

Lost in Translation: Exploring the Semantic Derogation of Borrowed English Words in Pashto and Urdu Languages

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ABSTRACT

Semantic Derogation is the process of the devaluation of meaning where words that carry either neutral or positively loaded meaning, get transformed and acquire totally negative associative meanings. This process happens many times with the passage of time in the history of each and every language. As Minju Kim (2008) says that this phenomenon is not limited to English language but is also experienced by a number of languages (p.149). This Paper aims to shed light on the semantic history of the borrowed words from English into Pashto and Urdu languages and have later undergone through the process of Semantic Derogation. This investigation is carried out by mixed methods approach. Structural interviews were conducted as per the demand of the subject matter of this research. The respondents were given questionnaires with close ended queries. This analysis or research suggests that the female gender is targeted more severely than that of male gender through this phenomenon of semantic derogation. Besides, this process is in a way cyclic and dynamic in nature, which is experienced by each and every language at any particular stage of its history.

Keywords: Semantic Derogation, Pejoration, Feminist Linguistics

INTRODUCTION

Language is a complex amalgam of interrelated words which generally carries a number of sources behind its creation. These sources play an essential role in the evolutionary process of a language. These sources include coining, derivation, affixation etc. Borrowing is one of these sources which is not confined to any particular language but is almost experienced by all languages. However over certain course of period these borrowed words gradually start acquiring derogatory meaning and undergo through a phenomenon known as Semantic Derogation.

According to the Cambridge Dictionary the word ‘derogation’ refers to “the act of talking about or treating someone in a way that shows you do not respect him, her, or it”. In Merriam Webster Dictionary it means “a taking away or detraction from something”. While “Semantics is the study of the relationships between forms and entities in the world; that is how words are literally connected to things” (Yule, 1996, p.4). ” The phrase Semantic derogation refers to the

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degradation of the meaning of certain lexical words from positive or neutral to negative or impartial meaning over the passage of time in a language. According to Meyerhoff “When a word’s meaning shifts and acquires more negative connotations, it can be referred to as semantic derogation” (2006, p.57)”.

Lakoff (1973) has already discussed this phenomenon that the words referring to men may probably take on different connotative meanings but the terms referring to women unavoidably always experience negatively connotative meanings (p. 61). Later on Schulz (1975) also argued that the lexical words of reference can demonstrate a wide range of Concealed ideological assumptions. This process of derogation happens many times over the passage of time in the history of every language where the meaning of certain terms get changed and acquire totally negative connotation and sometimes even become abuses and slurs. Furthermore, this polarization is not limited to the premises of one language but it is existed too in those languages which borrow words from others or even in those words which are borrowed. As Minju Kim (2019) says that the inclination towards Semantic Derogation is not confined to English language but is experienced by a variety of languages (P. 149).

The main contribution of this paper will mainly tend to shed light on the lexical words which are borrowed from English language into Urdu and Pashto languages and have experienced this phenomenon of Semantic Derogation by acquiring totally negative polarized meanings in these languages. The significance of this paper is that the readers will be able to have a better and comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon of Semantic Derogation after reading it. They will also be able to widen and expand their current knowledge of the underlying negative associations which are culturally acquired by these borrowed lexical words from English language into Urdu and Pashto languages. The objective of this study is to diachronically investigate and analyse some of the borrowed words from English language into Urdu and Pashto languages that had been first undergone through a slight degradation but after some period of time gradually started losing their meanings and encountered the phenomenon of semantic derogation thus ending up strong abuses and sexual slurs.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Muriel Schulz (1975) has observed for the first time in her study that in English language, the terms which refer to women almost always gain sexual connotation or misogynistic meaning (p. 70). For instance she cites the word dog as a suitable example of this process of pejoration: when it is used to refer to men, it is frequently at worst playful chiding; however, when it is used to refer to women it is meant “a fat, slovenly woman” or a promiscuous woman (p.70). Her popular study, in accordance to the gender's role in semantic change, shows that compared to the words used to refer to men, words which are used to refer to women develop derogative connotations easily. Particularly the words used for women acquire degraded associations or references more easily. For instance the word prostitute is derived from the word mistress, which is a negative connotation.

