

The Distribution and Spread of English Loanwords

Some Indications from Written Bangla in Articles concerned with Science, Culture, Lifestyle, and Religion.

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Bachelor Degree Project
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Spring 2014

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Abstract

English has served as a donor language of loanwords to many different languages in the world. One of these languages is Bangla; and, despite the importance of the English influence on Bangla, few researchers have investigated English loanwords in Bangla and even fewer have looked at the distribution of them between different categories such as science, lifestyle, culture, and religion. The purpose of the present study was to establish whether the distribution of English loanwords varied between these categories, how these results would relate to findings in other languages, and what this would tell us about word-formation processes in relation to English loanwords in general. Articles related to these categories were found and analyzed to find English loanwords which were in conjunction counted manually and compared with the overall amount of words in each article. The results showed a clear tendency for a higher number of English loanwords in texts concerned with the topic of science, followed by; lifestyle, culture; and lastly religion; the differences were statistically significant. These findings were also similar to what has been shown in other languages. Future research should aim to include a larger, more balanced sample, but also having a more reliable method of collecting and analyzing texts and words.

Keywords

English, loanwords, distribution, written text, Bangla, science, lifestyle, culture, religion.

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1. Introduction

The presence and influence of English in the global world is and has been ubiquitous for several centuries. No other language has ever had a such large impact on the languages of the world. In many countries English is associated with technology, science, modernity, culture, and global identities, and according to Graddol (1997): “English is the main language of books, newspapers, airports and air-traffic control, international business and academic conferences, science technology, diplomacy, sport, international competitions, pop music and advertising”, (p. 2). It is no wonder then that English has served as a donor language of loanwords to many different languages such as Japanese, Korean, Persian, Tamil, and Bangla (Koscielecki, 2006; Karunakaran, 2011a; Baumgardner & Brown, 2012; Kim, 2012; Mostafa & Jamila, 2012). One of the areas where English historically has had a prominent position is South Asia, where the English presence has been ongoing since the 18th century, from the British East India Company’s arrival to the continent, all the way to the independence in 1947 and to the present day (Melchers & Shaw, 2011, p. 145). In South Asia, English “plays the most prominent role in the prestigious domains of education, science, and technology”, (Gargesh, 2006, p. 92). Gargesh also claims that the South Asian audience prefers “English as the medium for gaining knowledge and information”; while for entertainment it is the local languages that are the preferred medium. For instance, “in Bangladesh, of the 1,601 registered newspapers countrywide, there are 128 dailies published in Dhaka, of which 11 are in English. Outside Dhaka, there are 6 English dailies out of 233 dailies”, (p. 100). Surely, this level of English presence must have some effects on the local languages.

One question that arises is whether the trend of English being the preferred medium of science whilst less so for entertainment would have an impact on the number of loanwords a language, for example Bangla, would adopt in these categories. Bangla, or Bengali, which is spoken by more than 200 million people in the historical province of Bengal (*Nationalencyklopedin*, 2014), now geo-politically divided into Bangladesh and West Bengal, has received a great number of loanwords from English. The English influence on Bangla stretches back to the establishment of the East India Company, which was in fact based in Calcutta (now spelled Kolkata), the capital of modern day West Bengal (Melchers & Shaw, 2011, p. 144), and:

with the coming of the British, Calcutta began to grow as both a commercial and educational center, and its new urban environment seemed to nourish literary activity in two ways. First, there was created a writer class... Secondly, and more important, educational institutions were created by the British in Calcutta, in which European literature and thought was formally taught, in a fashion similar to that of universities with which the British were familiar in England (Dimock et. al., 1988, p. vi)

Despite the importance of the English influence on Bangla, few researchers have investigated English loanwords in Bangla and even fewer have looked at the distribution of them between different categories such as science, lifestyle, culture, and religion. One source mentions that the amount of loanwords in Bangla amounts to 4.55 % of the total lexicon (Mostafa & Jamila, 2012).

