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A study on English loanwords in Uyghur

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English loanwords constitute a relatively small portion of loanwords in Uyghur, and might be divided into two types: (i) early English loanwords and (ii) new English loanwords. They cover borrowings in various fields, including economy, society, science, technology and culture. In this paper, a background on borrowing will be provided, followed by a classification and analysis of English loanwords in Uyghur. At the end, problems relating to the standardization of English loanwords will also be briefly discussed.

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Although English loanwords constitute a small portion of loanwords into Uyghur, they are still important component parts of modern Uyghur vocabulary. During the past thirty years of reform and opening, China has made giant strides in every field, including economy, society and culture. As a frontier of China's westward development, the Xinjiang region, where the Uyghur language is mainly spoken, has also made speedy changes in recent years, especially in the fields of education, culture and economy. In a related development, various English terms pertaining to science and technology as well as brands and trademarks have been continually adopted, and their function has also expanded rapidly in many fields. Few of these have ever been included in correlative Uyghur dictionaries, though most are dispersed through media such as newspapers, magazines and videos. The continual emergence of numerous English loanwords has exerted a considerable influence on the structure of Uyghur vocabulary, which in turn has resulted in some new problems for descriptive research and standardization.

In the past few years, some articles (Li 2003, Song 2005, Liu 2007 and Dawut 2008) concerning English loanwords in Uyghur have been published. These have mainly dealt with topics such as reasons for borrowing and classifying and discussing characteristics of the English loanwords. Nonetheless, the research on English borrowings in Uyghur remains insufficient. First, authors fail to draw conclusions on the reasons why the English words were borrowed and do not carefully analyze the characteristics of English loanwords in the Uyghur language; some papers even contend that English loanwords in Uyghur are uncommon, literary and temporary. Second, English loanwords in Uyghur have not been carefully collected and classified, though some articles (Li 2003: 106) simply divide them into types according to spe-

cific criteria. Third, no research has yet been done on the standardization of English loanwords in the Uyghur language.

The data used for analysis and description of the English loanwords in Uyghur in this paper are mainly taken from An explanatory dictionary of Uyghur (XUAR 1999) and An explanatory dictionary of loanwords in Uyghur (Abdurahman et al. 2001); some data are taken from the Chinese-English-Uyghur computer dictionary (Letip 2003). In addition, some data have been collected from the Uyghur edition of the Xinjiang Daily, Urumqi Evening Paper and advertisements on the Uyghur language channels of the Xinjiang TV network.

1. Background on Uyghur borrowing of English words

The appearance of English words in modern Uyghur is a reflection of English influence on the Uyghur lexicon. There are 10,000 loanwords included in *An explanatory dictionary of loanwords in Uyghur* (Abdurahman et al. 2001); these originate from 15 languages, including Arabic, Persian, Chinese, Russian, Greek, Dutch, Latin, German, French, Indian, Italian, English, Spanish, Japanese and Sanskrit. As Gao (2005: 132-137) noted, in the course of its historical development the Uyghur language has constantly borrowed lexemes from other languages in order to keep pace with the trends of the world, and thus make Uyghur a language with much vitality.

Loanwords already existed in the medieval Uyghur languages. However, the proportion of loanwords in the entire Uyghur vocabulary varied from period to period and from source language to source language. Chinese, Sanskrit and Tocharian loanwords in Uyghur existed in the early period of Old Turkic. Arabic and Persian loanwords were borrowed mainly after the Islamization of Central Asia, and loanwords from European languages were introduced into Uyghur through Russian when Russian started exerting influence on Uyghur from the beginning of the 20th century. As early as the 1880s, some Uyghurs from Ili arrived at the Yättisu region and settled there. These people had ample opportunities to come into contact with Russians. Thus, from the early 20th century on, Russian loanwords began to be borrowed in great quantities into the Uyghur language as used among the Soviet Uyghurs (Kazakhstan Academy of Social Science SSR 1987: 60).

Russian loanwords or international lexemes that came through Russian were gradually absorbed into Uyghur, mainly after the October Revolution in Russia. Starting from the 1930s to 1940s, and especially after the 1950s to 1970s, the former Soviet Union exerted great influence on China in various aspects, including politics, economy, science, technology, and culture. Thus, the Uyghur language was subjected to Russian and took in a large number of Russian lexemes.

