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BORROWING, WORD FORMATION, AND SEMANTIC CHANGE IN COMPUTER AND INTERNET SLANG: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF ENGLISH AND UZBEK

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Abstract: The rapid development of digital technologies has resulted in significant changes in contemporary language. Computer and Internet slang represents one of the most dynamic areas of modern vocabulary, reflecting technological innovation, social interaction, and cultural globalization. While both languages demonstrate linguistic creativity, informality, and rapid lexical development, Uzbek shows a particularly strong tendency to adapt borrowed terms through native grammatical and morphological patterns. The study concludes that computer and Internet slang provides valuable evidence of language change in the digital era.

Keywords: computer slang, Internet slang, borrowing, word formation, semantic change, English, Uzbek, digital communication, language change, lexical innovation.

Introduction

The development of computers, mobile technologies, social networks, and online communication platforms has transformed the way people communicate. Digital communication has not only introduced new technologies but has also created new vocabulary and linguistic practices. Terms that were unknown several decades ago, such as *blog, website, hashtag, selfie, livestream, gamer,* and *emoji*, have become common elements of everyday communication. Computer and Internet slang is particularly interesting because it develops faster than many other areas of vocabulary. Users constantly create, shorten, borrow, and modify words in order to communicate more quickly and expressively. Young people are especially active in this process because they are among the most frequent users of social media, online games, messaging applications, and other digital platforms.

English has played a dominant role in the development of global digital vocabulary. A considerable number of technological innovations and Internet platforms originated in English-speaking countries, which has resulted in the international spread of English terms. As a result, many English digital expressions have entered other languages, including Uzbek.

Uzbek Internet slang has developed through interaction between native Uzbek vocabulary and foreign linguistic influences. English technological terms are frequently borrowed directly or adapted to Uzbek grammatical structures. Russian also influences Uzbek digital communication because of historical, educational, and social factors. In addition, Uzbek speakers create new expressions using native word-formation patterns. The purpose of this article is to provide a comparative analysis of borrowing, word formation, and semantic change in English and Uzbek computer and Internet slang. The study focuses on the linguistic mechanisms through which digital vocabulary develops and the ways in which borrowed and newly created expressions become part of everyday communication.

Main Part

1. Borrowing in computer and internet slang

Borrowing is one of the most productive mechanisms of vocabulary development. It occurs when speakers adopt words or expressions from another language and use them in their own linguistic system. In the field of computer and Internet communication, borrowing is especially common because technology develops internationally. English contains numerous borrowed words related to digital communication. Some expressions have entered English from other languages, while English has subsequently become a major source of technological vocabulary for other languages. Russian influence can also be observed in Uzbek digital communication. Some users employ Russian technological and colloquial expressions, especially in informal online conversations. Consequently, Uzbek Internet discourse can be multilingual, combining Uzbek, English, and Russian elements.

2. Types of borrowing

Borrowing can take different forms. The most common types found in digital vocabulary include direct borrowing, adapted borrowing, and calquing.

Direct borrowing occurs when a foreign word is used with little or no modification. For example, Uzbek users frequently use terms such as *blog, chat, post,* and *online*.

Adapted borrowing occurs when a foreign word is modified according to the phonological, morphological, or grammatical rules of the receiving language. In Uzbek, English nouns can receive Uzbek suffixes or be combined with Uzbek auxiliary verbs.

Calquing involves translating the components of a foreign expression into the receiving language. Although direct English borrowings are particularly common in technology-related communication, calquing can also contribute to the creation of new Uzbek expressions. The degree of adaptation depends on the frequency of use and the familiarity of the term. Highly frequent words tend to become more integrated into everyday speech.

3. Word formation in english internet slang

Word formation is another major source of computer and Internet slang. English digital vocabulary demonstrates several productive processes.

Abbreviation

Abbreviations allow users to communicate quickly. Common examples include:

- *LOL* – laughing out loud;
- *OMG* – oh my God;
- *BTW* – by the way;
- *BRB* – be right back;
- *IDK* – I don't know;
- *DM* – direct message.

These forms are particularly common in informal online communication.

Clipping

Clipping involves shortening a longer word. Examples include:

- *app* from *application*;
- *admin* from *administrator*;
- *info* from *information*;
- *demo* from *demonstration*.

Clipped forms are often more convenient and informal than their full versions.

Blending

Blending combines parts of two words. Digital vocabulary contains numerous examples, including *webinar* (*web* + *seminar*) and *netizen* (*Internet* + *citizen*).

Compounding

Compounding combines two or more words to create a new lexical item. Examples include *cybersecurity, smartphone, website,* and *livestream*. Compounding is highly productive because new technological concepts frequently require names that combine existing lexical elements.