Taking the previous ideas into consideration, this paper will investigate the number of loanwords in newspaper articles written in Bangla and the relative distribution between loanwords in different articles according to the categories of science, culture, lifestyle, and religion. First, articles were collected from several Bengali language newspapers; secondly, suitable articles were analyzed for the amount of English words they contained; then statistical analyses were performed (χ^2 -tests, in this case) to find out the statistical significance of the findings. All these actions were carried out in the aim of trying to answer the following research questions:

- Does the distribution of English loanwords vary between the categories of *science, lifestyle, culture, and religion*?
- Is this difference statistically significant?
- How do these results relate to findings found in other languages?
- What does this tell us about word-formation processes in relation to English loanwords?

Comparing the relative distribution of loanwords between texts of different subjects could shed some light on how English loanwords are spreading in Bangla, and perhaps from a larger perspective in other languages as well.

2. Method

2.1 Material

This study draws on material from online Bengali newspaper articles. Many of these newspapers have several 100,000 circulations each day; for instance, *Prothom Alo* is one of the highest circulating newspapers written in Bangla with approximately 525,000 copies each day (<http://www.prothom-alo.com/circulation>).

Inspired by the various thematic categories of English loanwords presented in the study by Mostafa & Jamila (2012) the articles were divided into the following categories: science, culture, lifestyle, and religion. There were several reasons behind this division. First of all, these categories are concerned with varied topics and hence it is estimated that they will therefore display a varied amount and usage of English loanwords. Secondly, a too broad distinction of categories might affect the results negatively by showing too little variation among the categories; however, a too narrow distinction on the other hand might yield the opposite by showing variation that could be accounted for by other factors. Finally, several of these subjects were also pre-existing categories available among the newspapers which facilitated data collection.

2.2 Analysis

In order to accurately determine what constitutes a loanword the present study drew upon the framework presented in Grzega (2003), see below. Furthermore, in cases of uncertainty the *Bengali-English Dictionary* was consulted, an authoritative dictionary published by the *Bangla Academy* (Rahman et al., 2011). The *Bengali-English Dictionary* used for this project displays language of origin for loanwords, in most cases either English, Persian, or Arabic. This helped to ensure the external validity of the study by providing helpful etymological information for each entry. However, it should be mentioned that the *Bengali-English Dictionary* did not contain all the English words found in the articles. This might be perhaps due to the fact that many of the loanwords found, especially in the category of science, were highly specialized vocabulary, which a dictionary of this scope would not contain considering that a dictionary would have more common words in favor of more rare words.

