

CHINESE AND SPANISH BORROWINGS IN RUSSIAN LANGUAGE

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Abstract. The article is devoted to a very relevant topic – borrowings in Russian language. Borrowing is one of the most popular and widespread way of the language enrichment. It brings new words and meanings that create the possibility to express emotions and opinions by means of different lexical structures. Nevertheless, new borrowings bring new meanings that can substitute the original words and the process of borrowings slowly lead to the changes in the language and meaning itself. In this article two sources of borrowings are studied: Chinese and Spanish languages. These two languages are the most popular languages in the world. They are studied by millions of people every year that makes them the main resources of other languages enrichment apart from the English language. In the article all the borrowings from each language are grouped according to their lexical meaning. The history of these borrowings is studied and described. The conclusion about the influence of each language on Russian language is made at the end of the research.

Keywords: language, words, borrowing, cultural heritage, Chinese, Spanish, Russian.

1. INTRODUCTION

English language is the main source of borrowings for many languages, including Russian. It's connected with the status of English as the language of international communication, commerce, technology, etc. Chistova (2014) even compares the spread of English with francomania of the XVIII-XIX centuries. But it's wrong to make a conclusion that English is the only source of borrowings. In this research an attempt to describe Chinese and Spanish borrowings is made. The popularity of these languages is growing very fast. They do not only influence other languages and their enrichment, but they also have an influence on culture and identity.

Recently linguists started to study Chinese borrowings in Russian language. Yang Si (2017) studied Chinese loanwords in Russian media, Chzhu Shaohua and Lu Ze (2005) studied Russian words of Chinese origin, Sokolovskaya (2015) studied The Chinese-Russian Slang as a Contemporary Aspect of the Russian-Chinese Language Contact. A great number of works are devoted to an opposite process – enrichment of Chinese language with Russian words: Jiang Ying and Шипановская Л.М. (2016) Russian borrowings in Chinese as a result of linguistic contacts and to the study of the linguistic processes happening on the Russian-Chinese border: Fedorova (2011) Language contacts on the Russian-Chinese border: the 'second birth' of Russian-Chinese trade pidgin.

Borrowings of Spanish origin are not numerous in European languages including Russian, nevertheless it is studied by Russian and foreign linguists. A lot of scientists dedicated their scientific works to the investigation of Spanish borrowings: K. Pratt (1980), E. Lorentz (1996), L. Berdnikova (2009), L. Dehtyarenko (2007). They studied Spanish borrowed units within the history of the English language, that was the main language transmitting these borrowings into other languages.

2. METHODS

The target lexical units for this study consisted of Chinese and Spanish borrowings found in the dictionary of the Russian language. The unit of analysis was the individual word itself.

A list of borrowings of Chinese and Spanish origin was composed with the use of the modern dictionary of the Russian language (2010) Each word was studied with the use of etymological dictionaries to

find out its exact origin and meaning. Additional sources like relevant books, articles and web sites were used to find the information about the period when the exact borrowing appeared in the Russian language. Also there are given examples and classification of borrowings from Spanish into English to point out the role of the Spanish language in the enriching of the English language.

3. RESULTS

There are not so many words that were borrowed from Spanish, but they are widely used in Russian. It happens because these words express the objects that have no equivalents in the Russian language and they brightly demonstrate the identity and peculiarities of the Spanish culture. We could classify the Spanish borrowings into these main groups.

1. Food:

Томат (tomato), банан (banana), авокадо (aguacate), какао (cacao), карамель (caramela), чуфа (chufa), маис (maize), каучук (rubber), херес (sherry), табак (tobacco), сигара (cigar), ром (rum), тортилья (tortilla), гаспачо (gazpacho), тапас (tapas), паэлья (paella), мохитто (mohitto), текила (tequila).

2. Culture:

Хабанера (habanera), сегидилья (seguidilla), сарсуэла (sarsuela), меренга (meringue), гитара (guitar), макарена (macarena), фламенко (flamenco), самба (samba), романс (romance), серенада (serenade).