Alongside the rapid development of the Chinese economy over the past 30 years, as well as the huge successes of the reform and opening, China has steadily risen to a higher political position on the international stage. These factors have made China the focus of global attention, and have also driven the economic and cultural development of Xinjiang. At the same time, this development has affected the social

outlook of Xinjiang, changing the value concepts, cultural ideas and language notions, as well as the social mindset of people in Xinjiang, and thus has inevitably affected the development of the Uyghur language, the principal ethnic language of Xinjiang.

In the midst of the rapid development brought on by the information age and economic globalization, some English vocabulary has been borrowed into the Uyghur language. This trend results from the development of the modern economy, science, technology, culture, politics as well as increased communication among nations, which has enabled the Uyghur language to keep up with new trends of internationalization in the information age.

As English is a mainstream foreign language, China is also making every effort to promote English education. In recent decades, especially after the implementation of reform and opening, the Uyghur language has borrowed a great deal of English loanwords.

2. Main types of English loanwords

In An explanatory dictionary of Uyghur, there are 122 English loanwords collected, accounting for 0.24% of the entire lexicon in the dictionary. An explanatory dictionary of loanwords in Uyghur includes 118 English loanwords, four fewer than the other. The English loanwords found in these dictionaries are mostly nouns—though there are a few adjectives and verbs—relating to aspects of daily life. Examining the aforementioned two dictionaries and the Xinjiang Daily, Urumqi Evening Paper, The Journal of Computer and Life, as well as Uyghur programs on TV and radio, we see that English loanwords in Uyghur were primarily taken in two distinct time periods: modern (1930s-1970s) and contemporary (1980s-present).

The first refers to the period from the 1930s through the end of the 1970s, when the Uyghur language absorbed many Russian loanwords, through which many English terms indirectly entered the Uyghur language. Through an exhaustive study on the English loanwords included in An explanatory dictionary of Uyghur it becomes clear that the great majority of English loanwords in this dictionary are old English loanwords. During this period, words like wat 'watt', radar 'radar', totem 'totem', soda 'soda', filim 'film', tunel 'tunnel', kombajin 'combine' were introduced indirectly into the Uyghur language via Russian.

The second period refers to the 1980s to the present, when the Uyghur language has been subjected to English influence both directly and indirectly through Chinese, and thus has absorbed a significant number of English words. English words borrowed during this period have largely appeared in contemporary Uyghur newspapers, magazines and professional dictionaries, as well as on television programs. For example: kompjuter 'computer', klon 'clone', xerojin 'heroin', maus 'mouse', kod 'code', motorola 'Motorola'. It is not clear how many English loanwords have been borrowed into Uyghur during this period because of the absence of relevant statistics.

English loanwords in Uyghur may be classified into the following ten types according to the semantic fields they cover:

- (1) Loanwords related to politics: kapitalistik 'capitalistic', diplomat 'diplomat', diplomatik 'diplomatic', bajqut 'boycott', GDP 'gross domestic product'.
- (2) Loanwords related to business and trademarks: *import* 'import', *eksport* 'export', *kapital* 'capital', *marlbolo* 'Marlboro', *kadilak* 'Cadillac', *adidas* 'adidas', *dzeep* 'ieep', *nokija* 'Nokia'.
- (3) Loanwords related to sports: putbol 'football', sport 'sport', valibol 'volley-ball', vasketbol 'basketball', tirener 'trainer', tsempijon 'champion', boks 'boxing'.
- (4) Loanwords related to literature and the arts: folklor 'folklore', χip-χop 'hip-hop', gitar 'guitar', disko 'disco'.
- (5)Loanwords related to chemistry and medicine: astatin 'astatine', babbit 'babbitt', tetril 'tetryl', limonin 'limonene', maltoza 'maltose', den'ge 'dengue', gandon 'condom', vitamin 'vitamin', kortizon 'cortisone', nilon 'nylon', lavrentsey 'lawrencium', viagira 'Viagra', DNA 'Deoxyribonucleic Acid'.
- (6) Loanwords related to biology: palma 'palm', mangro 'mangrove', luminal 'luminal', ken'gero 'kangaroo', roller 'roller'.
- (7) Loanwords related to physics: mikrofon 'microphone', d3ol 'joule', lazer 'laser', faradi 'faraday', mil 'mil'.
- (8) Loans related to computer science: parallel buffer 'parallel buffer', format 'format', kontakt 'contact', voltmeter 'voltmeter', diagonal 'diagonal', mega bayt 'megabyte'.
- (9) Loanwords related to diet: brandi 'brandy', pepsikola 'Pepsi Cola', sendwitf 'sandwich', makdonald 'McDonald's', xot dog 'hot dog'.
- (10) Loanwords related to daily life: viza 'visa', pasport 'passport', kulub 'club', bikini 'bikini'.