Kleparski (1990), in his special study *Semantic Change in English*, has most recently proposed an introspection of some of the lexical words related to the domain of HUMAN BEING

that have undergone through this evaluative polarization of meaning. The aim of the author is to disclose that the studies of semantic shift do not need to be superficial and anecdotal. According to Stern (1931), the derogative development of items is more emotive according to character than that of ameliorative development and the factors, which trigger the pejorative growths, are supposed to be found in those situations when the speaker of a language notices one of the features of the referent ridiculous or contemptible (p.411).

Schulz (1975) argued that the meaning of even perfectly innocent words designating women may probably acquire negative connotative meanings, at start perhaps a little degraded, but after some course of time becoming totally abusive and thus ending as strong sexual slurs. However, this observation was later on verified by Kleparski (1990:149) who made it more specific by saying that some words which have negative meaning at present moment were impartial and functioning positively at one stage of their historical development for instance the elements of endearment, e.g.:

Kitty ('sweetheart' > 'slattern, mistress, prostitute')
 Biddy ('sweetheart' > 'slattern, mistress, prostitute')
 Gill ('sweetheart' > 'slattern, mistress, prostitute')
 Leman ('sweetheart' > 'unlawful mistress'),
 Polly ('sweetheart' > 'slattern, mistress, prostitute').
 Mopsy ('pleasant, pretty and beloved person' > 'spiteful, unchaste woman')
 Paramour ('beloved one' > 'illicit, especially female partner')
 Tart ('sweetheart' > 'unchaste disreputable woman')

One significant question that is yet to be addressed, pertaining to the phenomenon of semantic derogation, is that what are the fundamental mechanisms or factors which bring about these changes in meaning of words? This question is also raised by Sally McConnell-Ginet (1980) in "Linguistics and the Feminist Challenge":

"It seems plausible, for example, that the acquisition of negative (and often specifically sexual) meanings by once neutral terms for denoting women that we have just noted is somehow connected to widespread misogyny and views that women are mainly sexual beings. What is not clear are the mechanisms through which such sentiments lead to linguistic changes of this kind. How can linguistic meaning be changed because of people's background assumptions, knowledge, experience, and the like?"

Schulz (1975) has also observed that the words referring to women had almost gained negatively associations. The word female was adopted as a standard version by the spirit of time after the word women was negatively loaded with sex job. However, with the passage of time the word female too experienced derogation and negatively attached with the same meaning. Later on the word lady was widely adopted as another preferred variant of female which too became negatively associated with this sex works like "lady of the night" etc. Andrew Ferley (2022:3) has discussed this process of devaluation of the meaning of words and says that:

“I next asked many of the women in my life their reactions to hearing women referred to as female(s). While there was some variation in response, quite a few reported that this was a red flag for them, and men who did this, in their experience, were either dangerous or toxic. I followed up on these observations with an informal sampling of friends and co-workers, and the results were suggestive of female as a lexical variant which had undergone semantic derogation.”

According to the author this process of polarization is cyclic as suggested by the results of *The Language and Gender* and it has remained continue from the day of Schulz's study till this present day. The word woman was perceived to be the most neutral variant among all other variants as strongly communicated by the respondents. Kamboj (1986) says that euphemism or pseudo euphemism is one of the motive forces behind the huge number of this evaluative developments towards pejorative direction.

The semantic histories of words, which attribute semantic shift and are related to women are most often undergo to cultural and social determinants, are concentrated and emphasized by Mills (1989). The author seeks a way, by picking up some words and analysing how, when and even why their meanings get changed, through which to analyse the division and balance of power between genders within patriarchal society. She has tried to prove it in her book that:

[...] the term for the female is likely to become pejorative, likely to acquire negative sexual connotations, and once it is attached to the female is unlikely to be transferable to a male (unless to express contempt) (Mills 1989:14).

Mills (1989) further provides some other instances of female designations that have degenerated and the corresponding masculine terms for those designations have not degenerated and remained the same. The author gives examples of such designations i.e.: Mister/Mistress, Sir/Madam, monk/nun, queen/king, and prince/princess. She points out that the terms of reference for male have sustained their real and dignified associations, while the lexical items of reference for women have experienced semantic derogation and have negatively associated with sexual connotations or some other socially promiscuous characteristics at some stage of their development (p. 203).

Some other vast studies of derogative developments include of Schreuder (1929), Bechstein (1863), Müller (1865), and Kleparski (1990). The last one Kleparski (1990) has analysed certain negatively associated lexical words in the field of HUMAN BEING and has formulated some observations essential to the essence of the phenomenon of degradation of meaning. He found out that this phenomenon occurs both directional and gradual as well as differentiated its different phases:

- i. Social pejoration
- ii. Aesthetic pejoration
- iii. Behavioral pejoration
- iv. Moral pejoration.