3. Traditions:

Коррида (corrida), матадор (matador), тореадор (toreador), сиеста (siesta), фиеста (fiesta).

4. Clothes:

Сомбреро (sombbrero), пончо (poncho), бандана (bandana).

For a long time Spain with its language was out of sight of Russians. It attracted the attention of Russian people after the works of Pushkin. He was one of the first people who dedicated his works to the theme of Spain inspired by talks with Duke Yusupov, who had a trip there. The images of that trip became the background of Pushkin's popular

masterpieces “Stone guest”, “Night marshmallow”, “Before the noble Spaniard”. In 1846 a famous composer M. Glinka went to Spain and lived there for 2 years. He learnt the Spanish language and learnt a lot about the culture of the country. After that journey he composed his symphonic overture “A summer night in Madrid”. Later the presenters of cultural milieu started visiting Spain very actively and as a result composed masterpieces inspired by Spain and its culture, art. It was the basis for exploring Spain by different people and a way for new Spanish borrowings that were expanded by erasing intercultural boundaries and opportunities for traveling and cultural exchange.

It is necessary to point out that some of these words became an integral part of other languages too, especially in English. They became an essential part of the language and were borrowed without any graphical changes, because of one Latin based graphic system. Most of the words are connected with culture, traditions and food that haven't got any equivalents in other cultures: *sarsuela, samba, tomato, banana, cacao, tobacco, rum, flamenco* and etc. The peak of Spanish words borrowing came in the XVII century after Christopher Columbus discovered America in 1492. This date contributed to the resettlement of the Spaniards in the New World and the enhancement of economic cooperation between Spain and European countries, including England. In addition, in 1848, the California Gold Rush began, which led to a rapid increase in the number of immigrants, many of whom were from Latin America. It was at this time that American slang was formed, which, to some extent, was influenced by the Spanish language.

As for Chinese, generally speaking, it wasn't popular in Russia (in this article we will discuss only Standard Chinese language Putonghua based on the Beijing dialect – the official language of the People's Republic of China). Even in the border regions all communication was achieved in Russian. Max Vasmer (1964) in his “Etymological dictionary of the Russian language” mentioned only eight words of Chinese origin in the Russian language. The new boom of borrowings happened at the end of the XX century due to activation of political, cultural and economic ties between two countries. This situation changes at the end of the XX century when China was announced as a key partner of Russia and as a result the mutual interest of two people has grown up. Number of people studying Chinese in Russia is increasing. New cultural ties are established. This leads to the mutual enrichment of two languages.

2009 was announced as a Year of Russian language in China and 2010 as a Year of Chinese language in Russia.

In this research we decided to make an attempt to study several questions concerning Chinese borrowings in Russian language and their role in the development of the language.

1. Which groups of words are borrowed most often?
2. Why are they borrowed?
3. When the most of the borrowings were borrowed?

Groups of borrowings:

1. Chinese cuisine names:

Баоцзы (baozi), байцзю (Chinese vodka Baijiu), байховый чай (Baikhov tea), кетчуп (ketchup), тофу (tofu), улун (oolong), маотай (Chinese vodka Maotai), вок (wok), димсамы (dim sum), рамэн (ramen), цзяоцзы (jiaozi), фунчоза (cellophane noodles), манты (manti).

2. Names of plants:

Женьшень (ginseng), кумкват (kumquat), личи (lychee), гаолян (kind of sorghum).

3. Names of animals:

Чау-чау (dogbreed), жемчуг (pearl), шарпей (dogbreed), ши-тцу (dogbreed), минтай (Alaska Pollock), манго (mango).

4. Oriental philosophy and martial arts names:

Багуачжан (Baguazhang, type of a martial art), дао (tao), инь (yin), ян (yang), кунфу (kungfu), тайцзицюань (taijiquan), ушу (wushu), фэншуй (fengshui), цигун (qigong), ци (qi).