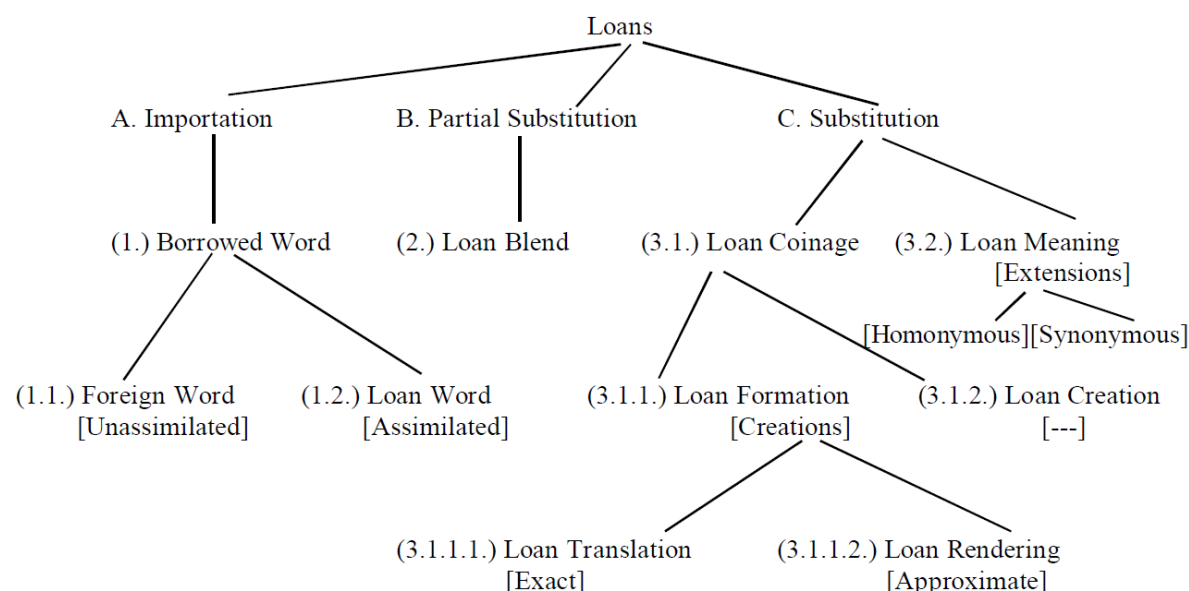


Figure 1. “Duckworth’s revision of Betz’s terminology for borrowings (together with Haugen’s terminology)” (Grzega, 2003, p. 26)

- (1.1.): “non-integrated word from a foreign language, e.g. E. *café* [kæ'feɪ], *envelope* in the form ['ɑ:nvəloʊp], *fiancé* in the form [fi'ɒnsei] (all from French); Sp. *hippie* ['xipi], Sp. *whisk(e)y* (both from English); E. *weltanschauung* (< G. *Weltanschauung*), E. *sympathy* (Gk *sympatheia*, maybe via Fr. *sympathie*), E. (Johann Sebastian) *Bach* in the form [bax]; It. *mouse* ‘computer device’(< E. *mouse* ‘rodent; computer device’);
- (1.2.): integrated word from a foreign language, e.g. E. *music* ['mju:zɪk], *envelope* in the form ['envəloʊp], *fiancé* in the form [fi'ɒntsei] (all from French); Sp. *jipi* ['xipi] (a case of graphic integration), Sp. *güisqui* (both from English), E. (Johann Sebastian) *Bach* in the form [bak];
- (2.): composite words, in which one part is borrowed, another one substituted, e.g. OE. *Saturnes dæg* ‘Saturday’ (< Lat. *Saturnis dies*), G. *Showgeschäft* ‘literally: show-business’ (< E. *show business*), G. *Live-Sendung* ‘literally: live-broadcast’ (< E. *live broadcast*);
- (3.1.1.1.): translation of the elements of the foreign word, e.g. OE. *Mōnan dæg* ‘Monday’ (< Lat. *Lunae dies*), Fr. *gratte-ciel* and Sp. *rasca-cielos* ‘both literally: scrape-sky’ (< E. *skyscraper*), E. *world view* (< G. *Weltanschauung*), G. *Mit-leid* ‘sympathy’ < Lat. *com-passio* (< Gk. *sym-patheia*), AmSp. *manzana de Adán* (< E. *Adam’s apple*; vs. EurSp *nuez [de la garganta]* ‘literally: nut [of the throat]’);

- (3.1.1.2.): translation of part of the elements of the foreign word, e.g. E. *brother-hood*¹ (< Lat. *frater-nitas* [= Lat. *frater* 'brother' + suffix] G. *Wolken-kratzer* 'literally: clouds-scraper' (< E. *sky-scraper*);
- (3.1.2.): coinage independent of the foreign word, but created out of the desire to replace a foreign word, e.g. E. *brandy*^{1,2} (< Fr. *cognac*);
- (3.2.): indigenous word to which the meaning of the foreign word is transferred, e.g. OE. *cniht*³ 'servant + disciple of Jesus' (< Lat. *discipulus* 'student, disciple of Jesus'), OE. *heofon* 'sky, abode of the gods + Christian heaven' (< Lat. *caelum* 'sky, abode of the gods, Christian heaven'), G. *Fall* 'action of falling + grammatical case' (< Lat. *casus* 'action of falling, grammatical case'), G. *Maus* and Fr *souris* 'rodent + computer device' (< E. *mouse* 'rodent, computer device')". (Grzega, 2003, p. 26-27)