Research Objectives

The objectives of this research are:

- i. To explore borrowed words from English into Urdu and Pashto languages and have undergone semantic derogation.
- ii. To explore the underlying associations acquired by these terms.
- iii. To explore the gender that is affected more by this process of derogation of meaning in these two languages.

Research Questions

- i. What are the borrowed words from English into Urdu and Pashto languages that have undergone semantic derogation?
- ii. What are the derogatory associative meanings that are acquired by these borrowed terms?
- iii. Which gender has been affected more by this process of derogation of meaning?

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research is exploratory in type and follows the aim to explore and find out the phenomenon of semantic derogation in borrowed terms from English language into Urdu and Pashto languages. This research also highlights how these borrowed words has acquired derogatory meaning in these two languages. What are the underlying associative meanings that are acquired by these borrowed terms through the process of semantic derogation? To explore those meanings we have collected data using structural interviews and close ended questionnaires from the natives of the both Urdu and Pashto languages. Close observation is also used as a tool in order to closely observe the vernacular regions of these two languages.

As this study tends to explore and expose the negatively associated meanings with the borrowed lexical items from English into Urdu and Pashto languages. Therefore, to make this research rich and echt, the responses will be analyzed quantitatively from the perspective of these borrowed items.

Population and Sampling

The samples are taken from the population groups of the native speakers of Pashto and Urdu languages. The type of sampling used for this study is random sampling as it is conducted easily and there is possibility of getting the true and suitable representatives of this study. Besides, in this type of sampling the respondents have an equal opportunity to be included in the study. The responses have been independently given by the participants of the population about the borrowed terms from English into Urdu and Pashto languages and the results obtained are also not biased.

Sample Criteria

The samples for this study are collected from the all the natives regions of the both Pashto and Urdu languages. The respondents were 25 to 35 years old and the samples selected deal only on with the borrowed terms from English into both these languages.

Sample Size

The suitable number of respondents were 100 from whom the responses are collected which contained 50 respondents of each language. The size of sample used in this study is considered to be the standard one for achieving the desired results.

Tools for data collection

Three different tools are used for data collection in this study. Firstly, questionnaire was given to the participants in which close ended questions were given and their responses were thus collected. Secondly, structural interviews were held in which the questions were structured in a specific pattern. Thirdly, observation is also used as a tool in order to collect the data from the target population.

Content Analysis

This study has adopted pragmatic approach in order to analyze the data. The collected data from the participants is evaluated through pragmatic analysis as these negative associations are based on the ideological and sociocultural norms and values of that society in which they are used. To make this research authentic and valid, these derogatory meanings of the borrowed terms are necessary to be described and evaluated within the context and sociocultural background in which they are used. Therefore, this study has followed pragmatic analysis while considering the needs and requirements of the nature of the research.

DATA ANALYSIS

Debris

The word 'debris' has its origin from French obsolete word "débriser" which was later on broke down into "débris". However, in early 18th century, it was apparently used for the first time in English language and thus undergone through the phenomenon of borrowing. In French language it was used for rubbish and waste while it is usually used to refer to the waste or trash that is remained from some sort of crash or even explosion. However, according to Oxford dictionary it refers to the "pieces of wood, metal, building materials, etc. that are left after something has been destroyed". While in Cambridge dictionary, it refers to the "broken or torn pieces left from the destruction of something larger".

The word Debris was later then borrowed by Pashto language from English. It is almost used with its negatively loaded meaning. According to the respondents of this study it is used to refer to the buttocks of a young gay boy and a woman or a prostitute whose buttocks are heavy

and bulky. However, this semantically derogated meaning of the word 'Debris' may vary from region to region or be restricted and limited to a particular area because once it is used with this pejorative meaning in an area of Pashto language and since then it is borrowed and loaded with that negatively connotative meaning in that area.

According to the responses of participants in certain regions of Pashto language it is very little probable that it is used with its literal meaning but the possibility is too weak. The negatively derogated meaning of the word is comparatively far more dominant over its positive or literal meaning in Pashto language. Based on the responses of participants, unlike Pashto language the word 'Debris' is not used with its negatively connotative meaning as far as Urdu language is concerned. In broader way it is used for its literal meaning not for negatively derogated meaning and there is no possibility of using this word with its pejorative meaning in any place of Urdu language.

