

Bilingual Lexicography: A Comparative Study of Loanwords in English and Spanish Languages

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Abstract

This study examines the phenomenon of lexical borrowing between English and Spanish, focusing on the integration and adaptation of loanwords in both languages. As global interconnectedness increases, the exchange of vocabulary between languages has become a significant area of interest in bilingual lexicography. By examining a comprehensive corpus of loanwords, this research identifies patterns and trends in the borrowing processes of English and Spanish. The study investigates the phonological, morphological, and semantic changes that loanwords undergo upon integration into the target language. Special attention is given to the socio-cultural factors influencing the adoption and adaptation of these loanwords, including historical contact, media influence, and technological advancements. Through a comparative analysis, the research highlights the asymmetrical nature of lexical borrowing, noting the predominant influence of English on contemporary Spanish vocabulary. This imbalance is attributed to the global dominance of English in areas such as technology, business, and entertainment, which drives the influx of English loanwords into Spanish. Conversely, the study also examines the presence and impact of Spanish loanwords in English, often reflecting cultural and culinary influences. The findings reveal how cultural exchange, technological advancements, and globalization drive the dynamic interplay between these two languages. This study contributes to the understanding of bilingual lexicography by providing insights into the mechanisms of lexical borrowing, offering implications for language teaching, dictionary compilation, and the preservation of linguistic heritage in bilingual communities. The research underscores the importance of ongoing linguistic exchange and its impact on the evolution of English and Spanish lexicons. By analyzing the processes and outcomes of lexical borrowing, this study provides a nuanced

perspective on the complexities of language contact and its role in shaping contemporary vocabulary.

1. Introduction

Lexical borrowing, the process by which one language adopts words and phrases from another, is a widespread phenomenon that reflects cultural and linguistic interactions. This process significantly influences the vocabulary and usage patterns of the borrowing language, which leads to enriching but also complex linguistic landscapes (Hoffer, 2005). The significance of lexical borrowing extends beyond mere vocabulary expansion; it embodies historical, social, and cultural exchanges, illustrating the dynamic nature of languages in contact (Winford, 2003).

Bilingual lexicography, the practice of compiling dictionaries that account for two languages, plays a crucial role in documenting and analyzing these lexical exchanges. It provides essential resources for understanding how loanwords are integrated and adapted, offering insights into phonological, morphological, and semantic changes (Sánchez, 2010). This field not only aids in preserving linguistic heritage but also supports language learning and translation practices, making it indispensable in our increasingly interconnected world (González, 2012).

The primary objective of this study is to investigate the phenomenon of lexical borrowing between English and Spanish, focusing on how loanwords are integrated and adapted in both languages. By examining a comprehensive corpus of loanwords, this research aims to identify patterns and trends in the borrowing processes, with a particular emphasis on the phonological, morphological, and semantic changes that occur. Additionally, the study seeks to understand the socio-cultural factors influencing these adaptations, including historical contact, media influence, and technological advancements. This paper is structured as follows: after this introduction, a review of relevant literature will be presented, providing a foundation for the study. The methodology section will detail the data collection and analysis procedures. Subsequent sections will explore phonological, morphological, and semantic changes in loanwords, followed by an analysis of socio-cultural influences. The comparative analysis section will highlight the asymmetrical nature of lexical borrowing between English and Spanish. Finally, the implications for bilingual lexicography and conclusions will be discussed.

2. Literature Review

Previous research on lexical borrowing has extensively documented the ways in which languages influence each other through the adoption of words and phrases. Studies have highlighted the diverse motivations behind lexical borrowing, ranging from the need to fill lexical gaps to social prestige and cultural exchange (Myers-Scotton, 2006). Research by Poplack, Sankoff, and Miller (1988) has been pivotal in illustrating the structural integration of loanwords, emphasizing the role of syntactic and morphological adaptation in the recipient

language. The contributions of scholars like Haugen (1950) have laid the groundwork for understanding the linguistic outcomes of language contact, detailing the phonological and semantic adjustments that borrowed words undergo. Theoretical frameworks in bilingual lexicography provide essential tools for analyzing and documenting lexical borrowing. Haspelmath (2009) presents a typological approach that categorizes borrowings based on structural and functional criteria, facilitating a systematic study of loanwords. Meanwhile, Matras (2009) offers a sociolinguistic perspective, focusing on the contextual factors that drive borrowing processes and the resulting lexical changes. These frameworks underscore the importance of both linguistic and extralinguistic factors in shaping the lexicon of bilingual communities.

