *caramel* is "a variety of sweets and burnt sugar for coloring confectionery products", which in Russian is beginning to be used to designate the color of products: caramel color, etc. Thus, this word serves to describe the appearance of an object. In this case, additional connotations of the lexical unit are not traceable.

*Resemantization.* It cannot be argued that this process is significantly common in Russian nevertheless it is one of the ways to replenish lexis. The mechanism of resemanization involves the actualization of the values of little-used or obsolete linguistic units. Preserving the previous semantic content or changing it completely, they experience a rebirth and replenish the vocabulary of the Russian language. This process has affected many thematic groups. The lexical units, forgotten for some time, began to be used again since the corresponding realities returned. For example, the word *premier* (French literal "first") goes back to Latin and means: 1) the actor or actress who occupied the leading position in the troupe, 2) the head of government, the chairman of the council or cabinet ministers [10]. In connection with a change in the political situation in the country, this word has become actively used in the second meaning, practically without undergoing semantic changes.

Sometimes words are returned to the language in a modified meaning. Exposure suit (French literal "Felder and Man") was called diving equipment in the 18th century, and with the advent of the space age, this word was also used to denote dress for astronauts. It is noteworthy that at a certain stage of language development, the word exposure suit in the meaning of "special suit for working underwater" temporarily fell out of use it was replaced by the expression "diving suit".

Resemantization is characteristic for any stage of the development of the Russian language. As a result of the action of certain extratextual factors, the previously known, then forgotten word begins to manifest itself as a semantic neologism. In any case, this is one of the ways to enrich the lexis of the language.

*Loan translation.* The linguistic significance of calques "consists in enriching the vocabulary of a language without

introducing a foreign shell, as well as in bringing together the mindsets of two peoples and their perception of the linguistic picture of the world" [1]. For all stages of development of the Russian language, especially for the modern, this process is characteristic the formation of the word "by translating the morphological structure or meaning of a foreign word, expression" [9]. Often, loan translation is subject to well-known concepts (White House) and not so much (golden syrup, orange water, soupe à l'oignon - onion soup). However, this is not a mechanical transfer of the original form into the receiving language. For example, *skinhead* from English is traced with a change in the semantic meaning of the first part of a word. When transferred to the Russian soil, not only the semantics of the part of the word change, but also the morphological transformation of the entire lexical unit, since the "skinhead" is translated as "shaven-headed".

#### IV. CONCLUSION

Transformations in the lexical and semantic system of a particular language reflect the evolution of the entire language system. The lexicographic description and the history of the individual language units belonging to one or another lexis groups provide a complete picture of the semantic changes that have occurred and are occurring in the language.

Borrowing constitutes a certain layer in the lexis of the Russian language because the process of entering foreign words is an integral part of the process of historical change and the functioning of a language. Semantic adaptation of borrowing is often a long-term process; historically contingent; characterized by both the general laws of the language, and the individual characteristics of a particular word; showing dynamics in all directions.

Considering the development of semantics of lexemes in the cognitive-diachronic aspect, it is possible to reveal the mechanisms of semantic changes of words and certain groups of correspondences of the prototype and correlate. Functioning in the Russian language, borrowings are subject to semantic assimilation, which directly depends on the degree of adaptation of the lexical unit.

The classification presented in the paper and covering various types of prototype and borrowing matches is relatively universal. Considering the assimilation of foreign lexis in diachrony, we have seen that a certain type of semantic relations can correspond to each stage of its entry into the Russian language (penetration, borrowing, rooting).

#### REFERENCES

- [1] J. Bagan, A.N. Bezrukaya, and M.V. Tarasova, "Loan translation and borrowing as a result of foreign influence", in RUDN Bulletin, no.1, pp. 5-10, 2007.
- [2] S.I. Bakhtina, "Semantic derivation of words of foreign origin in Russian", in the Scientific and Methodological Electronic Journal "Concept", vol. 28, Pp. 6-9, 2017.
- [3] L.I. Bogdanova, "New Words in the Aspect of the Interaction of Languages and Cultures", in RUDN Bulletin, no. 2, P. 46, 2015.
- [4] L.M. Bukina, "External and internal conditionality of language borrowing", in RUDN Bulletin, vol. 20, No. 1, Pp. 89-99, 2016.
- [5] N.V. Gabdreeva, A.V. Ageeva, and A.R. Timirgaleeva, "Foreign vocabulary in the modern Russian language", M.: FLINTA: Nauka, 2013, 328 p.
- [6] N.G. Butt, "Dictionary of Foreign Words", Moscow: Eksmo-Press, 2006, 669 p.
- [7] M.A. Nikulina, "On the issue of the expediency of English-language borrowings in the Russian-language terminological systems of the "new time", in RUDN Bulletin, No. 2, Pp. 54-61, 2014.
- [8] S.I. Ozhegov, "Dictionary of the Russian Language", Moscow: Onyx, 2005, 1200 p.
- [9] E.S. Zenovich, "Dictionary of foreign words and expressions," M.: LLC Agency KRPA Olimp: LLC Publishing House AST, 2002, 778 p.
- [10] L.B. Bash, A.V. Bobrova, and G.V. Vecheslova, "Modern Dictionary of Foreign Words: Interpretation, Usage, Word Formation, Etymology", M.: CITADEL-TRADE, 2002, 928 p.
- [11] Yu.S. Chernyakova, "Functional equivalence of the lexical-semantic level", in RUDN Bulletin, no. 2, Pp. 26-30, 2009.
- [12] E.A. Kozhemyakova, M.E. Petukhova, I.A. Simulina, A.M. Ivanova, and A.N. Zakharova, "Linguistic Markers of Native Speakers", International Conference "Topical Problems of Philology and Didactics: Interdisciplinary Approach in Humanities and Social Sciences" (TPHD 2018), in Advances in Social Science, Education and Humanities Research (ASSEHR), vol. 312, Pp. 470-475, 2019.
- [13] N.I. Kryukova, A.N. Zakharova, G.S. Dulina, Z.F. Yusupova, I.D. Belonovskaya, and J.N. Bogdanova, "Didactic features of pedagogical interaction as the basis of university education", in Man In India, vol. 97 (3), Pp. 29-41, 2017.
- [14] R.A. Kutuev, N.A. Mashkin, O.G. Yevgrafova, A.V. Morozov, A.N. Zakharova, and V.T. Parkhaev, "Methodological guidance of educational monitoring effectiveness", in Modern Journal of Language Teaching Methods, vol. 7, no. 3, Pp. 405-410, 2017.
- [15] O.K. Evdokimova, V.I. Gorbunov, V.V. Andreev, A.M. Ivanova, and A.N. Zakharova, "Methodology and Practice of Teaching of Philological Cycle Subjects at the Technical Faculties of Russian Universities", International Conference "Topical Problems of Philology and Didactics: Interdisciplinary Approach in Humanities and Social Sciences" (TPHD 2018), in Advances in Social Science, Education and Humanities Research (ASSEHR), vol. 312, Pp.464-469, 2019.