This study will focus almost exclusively on borrowed words (1.1-2) and loan blends (2) since it would be difficult to accurately find e.g. loan translations (3.1.1.1.), loan coinages (3.1.2.), and direct translations (3.1.1.2.), i.e. native Bengali words that substitute original English terms. Another issue is the difficulty of distinguishing between foreign words and loanwords; Grzega (2003) mentions that loanwords would be integrated into the language morphologically, phonologically, etc. while foreign words on the other hand would remain nonintegrated. It could therefore be argued that foreign words would also display more variation depending on the writer/speaker in terms of both usage and pronunciation, whereas Loanwords would have a more established place in the language. Nevertheless, it is difficult to determine whether the writer would be using an established loanword or an idiosyncratic foreign word. In ambiguous cases where the dictionary was not sufficient I deemed names, such as brand-names, place-names, quotes, and idiosyncratic fixed phrases, etc. to not be loanwords. However, this did not include certain names of countries and nationalities where it was clear that the term originally stemmed from English. For example, the name for Poland is পোল্যান্ড [pɔlænd] and the name for the nationality Polish is পোলিশ

1 Another example would be German *handy* which was created to look like an English word and which replaces the genuine English words *mobile phone* or *cell phone*

2 *Brandy* is actually a loanword from Dutch *brandevin* <http://www.oed.com/>

3 *Cniht* meant 'boy', 'servant' in OE; it was only the compound *learning-cniht* that meant 'disciple'

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[poliʃ], both originally from English, compare this with the adjective Polish which would be পোলীয় [polijo], e.g. the Polish language পোলীয় ভাষা [polijo bʰaʃa].

2.3 Method

Taking this framework into consideration, first appropriate articles were collected based on the representation of different sets of subjects (science, culture, lifestyle, and religion). Then the articles were analyzed manually (i.e. read) to find English loanwords which were in conjunction counted manually and compared with the total amount of words in each article. The number of English loanwords was both counted as tokens, i.e. the total number of occurrences of any given English loanword in a text, but also as types, i.e. a specific word is only counted once in a text. For instance, the word ‘পাসপোর্ট’ [pasport] ‘*passport*’ might occur three times in a single text where it would be counted once as a type and three times as a token. Having found the total amount of English loanwords in each article by analyzing each article manually for appropriate loanwords with the help of the framework presented by Grzega (2003) and the *Bengali-English Dictionary* (2011), the rate of occurrence of English loanwords per 1000 words was calculated for each article. The combined average rate was then counted for each category. χ^2 -tests were performed to determine the statistical significance between each category (culture, lifestyle, religion, and science).

3. Results

The results show a clear tendency for a higher number of English loanwords in texts concerned with the topic of science, followed by; lifestyle, culture; and lastly religion. A total number of 36551 words were analyzed manually for the present study where the average number of words per text was 385. The distribution among the four categories in terms of total number of English and Bengali words was as following:

Table 1. Distribution of English and Bengali words (tokens)

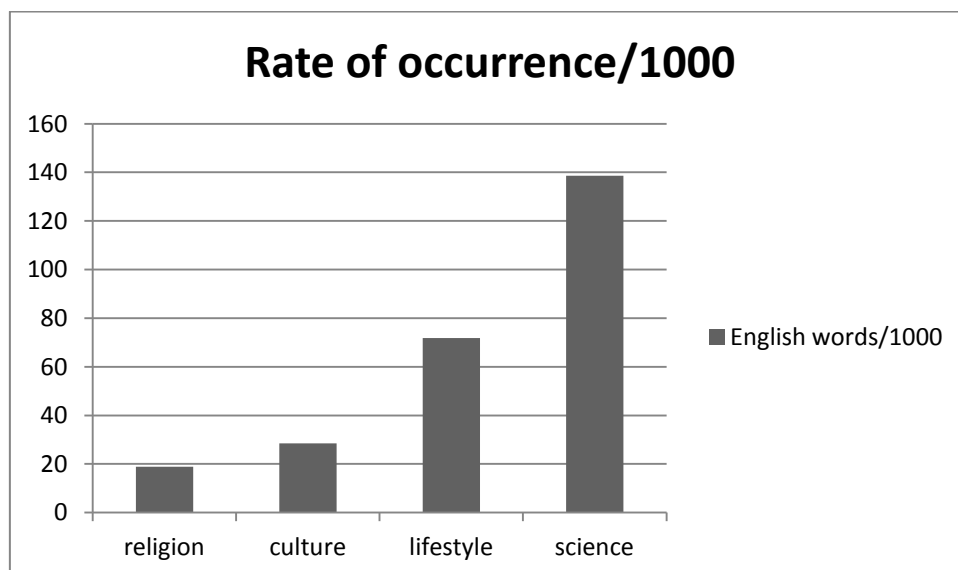
Category	Religion	Culture	Lifestyle	Science	Total
Bengali words	9126	11278	10412	3812	34628
English words	176	331	806	610	1923
Total	9302	11609	11218	4422	36551

