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LEXICAL BORROWING IN KOREAN

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ABSTRACT

This article is devoted to the study of borrowed words in Korean. Attention is paid to the adopted words from English. The article defines and 'Konglish' words including some examples with their definitions and usage.

KEYWORDS: *Borrowed Words, Loanwords, "Konglish" Words.*

INTRODUCTION

The process when a word or a phrase from one language is adopted for use in another language is known as lexical borrowing in linguistics. The word or a phrase which is adopted is known as borrowed word, loanword or borrowings. Nowadays, English is the major donor language, as many other languages borrow English vocabulary. In this article, we focus on the English borrowed words in Korean.

There are two categories of Korean words which derived from English: loanwords and "Konglish". Loanwords keep the original meaning of the word or phrase in English. Thus, loanwords can be understood easily by English speakers. For instance:

Loanword Actual English word

아이스크림[aiseukeulim]	Ice cream
주스[juceu]	Juice
하우스[hauseu]	House
초콜릿[chokollis]	Chocolate

콜라[kolla]	Cola
피자 [pija]	Pizza
비타민 [bitamin]	Vitamin
와인 [wain]	Wine

[3:4p]

The loan words listed above keep the original meaning, so it can be easily understood by native speakers of English.

“Konglish” words/ 콩글리쉬

The term of “Konglish” is itself originated from the combination of words Korean and English, and it literally means the Korean version of English words. In most cases, Koreans prefer to shorten borrowed words from other languages if they feel the word or the phrase is very long and difficult to pronounce. Moreover, some “Konglish” words are combination of English and Korean words. Thus, in order to understand the meaning of “Konglish” words, it requires further learning of the meaning. Some examples of “Konglish” words include;

“Konglish” words Actual English words

에어컨 (eeokeon) Air conditioner

아파트 (apateu) Apartment

센티 (senti) Centimeter

리모컨 (rimokeon) Remote control

셀프 (selpeu) Self service

사이다 (saida) Cider

아이쇼핑 (aisyoping) Window shopping

이벤트 (ibenteu) Sale/ promotion

Anglophones find these words difficult to comprehend the meaning when they hear them for the first time. Since some of the words are shortened, they may lose their original meaning.

The first five words there is observed the process of shortening a long word or combination of two words as in example below;

에어컨 (eeokeon) 에어(eeo) – air, 컨(keon) – ceon (the first syllable of conditioner), and the last two syllables air and con are combined as “aircon.”

아파트 (apateu) is shortened form of word apartment, in which “apart” is taken. Korean syllables cannot consist solely of a consonant, therefore, a vowel is added “으”[eu] to form the word 아파트 (apateu), which means apartment in English.

센티 (senti) is also shortened form of the word centimeter. 리모콘 (limokon) is formed by shortening and combining two English words - remote and control. The first two syllables “remo” from remote and “con” from control combine to make the word “limocon,” which means remote control.

셀프 (selpeu) is also shortened form of English word self-service. In this case, only “self” is used, and “service” is discarded. The word ‘셀프’ (selpeu) or self means self – service.

음료는 셀프입니다. (Eumlyoneunselpeu-immnida.) – Drinks are self- service. It is common in Korea to come across this phrase in cafes. It means one should bring their drinks by themselves. In the above example there is also added grammatical suffix 입니다 (immnida) to the word 셀프 (selpeu) – self, this suffix is used as auxiliary verb “to be” in English. [2:58]

Moreover, the words 아이쇼핑 (aisyoping) and 이벤트 (ibenteu) lose their actual meaning in English. 아이쇼핑 (aisyoping) is the combination of two English words “eye” and “shopping” which gives meaning doing shopping only with eyes without buying anything, or just in order to make one’s eyes happy. The word 이벤트 (ibenteu) is taken from the English word “event” but the word lost its actual meaning. In Korean this word means sale or promotion and is mostly used at the supermarkets when there is some kind of sale or “one plus one” gifts.

In conclusion, in modern social world usage of English words is enhancing rapidly. In this article analyzed loanwords and formation of new words in Korean by using or combining two English words or English words with Korean words, which is called Konglish words. Moreover, there are given explanation to some Konglish words as; 셀프 (selpeu), 이벤트 (ibenteu) and so on. To understand Konglish words needs further learning the meaning of new words, even for native speakers of English. Since, they lose their original meaning when they are borrowed into Korean.

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