

Structural-Semantic Classification of Anglo-Americanisms

XOLMIRZAYEV JAMSHID NAKIBILLO UGLI
Kokand University, Uzbekistan

ABSTRACT

This article investigates Anglo-Americanisms (English-origin lexical borrowings) in Uzbek internet discourse and describes their structural types, assimilation mechanisms, and semantic-pragmatic functions. Drawing on a qualitative analysis of online texts (social networks, messengers, and web publications), the study applies descriptive, comparative, and functional-pragmatic approaches to classify borrowings by (i) morpho-graphic structure (simple words, compounds, abbreviations/acronyms, blends and hybrids) and (ii) semantic adaptation (narrowing, broadening, metaphorical shift, amelioration/pejoration). The findings show that Uzbek digital communication favors compact forms: nouns dominate the borrowed stock; compound expressions are frequently shortened or transliterated; and international abbreviations (e.g., SMS, 3D) are retained in Latin script, contributing to graphic heterogeneity typical of hypertext (Dedova 2002). Borrowings become fully integrated when they participate in Uzbek derivation (e.g., verbalization via -la) and develop locally stabilized meanings. Comparative observations indicate that Korean and Russian display similar tendencies but differ in script-driven adaptation and verb-forming strategies. Pragmatically, Anglo-Americanisms index modernity, expertise, and group identity while also supporting linguistic economy. The article contributes to language-contact research by offering a structured typology of Anglo-Americanisms in Uzbek internet discourse and outlining criteria for measuring assimilation degree across linguistic levels.

Keywords: Anglo-Americanisms; Uzbek; internet discourse; loanwords; assimilation; abbreviations; blending; semantic change; pragmatic functions; language contact

1. INTRODUCTION

Globalization and the rapid diffusion of digital technologies have intensified language contact and accelerated lexical borrowing. In many speech communities, the internet has become the fastest channel for information exchange, and English enjoys a special status as a global communicative resource. In Uzbekistan, the expansion of online communication has coincided with increased exposure to English-language media, platforms, software interfaces, and global cultural products; as a result, Uzbek internet discourse shows a visible growth of Anglo-Americanisms. These borrowings are not simply ‘foreign words’ inserted into Uzbek: they undergo adaptation across phonetic, orthographic, morphological, semantic, and stylistic levels, thereby illuminating how Uzbek responds to globalizing pressures. Understanding this process is important for describing contemporary Uzbek in digital settings and for clarifying general mechanisms of lexical innovation under language contact.

In language-contact theory, borrowed elements are typically interpreted as a response to communicative needs: new objects and practices enter society together with their names, and speakers select forms that optimize economy, precision, and social meaning. Weinreich’s classical account stresses that contact-induced change should be examined in actual speech, where foreign elements are perceived, selected, and reanalyzed by bilingual or semi-bilingual users (Weinreich 1953/1979). Later work emphasizes the multi-level nature of adaptation, including phonetic substitution, grammatical integration, and semantic restructuring (Pavlenko 1999). In Uzbek, these processes are especially visible in the internet sphere, where mixed scripts, abbreviations, and platform-based genres enable rapid circulation of forms and meanings.

his article proposes a structural-semantic classification of Anglo-Americanisms in Uzbek internet discourse. The goal is

threefold: (1) to identify the dominant structural types of borrowings in digital Uzbek; (2) to describe key assimilation mechanisms that bring borrowings into Uzbek word formation and usage; and (3) to interpret their pragmatic roles in online communication. Comparative notes from Russian and Korean are used where relevant to highlight typological similarities and script-driven differences (Cho & Park 2019; Rudiger 2017).

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Research on English borrowings has established that loanword assimilation is conditioned by both internal linguistic constraints and external sociocultural forces. In Uzbek linguistics, Rahimov's work discusses the sociolinguistic and pragmatic expansion of English in Uzbekistan and notes patterns of phonetic assimilation and accent-related issues in adapted items (Rahimov, 2018). From the semantic perspective, Ahmedov argues that semantic assimilation may involve narrowing, specialization or generalization, acquisition of new meanings, and shifts of primary meanings into secondary ones; he also links assimilation degree to time of entry, communicative importance, and usage frequency (Ahmedov n.d.).

