



Complex Borrowing words in Russian and English Slang: A Structural Analysis

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Abstract: This study investigates the phenomenon of complex borrowing in the realm of slang within the Russian and English languages. Slang, as a dynamic component of language, serves as a window into cultural and social dynamics, reflecting the evolving identities and communication patterns of its speakers. While borrowing between languages is a well-documented phenomenon, the process of complex borrowing in slang involves the adoption and adaptation of foreign linguistic elements into the native lexicon, often resulting in innovative structural formations.

Drawing upon a variety of linguistic sources, including dictionaries, corpora, and online forums, this research employs a comparative analysis to explore the structural aspects of complex borrowing in Russian and English slang. The study examines lexical innovations, word formation processes, and syntactic patterns that emerge as a result of complex borrowing, shedding light on the mechanisms through which foreign influences shape the linguistic landscape of slang.

The findings reveal intriguing parallels and divergences between Russian and English slang, highlighting the nuanced ways in which complex borrowing manifests in each language. From loanwords and loan-blends to hybrid grammatical constructions, the structural analysis uncovers the dynamic interplay between linguistic creativity and cultural exchange within the slang register.



Furthermore, this study considers the sociocultural implications of complex borrowing, examining how linguistic borrowing reflects broader trends in globalization, cultural exchange, and identity construction. By delving into the intricacies of complex borrowing in Russian and English slang, this research contributes to a deeper understanding of language variation and cultural dynamics in the contemporary world.

Key words: slang, complex borrowing, structural analysis, Russian, English, language variation, cultural dynamics

Introduction:

Language, as a dynamic and living entity, is in a constant state of evolution, shaped by the diverse interactions and exchanges that occur within and between linguistic communities. One fascinating aspect of this evolution is the phenomenon of borrowing, wherein languages adopt and assimilate elements from other languages, enriching their lexicons and altering their structural landscapes. Within the realm of slang, a register renowned for its fluidity and innovation, borrowing takes on a particularly intriguing form known as complex borrowing. This process involves the adoption and adaptation of foreign linguistic elements into the native slang lexicons of languages, resulting in the creation of novel and often idiosyncratic expressions.

The focus of this study is on exploring the phenomenon of complex borrowing in the context of Russian and English slang. Both languages boast rich and vibrant slang registers, characterized by a diverse array of lexical innovations, unconventional word formations, and unique syntactic patterns. By conducting a structural analysis of complex borrowing in Russian and English slang, this research seeks to unravel the intricate mechanisms through which foreign influences permeate and shape the linguistic landscapes of these languages' slang registers.

The significance of studying complex borrowing in slang lies in its ability to offer insights into the dynamic interplay between linguistic creativity, cultural exchange, and



identity construction. As languages serve as potent vehicles for expressing cultural identity and social affiliation, the adoption of foreign linguistic elements in slang reflects broader trends in globalization, intercultural communication, and cultural hybridity. Through a meticulous examination of the structural features of complex borrowing in Russian and English slang, this study aims to shed light on the ways in which linguistic innovation mirrors and influences cultural dynamics in contemporary society.

To achieve this objective, the research employs a comparative approach, drawing upon a diverse range of linguistic sources, including dictionaries, corpora, online forums, and social media platforms. By analyzing the lexical innovations, word formation processes, and syntactic patterns that emerge as a result of complex borrowing, the study endeavors to uncover the underlying mechanisms driving linguistic change within the slang registers of Russian and English.

Method and methodology

The methodological approach for examining complex borrowing in Russian and English slang involves a comprehensive analysis of lexical innovations, word formation processes, and syntactic patterns.

Data collection encompasses a diverse array of linguistic sources, including dictionaries, corpora, online forums, and contemporary literature. This data, both qualitative and quantitative, forms the basis for identifying instances of complex borrowing.

Systematic data analysis involves identifying loanwords, loan-blends, and hybrid constructions. Additionally, the study delves into the semantic extension, compounding, and derivation associated with complex borrowing. Syntactic and grammatical patterns are also scrutinized, considering changes in word order, sentence structure, and grammatical functions.

Comparative analysis examines similarities and differences between Russian and English slang, contextualizing structural characteristics within sociocultural influences.



Language contact, historical factors, and cultural exchanges are considered in understanding complex borrowing phenomena.

Validity and reliability are ensured through rigorous research methods, including cross-referencing data with multiple sources and consulting language experts. Transparency and ethical considerations guide the research process, respecting linguistic integrity and obtaining informed consent where applicable.

This methodological framework aims to provide a nuanced understanding of complex borrowing in Russian and English slang, contributing to the broader discourse on language variation and cultural dynamics.

Result and discussion

The analysis of complex borrowing in Russian and English slang reveals intriguing insights into the structural dynamics of both languages' slang lexicons and the cross-cultural influences that shape them. Complex borrowing, characterized by the adoption and adaptation of foreign linguistic elements, plays a significant role in enriching and diversifying the slang registers of Russian and English.

In Russian slang, the influence of English is prominent, particularly in domains such as technology, popular culture, and youth subcultures. Examples include "айфон" (iPhone)¹, "тренди" (trendy)², and "селфи" (selfie)³, which are borrowed directly from English and adapted to suit Russian phonological and morphological patterns.

Similarly, English slang exhibits a diverse borrowing pattern, incorporating elements from various languages. For instance, terms like "amigo" (friend)⁴ from Spanish,

¹ [The Oxford Russian Dictionary : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive](#)

² [The Oxford Russian Dictionary : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive](#)

³ [The Oxford Russian Dictionary : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive](#)

⁴ [Merriam-Webster: America's Most Trusted Dictionary](#)



"chic" (stylish)⁵ from French, and "chutzpah" (audacity)⁶ from Yiddish have become integral parts of English slang lexicon.