Table 2. Distribution of English and Bengali words (percent)

Category	Religion	Culture	Lifestyle	Science
Bengali words	98.11 %	97.15 %	92.82 %	86.21 %
English words	1.89 %	2.85 %	7.18 %	13.79 %
Rate of occurrence/1000	18.92	28.51	71.85	138.57
Total	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %

Science had the highest amount of English loanwords with 13.79 % (610 tokens) among a total sample of 4422 words. This yielded a rate of occurrence (roc) of 138.57 English loanwords per 1000 words. Lifestyle followed with a percentage of 7.18 % English loanwords (806 tokens) and a rate of occurrence of 71.85/1000 among 11218 words. Culture had a number of 331 English loanwords with a 28.51 roc/1000 in a total amount of 11609 words. Finally, religion showed the lowest amount of English loanwords with 176 tokens and the lowest roc with an average of 18.92 English loanwords per every 1000 words.

Figure 2 shows the variation of the rate of occurrence between the four different categories.

**Figure 2. Rate of occurrence of English words per every 1000 words**

As can be seen from the diagram, science has the highest proportion of English loanwords per every 1000 words followed by lifestyle; culture; and ultimately religion. Chi-square tests show that the differences between the categories are statistically significant. The difference between religion and culture is highly significant $p < 0.05$

(chi-square=19.152, d.f.=1, $p=0.00001202$). The difference between culture and lifestyle is even greater where p was even too low to be calculated in the chi-square test (chi-square=188.944, d.f.=1, $p=0$). And finally, the difference between lifestyle and science was also shown to be statistically significant $p < 0.05$ (chi-square=136.845, d.f.=1, $p=0$).

When it comes to the amount of tokens counted, lifestyle had the highest amount before science, culture, and religion. Note however that lifestyle contained the second highest number of total words with a sample of 11218; compare this with science which contained a sample of 4422 words, and despite this, the difference between the amount of tokens counted was only 196 words. See figure 3 below for the total distribution of English and Bengali words among the four categories religion, culture, lifestyle, and science.

