

## Psychological Factors in the Assimilation of Turkisms into English

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**Abstract.** *The dynamic process of language evolution has contributed to the introduction of many word combinations from different cultures into the English language, enriching and improving its lexicon with various expressions and concepts. Among these influences, the linguistic integration of foreign words of Turkic origin, which occurs as a result of historical, geographical and socio-political interactions between the Turkic-speaking world and English-speaking communities, is closely related to psychological factors in the process of word acquisition. This article explores the division of Turkic words of Turkic origin into separate semantic domains such as objects, food, titles, names, animals, drinks, technological devices, gadgets, plants, etc. Furthermore, the article analyzes whether these words entered English directly from Turkish or through intermediary languages, and examines the sociocultural and psycholinguistic reasons behind their adoption. It should be noted that this issue has not only psycholinguistic but also psycholinguistic aspects, which require separate research, highlighting the multifaceted nature of cross-linguistic influence, and providing insight into the broader implications of linguistic borrowing in the context of globalization.*

**Key words:** *psycholinguistic, cross-linguistic, lexicon, Turkic, socio-political, loanwords, acquisition, historical, culture, semantic domains, lexicographic sources.*

**Introduction.** Social psycholinguistics is the study of speech and thought patterns related to the socio-psychological characteristics of human existence (Gorelov & Sedov, 2001). The process of word acquisition in a given language is directly related to intercultural interactions. In this process, terms related to the economic, political, cultural, ideological, and military spheres are acquired out of necessity. Naturally, this is based on processes related to the spiritual world of the participating peoples. Turkic words in English are distinguished, first of all, by their harmony with the spiritual world of English-speaking peoples. From this point of view, Turkic words in English lexicographical sources form several separate groups. The results of observations on their lexical and semantic groups are presented below. Language contact is a characteristic feature of human communication, and the transfer of words from one language to another is a widespread phenomenon in many languages of the world. In particular, English has acquired a large number of vocabulary due to its historical ties with various cultures. Among the many sources of these words, the Turkish language has made a significant contribution, especially in terms of words that have entered the English language through the political, cultural, and military presence of the Ottoman Empire, as well as recent social and commercial exchanges. In addition, in this article the historical and socio-cultural factors behind their

adoption, with particular emphasis on Mahmud Kashgari's "Divani Lugat-it-Turk" are provided information on the early stages of the evolution of Turkic languages and their impact on Turkic languages. Words borrowed from Turkic have entered English through a variety of routes, primarily through direct borrowing from Turkish, but also through intermediary languages such as Arabic, Persian, Russian, and French. These loanwords cover a wide range of semantic categories, from food and drink to social titles, geographical terms, and even names. Understanding how these words entered the English lexicon and how they are classified in different domains provides valuable insights into the mechanisms of language evolution and the cultural exchanges that shape it. The aim of this article is to study words of Turkic origin in the context of modern English lexicon, classifying them into semantic domains such as objects, foods, titles, nouns, animals, drinks, technological devices, gadgets, plants, and other classifications. In addition, the article aims to analyze the reasons and processes of their adoption into English, paying special attention to the socio-cultural factors that influenced their integration into English.

**Methodology.** The methodology of this study involves a comprehensive review of existing linguistic sources, dictionaries, and scholarly articles on words of Turkic origin in English. The study aims to categorize these words according to their meanings and usage in modern English, and then trace their etymology to understand how they entered the language. This study uses a qualitative approach, examining sources that list Turkic words of origin in English, such as dictionaries, historical texts, and linguistic studies. The historical context of these words is also explored through the materials of Mahmud Kashgari's "Divani lug'at-it-turk".

**Results.** The Ottoman Empire's contacts with European countries began in the 15th century, and the integration of Turkic words into English took place over several centuries. Words are divided into different categories:

Turkisms are divided into the following lexical-semantic groups.

- *objects*
- *Food and drink*
- *Titles and nouns*
- *Animals*
- *Geographical locations*
- *Plants*
- *cultural and military terms.*

Each word is analyzed for its historical context, linguistic roots, and routes of entry into English. Attention is also paid to intermediary languages that facilitated the borrowing process.