Structurally, the English loanwords in Uyghur show the following types:

- (1) Simple stems, e.g. kirisin 'kerosene', gallon 'gallon', disko 'disco', signal 'signal', karton 'cartoon', model 'model';
- (2) Derived words, e.g. *kapitalizm* 'capitalism', *kapitalist* 'capitalist', *materijalizm* 'materialism', though suffixes such as '-izm' and '-ist' are considered suffixes added to stems, which cannot be added to native Uyghur words to form new words;
- (3) Compounds: some English compounds have retained their forms after being borrowed into Uyghur, e.g. *elektron volt* 'electron volt', *mikrovat* 'microwatt', *parallel register* 'parallel register', *vidio kamera* 'video camera', *foto elektron* 'photo electron'.
- (4) Blend words: some English loanwords have been borrowed into Uyghur by transliteration and adding a modifier. These kinds of words are called "blend words." The first part of a blend word is of English origin, while the second part is Uyghur, e.g. eydiz kesili 'Aids', dzens kiyim 'jeans', tenis top 'tennis', janfon 'mobile phone', kodsiz 'codeless', CT ka tfyfnek 'examined by CT scan';
- (5) Abbreviations: the Uyghur language has borrowed many English abbreviations and acronyms. Since the 1980s, English abbreviations in the Uyghur language

have gradually increased. Although the *Chinese-Uyghur dictionary of standardized new words and terms* only collected 15 English abbreviations, in fact, many more English abbreviations than those included in this dictionary are in use in contemporary Uyghur. They are directly transcribed with English capital letters, being pronounced according to appellations of the English letters.

English abbreviations in Uyghur include simple abbreviations, which are formed by combining the initial letters of main words in a phrase, e.g. BBC 'British Broadcasting Corporation', ATM 'Automated Teller Machine', MBA 'Master of Business Administration', ISBN 'International Standard Book Number' and blend abbreviations, in which a Uyghur word is added just after an English abbreviations to denote the category to which this word belongs, e.g. HB qerindaf 'HB pencil', BP apirati 'beeper', GRE imtihani 'GRE', KTV ayrimxanisi 'KTV karaoke room'. The above blend abbreviations are formed by adding Uyghur morphemes at the ends of English abbreviations. The first type of English abbreviations can be used independently; they also can be used interchangeably with some Uyghur words, e.g. WTO with dunja soda teskilati, WTA with dunja tennis top birlesmisi, etc.

English loanwords that relate to science and technology account for a major portion of loanwords in Uyghur, while loanwords related to daily life are quite rare. Most English loanwords are specific to a single field, with fixed meaning, explicit conception and strong specialization. Moreover, they are mainly used in scientific and technological literature with no need for emotional coloring. For instance, English words such as *format* 'format', *kod* 'code', *mega* 'mega', *mega bait* 'megabyte', *bit* 'bit', *fotometir* 'photometer' belong to computer science and show extremely specialized characteristics.

As a large portion of English loanwords are quite specialized and so are restricted to a certain domain when they are utilized, many of them are not known to common people. For example, the meaning of the English abbreviations ATP 'adenosine triphosphate' and GPS 'Global Positioning System' are hard to understand at first. Moreover, ATP has three additional meanings: Agricultural Trade Policy, Array Transform Processor and Astronautics Test Procedure; similarly, GPS also has two additional meanings, General Purpose Radar and Gunner Primary Sight. It is difficult to confirm which concrete meaning is expressed when these abbreviations are utilized. In addition, some scientific and technical terms can only be understood after studying a specific field, and others are only used for certain professional realms. Thus, these are rarely used and remain unfamiliar to most. For example, some old English loanwords which have been used for more than half a century in Uyghur—such as astatin 'astatine', tetril 'tetryl', maltoza 'maltose', den'ge 'dengue', kortizon 'cortisone', lavrentsey 'lawrencium'—are only used in the domains of chemistry and medicine. They have low frequency and are unfamiliar to common people in contemporary Uyghur.