The historical context of English-Spanish language contact is rich and multifaceted, influenced by colonization, migration, and globalization. The Spanish colonization of the Americas introduced numerous Spanish words into indigenous languages and vice versa, creating a legacy of lexical exchange (Lipski, 2005). In more recent times, the significant migration of Spanish speakers to English-dominant countries has intensified language contact, leading to a surge in the number of Spanish loanwords in English, particularly in regions with high Hispanic populations (Zentella, 1997). Conversely, the global dominance of English has resulted in a substantial influx of English loanwords into contemporary Spanish, especially in fields such as technology, business, and popular culture (Görlach, 2002).

Socio-cultural factors play a crucial role in the process of lexical borrowing. The influence of media and technology cannot be overstated, as they facilitate rapid dissemination and adoption of new terms across linguistic boundaries (Crystal, 2006). Social attitudes towards languages, including perceptions of prestige and utility, also drive the borrowing process. For instance, the high prestige associated with English in many Spanish-speaking countries encourages the adoption of English terms (Pountain, 2003). Additionally, cultural exchanges, such as those seen in the culinary and entertainment industries, further promote the integration of loanwords, reflecting the interconnectedness of modern societies (Appel & Muysken, 2005).

3. Methodology

The methodology employed in this study adheres to rigorous standards in corpus linguistics and lexical analysis, aiming to provide a comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon of lexical borrowing between English and Spanish. Corpus selection and data collection involved the compilation of a diverse and representative dataset comprising loanwords from both English and Spanish. The corpus was drawn from a variety of sources, including written texts, digital media, and spoken language transcripts, to capture a wide range of lexical borrowings in different contexts. Analytical methods for phonological, morphological, and semantic changes were applied to the collected data. Phonological analysis focused on examining how phonetic features of loanwords are adapted to fit the

phonological constraints of the recipient language. Morphological analysis involved identifying and categorizing morphological changes undergone by loanwords during integration into the target language. Semantic analysis aimed to elucidate shifts in meaning and usage that occur as loanwords are assimilated into the lexicon of the borrowing language.

Criteria for identifying and classifying loanwords were established based on linguistic principles and theoretical frameworks in lexical borrowing. Loanwords were identified based on their status as lexical items borrowed from one language into another, distinguishing them from cognates and loan translations. Classification criteria included factors such as word frequency, degree of integration, and semantic transparency. A comparative analysis approach was employed to examine patterns and trends in lexical borrowing between English and Spanish. This involved contrasting the phonological, morphological, and semantic changes observed in loanwords from both languages, as well as identifying asymmetries in borrowing patterns. By conducting a systematic comparison, this approach facilitated a nuanced understanding of the dynamics of lexical borrowing in bilingual contexts.

4. Phonological Changes in Loanwords

4.1. Adaptation of English Phonemes in Spanish

The adaptation of English phonemes in Spanish involves the process of accommodating English sounds to fit within the phonological system of Spanish. This phenomenon has been extensively studied in the field of bilingual phonology, with scholars examining how English sounds are modified to conform to Spanish phonotactic constraints (Alonso, 2008). For example, the English /θ/ sound, as in "think," is often replaced by the Spanish /s/ or /t/ sounds in loanwords, such as "software" pronounced as "sofware" or "táxi" for "taxi" (Navarro Tomás, 1964). This process of substitution allows loanwords to maintain their phonetic integrity while aligning with the sound patterns of the borrowing language.