Sample

The word 'sample' originates from Old French word "Essample" which was then adopted by Anglo Norman French language in its modified form (i.e. sample). However in 13th century it was borrowed by Middle English with its constant literal meaning and thus became a regular part of English language since then. In Old French it was used to refer to an alternative for example. While in English language, it is used for a kind of single representative item of a larger group which is presented in order to show authenticity of quality. However, according to Cambridge dictionary the word Sample is used "to take or try a small amount of something". So far as Oxford dictionary is concerned, it is referred to "a number of people or things taken from a larger group and used in tests to provide information about the group".

Later then in early 21st century the word sample was borrowed from English into both Urdu and Pashto languages. It is most commonly used for its literal or dictionary meaning in these both languages. However with the passage of time it started getting lost its meaning and undergone through the phenomenon of semantic derogation in certain native areas of these both languages. Comparatively in Pashto language it has almost acquired an abusive and obscene meaning than Urdu. Many of the participants from Urdu language said that it is generally used to refer to a woman who is both beautiful and attractive. While in some places like brothels and other areas where whores are supplied or such sexual activities are performed, it is used by the pimps and clients in order to refer to prostitutes and whores. The respondents of Pashto suggested that unlike Urdu in Pashto language it is used to refer to both male and female genders and has been vernacularized. For female gender it is commonly used in the same places, e.g. brothels, as it is used in Urdu language and referred to whores and prostitutes but unlike Urdu language it is not only used by Pimps but also by common people in Pashto language.

However more specifically this word is widely used for male gender in Pashto language and its meaning is much more dominant than that for female gender. It is used for male gender in order to refer to a beautiful young boy who is under eighteen. However its usage mainly depends upon different places that whether it is used to refer to a prostitute or a young boy because it is

possible that at some places it may not be known or used for young boy while at some particular places it may be used for female.

Piece

The word 'piece' has its roots from Old French language which was borrowed and originated from there in 13th century into English language, with its literal meaning. In French was used to refer to a portion of something large. However, in English it is used to refer to a part or an amount which forms a structure or mass separately. According to Oxford dictionary the word Piece is referred to "an amount of something that has been cut or separated from the rest of it; a standard amount of something".

While in Cambridge dictionary it is referred to "a part of something". However, during the 2nd decade of 21st century the word 'Piece' was borrowed from English language into Urdu and Pashto languages. It has been using till now for its literal meaning since it is borrowed in these both languages. However its usage is changed over the passage of time and conceived negatively pejorative meaning in these both languages. Its semantically derogated meaning is somehow same and overlaps in both these languages.

According to the responses of participants of Pashto language the word 'Piece' is used for three types of meanings. One for its literal meaning while the other two for derogated meanings. The first derogated meaning is used to refer a young beautiful boy by gays, and second is used to refer an attractive and beautiful female. According to them the usage of the word for these two degraded meanings may vary from one area to another as in some areas it is used only for a woman not for a young boy while in others it is not even used for these both meanings. However, these negatively derogated meanings are associated from this word in most of the regions of Pashto language.

While it is proposed by the respondents of Urdu language, that it is used for two types of meanings. One is the literal meaning and the other, which is semantically degraded, is frequently used to refer to a beautiful and attractive woman, while particularly it is used to refer to a prostitute in brothels. The semantically derogated meaning of the word is not subjective rather objective because it is used for the same derogated meaning throughout the all areas of Urdu language. According to them the natives of the Urdu language use this word as a social taboo when they come across such a woman.

Aunty

The word 'aunty' is derived from Latin word "amita" which meant paternal aunt and was further adopted by Old French language and thus became "ante". Later on it was borrowed by Middle English and modified it into "aunt". The word auntie was used for the first time in English language in 1672. On the other hand the word aunty was first used in the English literature of 18th century. In English the word aunty refers to the sister of someone's mother or father or to the spouse of someone's dad's or mom's sibling. However, according to Cambridge dictionary it is

used to refer to “the sister of someone's mother or father, or the wife of someone's uncle”. While in Oxford dictionary, it is referred to “the sister of your father or mother; the wife of your uncle”.

Later on the word 'aunty' was borrowed from English language into Urdu and Pashto languages. It is initially borrowed into Urdu language with its literal meaning and has been used for its denotative meaning till now from the time when it was borrowed. However, it undergone through the process of semantic derogation in the start of 21st century and acquired an abusive and obscene meaning. Later then it was borrowed by Pashto language when it gained negatively connotative meaning in Urdu language.