For the sake of increasing efficiency, attracting attention, and making memorization easier, the Uyghur language has absorbed more and more English abbreviations over time, such as UFO, NBA, MBA, Mp3, DDT, DDV, FBI, CIA, and CBA. The

author, by reviewing current media such as newspapers and magazines, has discovered that many abbreviations are in common use among English loanwords of the modern Uyghur language. This trend helps the Uyghur language pursue terseness and refinement to employ the economic principle of language usage.

Some English loanwords have special word-building structures when they are used as root morphemes to form new words. Generally, additive or compound words are formed by adding Uyghur roots or suffixes at the ends of loanwords, e.g. pas 'a pass [as in soccer]': pas+tsi 'passer', pas+tsilig 'passing skills', pas+ber- 'to pass'; tsempijon 'champion': tsempijon+luq 'title of champion', tsempijon+bol- 'to be a champion'; traktor 'tractor': traktor+tsi 'tractor driver', traktor+tsilig 'tractor industry', traktor+sazlig 'tractor manufacturing', traktor+lastur- 'to mechanize'; reper 'referee': reper+liq 'the referee profession', reper+bol- 'to be a referee'; xerojin 'heroin': xerojin+tsi 'drug addict', xerojin+tsiliq 'occupation in trafficking narcotics', xerojin+kss 'drug addict'; wagon 'wagon': wagon+tsili 'railway worker', wagon+tsag 'small wagon', wagon+luq 'with a wagon', wagon+last 'by wagon'.

3. Adaptation of English loanwords

Some adaptations take place in the Uyghur language in order to fit English loanwords into the structure of Uyghur.

- (1) Adaptation in phonetic structure. English loanwords in Uyghur must obey the phonetic rules of Uyghur. Therefore, some loanwords which have the same phonetic forms as those of corresponding words are different to some extent when pronounced. For example, the pronunciation of fax in English is /fæks/, but it is pronounced as /faks/ when borrowed into Uyghur; cable is pronounced /keibl/ in English, but it became /kabil/ in Uyghur. It is thus clear that change in the phonetic combinations of English loanwords is a common phenomenon. In addition, English loanwords have retained double consonants at the beginning of words, and thus a C-C-V-C syllable type has gradually emerged in Uyghur language, e.g. traktor 'tractor', skanner' 'scanner', flannel' flannel', flan'ge 'flange'.
- (2) Adaptation in semantic structure. The meaning of English loanwords in Uyghur is often different from their English origin. More specifically, English terms with multiple meanings have become limited to a single meaning in Uyghur. For instance, the English word "record" has the meanings of "put down in writing", "achievement" and "tape", but it has only one meaning in Uyghur, namely "achievement"; the English word "lift" holds the meanings of "elevator", "crane", "raise" and "steal", but it only means "elevator" in the Uyghur language. The words direktor 'director' and operator 'operator' also fall into this category.

Some English words have been altered in their meaning after being borrowed into Uyghur. For instance, *lider* 'leader' possesses several meanings—such as "head", "chief", "editorial," "aqueduct", "forerunner" and "conductor"—but it does not have these meanings in Uyghur; rather it expresses "chief executive officer" and "chairman of the board." Similarly, in English VCD is short for "Video Compact

Disc", but in Uyghur it refers to a VCD player, while a VCD itself is indicated by VCD texsisi 'video disc'. However, this is a rare phenomenon.

Some loanwords display an aggregation of lexical meaning. Some English loanwords form synonyms with corresponding terms in the Uyghur language, e.g. standard 'standard' is a synonym of áltſem, ſampu 'shampoo' has become a synonym of tfatſ sopuni, and model has become synonymous with both moter and modikeſ. Still other English loanwords engender homonyms with their counterparts in Uyghur. For example, sapa 'sofa' produces a homonym with sapa 'level of competence', and the chemical term mol 'mole' engenders a homonym with mol 'abundant' in Uyghur.