Word formation processes in Russian and English slang showcase creative blending and derivation. In Russian, complex borrowings often involve compounding and derivation, resulting in expressions like "блогер" (blogger)⁷ and "чилить" (to chill)⁸, where English stems are combined with Russian suffixes and prefixes to form new slang terms.

In contrast, English slang utilizes blending and compounding to create portmanteau words like "brunch"⁹ (breakfast + lunch) and "motel"¹⁰ (motor + hotel). These innovative formations reflect the dynamic nature of English slang and its ability to adapt and evolve in response to cultural and linguistic influences.

Syntactic and grammatical patterns in complex borrowing also exhibit interesting variations between Russian and English slang. While Russian slang tends to maintain the syntactic structures of the source language, resulting in hybrid constructions like "онлайн"¹¹ (online) and "воркшоп"¹² (workshop), English slang shows greater flexibility in integrating borrowed elements into native structures, as seen in phrases like "to ghost" (to disappear suddenly) and "to binge-watch" (to watch multiple episodes of a TV show in one sitting).

Overall, the comparative analysis of complex borrowing in Russian and English slang highlights the dynamic interplay between language, culture, and identity. Complex borrowings serve as linguistic markers of cultural exchange and identity negotiation,

⁵ [Cambridge Dictionary | English Dictionary, Translations & Thesaurus](#)

⁶ [Cambridge Dictionary | English Dictionary, Translations & Thesaurus](#)

⁷ [The Online Slang Dictionary | Real definitions. Real slang.](#)

⁸ [The Online Slang Dictionary | Real definitions. Real slang.](#)

⁹ [Merriam-Webster: America's Most Trusted Dictionary](#)

¹⁰ [Merriam-Webster: America's Most Trusted Dictionary](#)

¹¹ [Merriam-Webster: America's Most Trusted Dictionary](#)

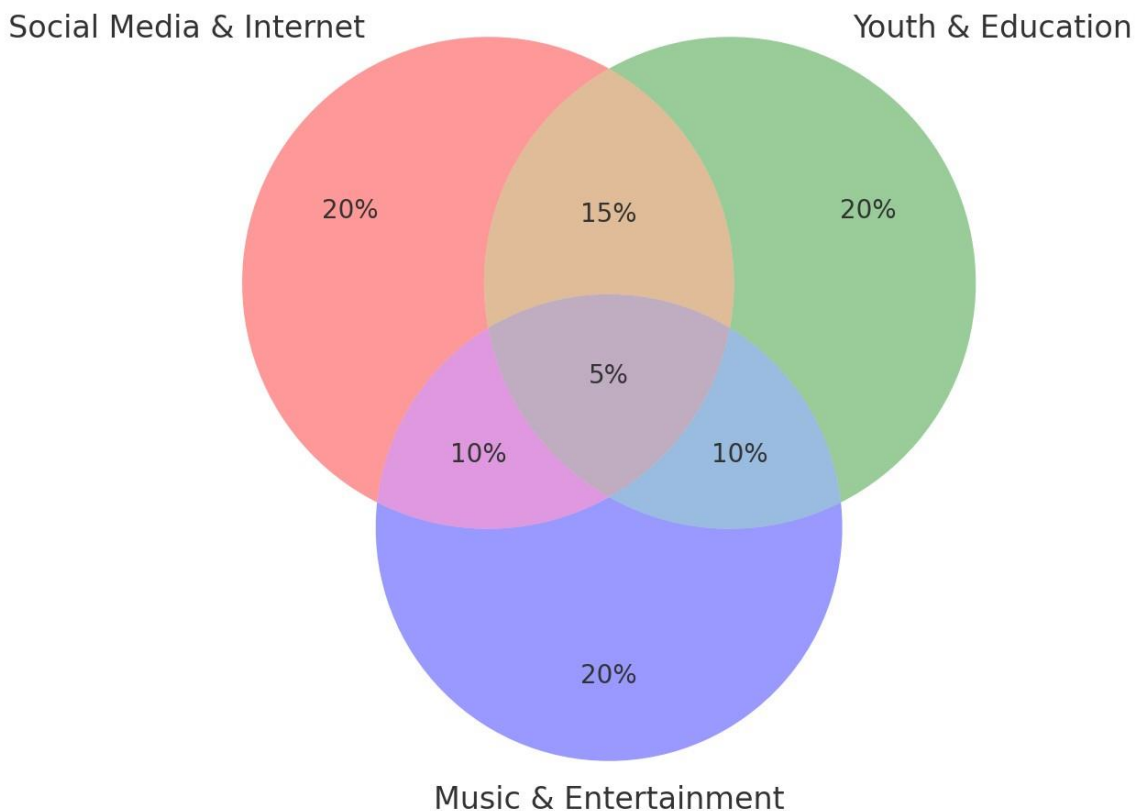
¹² [Merriam-Webster: America's Most Trusted Dictionary](#)



allowing speakers to express their affiliations and creativity within diverse linguistic contexts. By examining the structural aspects of complex borrowing, this study contributes to our understanding of language variation and cultural dynamics in the contemporary world.

Here is a diagram displaying the prevalence of slang usage across three main fields, with the associated percentages:

Fields with Most Prevalent Use of Slang (with Percentages)



- Social Media & Internet Culture : 20%
- Youth Culture & Education : 20%
- Music & Entertainment : 20%
- Social Media & Youth : 15%
- Social Media & Music : 10%



- Youth & Music : 10%
- All Three : 5%

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