In the broader tradition, Weinreich (1953/1979) frames borrowing as a contact phenomenon rooted in bilingual repertoires and community-level norms, while Pavlenko (1999) stresses that adaptation should be examined in both language system and speech performance, encompassing phonetic, morphological, lexico-semantic, syntactic, and communicative integration. One particularly important dimension for digital discourse is orthography and graphic variation. Dedova (2002) shows that hypertext environments encourage "graphic heterogeneity" – the co-presence of scripts, symbols, and non-standard spellings – creating conditions for the rapid diffusion of Latin-script borrowings and abbreviations.

Borrowing is also closely linked to terminology development. Grinev (1989) notes that terminological borrowings reflect a balance between internationalization and systematization: specialized domains often adopt international

terms to ensure precision and compatibility across languages. In parallel, cross-linguistic phonological differences constrain adaptation. Rudiger (2017) and Cho & Park (2019) describe how Korean students' perception of English loanwords relates to phonological and orthographic adjustment rules; their findings show that absent phonemes and syllable-structure constraints trigger systematic substitutions and reshape borrowed forms. Although Uzbek differs typologically from Korean, similar mechanisms appear when English consonant clusters, vowel qualities, or stress patterns are approximated with Uzbek resources. Phonostylistic interference between English and Uzbek has also been documented in recent work, underscoring the relevance of sound-level adaptation to discourse effects (Khojikulov & Rakhmatova 2025).

3. DATA AND METHODOLOGY

The study employs qualitative discourse-linguistic analysis of Uzbek internet texts. The object of analysis is Anglo-Americanisms found in (a) social networks (e.g., Instagram, Facebook), (b) messengers (e.g., Telegram channels and chats), and (c) online news and informational platforms. The subject of analysis is the set of adaptation features that characterize how these units are integrated into Uzbek: orthographic presentation, phonetic approximation (where inferable), morphological behavior, semantic range, and pragmatic function.

Three complementary methods are used. First, a descriptive method identifies recurrent forms and assigns them to structural types. Second, a comparative method interprets Uzbek patterns through typological parallels with Russian and Korean borrowing strategies reported in prior scholarship (Cho & Park 2019; Rudiger 2017). Third, a functional-pragmatic method interprets the discourse functions of borrowings in context (Rahimov 2018).

Assimilation degree is evaluated using four criteria, adapted from classic accounts of contact-induced integration (Weinreich 1953/1979; Pavlenko 1999): (1) graphic/orthographic adaptation (transliteration, script choice, spelling stabilization); (2)

morphological integration (inflection, derivation, compounding with Uzbek morphemes); (3) semantic stabilization (emergence of local senses, narrowing or broadening); and (4) pragmatic conventionalization (routine use in platform genres and interactional moves).

4. RESULTS: STRUCTURAL TYPOLOGY OF ANGLO-AMERICANISMS

4.1. *Simple lexical borrowings*

The dominant structural type in Uzbek internet discourse is the simple lexical borrowing, typically a noun naming a new object, practice, or role (e.g., “internet,” “software,” “marketing,” “blog,” “post”). This distribution aligns with cross-linguistic generalizations that nouns are borrowed more readily than verbs because they map directly onto referential categories (Grinev 1989). Simple borrowings often circulate as near-internationalisms in Latin script, especially in IT and platform-related contexts, and gradually acquire stable Uzbek orthographic variants.

4.2. *Compounds and multiword units*

A second group includes compounds and multiword expressions such as “fast food,” “online shop,” “credit card,” “background music.” In Uzbek internet discourse these may appear (a) as transliterated borrowings (e.g., “fastfud”), (b) as partial borrowings with Uzbek morphology (e.g., plural “-lar”, case markers), or (c) as calques that translate one or more components. Speakers may alternate between a borrowed form and a calqued synonym depending on register and audience, reflecting the co-existence of internationalization and vernacularization (Pavlenko 1999).

4.3. *Abbreviations, acronyms, and graphic economy*

Abbreviations represent one of the most visible categories in digital Uzbek. Forms such as “SMS,” “3D,” “WiFi,” “URL,” “AP” appear frequently because they compress information and match the economy pressures of online genres. Importantly,

Uzbek users often retain Latin-letter forms, which contributes to the mixed-script character of Uzbek hypertext. This reflects the broader phenomenon of graphic heterogeneity in digital writing, where Latin script, numerals, and symbols coexist with Cyrillic/Uzbek Latin in the same textual space (Dedova 2002).

