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FRENCH LEXICAL BORROWINGS IN CHINESE LANGUAGE

Abstract. The article is aimed at analyzing words borrowed from French language into Chinese language. This work's purpose is to analyze borrowing words' composition and its adaptation features in receiving language's system. The article involves French borrowed words' two main transformation types: phonetic (yīnyīfǎ) and semantic (yìyīfǎ). It should be mentioned that lexical borrowings from French language into Chinese language are of great interest because of unrelated languages' interactions, i.e. interactions of languages different both in origin and in typological features.

Keywords: Chinese language; French language; lexical borrowings; borrowed words' phonetic and semantic transformations.

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ФРАНЦУЗСКИЕ ЛЕКСИЧЕСКИЕ ЗАИМСТВОВАНИЯ В КИТАЙСКОМ ЯЗЫКЕ

Аннотация. Статья посвящена анализу лексики, заимствованной из французского языка в китайский язык. Целью настоящей работы является анализ состава лексических заимствований из французского языка в китайский, а также особенности адаптации заимствованных французских слов в системе принимающего языка, т. е. в системе китайского языка. Данная статья содержит детальный анализ двух основных видов трансформации французских заимствованных слов в китайском языке: фонетической (yīnyīfǎ) и семантической (yìyīfǎ). Следует отметить, что лексические заимствования из французского языка в китайский представляют интерес в плане взаимодействия неродственных языков, языков разных и по происхождению, и по типологическим характеристикам.

Ключевые слова: китайский язык; французский язык; лексические заимствования; фонетическая и семантическая трансформации заимствованных слов.

Borrowing process is every modern language's development process consequence. In fact, every modern language is a dynamic system evolving and changing over time. Its development occurs through various linguistic processes. One of the most active and significant of them has always been foreign words' and expressions' borrowings.

Borrowing is a process resulted in foreign language element's emergence and assimilation in a receiving language. These are primarily words, but sometimes, for example, morphemes, etc. An element borrowed from a foreign language is gradually assimilated in a receiving language, i.e. foreign element becomes a part of receiving language's grammatical system and conforms its word inflection norms, for example, by means of forming declension and conjugation paradigms as well as through assimilating word-building means.

According to most linguists, there are three main stages in foreign word borrowing's assimilation process [1–5]:

1) Most linguists define three main stages in the process of assimilation of the borrowing of a foreign word:

2) Большинство лингвистов выделяют три основных этапа в процессе усвоения заимствования иностранного слова:

3) Most linguists define three main stages in the process of assimilation of a foreign word borrowing:

4) Большинство лингвистов выделяют три основных этапа в процессе усвоения иноязычного заимствования:

5) Не удалось загрузить все результаты.

6) Повторить.

7) Повторная попытка...

8) Повторная попытка...

9) Не удалось загрузить все результаты.

10) Повторить.

11) Повторная попытка...

12) Повторная попытка...

– foreign word's penetration into receiving language's system;

1) 1) the penetration of a foreign word into the language system;

2) 1) проникновение иностранного слова в систему языка;

3) 1) the penetration of a foreign word into the system of the language;

4) 1) проникновение иностранного слова в систему языка;

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- 8) Повторная попытка...
- 9) Не удалось загрузить все результаты.
- 10) Повторить.
- 11) Повторная попытка...
- 12) Повторная попытка...

– foreign word's use in written and oral speech of a receiving language;

- 1) 2) the use of this word in written and oral speech;
- 2) 2) употребление этого слова в письменной и устной речи;
- 3) 2) the use of this word in written and spoken speech;
- 4) 2) употребление этого слова в письменной и устной речи;
- 5) Не удалось загрузить все результаты.

- 6) Повторить.
- 7) Повторная попытка...
- 8) Повторная попытка...
- 9) Не удалось загрузить все результаты.
- 10) Повторить.
- 11) Повторная попытка...
- 12) Повторная попытка...

– foreign word's entry into receiving language's grammatical and phonetic system, i.e. a word adapts to receiving language's system.

1) 3) the entry of a borrowed word into the grammatical system of the host language, i.e.

2) 3) вхождение заимствованного слова в грамматический строй принимающего языка, т. е.

3) 3) the entry of a borrowed word into the grammatical system of the receiving language, i.e.

4) 3) вхождение заимствованного слова в грамматическую систему принимающего языка, т. е.

- 5) Не удалось загрузить все результаты.
- 6) Повторить.
- 7) Повторная попытка...
- 8) Повторная попытка...

It should be noted that lexical borrowings from French language into Chinese language are of great interest, since it allows to reveal interactions of unrelated languages, interactions of languages different both in origin and in typological features. the word adapts to the language system of the new language.

- 9) ...
- 10) the word adapts to the linguistic system of the new language.
- 11) ...
- 12) Не удалось загрузить все результаты.

- 13) Повторить.
- 14) Повторная попытка...
- 15) Повторная попытка...

So, two methods are mainly used to borrow words from French language into Chinese language: phonetic and semantic.