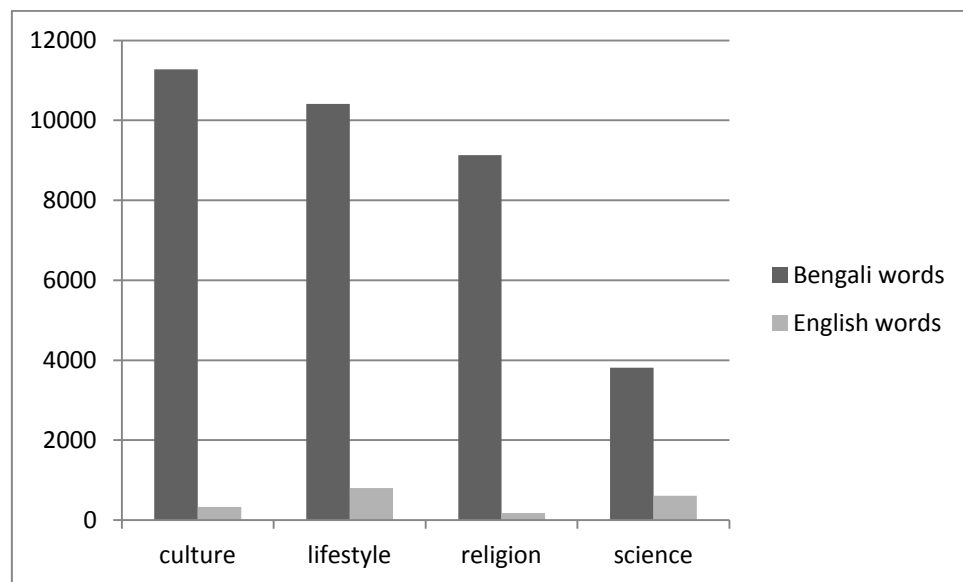


Figure 3. The overall distribution of English and Bengali words.

Even though lifestyle seemingly has the highest amount of tokens when it comes to the amount of English words, as mentioned earlier, the percentage among the categories is different.

4. Discussion

4.1 Main Findings

With the results in hand we can see that there is a distinct variation among the categories culture, science, lifestyle, and religion when it comes to the distribution of English loanwords. This also seems to be the case in Modern Tamil literature according to Karunakaran (2011b) where modern writers are more likely to adopt more common words, both native Tamil words and English loanwords alike “which are easily accessible to the average reader”, (p. 142). Note that Tamil is a diglossic language similarly to Bangla where highly literary forms would sound unnatural or inappropriate in for instance informal conversation. Similar findings were also found in spoken Tamil (Karunakaran, 2011a) where Tamil speakers claimed that their main reason for using English loanwords in a given situation was that they did not know its Tamil equivalent or translation. Even if they did know the Tamil equivalent they chose not to use it since another listener would perhaps not understand the Tamil word. Karunakaran (2011a) also found an increase of English loanwords in technology, communication, culture, entertainment, and politics. Similar to the findings in this study, he also found the lowest amount of English loanwords in spoken contexts concerned with religion.

4.1.1 Science

As mentioned in the results section, science showed the highest proportion of English loanwords with a number of 13.79 % from a total sample of 4422 words. This might be explained by the needs for adopting and integrating new terms into the language for concepts that have come from modern technology via English. For instance, the word *brake horsepower* was adopted in one of the articles as a direct loanword as ব্রেক হর্স পাওয়ারের [bɾek hɔɪs pawaɪ] even though there exists a Bengali term for *horsepower*, namely অশ্বশক্তি [ɔʃ:ɔʃokʈi] lit. ‘horsepower’. The author’s choice of using the loanword *horsepower* could be accounted for several reasons; the word অশ্বশক্তি [ɔʃ:ɔʃokʈi] is a rather rare word in Bangla where the choice of using হর্স পাওয়ারের [hɔɪs pawaɪ] instead might be explained by the author’s wish to be more understandable to the average reader. Note that Bangla is a diglossic language with a high and low variety (Thompson,

2010); for example the word for *horse* in the high variety would be অশ্ব [ɔʃ:ɔ], whereas in the low variety it would be ঘোড়া [gʱoɽa], a corresponding term for *horsepower* in the low variety would possibly be ঘোড়াশক্তি [gʱoɽaʃokti]. Therefore, depending on the level of familiarity a reader would have with the high variety, the more likely it would be that he or she would understand the word অশ্বশক্তি [ɔʃ:ɔʃokti]. However, in this particular case it is arguable that the reader would understand the term more easily due to the context in any case. In other cases on the other hand, a corresponding Bengali term would not perhaps exist or it would sound too long-winded or artificial.

4.1.2 Lifestyle

Lifestyle showed the second highest proportion of English loanwords among the four categories after *science*, with 7.18 % of all the words counted being English loanwords and with a rate of occurrence of 71.85 English loanwords per every 1000 words. The articles concerned with *lifestyle* mainly dealt with beauty-advice, fashion, health advice, etc; and it could be argued that in most cases the articles were mainly directed towards women. Even though *lifestyle* contained the second highest percentage of English loanwords after *science*, the difference between the two was shown to be statistically significant (chi-square=136.845, d.f.=1, p=0) with *science* almost having twice as many English loanwords in terms of percentage (cf. 13.79 % compared to 7.18 %).