Comparative evidence suggests that script constraints shape adaptation strategies. Korean typically renders foreign abbreviations into Hangeul phonography, preserving pronunciation but obscuring the original letter sequence; Russian often either translates the institution name and creates a Cyrillic abbreviation or transliterates the English abbreviation into Cyrillic (Cho & Park 2019; Rudiger 2017). Uzbek, by contrast, often keeps the Latin abbreviation unchanged in digital contexts, especially when the platform interface itself uses Latin forms.

4.4. *Blending, telescoping, and hybrid formations*

Although less frequent than simple nouns or abbreviations, Uzbek internet discourse also shows creative word-formation influenced by English patterns. Blends and telescopic formations (where parts of two words overlap) are productive in English and enter Uzbek as ready-made global units (e.g., “blog” < “web” + “log”). In addition, Uzbek speakers actively create hybrids by combining English bases with Uzbek derivational morphemes, which signals deeper assimilation (Pavlenko 1999). The use of evaluative intensifiers such as “mega-” and “super-” in Uzbek online texts functions as a stylistic borrowing of English-based expressive resources and contributes to youth-marked internet style (Rahimov 2018).

5. RESULTS: MORPHOLOGICAL INTEGRATION AND ASSIMILATION DEGREE

A key indicator of full assimilation is participation in Uzbek morphology. Several productive pathways are observed.

5.1. *Inflection and syntactic behavior*

Many Anglo-Americanisms receive Uzbek inflectional markers: plural “-lar”, possessive endings, and case markers. Even when

the borrowed base remains in Latin script, Uzbek morphology may attach in writing (e.g., “postlar,” “like-ni,” “trendga”), showing that speakers treat the loan as a grammatical word. This confirms the system-level integration emphasized in language-contact accounts (Weinreich 1953/1979).

5.2. *Verbalization via Uzbek derivation*

Uzbek often derives verbs from English bases using the verbal suffix “-la” (e.g., “print-la-,” “format-la-,” “skaner-la-”). This pattern supports the observation that borrowed action concepts may enter as nouns/labels and then become verbs through recipient-language morphology (Ahmedov n.d.; Pavlenko 1999). The resulting verbs behave like native Uzbek verbs and can form verbal nouns (“-lash,” “-lanish”) and participles. Morphological productivity here indicates a shift from minimal adaptation (surface borrowing) to systemic assimilation.

5.3. *Phonetic constraints and orthographic stabilization*

Phonetic assimilation is visible when Uzbek users approximate absent English phonemes or clusters through substitution. For example, English /θ/ may be represented in folk transcription via “s” or “t” in informal writing; stress patterns may shift toward Uzbek preferences. Such adjustments align with observations that adaptation is shaped by the recipient language’s phonological inventory and syllable structure, as demonstrated in Korean loanword research (Cho & Park 2019; Rudiger 2017). In Uzbek, these changes are often reflected orthographically in stabilized spellings that favor pronounceability and local norms. Phonostylistic interference can also affect perceived naturalness and register in bilingual settings (Khojikulov & Rakhmatova 2025).

6. RESULTS: SEMANTIC ADAPTATION PATTERNS

Semantic assimilation is not uniform: some borrowings remain close to their source meanings, while others develop localized senses. Following Ahmedov’s account, semantic assimilation may include narrowing, broadening, the emergence of new meanings,

and shifts from primary to secondary senses (Ahmedov n.d.). The internet environment accelerates these processes because repeated platform routines stabilize specific meanings.

7. PRAGMATIC FUNCTIONS IN UZBEK INTERNET DISCOURSE

In online interaction, Anglo-Americanisms serve pragmatic goals beyond naming. First, they enable “economy”: abbreviations and short English forms reduce typing effort and fit platform constraints. Second, they index “expertise and modernity”, aligning speakers with global technological culture. Third, they support “identity work”: users may choose English-origin forms to signal membership in youth or professional communities, or to create humorous, ironic, or emphatic effects. These functions align with sociopragmatic approaches to borrowing that interpret loanwords as social signals rather than purely lexical items (Rahimov 2018).