Phonetic borrowing method (yīnyìfǎ 音译法) is the most important and most common way of creating new words in Chinese language. This method of borrowing allows to save word's phonetic form as well as to create its written forms by means of hieroglyphs sounding similarly borrowed word's pronunciation. For example, French desserts' names that are loved very much within China:

- fr. word **“un croissant”** (eng. “a croissant, a small crescent-shaped puff pastry”) in Chinese it sounds like [kesong] = 可颂;
- fr. word **“un macaron”** (eng. “a macaroon, biscuits made from almond”) in Chinese it sounds like [makalong] = 马卡龙;
- fr. word **“un soufflé”** (eng. “a soufflé, preparation of light dough which swells during cooking”) in Chinese it sounds like [shufulei] = 舒芙蕾;
- fr. word **“une mousse”** (eng. “a mousse, a sweet or savory dish made as a smooth mass”) in Chinese it sounds like [musi] = 慕斯.
- Moreover, this point can be best illustrated by the following examples:
- fr. word **“un beret”** (eng. “a beret, a round flattish cap of felt or cloth”) in Chinese it sounds like [beilei] = 贝雷;
- fr. word **“encore”** (eng. “again, still, yet”) in Chinese it sounds like [anke] = 安可;
- fr. word **“un montage”** (eng. “a montage, a mounting”) in Chinese it sounds like [mengtaiqi] = 蒙太奇;
- fr. word **“un salon”** (eng. “a living room, a lounge”) in Chinese it sounds like [shalong] = 沙龙.

Semantic borrowing method (yìyìfǎ 意译法) appeared as a result of words' translation from foreign languages into Chinese one. This method of borrowing allows to copy borrowed word's internal structure. Unlike phonetic borrowings, semantic ones are easily assimilated by the receiving language and, consequently, native speakers cease to perceive many of these words as borrowed ones over time.

Semantic borrowings in Chinese language are created with Chinese vocabulary elements and, therefore, they do not differ in their graphic and phonetic forms from the original Chinese vocabulary. Thus, as a rule, they are not perceived by native speakers as borrowings and it allows them to enter Chinese lexical system easily and to function freely in speech. For instance:

– fr. word **“une girafe”** (eng. *“a giraffe”*) in Chinese it sounds like [chángjǐnglù] = 长颈鹿 that means *“a long-necked deer”*;

– fr. word **“une tragedy”** (eng. *“a tragedy”*) in Chinese it sounds like [bēijù] = 悲剧 that means *“a sad drama”*;

– fr. word **“une chanson”** (eng. *“a song”*) in Chinese it sounds like [xiangsong] = 香颂 that means *“a sweet song”*.

It should be mentioned that sometimes having entered the Chinese language by means of *phonetic borrowing method* (**yīnyǐfǎ 音译法**), a French word was completely transformed with *semantic borrowing method* (**yìyǐfǎ 意译法**). The following examples shows clearly this way of borrowing French words into Chinese language:

– fr. word **“un parlement”** (eng. *“a parliament”*) was borrowed into Chinese by means of phonetic borrowing method as 巴力门 = [bālimén] and later this word was transformed with semantic borrowing method into 议会 = [yìhuì];

– fr. word **“un téléphone”** (eng. *“a telephone”*) was borrowed into Chinese by means of phonetic borrowing method as 德律风 = [délùfēng] and later this word was transformed with semantic borrowing method into 电话 = [diànhuà];

– fr. word **“la démocratie”** (eng. *“a democracy”*) was borrowed into Chinese by means of phonetic borrowing method as 德谟克拉西 = [démókèlāxī] and later this word was transformed with semantic borrowing method into 民主 = [mínzhǔ].

As practice shows French words borrowed by Chinese language are influenced by Chinese semantic system to a certain extent. It means that borrowed words' semantics can be narrowed, expanded or completely changed.

This is well illustrated by the following example: the French word *“un salon”* was originally translated into Chinese as *“small informal gathering of well-educated people”*, then this word was assimilated and, as consequence, its meaning was changed; nowadays it means *“hairdressing salon”*.

A good example to illustrate borrowed word meaning's narrowing process within a receiving language is borrowing process of the French word *“un montage”* into Chinese language. As it was mentioned before this word was borrowed into Chinese by means of phonetic borrowing method and sounds like [mèngtāiqí] = 蒙太奇, but its meaning was narrowed, limited to application within only one sphere.

The thing is this word meant initially *“installation and assembling process of structures, mechanisms, etc.”*. As we can see this word's meaning was not limited by one activity sphere. The reason for word meaning's transformation lies in the word's borrowing history: Chinese filmmakers learned montage theory from English film theory in the

early 1930s and kept the English translation of this word as a cinema sphere's term, i.e. *video or audio processing*. Thus, today in Chinese language this word exists as a cinema sphere's term and means "*video or audio processing*".

Another example worth mentioning is the French word "*encore*" borrowed into Chinese language. As a previous one, this word was also borrowed into Chinese language by means of phonetic borrowing method and sounds like [anke] = 安可 and its meaning was also narrowed, limited to application within only one sphere.

So, the word "*encore*" means "*again, still, yet*" in French language and there are no limitations for using it. However, when borrowing this word into Chinese language, limitation appeared. The word was borrowed in the eighteenth century and was widely used by Chinese people but only during concerts in order to make a singer who finished his performance to continue singing. Nowadays, this word became less popular and, as a result, it is rarely spoken.

Having described these examples, we must notice that:

1) If contacting languages like French and Chinese have fewer similarities, borrowed words are undergone the more profound changes in a receiving language.

2) French words' transformations through borrowing process are varied. These are phonetic, word-formation, semantic changes. They overlap and complement each other. At the same time, phonetic changes are the most common among them, since at first borrowings were carried out orally. As a result of phonetic adaptation, Chinese speakers no longer feel borrowed French word's strangeness and begin to use it together with other Chinese words.

All this allows us to conclude that borrowing process increases languages' lexical richness and is social life's consequence. No doubts that languages and cultures, devoid of external influence, are conserved in their originality and inevitably slide to history's sidelines.

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