Conversion

Conversion involves changing the grammatical category of a word without adding an affix. For example, the noun *message* can be used as a verb in expressions such as *to message someone*. Similarly, *Google* can function as a verb meaning to search for information online.

4. Word Formation in Uzbek Internet Slang

Uzbek Internet slang also demonstrates significant lexical creativity. However, its development is strongly influenced by the grammatical structure of Uzbek.

One common pattern is the combination of an English loanword with an Uzbek verb. Examples include:

- *post joylamoq* – to publish/upload a post;
- *like bosmoq* – to like a post;
- *chatlashmoq* – to chat;
- *download qilmoq* – to download;
- *online bo'lmoq* – to be online.

Such expressions illustrate the integration of English vocabulary into Uzbek syntactic and morphological structures.

Uzbek speakers also use native suffixes to create new forms from borrowed words. For example, borrowed nouns can receive Uzbek derivational or verbal suffixes. This process demonstrates that foreign vocabulary can become productive within the Uzbek language.

Another important characteristic is the use of mixed-language expressions. In informal digital communication, an Uzbek sentence may contain English technological vocabulary and, in some cases, Russian expressions. This phenomenon reflects the multilingual environment of contemporary online communication.

5. Semantic Change in Computer and Internet Slang

Semantic change refers to the development of new meanings for existing words. Digital communication has accelerated this process because familiar words can acquire specialized meanings in online contexts.

English provides numerous examples. The word *cloud*, traditionally associated with atmospheric phenomena, now also refers to Internet-based data storage and computing. The word *viral*, originally associated with viruses, is now commonly used to describe online content that spreads rapidly. The word *friend* has also acquired a technological meaning through social networking platforms, where it can refer to a person added to one's online social network.

Similarly, *follow* traditionally meant to move behind or accompany someone, but in social media it can mean subscribing to another user's updates. *Like* has developed a digital meaning referring to a user's positive reaction to online content.

These semantic developments demonstrate that digital communication does not merely create new words; it also changes the meanings of existing vocabulary.

6. Semantic Change in Uzbek Digital Communication

Uzbek Internet communication also demonstrates semantic changes resulting from digital technologies. Many borrowed words acquire specialized meanings when used online.

For example, *post* may refer specifically to content published on a social media platform. *Story* can refer to a temporary visual or textual publication on a social networking service rather than

simply a narrative. *Follower* commonly refers to a person who subscribes to another user's online content.

Some Uzbek words can also develop new contextual meanings through digital communication. Words related to *kanal* (“channel”), *tarmoq* (“network”), *sahifa* (“page”), and *guruh* (“group”) are increasingly associated with digital platforms as well as their traditional meanings.

Therefore, semantic change in Uzbek digital vocabulary occurs through both borrowing and the expansion of native lexical meanings.

7. Comparative Analysis of English and Uzbek

The comparison of English and Uzbek reveals several common tendencies.

First, both languages demonstrate a strong tendency toward **brevity**. Abbreviations, clipped forms, and simplified expressions are widely used because digital communication often requires speed.

Second, both languages demonstrate considerable **lexical creativity**. Users create new expressions to describe new technologies, online behaviors, and social phenomena.

Third, **semantic change** is an important feature of both languages. Existing words acquire specialized meanings in digital contexts.

However, there are also significant differences. English is a major source language for international computer and Internet terminology, while Uzbek is more often a recipient language in the process of technological borrowing. Consequently, English frequently creates new terms internally, whereas Uzbek often adapts English terms to its own linguistic system.

Another important difference is grammatical adaptation. Uzbek speakers frequently combine borrowed English nouns with Uzbek verbs and suffixes. This type of integration reflects the agglutinative structure of Uzbek.

The following table summarizes the major similarities and differences:

Conclusion

The comparative analysis of computer and Internet slang in English and Uzbek demonstrates that borrowing, word formation, and semantic change are central mechanisms of digital language development. The rapid expansion of technology has created a constant need for new vocabulary, while online communication encourages users to shorten, modify, and creatively reinterpret existing words.

English occupies a particularly influential position because it serves as a major source of global technological terminology. English Internet slang is characterized by productive abbreviation, clipping, blending, compounding, conversion, and semantic change. Uzbek, meanwhile, actively incorporates English digital vocabulary and adapts it to its own grammatical and morphological system.

The analysis also demonstrates that Uzbek Internet slang is shaped by multilingual interaction. English borrowings, Russian influence, and native Uzbek linguistic resources coexist in digital communication. Borrowed words can receive Uzbek suffixes and combine with Uzbek verbs, showing that the receiving language actively restructures foreign vocabulary.

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