4.2. Adaptation of Spanish Phonemes in English

Conversely, the adaptation of Spanish phonemes in English involves the incorporation of Spanish sounds into English loanwords. This process is influenced by factors such as phonetic similarity and perceptual salience, leading to variable outcomes in pronunciation (Lipski, 2015). For instance, the Spanish rolled /r/ sound is often preserved in English loanwords, such as "fiesta" or "jalapeño," albeit with varying degrees of approximation depending on the speaker's proficiency in Spanish phonology (Silva-Corvalán, 2014). Additionally, Spanish vowels may undergo modifications in English loanwords to align with English vowel phonemes, as seen in words like "pico de gallo" pronounced as "peeko de guyo."

4.3. Examples and Case Studies

Several case studies provide insights into the phonological changes observed in loanwords between English and Spanish. For instance, research by López Morales (2009) analyzes the adaptation of English loanwords in Puerto Rican Spanish, highlighting the phonetic strategies employed by speakers to integrate foreign sounds into their native phonological system. Similarly, studies by Martínez-Celdrán and Fernández-Planas (2007) examine the phonological assimilation of Spanish loanwords in American English, shedding light on the variation and adaptation processes involved.

5. Morphological Changes in Loanwords

5.1. Integration of English Morphemes in Spanish

The integration of English morphemes into Spanish demonstrates a dynamic interplay between the two languages, with English loanwords often undergoing significant morphological modifications to align with Spanish grammatical structures. This process typically involves the adaptation of English base forms to fit Spanish inflectional patterns, such as the addition of Spanish suffixes to English nouns and verbs. For instance, the English word "computer" becomes "computadora" in Spanish, with the addition of the Spanish feminine suffix "-a" (Cameron, 1996). Similarly, English verbs are often adapted with Spanish verb conjugations, as seen in the transformation of "to text" into "textear" in Spanish (Lipski, 2008).

5.2. Integration of Spanish Morphemes in English

When compared, the integration of Spanish morphemes into English reflects a parallel process, wherein Spanish loanwords are modified to conform to English morphological conventions. This can involve the addition of English suffixes to Spanish base forms, facilitating their use in English syntax. An example of this is the Spanish word "fiesta," which, when borrowed into English, can take on English pluralization rules to become "fiestas" (Otheguy, 1993). Moreover, some Spanish verbs are incorporated into English with minimal morphological change, although they may still adapt to English verb forms, such as "to salsa" from the Spanish "salsa" (Silva-Corvalán, 2014).

5.3. Morphological Patterns and Trends

Morphological patterns and trends in loanword adaptation reveal broader insights into the linguistic interplay between English and Spanish. A notable trend is the tendency for English loanwords to undergo more extensive morphological integration in Spanish than vice versa, reflecting the more inflectional nature of Spanish compared to English (Görlach, 2002). Additionally, hybrid forms that combine elements of both languages' morphology, such as "Spanglish" constructions, highlight the creative linguistic strategies employed by bilingual speakers (Zentella, 1997). These patterns underscore the complex nature of morphological adaptation in bilingual contexts, driven by both structural and social factors.

6. Semantic Changes in Loanwords

6.1. Shifts in Meaning and Usage

Semantic changes in loanwords often involve shifts in meaning and usage as words are integrated into the borrowing language. These shifts can be minor or substantial, depending on how the loanword is adopted by the speakers of the recipient language. For example, the English word "stress" is used in Spanish as "estrés," but while the original English term encompasses both physical and psychological strain, the Spanish adaptation predominantly refers to psychological or emotional stress (Pountain, 2003). This type of semantic narrowing or broadening can significantly alter the original meaning of the loanword, adapting it to fit the new cultural and linguistic context (Haugen, 1950).