**Food and drink.** Turkish cuisine has had a significant influence on English, in particular through the introduction of a variety of food items:

- Doner kebab (Canadian: donair, from Turkish *döner kebap*): Grilled or roasted meat, especially lamb or chicken. This word has been adapted to English and is widely used [16].
- Baklava (from Turkish *baklava*): a rich, sweet pastry made with layers of filo pastry filled with chopped nuts and sweetened with syrup. The word has retained its original form and is commonly used in English-speaking countries [12].
- Ayran (again from Turkish *ayran*): As mentioned above, this yogurt-based drink has become popular in many parts of the world. It is a traditional Turkish drink made from yogurt, water, and salt that has gained international recognition and is now widely consumed in English-speaking countries [22].
- Boza (from Turkish *boza*): a fermented drink made from millet, often associated with Turkish and Balkan cultures. The word entered the English language in areas inhabited by Turkish or Balkan communities [30].

- Coffee (from Ottoman Turkish *coffee* via Italian *café*): The most common Turkish word, coffee spread from the Ottoman Empire to Europe, with Istanbul being a major center of its consumption.
- Bulgur (from Turkish *bulgur*): A form of cracked wheat used in Middle Eastern and Mediterranean cuisine, the term entered the English language through cultural exchanges involving the Ottoman Empire and neighboring regions.
- Boza (from Turkish *boza*): A fermented drink made from grains, especially popular in parts of Turkey and the Balkan Peninsula, which entered the English language through Turkic migration patterns [30].
- Dolma (from Turkish *dolma*): This term refers to stuffed vegetables, usually grape leaves, stuffed with rice, meat, and spices. The Turkish word "dolma" means "stuffed" or "stuffed" and entered the English language with the spread of Turkish cuisine, particularly Middle Eastern and Mediterranean culinary traditions, which became popular worldwide [17].
- Imam Bayildi (from Turkish *imambayildi*): An eggplant dish whose name translates as "the imam fainted," perhaps referring to a story about a religious leader who fainted after tasting the dish. The dish entered the English language through the popularity of Mediterranean and Middle Eastern cuisine [11].
- Kefir (from Russian, ultimately from the Turkish word *köpür*): A fermented dairy product, kefir traces its roots to Turkic-speaking communities in Central Asia. It has spread throughout Europe and the West as a health food, widely consumed for its probiotic benefits [23].
- Pastrami (from Turkish "*pastirma*"): A method of preserving meat that was introduced to Western cuisines through Eastern European influences [20].
- Pilaf (from Turkish "*pilaf*"): A rice dish, originally Turkish, later spread to the Middle East and Asia through Turkish cuisine [20].

**Titles and names.** Some Turkic words are used as names or in the context of names to refer to historical figures or social hierarchies:

- Aga Khan (Turkish: *aga* + *khan*): refers to the divinely appointed leader of the Nizari branch of Ismaili Shia Islam [15].
- Otabeg (Turkish: *atabeg*): A title used for a provincial governor in the medieval Islamic world, often in the context of the Seljuk and Ottoman Empires.
- Arnaut (Turkish: *arnavut*): refers to an Albanian, especially in the context of Ottoman military service.
- Beylerbey (Turkish: *beylerbey*): A high-ranking governor in the Ottoman Empire. The word is sometimes used in English to refer to the Ottoman administrative system in historical or academic contexts.
- Begum (Urdu: بُغَّام, Turkish: *begüm*): A woman of high rank or noble rank in the Ottoman Empire. The term has been adopted into English, especially in contexts related to the Indian or Turkish aristocracy.
- Bey (from Turkish: *bey*): A title given to a nobleman or leader in the Ottoman Empire, often used in historical or academic contexts in English to refer to a regional ruler or tribal chief.
- Pasha (from Turkish: *paşa*): A high-ranking official or military officer in the Ottoman Empire, the term entered English through diplomatic and military contacts between the Ottoman Empire and European states.
- Khan (from Turkish: *khan*): A ruler or leader, the title khan is a common term in English, and its origins date back to the Turkic-speaking peoples, particularly the steppes of Central Asia.

**Animals.** The Turkish language has a number of animal-related words, many of which are related to specific breeds or regional variations:

- Akbash (Turkish: *akbaş*): A breed of livestock guardian dog that originated in Turkey. Its name literally means "white head", referring to the dog's distinctive appearance.
- Aslan (from Turkish: *aslan*): The Turkish word for "lion", used in English primarily as a name or symbol of strength and courage.
- Caracal (from Turkish: *karakulak*): A type of wild cat with distinctive black ear tips, a term borrowed into English from Turkish, reflecting the rich fauna of the region.
- Cossack (from Turkish: *quzq*): Denoting a nomadic or partisan warrior, the term has historically come to describe the inhabitants of the Cossack communities, historically associated with the Ottoman Empire and Russia. Although it is primarily used in human terms, it has also influenced terminology in military and animal contexts, such as the Cossack horse.
- Karakul (Uzbek: *Kapakyl*): Referring to a breed of sheep that produces valuable black wool, Karakul became a recognized term in the textile and wool industry.
- Kangal (from Turkish *kangali*): A breed of Turkish sheepdog, the Kangal is known for its protective instincts. The name entered the English language in recognition of the breed's usefulness and cultural importance in Turkey.