(3) Adaptation in grammatical structure. When some compound English words are borrowed into Uyghur, a few adaptations are made in their structures to fit the syntactic rules of Uyghur. For example, in *formatliq record* 'format record' -liq is added after the root *format*, and in *vektorluq voltmeter* 'vector voltmeter' -luq is added after the root vector. Both are suffixes added to nouns to form adjectives. Similarly, the last element -i of *format kodi* 'format code' and of *printer bufferi* 'printer buffer' is a terminative that indicates the third person possessive. Adding these elements makes the loanwords fit the word derivation rule of Uyghur to a certain extent. According to Johanson (2002: 15), in Turkic languages including Uyghur, this 'loan syntax' is manifested in the structure of words, word order patterns, word-internal morpheme order, and the relationships between synthetic analytic structures.

4. Identification and Standardization of English loanwords

Standardization of loanwords in all languages is an important problem to be solved. This is also true in modern Uyghur. To standardize English loanwords in Uyghur, we should first identify them correctly.

4.1. Identification of English loanwords

What kind of words might be considered English loanwords? Words that come directly from English or words with English origins that come through other languages?

While loanwords in Chinese that are equivalent to mator 马达 'motor', salon 沙龙 'salon', taksi 的士 'taxi', aspirin 阿司匹林 'aspirin', tan'go 探戈舞 'tango', and salat 沙拉 'salad' are considered English loanwords in relevant studies (Gao 2005: 136, Shi 2000: 64-69), according to Abdurahman et al. (2001: 509, 311, 133, 14, 136, 310) these loanwords in Uyghur are considered to be borrowed from Latin, French and other European languages. This is due to the fact that though these terms have been used in English for a long period of time, because they originally entered English from other languages, they were not considered English loanwords in this dictionary. This is a defective way of identifying English loanwords in the Uyghur language. If we do not consider these and similar words to be English, then as much as half of the vocabulary of English cannot be considered English. Furthermore, the

majority of new terms borrowed from other languages were borrowed by means of English.

Statistical and classificatory analysis has been carried out on loanwords contained within the Longman Pocket Dictionary with English-Chinese Explanation, published by Shanghai Translation Press in 1994, on the basis of semantic and written similarity. 320 English loanwords were collected in total (Li 2003: 106, 107, 108). Clearly, it is necessary to carry out further studies on the identification of loanwords, including English loanwords featured in An explanatory dictionary of loanwords in Uyghur. This study is essential to properly solve the problem of identifying English loanwords in Uyghur. In the author's opinion, the following criteria must be adhered to in order to confirm the origins of loanwords:

(1) Pronunciation

To affirm whether a specific loanword is borrowed from English, its pronunciation and transcription should be examined. According to this standard, the word boks 'boxing' remains among English loanwords, since its pronunciation in English corresponds with the spelling in Uyghur language. On the other hand, if the word jumor 'humor' were an English loanword, it ought not to take the form of jumor in transcription. In fact, it is a Russian loanword due to the fact that its Russian pronunciation—"homop"—fits with the spelling in the Uyghur language. In addition, other words, like tip 'type', diagnoz 'diagnose', gen 'gene', kontrol 'control', talant 'talent', normal 'normal' also fall into this category. The transcriptions for these words separately are /taip/, /daiagnauz /, /j:in /, /kan'traul /, /tælent /, / no:mal/. Their pronunciations are more similar to Russian than to English. Therefore, these words must be considered Russian loanwords in Uyghur.

(2) Etymon

Certain English loanwords must be identified on the basis of textual research on the etymon. Owing to geographical location, the Uyghurs have had direct contact with Russians, Central Asian peoples who speak Russian—such as Tatars from the Russian Federation—and people from Siberia. After the establishment of Sino-Soviet friendly relations, the number of Uyghur people with good Russian steadily increased, which in turn gave rise to the borrowing of Russian words, even though these words were also originally loanwords into Russian from other languages. A fact which cannot be neglected is that many loanwords in Uyghur came from Russian. For example, the word tanka 'tank' was borrowed from the Russian manka, not from the English tank /tæŋk/. Similarly, the word banka 'bank' was borrowed from the Russian δαηκα, not from the English word bank /bæŋk/; the word morfema 'morpheme' was borrowed from the Russian word μορφεμα not from the English word morpheme /mo:fi:m/. The words sistema 'system' and programma 'program' also fall into this category. We must maintain a practical and realistic attitude to this problem, and should not neglect imprudently the historical process of the Uyghur

language. Thus, there remains the difficulty of confirming the etymons of loanwords.