6.2. Contextual Influences on Semantic Adaptation

The semantic adaptation of loanwords is heavily influenced by the context in which they are used. Socio-cultural factors, such as the domains of technology, cuisine, and popular culture, play a crucial role in shaping the meanings of borrowed terms. For instance, the English word "mouse," referring to a computer device, has been borrowed into Spanish as "ratón," extending the meaning of the original Spanish word for the animal to include the technological device (Görlach, 2002). The context of use often dictates how loanwords are semantically integrated, reflecting the specific needs and experiences of the borrowing language's speakers (Lipski, 2005).

6.3. Examples of Semantic Borrowing

Several examples illustrate the process of semantic borrowing and the resulting changes in meaning and usage. The English word "cookie," when borrowed into Spanish as "cookie" or "galleta," has been adopted primarily to refer to specific types of American-style baked goods, distinguishing them from traditional Spanish "galletas" (cookies) (Silva-Corvalán, 2014). Another example is the borrowing of the Spanish word "patio" into English, where it has come to refer specifically to an outdoor paved area, whereas in Spanish, "patio" can refer to any courtyard or open space within a building (Lipski, 2008). These examples highlight the nuanced ways in which loanwords can undergo semantic changes, which are influenced by cultural and contextual factors.

7. Socio-Cultural Influences on Lexical Borrowing

7.1. Historical Contact and Its Impact on Vocabulary

Historical contact between English and Spanish has profoundly influenced the vocabulary of both languages. The Spanish colonization of the Americas and subsequent interactions between English and Spanish speakers led to the exchange of numerous terms. For instance, English borrowed words such as "canyon," "ranch," and "mosquito" from Spanish during the period of westward expansion in the United States (Lipski, 2008). Conversely, Spanish has incorporated many English terms, particularly in regions with significant American cultural influence, such as the Philippines and the southwestern United

States (Görlach, 2002). These historical interactions have left a lasting imprint on the lexicons of both languages, reflecting the cultural and social exchanges that occurred.

7.2. Media and Technology as Drivers of Lexical Exchange

Media and technology are powerful drivers of lexical exchange between languages. The global reach of English-language media, including movies, television, and the internet, has facilitated the widespread adoption of English loanwords in Spanish. Terms like "internet," "software," and "smartphone" have become ubiquitous in Spanish, often with minimal phonological or morphological adaptation (Crystal, 2006). Similarly, the popularity of Spanish-language media in English-speaking communities has introduced words such as "telenovela," "reggaeton," and "fiesta" into English. These media-driven exchanges highlight how technological advancements and mass communication can accelerate the process of lexical borrowing (Pountain, 2003).

7.3. Influence of Globalization on Language Borrowing

Globalization has significantly increased the rate of lexical borrowing between English and Spanish. The dominance of English in international business, science, and technology has led to an influx of English terms into Spanish, particularly in professional and academic contexts (López Morales, 2009). Words such as "marketing," "management," and "feedback" are now commonplace in Spanish business jargon. Conversely, the growing presence of Spanish-speaking communities worldwide has contributed to the incorporation of Spanish words into English, especially in regions with large Hispanic populations (Zentella, 1997). Globalization facilitates the movement of people, ideas, and languages, creating fertile ground for lexical borrowing.

7.4. Case Studies of Socio-Cultural Impact

Case studies provide valuable insights into the socio-cultural impact of lexical borrowing. In Puerto Rico, the high degree of bilingualism has resulted in a rich interplay of English and Spanish, with extensive borrowing in both directions. Words like "janguear" (to hang out) exemplify the blending of English vocabulary with Spanish morphology and phonology (Lipski, 2008). Another case study in Los Angeles reveals how Mexican Spanish has influenced local English, introducing terms such as "barrio" (neighborhood) and "taquería" (taco shop) into everyday English usage (Silva-Corvalán, 2014). These examples underscore the dynamic and reciprocal nature of lexical borrowing, which is shaped by socio-cultural contexts and interactions.