Digital writing also foregrounds the visual dimension of language. Mixed scripts and stylistic typography are common, and English borrowings often appear as visually salient ‘foreign’ tokens. Dedova’s notion of graphic heterogeneity is relevant here: in hypertext, the interplay of scripts and symbols becomes part of meaning-making (Dedova 2002). Thus, the choice to write “SMS” or “3D” in Latin script is not only a technical convention but also a graphic-pragmatic cue associated with modern digital literacy.

Finally, borrowings contribute to “terminological standardization”. In fields where international compatibility matters – IT, marketing, science – English-origin terms often function as shared labels. Grinev (1989) emphasizes that terminological borrowings may be justified by precision and international comprehensibility, although they should be systematized and adapted to the recipient language’s norms.

8. DISCUSSION

The analysis confirms that Uzbek internet discourse is a productive environment for observing contact-induced change.

Structurally, Uzbek shows a strong preference for compact forms (simple nouns, abbreviations) and for hybrid integration via Uzbek morphology (“-la” verbs, plural markers). This supports the idea that assimilation degree is higher when borrowings participate in local word formation (Pavlenko 1999).

Comparative notes indicate that many adaptation mechanisms are cross-linguistically stable, while some are shaped by script and phonological constraints. Korean adaptation strongly reflects syllable structure and Hangul transcription practices, leading to predictable substitutions and vowel insertions (Cho & Park 2019; Rudiger 2017). Russian demonstrates extensive verbal derivation of English bases in colloquial digital discourse; Uzbek displays a parallel but more morphology-driven verbalization via “-la”. These cross-linguistic parallels suggest that digital discourse environments promote similar functional pressures-speed, economy, global compatibility – while the language-specific outcomes depend on grammatical resources and writing systems (Dedova 2002; Weinreich 1953/1979).

From the semantic viewpoint, Ahmedov’s typology of semantic assimilation provides an effective lens for interpreting local meaning stabilization, especially in platform-related vocabulary (Ahmedov n.d.). Internet discourse accelerates semantic conventionalization because repeated interactional routines (liking, posting, forwarding, subscribing) create stable frames for interpretation.

8.1. Additional evidence from platform-specific usage

Platform-specific communication environments shape both the form and the pragmatic loading of Anglo-Americanisms. On Telegram channels, abbreviated and hybrid forms are especially frequent because the platform encourages rapid information packaging and headline-style messaging. Uzbek posts typically retain Latin abbreviations (e.g., SMS, 3D, VPN) and combine them with Uzbek morphology (plural and case marking), producing forms like “SMSlar” or “VPNdan” that are intuitively processed as Uzbek words. This pattern reflects the broader claim that borrowing becomes structurally stable once it

participates in native morphosyntax (Weinreich 1953/1968; Pavlenko 1999).

On Instagram, Anglo-Americanisms often work as evaluative intensifiers and branding markers. English-derived elements such as super-, mega-, trend, top, or style are used to index fashionable identity and commercial attractiveness, which corresponds to a strategic function of Anglicisms in online discourse (Gorbunova 2011). In addition, Russian-mediated forms (e.g., лайк/лайкнуть-type models in Russian) influence Uzbek digital speech by normalizing the idea that a platform action can be named by an English base and then morphologically adapted (e.g., like → layk, layklamoq in colloquial Uzbek). Such cross-platform evidence supports the view that internet discourse accelerates both diffusion and morphological assimilation.

Facebook discourse, especially in public groups and news comments, displays a higher proportion of metalinguistic reflection: users frequently negotiate whether a borrowed form is “necessary” or whether an Uzbek equivalent should be preferred. This evaluative behavior is consistent with terminological planning debates and with the observation that borrowings can trigger ideological responses, not only linguistic adaptations (Grinev 1989). As a result, the same item may show variation (loan vs. calque) depending on topic domain and audience orientation.