### **Clothing.**

- Cekmak (from Turkish *Çakmak*): A type of Turkish cloth, the term reflects the influence of the Ottoman Empire on the textile trade.
- Dolman (from Turkish *dolaman*): A type of robe or overgarment, the term comes from the Turkish word *dolamak*, meaning "to wind" or "to wrap". The dolman was a popular garment in the Ottoman Empire and was later adopted into English to describe similar garments.
- Fez (from Turkish *fez*): A type of red hat worn in the Ottoman Empire, which entered the English language in the 19th century through Ottoman influence in North Africa and the Levant. The fez remains a distinctive feature of Ottoman dress in both Eastern and Western depictions.
- Kaftan (from Turkish *kaftan*): A long, flowing robe, the kaftan was adopted into English by the Ottoman elite and influenced European fashion with its luxurious fabrics.
- Kilim (from Turkish *kilim*): A type of carpet woven in a flat tapestry, the kilim reflects the traditional art of Turkish weaving, which has long influenced interior design in Europe and beyond.

### **Objects and elements.**

- Cafeneh (from Turkish *kahvane*): Referring to a coffeehouse or café, the term entered English through Turkish, where *kahve* means "coffee" and *hane* means "house". The spread of coffee culture from the Ottoman Empire to Europe in the 17th century helped to promote the adoption of the term.
- Chibouk (from Turkish *Çubuk*): A long pipe, especially a water pipe used for smoking tobacco, also known as a hookah. The term has become popular in English-speaking societies due to its association with Ottoman and Middle Eastern culture.
- Doodle (from Turkish *düdüük*): Originally referring to a flute, the word has influenced the English term "doodle" due to the historical connection between flute and flute playing. This indirect borrowing probably occurred through German and Slavic intermediaries, showing how Turkic words can change as they move between languages.

### **Geographical terms and places.** Several places or places of historical importance in Turkey are known by their English Turkish names:

- Akhisar (from Turkish *Akhisor*): a city near Izmir in Turkey, which gave its name to a distinctive style of heavy carpet weaving.

- Altay (from the Altai Mountains in Central Asia): the name of a mountain range, which has also influenced English usage in the context of animals such as the Altai horse and Altai sheep.
- Balkan (from Turkish *Balkan*): Referring to the Balkan Peninsula, the term has spread into English to describe both the geographical region and the cultural and linguistic diversity associated with it.
- Casaba (from Turkish *Kasaba*): A term that entered English as a reference to the geography of the Ottoman Empire, especially a small town or village in Turkey.
- Desemer (from Turkish *batman*): A small weight used in ancient scales, desemer entered English through Germanic intermediaries, potentially via the Baltic region. Its use in historical and archaeological contexts links it to the wider language exchange between Turkish and European languages.
- Dunam (from Turkish *dönüm*): A unit of land measurement, the dunam is used in both the Middle East and parts of the Balkan Peninsula. The term entered English through historical and political contexts, especially during the Ottoman Empire's rule over many regions.
- Kiosk (from Turkish *köşk*): Originally referring to a small pavilion or garden structure in Turkish, the word kiosk in English has come to mean a small structure used for selling goods, such as a newspaper stand.
- Konak (from Turkish *konak*): A large house or palace in Turkey, the word konak entered English through historical texts and architectural studies related to buildings from the Ottoman period.
- Kurgan (from Turkish *kurgan*): A type of cemetery, the word kurgan entered the

### **Transportation.**

- Araba (from Turkish *arava*): a horse-drawn carriage, a term historically used in the Ottoman Empire and now used to refer to various forms of transportation [26].
- Caïque (from Turkish *kayik*): A small boat or canoe, especially associated with the Mediterranean and Black Sea regions. The term is a direct borrowing from Turkish into English, reflecting the maritime connections between the Ottoman Empire and European nations.
- Keltek (Turkish *kelek*): A raft used on rivers, adopted into English to describe traditional Turkish and Middle Eastern river transport technologies.