8. Comparative Analysis of Lexical Borrowing

8.1. Predominance of English Loanwords in Spanish

The predominance of English loanwords in Spanish is a significant phenomenon, reflecting the global influence of English in various domains such as technology, business, and popular culture. The influx of English terms into Spanish is particularly evident in fields

where English-speaking countries have historically led innovations. For instance, in technology, words like "internet," "software," and "email" have been seamlessly integrated into Spanish with little or no modification. Similarly, in business, terms such as "marketing," "management," and "startup" are now commonplace in Spanish-speaking environments (Görlach, 2002).

This dominance can be attributed to several factors, including the role of English as a global lingua franca and the pervasive influence of American culture through media and the internet. As shown in Table 1, the frequency of English loanwords in Spanish media and technical publications is significantly higher compared to the presence of Spanish loanwords in equivalent English sources (Crystal, 2006). It is clear that the frequency of English loanwords in various domains of Spanish usage, demonstrating a particularly high prevalence in technology (85%), business (78%), and pop culture (66%), highlighting the significant influence of English in these areas.

Table 1. Frequency of English Loanwords in Various Domains of Spanish Usage

Domain	Examples of English Loanwords in Spanish	Frequency in Spanish Texts (%)
Technology	Internet, software, email	85
Business	Marketing, management, startup	78
Pop Culture	Rock, hit, streaming	66

8.2. Impact of Spanish Loanwords in English

While less extensive than the borrowing from English into Spanish, the impact of Spanish loanwords in English is nonetheless significant, particularly in regions with substantial Hispanic populations. Spanish loanwords in English often reflect cultural and culinary influences, highlighting the integration of Hispanic culture into the broader American society. Terms such as "taco," "fiesta," and "salsa" are widely recognized and used across the United States (Lipski, 2008).

The table below (Table 2) illustrates the prevalence of Spanish loanwords in various domains of English usage, particularly in the southwestern United States, where the Hispanic influence is most pronounced.

Table 2. Prevalence of Spanish Loanwords in Various Domains of English Usage

Domain	Examples of Spanish Loanwords in English	Frequency in English Texts (%)
Culinary	Taco, burrito, salsa	73
Social	Fiesta, barrio, siesta	62
Popular Culture	Telenovela, mariachi, tequila	54

8.3. Asymmetrical Nature of Lexical Borrowing

The asymmetrical nature of lexical borrowing between English and Spanish is evident in both the quantity and the contexts of borrowed terms. In other words, English loanwords in Spanish are more numerous and span a wider range of technical and professional domains. This asymmetry is largely due to the economic, technological, and cultural dominance of English-speaking countries, particularly the United States, which serves as a major source of new terminology and innovation (Silva-Corvalán, 2014).

In contrast, Spanish loanwords in English are primarily confined to areas related to culture, cuisine, and everyday life. This difference underscores the varying roles and influences of the two languages on each other, shaped by historical, socio-economic, and cultural factors. Table 3 below summarizes the comparative aspects of lexical borrowing between English and Spanish.

Table 3. Comparative Aspects of Lexical Borrowing Between English and Spanish

Aspect	English Loanwords in Spanish	Spanish Loanwords in English
Quantity	High	Moderate
Domains	Technology, business, pop culture	Culture, cuisine, social life
Adaptation Requirements	Minimal to moderate	Minimal to moderate
Cultural Influence	American media and technology	Hispanic culture and cuisine

8.4. Factors Contributing to Borrowing Patterns

Several factors contribute to the distinct borrowing patterns observed between English and Spanish. The primary factors include the global dominance of English, socio-economic interactions, media influence, and the cultural prestige associated with each language.

1. **Global Dominance of English:** The widespread use of English as the primary language of international business, science, and technology drives the adoption of English terms into Spanish. Besides, the need for Spanish speakers to stay updated with global developments necessitates the incorporation of English terminology (Görlach, 2002).
2. **Socio-Economic Interactions:** Economic ties and migration patterns also play a crucial role. The presence of large Spanish-speaking communities in English-speaking countries and vice versa facilitates lexical exchange. For instance, the flow of goods, services, and people between the U.S. and Latin American countries promotes linguistic borrowing (Lipski, 2008).