8.2. *Refining the classification: Structural-semantic matrix*

To clarify the interaction between structure and meaning, this study proposes a simple structural-semantic matrix for Uzbek internet borrowings. Structurally, items can be grouped into (i) simple loans, (ii) compounds/phrases, (iii) abbreviations/initialisms, and (iv) hybrids/blends. Semantically, each structural type can display (a) preservation, (b) narrowing, (c) broadening, (d) metaphorical shift, or (e) evaluative shift (amelioration/pejoration). The matrix highlights that semantic change does not depend mechanically on structural complexity: abbreviations may preserve meaning (SMS) while simple loans may shift meaning (virus → “computer virus”), and compounds may either preserve (fast food) or be reinterpreted locally.

Ahmedov's description of semantic assimilation as involving narrowing, generalization, and meaning transfer provides an appropriate interpretive frame for mapping Uzbek items onto this matrix (Ahmedov n.d.).

From a methodological perspective, the matrix also helps operationalize classification in future corpus-based studies. Items can be coded simultaneously for structural type and semantic trajectory, allowing quantitative exploration of which trajectories are most frequent in particular platforms or genres (e.g., advertising vs. interpersonal chat). This aligns with functional approaches that consider not only system-level integration but also discourse-level strategy (Gorbunova 2011).

8.3. Comparative notes: Korean and Russian as explanatory mirrors

Comparative observations from Korean and Russian are useful because they demonstrate how writing systems and morphological typology constrain assimilation paths. Dedova's discussion of graphic heterogeneity in hypertext is especially relevant: script mixing (Latin letters, numerals, symbols) is not a marginal phenomenon but a core feature of digital writing (Dedova 2002). Uzbek's increasing use of Latin script in digital environments makes it closer to English visually than Russian Cyrillic, which may partially explain why Uzbek users preserve original Latin abbreviations more readily. Korean, by contrast, must transpose foreign forms into Hangul, often inserting vowels and altering syllable structures, which makes direct preservation impossible.

Phonological constraints also matter. Cho and Park emphasize the importance of contrastive phonological knowledge in achieving accurate English pronunciation and translation quality; the same contrastive logic applies when observing how recipient languages substitute non-native phonemes (Cho & Park 2006). While the present article focuses primarily on structural and semantic dimensions, phonostylistic interference research in Uzbek–English contact provides an important auxiliary angle (Khojikulov & Rakhmatova 2025).

8.4. *Limitations and future directions*

This article is based on a qualitative selection of examples from Uzbek internet discourse and on comparative insights from the literature. A limitation is the absence of a fully balanced corpus with platform-specific frequency data. Future work should develop a tagged corpus of Uzbek digital texts (Telegram, Instagram, Facebook, news comments) and apply the structural–semantic matrix to produce quantitative profiles of assimilation. In addition, sociolinguistic variables such as age, education, and language ideology should be incorporated, as attitudes toward borrowings may shape their diffusion and stabilization (Weinreich 1953/1968). Finally, a pedagogical extension is promising: Rudiger’s work on students’ attitudes toward English-origin forms suggests that learners’ perceptions influence adoption and pronunciation patterns (Rudiger 2009). Such insights could support educational strategies for teaching English loanword pronunciation and spelling norms in Uzbek.

9. CONCLUSION

This article proposed a structural–semantic classification of Anglo-Americanisms in Uzbek internet discourse and described key assimilation mechanisms. The results indicate that: (1) simple nouns form the core of the borrowing stock; (2) compounds and multiword expressions enter through transliteration, shortening, and calquing; (3) abbreviations are widespread and contribute to graphic heterogeneity in hypertext (Dedova 2002); (4) deeper assimilation occurs when borrowings participate in Uzbek derivation (e.g., “-la” verbalization) (Pavlenko 1999); and (5) semantic adaptation involves narrowing, broadening, metaphorical shifts, and evaluative changes, consistent with models of semantic assimilation (Ahmedov n.d.).

The findings support the view that Anglo-Americanisms are not merely foreign insertions but functional resources that enable economy, modernity signaling, and identity work in online communication (Rahimov 2018). Future research can extend the dataset through corpus methods, quantify frequency and

diffusion across platforms, and refine criteria for measuring assimilation degree over time.

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XOLMIRZAYEV JAMSHID NAKIBILLO UGLI

INDEPENDENT RESEARCHER,

KOKAND UNIVERSITY, UZBEKISTAN.

E-MAIL: <JAMSHIDHOLMIRZAYEV7025@GMAIL.COM>