3. Widely known words from different spheres:

Дацзыбао (dazibao), жэньминьби (renminbi – Chinese currency), юань (yuan), пипа (китлютня), тайфун (typhoon), фанза (fangzi, a small house), хунвейбин (Chinese Red Guards), рикша (rickshaw), пинг-понг (ping pong).

So as we can see the most numerous are the borrowings connected with the names of the cuisine because Asian restaurants are becoming more and more popular in Russia. On the second place there

are names connected with Chinese culture which includes martial arts names, terms from oriental philosophy. In addition we can add that many of these words have already become international and are used everywhere. Almost all these words are nouns. As all borrowed words they conform to the pronunciation patterns and grammatical rules of the Russian language. So now we can meet such variants as the plural form юани (yuans), case endings цветжемчуга (the color of the pearl).

The reason of these borrowings is lack of lexical units in Russian language to denote new things that came from China to Russia.

If we study the period when these words appeared in Russian language we can divide them into two groups:

1. Old borrowings: тайфун – known in Russian since the second quarter of the XIX century, жемчуг – known in Russian since XII century.
2. Borrowings of the Soviet period: хунвейбин, дацзыбао.
3. New borrowings, appeared in the language 10-20 years ago: вок, рамэн.

4. DISCUSSION

Borrowings of Chinese origin are not numerous in Russian language. It is connected with the huge difference between two languages. Russian language is fusional (inflected) synthetic language. Chinese – isolating language with tone system. In addition, one of the main differences is the writing system. Russian language is based on the alphabet system, Chinese – on characters. So the borrowings were all oral and their pronunciation differs a lot from their pronunciation in Chinese. In spite of the fact that Spanish language is widely spread all over the world it is not a main recourse of foreign borrowings in the Russian language. On the other hand this situation is very ambiguous. The main foreign language that brings most borrowings is English as a language of a worldwide communication. But it is necessary to point out, that English itself has many borrowings from the Spanish language. That is why many Spanish words are considered to be not Spanish, but English borrowings. In the case of close mutual influence and borrowings between English and Spanish languages erased the exact boundaries of the words origin. It seems likely Russian will borrow much more from Spanish and especially from Chinese as

trade, cultural and personal connections between countries grow.

5. SUMMARY

The main thematic source of Chinese and Spanish borrowings is food or cuisine. It is explained by specific meaning of these words that express cultural identity and diversity. Vocabulary of food contains information about history, traditions and culture of nations. It is formed under the influence of historical development, cultural diversity and traditional changes. Nowadays, the chains of restaurants, cafes and bars are spreading extremely fast. It is explained by close multicultural relations and development of economic sector. Food words haven't got equivalents in other language as specific cuisine units and that's why they are borrowed literally. As the only words to express the meaning of the object they become an essential part of the language they were borrowed in. The borrowings from Spanish and Chinese happen under the influence of two social processes: westernization and orientalization. Westernization is characterized by western words, traditions and lifestyle, whereas orientalization is a borrowing of oriental units. The names of food are especially important, because they are not only borrowings themselves, but they are translators of a new culture. In restaurants where this food is offered it is also accompanied by menu on a local language, traditional music and the buildings are decorated with traditional ornament.

6. CONCLUSIONS

In the century of globalization the process of word borrowings is very active. It is produced by two main social processes: westernization and orientalization that are characterized not only by word borrowings, but also the borrowings of cultural features. This process is especially relevant for Russia, because even Russians cannot say exactly where they belong to: Europe with its western culture and values or Asia with its oriental culture. Development of international cooperation, widening of communication boards brought to the borrowing of foreign words, lifestyle and customs. Language is in constant interaction with culture, society and various fields of human activity and it is constantly developing, losing and acquiring new language elements, depending on cultural characteristics. Sometimes new words enter the language and sometimes become its essential part or they have a translation that preserves the literal meaning of the origin language. It is an active change formed under the influence of different

processes. The enrichment of the languages may be explained as necessity of cultural and spiritual development of generations. Nowadays the process of the world globalization is especially different, because it is formed under the influence of two important processes: westernization and orientalization, that are taking equal parts in the formation of a global world.

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