It could be argued that in *lifestyle* articles, the usage of English could be a means of displaying modernity and global identities. Therefore, the adaptation of English loanwords in *lifestyle* articles could both be a way of using terminology for new concepts or ideas in the language that did not exist before, or it could be a way of expanding the meaning of previous concepts into new ones through the use of English loanwords, and thus creating new connotations associated with modernity or global culture.

Baumgardner and Brown (2012) looked at the use and role of English in advertisements in Iran, where they found that English is often used as in Bangla to project values such as “modernity, Europeanization, and reliability”, (p. 295). Reliability here would probably mean the quality of the product. They go on to say that English loanwords are often used as a sort of *language display* where “the difference, then, between English borrowings versus the use of English as language display is that native speakers of a

language will at least understand established borrowings while they may or may not understand language display”, (p. 297). *Language display*, therefore, in this sense would not be used to make as many readers as possible understand, rather, the authors’ aim would instead be to reflect some sense of connotations or values to the reader by using a particular set of (English) loanwords.

4.1.3 Culture

Culture had a proportion of 2.85 % of English loanwords in a sample of 11609 words. The amount of English loanwords in *culture* was significantly lower than that of *lifestyle* (chi-square=188.944, d.f.=1, p=0). A reason for this might be that in articles concerned with culture the author’s need for using English loanwords would not be as high as for instance in articles concerned with science, since the author would be writing about concepts that would, presumably, already have terms in Bangla. However, as mentioned in the previous section, the author might choose to employ English loanwords that would have different connotations or either an expanded or specialized meaning compared to a Bengali counterpart. For example, in one article which dealt with theater, the author used the established English loanword থিয়েটার [tʰijet̪aɪ] “n building or arena for the performance of plays, for dramatic spectacles, etc; theatre” as opposed to the Bengali counterpart নাটক [nat̪ɔk] or নাট্য [nat̪ɔ] “n 1 dramatic art; theatre; dramatics. 2 dancing; mimic representation. 3 play; drama. 4 dances, songs and music; performing arts.” (*Bengali-English Dictionary*, 2011). Here থিয়েটার [tʰijet̪aɪ] would be used to designate the building or place itself in contrast with the words নাটক [nat̪ɔk] or নাট্য [nat̪ɔ] which would designate the actual play. This is quite an interesting example where the English and Bengali terms complement each other.

4.1.4 Religion

As mentioned in the results section, articles about *religion* had the lowest amount of English loanwords among the four categories investigated here. English loanwords in *religion* constituted 1.89 % of the total sample of 9302 words in that category. There was a statistically significant difference between the amount of English loanwords found in *religion* and in *culture* (chi-square=19.152, d.f.=1, p=0). Similar findings were

also found in Tamil by Karunakaran (2011a) where spoken contexts concerned with religion showed the lowest amount of English loanwords. It would be expected perhaps that in articles concerned with religion it would not be as necessary to use English loanwords since pre-existing terms for what the author would like to describe would already be available. Furthermore, it is arguable that when writing about matters concerned with religion the author would aim to use as few English loanwords as possible due to factors concerned with linguistic purism.

4.2 Word-Formation Processes

According to Grzega (2003) word-formation processes rise from the need of designating new, often imported, concepts in a language, as well as the “need to differentiate special nuances of expression” which would also include stylistic variation (p. 23). In speech-communities, word-formation is often characterized by one, or several of these processes.