The semantically degraded meaning of the word 'Aunty' almost carries the same meaning in both these languages. Most of the participants of Urdu language argued that in Urdu it is referred to a middle aged woman who is involved in sexual activities and attracts young boys towards herself. This degraded meaning is so frequent and intense in Urdu language that the females, who are addressed by this word for its literal meaning, even considers it as a slur and become angry and anxious. While the respondents of Pashto language claimed that it used to refer to a woman, of the same age as in Urdu language, who is vulgar, obnoxious and promotes such kind of sexual activities.

The frequency of the usage of the word for this degraded meaning is comparatively slight different in both the languages. In Pashto language it is more frequently used for its pejorative meaning and very fewer is used for its denotative meaning. So far as Urdu language is concerned, it is almost used equally for both the meanings, i.e. dictionary meaning and connotative meaning.

Stepeny

The word ‘stepeny’ originates from Old English word ‘Stybbanhyð’. It is used to refer to an extra wheel of vehicle that is stored to be used when the other one is punctured. However, according to Cambridge dictionary it refers to “an extra wheel for a car that is available to use when you need it”. While in Oxford dictionary it is referred to “a spare wheel for a car”.

The word stepeny was then later borrowed by both Pashto and Urdu languages in late 20th century. First it was borrowed by Urdu language with its literal meaning and later on Pashto language borrowed it too with its denotative meaning. However, over certain period of time its meaning started acquiring negatively associative meaning in Pashto language which is somehow similar in sense to its denotative meaning.

In Urdu language it is used to refer for its dictionary meaning and that's why its single denotative meaning is used most frequently throughout it. While the respondents of Pashto language affirmed that it is used both for its derogatory meaning and its literal meaning. Its derogatory meaning is referred to male gender and is used as a reference to a young gay boy who replaces another gay boy that is not available to a man at that particular time.

However, its associative meaning, according to them, is less dominant and used infrequently in Pashto language as compared to its literal. It may probably not even used for its

degraded meaning in many areas of Pashto language because once it is used in a particular area for this specific devalued meaning and only there it acquired this derogatory meaning. Therefore, the degraded meaning of the word *stepeny* might definitely be confined to some particular areas of Pashto language.

Taxi

The word 'Taxi' is derived from the obsolete Greek word "taxis" which meant 'arrangement, or order'. It is the short form of French word 'taximètre' and it stems from Medieval Latin term 'taxa' which was firstly applied to rental cars. However, according to Cambridge dictionary it refers to "a car with a driver who you pay to take you somewhere". While in Oxford dictionary it is referred for the same meaning.

Later, the word taxi was borrowed by Pashto and Urdu languages from English language. It was first borrowed by Urdu language in late 20th century with its real, original and literal meaning. However, with the passage of time Pashto language felt its need to be borrowed it from English language for its literal meaning like Urdu language because there was no substitute word for it to be used instead.

Later, with the passage of time in the second decade of 21st century, it acquired a negatively derogated meaning in Pashto language by going through the phenomenon of semantic derogation. Many participants of Pashto language agreed upon the view that the word taxi is now used as a derogatory term for a woman, who is involved in sexual activities and is visited by a number of people or clients. However, this associative meaning is somehow related in sense to its literal meaning as its literal meaning suggests that it is a kind of four wheel car that is booked by many people for their personal convenience of transportation.

However, its literal meaning is much more dominant in usage as compared to its derogatory meaning. Therefore, the semantically degraded meaning of the word taxi is confined specifically to some particular regions of the Pashto language, where it is used frequently and irrespective of its literal meaning. Contrary, in some other areas of the same language it is not even used for its derogatory meaning rather used only for its literal meaning without taking its negatively associative meaning into consideration.

Item

The word 'Item' is originated from Latin language which meant 'in like manner or also'. Its meaning took noun sense from adverb in the late 16th century when it was borrowed by late Middle English. However, according to Oxford dictionary it is referred to "one thing on a list of things to buy, do, talk about, etc." While in Cambridge dictionary it is used for "something that is part of a list or group of things". Thus it is used for an individual unit or article, particularly that one which is a part of a list or a set.