(3) Frequency

Judgment whether a word is a loanword or not can also be done by analyzing its frequency. Language is a sign system established by usage. In order to ascertain whether a word has been borrowed or not, one should have a statistical basis. Words such as *kompyuter* and *internet* can certainly be considered borrowings on account of their high frequency. Some words such as *foran* 'furan', *fermi* 'fermi', *tfelo* 'cello' are seldom utilized. If one carries out a field investigation, there would likely be few people who understand them. Low-frequency words cannot be taken into consideration, and must be discussed as separate cases.

4.2. Standardization of English loanwords

English loanwords in Uyghur must follow linguistic standardization. However, we see that some loanwords have not yet been standardized, and thereby have given rise to trouble and disorder in language usage. In the modern Uyghur language, arranging and standardizing new words, including English loanwords, is an important project.

First of all, it is necessary to consider whether derivative and compound words of English origin should be regarded as a single-morpheme word or should still be considered derivative or compound words made up of multiple morphemes after being borrowed into Uyghur. For example, in Uyghur there is no noun derivative suffix "-er", therefore the English loanword printer cannot be considered a derivative word consisting of print and the suffix -er. By the same token, mikrosoft is not considered a compound word composed of micro and soft. This is because the roots print and soft neither have true meaning in Uyghur nor can they be used independently. Therefore, English loanwords like these in Uyghur should be considered single words. Knowing this, we can pronounce them correctly and add suffixes properly.

Secondly, it is understood that all borrowed words should adapt to the phonetic rules of the host language. However, this is complicated when the pronunciation of English acronyms is concerned. English acronyms have two kinds of pronunciations. One is pronounced on the basis of each initial letter. For instance, IOC /ai au si/ = International Olympic Committee. Another is pronounced according to the phonetic system. For example, NATO /nei tau/ = North Atlantic Treaty Organization. There should be a standardized criterion for English acronyms in the Uyghur language. It is necessary to emphasize that acronyms in the Uyghur language, such as b d t 'United Nations' and $d3 \chi i$ 'police department', are spelled by directly using current Uyghur letters, and pronounced on the basis of each initial letter. If the transcription and pronunciation of English acronyms, such as WTO and DNA is looked upon as the same as those of Uyghur, it must be considered a form without standardization.

Thirdly, there are unnecessary borrowings from English in the Uyghur language. Some unwanted English words are introduced into Uyghur though Uyghur already has corresponding Uyghur words that denote the same concept as the English borrowing. In the Chinese-Uyghur-English dictionary of standardized nouns and terms, there are two terms for United Nations: UN and b d t. Among them, b d t is the abbreviation of the Uyghur word birlefken déletler tefkilati, which has already been widely accepted and used in Uyghur. Thus there is no need to introduce the English acronym UN as well. Similarly, in the Chinese-English-Uyghur computer dictionary, there are three terms for e-mail: elektronluq jollanma, email and elektronluq xet. In addition, the Uyghur-language journal Computer uses elxet, a contracted form of elektronluq xet. This word has become familiar with more and more people as computer use has become more prevalent. So, it is not necessary to borrow the English word e-mail.

Finally, there also exist examples of re-borrowing loanwords. For instance, the Uyghur language already has the Russian loanword *kopije* 'konua', but an English loanword *kopi* 'copy' that corresponds to the Russian loanword has also been borrowed. Similarly, there is already the Russian loanword *karta* 'kapra', but an English loanword *kart* 'card' that corresponds to the one in Russian was borrowed. We must undertake standardization in order to solve the problem of such redundant terms. Scholars engaged in language research ought to promptly collect and probe these redundant words to popularize and extend their dissemination and public function in the process of standardizing new terms, including English loanwords.

The current standardization of English loanwords is far from satisfactory. The standardization work of new words, including new English loanwords, in the Uyghur language has fallen far behind the creation and usage process of new words. Before creating a corresponding new word for an English loanword that has been recently borrowed into the Uyghur language, usually its transliterated form first comes into use. For example, $\chi ip - \chi op$ 'hip hop' was borrowed first and then its translation $kotfa\ ussuli$; the same is also true of $\chi aker$ 'hacker' and its translation qestkar. Thus, translations or semantic copies will become redundant.

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