### **Cultural and military terms.**

- Atagan (Turkish *yatagan*): A type of Ottoman sword, often associated with warriors of the empire. The word is used in English to describe this particular weapon.
- Afshar (Turkic Afshar, "a Turkic tribe living mainly in the Kerman province of Iran." A coarsely woven Shiraz carpet [8].
- Beylik (from Turkish *beylik*): Also has a military meaning, referring to a district ruled by a bey, and is often used in English to describe a unit or division within a larger organization.
- Bashaw (from Turkish *baba*): A title used for a high-ranking military official, the word was introduced into English in historical military contexts to refer to a leader or general.
- Dey (from Turkish *dayı*): A Turkish term for maternal uncle, dayı was adopted into English in historical or anthropological contexts to describe family relationships within Ottoman culture.
- Devshirmeh (Turkish *devşirme*): Referring to the Ottoman practice of conscripting Christian boys into military service, the word entered English as a specialized term in historiography, particularly in relation to the administration and military strategies of the Ottoman Empire.
- Donmeh (from Turkish *dönme*): This term refers to adherents of a Jewish sect that converted to Islam, and entered the English language through the study of Ottoman religious and social practices. Its adoption into English reflects both the cultural diversity of the empire and the intellectual exchange between Ottoman scholars and European academics [31].

- Elchee (from Turkish *elçi*): meaning "ambassador", elchee being a word borrowed into English through diplomatic relations with the Ottoman Empire. [1]
- Hajduk (from Ottoman Turkish *haydut*): a term meaning "bandit" or "soldier", used to describe irregular troops in the Ottoman Empire and entered English through historical references to the military structure of the empire.
- Kadi (from Ottoman Turkish *kadi*): a judge in the Islamic legal system, the term entered English through interactions with the Ottoman administration, particularly in the regions under its control [13].
- Sword (from Turkish *kılıç*): A type of Turkish sword, the kilic, entered English during the Ottoman Empire due to its military use and historical significance.

**Discussion.** The integration of words of Turkic origin into English reflects a rich history of cultural exchange, trade, and geopolitical interactions. According to Russian scientist Vorkachev (2001), the goals of this scientific discipline are to study and describe the relationship between language and culture, language and ethnicity, language and folklore mentality. Furthermore, several factors contribute to the entry of these words into English:

- Historical influence: The centuries-long presence of the Ottoman Empire in Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa created many opportunities for the Turkish language to influence local languages. In particular, English has absorbed many Turkish terms through military, political, and diplomatic exchanges.
- Commerce and cuisine: As Turkish cuisine became more widely known, terms such as kebab and baklava entered English, reflecting the globalization of food culture.
- Sociocultural factors: According to Maslova (2001), issues of ethnolinguistic thought illuminate the main content of linguistic philosophy, which provides the specificity of ethnic, social, or group communication in language, and this aspect is studied by psycholinguistics. The spread of Turkic terms related to social hierarchy, governance, and titles shows how languages borrow words to express new concepts or reflect changes in power dynamics.
- Linguistic mediation: Many Turkic words entered English indirectly through intermediary languages such as Arabic, Persian, Russian, and French. This mediation process led to semantic shifts and changes in pronunciation and spelling as these words passed through various linguistic channels.

The sociocultural background of these borrowings demonstrates the importance of Turkish in shaping modern English, not only in terms of vocabulary, but also in the cultural perceptions that accompany these words.

Furthermore, intermediary languages such as Arabic, Persian, and Russian have played an important role in transferring Turkic words to English. In many cases, these words have undergone semantic changes as they have passed through these intermediary languages, adapting to local cultural contexts, and then entering English. Various other words of Turkic origin have entered English, each with its own cultural or functional significance.

**Conclusion.** Turkic-speaking words in English are evidence of historical, cultural, and linguistic ties between Turkic-speaking communities and English-speaking populations. These words are used in a wide range of domains. Currently, many researchers consider the 21st century to be an era of integration of sciences. Interdisciplinary cooperation is yielding significant results in revealing the essence of certain phenomena. Such an approach is especially effective in studying the human phenomenon, the speech activity of a complex being. After all, human speech is a multifaceted and complex phenomenon, like the person himself. Language embodies not only a physical, but also a psychological component, serving as a means of human communication and activity. Language, as a condition for communication, limits the ability to fully understand the world and imposes restrictions on fully understanding another person. All psychological characteristics of a person and the sources of development of his creative activity come from the social environment and society surrounding

him. The cooperation of linguistic disciplines in this regard, undoubtedly, gives positive results. Significant research has already been conducted in the field of psycholinguistics within linguistics.

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