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**HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT AND CORPUS-BASED FREQUENCY
ANALYSIS OF IT LOANWORDS****Shahnoza Khakimova Asranbek qizi**

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Abstract: *This paper examines the development of loanwords in the Uzbek language, focusing on information technology (IT) terminology. The study analyzes historical stages of lexical borrowing and explores how globalization and digital communication influence the frequency and distribution of IT-related terms. Using corpus data from the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA), the research identifies patterns of usage across different text types. The findings indicate that IT loanwords are rapidly integrating into everyday language, reflecting broader socio-linguistic and technological changes.*

Keywords: loanwords, IT terminology, corpus linguistics, Uzbek language, frequency, globalization

1. Introduction

In recent years, digital technologies have significantly transformed the lexical systems of many languages, including Uzbek (Crystal, 2006). One of the most noticeable outcomes of this transformation is the rapid growth of IT-related loanwords (Krongauz, 2017). These lexical units, primarily borrowed from English, are widely used in both professional and everyday communication.

Terms such as *internet, online, server, platform, and software* have become common among both specialists and general users. Their widespread usage is closely linked to the expansion of digital communication and online services (Crystal, 2006). As a result, IT terminology has moved beyond specialized contexts and entered everyday language.

Despite their communicative advantages, the increasing use of loanwords raises several linguistic concerns. Borrowed terms facilitate the expression of new concepts (Mahmudov, 2018), but excessive reliance on them may reduce the use of native equivalents and influence linguistic identity (Jomonov, 2020).

Additionally, borrowed terms often undergo semantic adaptation, acquiring new meanings within the recipient language (Yule, 2020). This process may lead to structural and semantic shifts in the lexical system.

Therefore, it is essential to examine not only the presence but also the frequency and functional role of IT loanwords.

2. Theoretical Background

The process of lexical borrowing has long been recognized as a natural linguistic phenomenon (Haugen, 1950). In Uzbek, borrowing has occurred in several stages, influenced by historical and socio-political factors (Hasanov, 2019).

During the Soviet period, Russian and international terms dominated scientific and technical vocabulary. After independence, efforts were made to promote native lexical resources. However, globalization and digitalization have introduced a new wave of borrowing, particularly in IT domains (Medvedev, 2005).

Modern borrowing is characterized by rapid adoption and widespread dissemination through digital media (Crystal, 2006). Social networks and online platforms accelerate the integration of new lexical units into everyday communication.

3. Methodology

This study applies a combination of quantitative and qualitative approaches to ensure a comprehensive analysis of IT-related lexical units. Firstly, a corpus-based analysis was conducted using the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) (Davies, 2008–), which provides reliable data on word frequency and usage across different genres.[3]

In addition, a comparative analysis was carried out to examine how IT terms function across various text types, including spoken discourse, blogs, and media texts. This allowed for identifying differences in usage patterns depending on communicative context.

Furthermore, a descriptive approach was employed to analyze the development and adaptation of lexical items within the language system. The dataset included widely used IT-related terms such as *network*, *database*, *software*, *platform*, *server*, and *internet*. Their frequency and distribution were examined across multiple genres in order to identify their role in modern communication.

4. Results

The results demonstrate that terms such as *network*, *database*, *platform*, and *software* show the highest frequency across the analyzed corpora (Davies, 2008–). This indicates that these lexical

units occupy a central position in digital communication and are essential for describing technological processes and environments.

The analysis also reveals that high-frequency IT terms occur across a wide range of discourse types, including everyday communication, media language, and online texts. This suggests that they have moved beyond specialized usage and have become part of the general vocabulary.

In contrast, more specific terms such as *browser* tend to appear less frequently and are typically restricted to particular contexts, especially technical or IT-related discussions. This highlights the distinction between general-purpose and domain-specific vocabulary within the IT lexicon.

The findings support the idea proposed by George Yule (2020) that frequency plays a crucial role in lexical assimilation. Words that are used more frequently are more likely to become fully integrated into the language system, both functionally and stylistically.

Overall, the study confirms that frequent usage not only increases familiarity among speakers but also accelerates the process of linguistic adaptation, transforming loanwords into stable elements of the lexicon.

5. Discussion

The results demonstrate that IT loanwords should not be regarded as mere linguistic borrowings; rather, they represent broader socio-cultural and communicative transformations within society. Their rapid spread is primarily driven by technological advancement, globalization processes, and the expansion of digital communication, all of which significantly influence the lexical structure of modern languages. In this regard, the increasing presence of IT terminology reflects not only linguistic change but also the integration of societies into a global information space.

From our perspective, lexical borrowing should be interpreted as an adaptive mechanism of language development rather than as a threat to linguistic identity. Languages naturally evolve in response to new realities, and IT-related terms effectively fill lexical gaps by providing precise and efficient means of communication in rapidly changing technological contexts.[15/47] In many cases, the adoption of such terms enhances communicative clarity and facilitates participation in global discourse.

However, it is also important to acknowledge that uncontrolled or excessive borrowing may have negative consequences. In particular, it can lead to the gradual displacement of native lexical equivalents and potentially disrupt the internal balance of the language system. This may result in reduced functional load of native words and increased dependence on foreign lexical resources.

Therefore, a balanced approach to lexical borrowing is required. It is necessary to regulate the process through language planning, standardization, and the development of appropriate terminological norms. Such measures would help preserve linguistic identity while allowing the language to adapt to modern communicative demands and technological progress.[17/210]

6. Conclusion

The study demonstrates that IT loanwords constitute a significant and rapidly evolving component of modern Uzbek vocabulary. Their emergence and development are closely connected with technological innovation, globalization, and the expansion of digital communication, which continuously introduce new concepts requiring linguistic expression. As a result, these loanwords are not random additions but systematic elements reflecting contemporary socio-technological changes.

Corpus-based analysis further reveals that the most frequent IT terms correspond to key concepts of digital technologies, such as communication platforms, data processing, and online interaction. Their high frequency across various genres—including spoken discourse, media texts, and online communication—indicates that these terms have moved beyond specialized usage and have become integral to general language use. This widespread distribution explains their rapid integration into everyday vocabulary and their increasing familiarity among speakers.

Moreover, the findings suggest that frequency plays a crucial role in the process of lexical assimilation. Frequently used IT terms tend to undergo gradual adaptation at phonetic, semantic, and functional levels, eventually becoming stable elements of the language system. In contrast, less frequent or highly specialized terms often remain restricted to particular professional contexts.

Overall, lexical borrowing should be interpreted as a natural and inevitable process of language development, reflecting its adaptability to new communicative realities. Rather than weakening the language, such borrowings enrich its expressive potential and enable it to function effectively in a globalized and technologically advanced environment. At the same time, maintaining a balance between borrowed and native lexical resources remains an important task for ensuring the stability and identity of the language.

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