The word item was later then borrowed by Urdu and Pashto languages too from English language. First it was borrowed by Urdu language with its literal meaning which later encouraged

Pashto language as well to borrow it with its original and literal meaning. The reason behind its borrowing was not that there was no substitute word for it in these languages, rather due to the unexpected educational progress in the first two decades of 21st century because people became literate and they wanted to prefer English terms over the terms of their own language.

However, after some time the word item felt an inclination or shift towards negatively associative meaning and thus finally experienced the phenomenon of semantic derogation in Urdu language. The participants of Urdu language said that the negative meaning that is acquired by this word is that it is used for a whore by pimps and her clients in brothels. It is also used for a beautiful and pretty woman by the natives of Urdu language when they come across her. While in Pashto language it is solely used for its dictionary meaning.

However, the devalued meaning of the word item is used so rarely among the natives of Urdu language that many of them are not even exposed to this derogatory meaning and use this term only for its literal meaning. This happens due to the subjectivity of the degraded meaning as it is not given by the mutual consent of natives rather it is first attached by the people of a particular area. Thus the derogatory meaning is then exposed to those natives, who are in contact with the natives of that particular area of the same language.

Supply

The word ‘supply’ originates from Latin word “supplere” which meant to fill up and was then borrowed by Old French and modified into “soupleer”. Later on it was further borrowed by late Middle English and thus evolved into its current form. Its meaning is to make something available for someone which is needed. However, in Cambridge dictionary it is used “to provide something that is wanted or needed, often in large quantities and over a long period of time”. While according to Oxford dictionary it is referred to “an amount of something that is provided or available to be used”.

The word supply was further then borrowed from English into Pashto language with its derogatory meaning during the second decade of 21st century. Its negatively derogatory meaning is related to some extent to its dictionary meaning. As its literal meaning is to make something available while its derogatory meaning, according to the participants, is that it is used to refer to a person who arranges or provides gay boys or women for other people so that they could have orgasm with them. However, this derogatory term is used so scarcely and infrequently in Pashto language that almost about eighty 80% percent natives don’t know about the derogatory meaning it associates to.

Mall

The word ‘mall’ originates from the Italian alley game in 16th century that resembled croquet. In English it was initially called ‘pall- mall or pallamaglio’ and the alley which was used for playing the game came to be known as a ‘mall’. However, in English it is used for a vast enclosed area of shopping where traffic is excluded. According to Cambridge dictionary it is referred to “a large building or covered area where there are a lot of stores, restaurants, etc.” While

in Oxford dictionary it is used to refer to “a large building or covered area that has many shops, restaurants, etc. Inside it”.

Later on the word mall was further borrowed from English language into both Pashto and Urdu languages. The initiative, in this process of borrowing, was first taken by Urdu language in early 21st century. It was acquired with its original dictionary meaning in Urdu language and had almost maintained it. However, slowly and gradually with the passage of time, it acquired secondary meaning and thus undergone the phenomenon of semantic derogation. Based on the responses of the respondents the negatively degraded meaning, it has acquired, is that it is used to refer to either heavy breasts or bulky buttocks, of a woman, by the natives of Urdu language. However the frequency of the usage of this degraded meaning is very low than that of its literal meaning. While in Pashto language the word mall is used very rarely for its original dictionary meaning as compared to the derogatory meaning it has acquired.

The second derogatory meaning according to the participants, it has acquired, in Pashto language is almost same to that of the Urdu language but here it is not only used for female gender but used for male gender too as it is used to refer to the bulky buttocks or heavy breasts of a woman or only for the bulky buttocks of a beautiful teen-ager boy. The secondary meaning is used more frequently in Pashto language comparatively to that of the denotative meaning of it.

One-way

The word ‘one-way’ is a compound of two English words, one + way. It was first used in 1906 as a reference to one-way tickets. Later it was used for one-way streets and in 1940 for one-way mirrors. However, it is generally used for allowing movement only in one direction. According to Cambridge dictionary it is used for “travelling or allowing travel in only one direction”. While in Oxford dictionary it is used to refer for “moving or allowing movement in only one direction”.

The word one-way was later on borrowed by both Urdu and Pashto languages from English language. Initially, it was borrowed by Urdu language along with its real literal meaning in the late 20th century. It was used solely for its literal meaning and that’s why its meaning has not been changed yet. However, with the passage of time as usual it is borrowed by Pashto language too during the early 21st century. It was borrowed with its original dictionary meaning at the start but after some course of time it started shifting towards pejorative direction and thus acquired negatively associative meaning by experiencing the phenomenon of semantic derogation. The degraded meaning it has acquired, according to the participants of Pashto language, is that it is used by gays to refer to a beautiful young teen-ager boy because there is only one-way to be sexually attacked him which is his anus. However, this derogatory meaning is subordinate to its real dictionary meaning and is used rarely unlike its literal meaning which is used widely in Pashto language.