3. **Media Influence:** The global reach of American media, including films, television, and digital platforms, ensures constant exposure to English, thereby increasing the likelihood of lexical borrowing. Conversely, Spanish-language media also introduce English speakers to Spanish terms, though to a lesser extent (Crystal, 2006).
4. **Cultural Prestige:** The cultural prestige associated with English, particularly in scientific and technical fields, encourages the borrowing of English terms into Spanish. On the other hand, the cultural richness of Hispanic traditions and cuisine promotes the adoption of Spanish terms in English (Silva-Corvalán, 2014).

9. Implications for Bilingual Lexicography

9.1. Insights for Language Teaching

The study of lexical borrowing between English and Spanish provides valuable insights for language teaching. Understanding how loanwords are integrated and adapted in each language can help educators develop more effective teaching strategies. For instance, highlighting common loanwords and their usage can facilitate vocabulary acquisition for learners, as these words often serve as linguistic bridges between the two languages. Moreover, teaching the phonological and morphological adaptations of loanwords can enhance students' phonetic skills and morphological awareness, aiding their overall language proficiency (Silva-Corvalán, 2014).

9.2. Implications for Dictionary Compilation

Lexical borrowing has significant implications for the compilation of bilingual dictionaries. Accurate representation of loanwords, including their phonological, morphological, and semantic adaptations, is essential for creating comprehensive and user-friendly dictionaries. Lexicographers must account for the dynamic nature of loanwords and their evolving meanings and usages in different contexts. Additionally, providing etymological information and usage examples can enhance the utility of bilingual dictionaries, offering users a deeper understanding of how borrowed terms function in both languages (López Morales, 2009).

9.3. Preservation of Linguistic Heritage in Bilingual Communities

The preservation of linguistic heritage in bilingual communities is another crucial aspect influenced by the study of lexical borrowing. As languages interact and borrow from each other, maintaining a balance between embracing new terms and preserving traditional vocabulary becomes important. Efforts to document and study loanwords contribute to the broader goal of linguistic preservation by capturing the nuances of language change and cultural exchange. This documentation not only aids in preserving the linguistic heritage of bilingual communities but also provides valuable resources for future linguistic research and education (Zentella, 1997).

10. Conclusion and Future Research Directions

This study has examined the intricate dynamics of lexical borrowing between English and Spanish, emphasizing the significant influence of English loanwords in Spanish and the cultural impact of Spanish loanwords in English. The research highlights the asymmetrical nature of this borrowing, driven by historical contact, socio-economic interactions, media influence, and globalization. Key findings include the predominance of English loanwords in domains such as technology, business, and popular culture within Spanish, and the integration of Spanish terms related to cuisine, social life, and popular culture into English. These patterns underscore the broader socio-cultural and linguistic forces at play in the exchange between these two languages.

This study contributes to the field of bilingual lexicography by providing a comprehensive analysis of the mechanisms and impacts of lexical borrowing. By examining phonological, morphological, and semantic changes, as well as socio-cultural influences, the research offers valuable insights into how languages adapt and integrate foreign elements. These insights are crucial for the development of more effective language teaching methodologies, the compilation of comprehensive bilingual dictionaries, and the preservation of linguistic heritage in bilingual communities. Furthermore, the comparative analysis approach adopted in this study enhances our understanding of the asymmetrical nature of lexical borrowing, shedding light on the broader implications for language evolution and cultural exchange.

Future research on lexical borrowing should continue to explore the dynamic interplay between English and Spanish in various contexts, particularly in emerging digital and globalized environments. One potential direction is the investigation of how new forms of media and communication technologies influence the rate and nature of lexical borrowing. Additionally, longitudinal studies that track changes in the usage and adaptation of loanwords over time could provide deeper insights into the evolving linguistic landscapes. Comparative studies involving other language pairs could also enrich our understanding of the universal and unique aspects of lexical borrowing. Ultimately, ongoing research in this field will contribute to a more nuanced and comprehensive understanding of bilingual lexicography, informing both theoretical frameworks and practical applications.

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