- a) taking an already existing word and giving it a new meaning (i.e. semantic change),
- b) borrowing an already existing word with the same meaning from another dialect or language (borrowings, loans),
- c) coining a new word from already existing material (word-formation); the speech community may also use a combination of these possibilities. (p. 35)

The present study has focused mainly on processes b (borrowings, and loans), and c (word-formation). Word-formation here would imply both coining a new word from originally native words but also from loanwords; for instance, through the means of adding derivational suffixes, classifiers, verbal affixes, etc. or any other kind of word-formation process that would be available in a language. This would stem from the need of integrating a new word into a language in terms of sound combinations, syllable-structure, stress patterns, inflection patterns, but also in terms of semantic integration (Grzega, 2003, p. 24). Grzega goes on to say that “a high similarity of the structure of donor and target language as well as political dominion and prestige make speakers prefer adoption, whereas a low similarity of the structures of donor and target language as well as linguistic nationalism, or purism, make speakers prefer adaptation”, (p. 25). Adoption would mean an unassimilated loanword, whereas adaptation would mean an

assimilated loanword; similar to the distinction between a foreign word and a (established) loanword in figure 1 (1.1 and 1.2.).

Taking these factors into consideration, most English loanwords found in the articles were nouns, followed by verbs, which are in most cases derived from nouns by adding the verb কৰা [kɔɾa]. This is very common in Bangla but also in other Indo-Aryan and Dravidian languages, such as in Tamil (Karunakaran 2011a). This also seems to be the case in Japanese, where verbs can be created by adding a Japanese suffix (-*suru*) to some English loanwords (Koscielecki, 2006, p. 27). However, among the words found in the articles, loan blends (see figure 1: 2.) and loan coinages (figure 1: 3.1) were relatively rare with only a few examples found. In Japanese and Korean on the other hand, loan blends (e.g. English and Japanese compounds, clipping, etc.) seem to be more common (Koscielecki, 2006; Kim, 2012).

4.3 Limitations and Future Research

In a study of this scale time is always an important factor to consider. Since there was no Bengali corpus available for the present study, the author had to rely on other non-annotated text-resources; furthermore, even if a Bengali corpus would be available for a study like this it is not clear whether it would include words already annotated for language of origin. Without any other option, manually analyzing text for English loanwords was the only means I saw available for this study. Naturally, when dealing with manual analysis of text there is always the factor of human errors and the inclusion of either false positives or false negatives. The risk of these errors would decrease if more data were available; however, in research this concern is always present, and it is then one should take into account how much time had been allocated and ask oneself if the amount of data considering the time-frame is reasonable.

Having considered the time-frame, one should also ask oneself if the data presented represents a balanced sample of the population. In this study the total word sample for *culture*, *lifestyle*, and *religion* was roughly equal with 11609; 11218; and 9302 words respectively, while *science* had a lower sample of 4422 words. This could lead to an increased risk of individual articles in *science* affecting the sample and thus making it more unbalanced. However, the question is rather if the overall sample of words in *science* is sufficient enough to balance out any idiosyncratic variations in the different

articles. Considering these limitations, future research should aim to include a larger, more balanced sample, but also having a more reliable method of collecting and analyzing texts and words.

5. Conclusion

English has served as a donor language of loanwords to many different languages in the world; and, despite the importance of the English influence on Bangla, few researchers had investigated English loanwords in Bangla and even fewer had looked at the distribution of them between different categories such as science, lifestyle, culture, and religion.

The present study aimed to answer the following research questions:

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Lifestyle showed the second highest proportion of English loanwords among the four categories after *science*, with 7.18 % of all the words counted being English words and with a rate of occurrence of 71.85 English words per every 1000 words. The difference between *science* and *lifestyle* was shown to be statistically significant (chi-square=136.845, d.f.=1, p=0).

Culture had a proportion of 2.85 % of English words in a sample of 11609 words with a 28.51 roc/1000. The amount of English loanwords in *culture* was significantly lower than that of *lifestyle* (chi-square=188.944, d.f.=1, p=0).

Articles about *religion* had the lowest amount of English loanwords among the four categories. English loanwords in the category of *religion* constituted 1.89 % of the total sample of 9302 words in that category. This was statistically significant compared with the amount of English words found in *culture* (chi-square=19.152, d.f.=1, p=0).

Most English loanwords found in the articles were nouns, followed by verbs which are in most cases derived from nouns by adding the verb করা [kɔɾa], which is very common in Bangla and in other Indo-Aryan and Dravidian languages.

Future research should aim to include a larger, more balanced sample, but also having a more reliable method of collecting and analyzing texts and words.

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