Two-way

The word ‘two-way’ originates from 1940 when Galvin introduced a two-way radio device for the use police and military during World War 2. Later on this word was used for allowing a movement in opposite directions. However, according to Cambridge dictionary it is referred to “a two-way situation involves two people or two groups of people working together to achieve a shared aim”. While in Merriam Webster dictionary it is used to refer for “moving or allowing movement in either direction”.

After some time the word two-way was borrowed by Urdu and Pashto languages too from English language. Firstly, it was borrowed by Urdu language, in late 20th century, along with its literal meaning. In Urdu language it has maintained its literal meaning till yet and is used solely for its original meaning. Later after some time Pashto language borrowed it too with its literal sense in early 21st century. However, with the passage of time it started acquiring negatively associative meaning by going through the process of semantic derogation in Pashto language. The meaning it has acquired, according to the participants of Pashto language, is that it is used by men in order to refer to a woman as she can be sexually attacked through two ways, i.e. through vagina and anus. However, this derogatory meaning is so subordinate to its literal meaning that many of the native speakers of Pashto language do not even know about its this derogatory meaning.

All-rounder

The word ‘all-rounder’ originates in 1830s. The earliest evidence of its use is from 1837. It is formed by the process of derivation of the words like, all, round, and er. It is used for a versatile thing or person, particularly a cricketer who can both bowl and bat well. However, according to Cambridge dictionary it is used for “a person who has many different types of skills and abilities”. While in Oxford dictionary it is referred to “a person who has many different skills and abilities”.

The word all-rounder was furthermore borrowed by both Pashto and Urdu languages from English language. It was first borrowed by Urdu language, in the first decade of 21st century, along with its original dictionary meaning. It has maintained its real literal meaning till yet. Later on it was borrowed by Pashto language too along with its literal meaning in the second decade of 20th century. However, with the passage of time it started degradation in its meaning and acquired negative meaning by experiencing the process of semantic derogation. The respondents of Pashto language affirmed that the negatively degraded meaning it acquired is that it is used for man who is attracted towards both genders and shares the characteristics of both a gay and a heterosexual man. This negatively degraded meaning is used so infrequently that about 75% of the native speakers of Pashto language don’t know about this derogatory meaning.

Summary of Findings

S.No	Word	Literal Meaning	Derogated Meaning
1	Debris	pieces of wood, metal, building materials, etc	young boy or a woman with heavy and bulky buttocks
2	Sample	to take or try a small amount of something	beautiful and attractive girl
3	Piece	a part of something	attractive girl or boy
4	Aunty	the sister of your father or mother; the wife of your uncle	middle aged woman involved in sexual activities
5	Stepeny	a spare wheel for a car	a young gay boy who replaces another gay boy that is not available to a man at that particular time
6	Taxi	a car with a driver who you pay to take you somewhere	woman involved in sexual activities
7	Item	something that is part of a list or group of things	used for a whore by pimps and her clients in brothels
8	Supply	to provide something that is wanted or needed	a person who arranges or provides gay boys or women for other people for sexual activities
9	Mall	a large building or covered area that has many shops, restaurants, etc	attractive girl or boy
10	One-way	travelling or allowing travel in only one direction	sexually attractive boy
11	Two-way	moving or allowing movement in either direction	sexually attractive woman
12	All-rounder	a person who has many different skills and abilities	bisexual

Limitations of the Study

This study is only limited to the analysis of semantically derogated borrowed English words into the Pushto and Urdu languages.

CONCLUSION

Plethora of researches have been done in the field of semantics which include the use of animal metaphors or use of metaphors in a variety of languages, and on the phenomenon of semantic derogation as well. However, no work has been done yet on the borrowed words from English language into both Pashto and Urdu language that have acquired debased connotations in these two languages and the gender which is affected comparatively more than the other. This paper discovered and explored the borrowed lexical items that have acquired negative

associations, after their borrowing from English language into Urdu and Pashto languages. It has been observed from the debased connotations responded by the participants that the female gender is targeted more than that of male gender in both these languages. It has been also observed that the negatively associative meanings are heavily influenced by the culture and society of that language.

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