A Study of English Loanwords in Thai Teen Romantic Fictions

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Abstract

The objective of this research is to investigate English loanwords found in Thai teen romantic fictions. The analysis was divided into two parts: types of loanwords and semantic changes. There are four main types of loanwords: transliteration, loan translation, loan blend, and loan shift; and the second part is related to four main kinds of loanwords according to semantic changes: original, narrower, broader, and deviating. The data were analyzed according to the method of assimilation into English and Thai context. It was found that transliteration was used most in each fiction. Besides, original meaning was found most in the contexts according to semantic changes. To conclude, this study offers insight into English loanwords in the Thai language.

*Keywords***:** *loanwords, lexical borrowing*

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บทคัดย่อ

การศึกษานี้มีจุดมุ่งหมายเพื่อศึกษาคำยืมภาษาอังกฤษที่พบในนิยายรักวัยรุ่นของไทย โดยแบ่งประเภทของคำยืมในเชิงรูปแบบและความหมายได้แก่ transliteration, loan translation, loan blend และ loan shift อีกส่วนในด้านความหมาย original, narrower, broader และ deviating ผู้วิจัยวิเคราะห์ข้อมูลของคำยืมภาษาอังกฤษตามบริบทของภาษาไทย จากการศึกษาพบว่าคำยืมภาษาอังกฤษที่พบมากที่สุดคือ transliteration และ original meaning การศึกษาครั้งนี้ให้ข้อมูลเชิงลึกด้านคำยืมภาษาอังกฤษในภาษาไทย

คำสำคัญ: คำยืม การยืมคำศัพท์

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1. Introduction

Human society is said to have been rapidly developed. To have opportunities to communicate with the other countries and learn to understand their cultures is understandable. According to Yan and Den (2009), globalization leads to a global village; intercultural communication is clearly important for everybody.

Language is undeniably considered the most important tool for communication. It also reflects how people interact with each other. *"The necessities of intercourse bring the speakers of one language into direct or indirect contact with those of neighboring or culturally dominant languages"* (Sapir, 2001).

Nowadays, about 6000 different languages are said to be on the planet, which contain many thousands of words. *"Whenever and wherever there are contacts of any sort between the speakers of different languages, speakers will make use of words from other languages to refer to things, processes, and the ways of behavior, organization, or thinking for which words or phrases were not available or convenient in their own language hitherto"*(Robins, 1996). This means the creation of loanwords is believed to represent politics, economy, military, culture, art, science, and religion.

Weinreich (1953) and Haugen (1950) are indeed considered the grandfathers of American sociolinguistics. However, their approaches to language borrowing have been greatly advanced by modern scholars, i.e. Thomason & Kaufman, 1988 and Grosjean, 2010. According to Routledge's Dictionary of Language and Linguistics, it defines *"linguistic borrowing"* as *'the adoption of a linguistic expression from one language into another'*. Yan and Den (2009) also stated *"the language from which words are adopted is often referred to as the 'source', 'lending' or 'donor' language while the language into which those words are adopted is labeled 'recipient' or 'receptor' language."* Therefore, in other words, the major goal of using lexical borrowing or loanwords is possibly because it is somewhat difficult to find the way to designate the newly introduced products or notions among languages.

It cannot be denied that the tide of English loanwords in Thai language has been obviously recognized. Expanding its vocabulary by extensively borrowing word from English is another way Thai people increase the vocabulary bank. It is also apparent that in the media, especially in Thai teen romantic fictions, English loanwords seem to be used more than ever before since the language in these fictions target at teenagers who tend to communicate in English and Thai altogether.

This study aims to investigate the use of English loanwords found in Thai teen romantic fictions. This study will help an individual, who is interested in learning and currently studying English loanwords, understand more about how they are used in Thai written contexts.

2. Objectives

The study aims to explore types of loanwords and types of semantic change in 11Thai teen romantic fictions.

3. Materials and methods

The researcher collected the English loanwords found in eleven Thai teen romantic fictions. The data were collected from January to December in 2016. The purposive sampling was employed in the study.

Then, the researcher studied the related theories based on loanwords. The framework for the analysis was synthesized from the works of Hatch and Brown (1995). Lastly, those words were analyzed based on each type of loanwords. All collected data were analyzed to find out the meanings and forms used in both Thai and English contexts. The English meanings of these collected words were studied from the Oxford Advanced Learners' Dictionary. Also, the Thai meaning from the latest edition of dictionary issued by the Thai Royal Institute was used in the analysis process. Therefore, the English and Thai meanings were compared to study the semantic change.

Moreover, the occurrence of each type and meaning are presented in the table and applied in percentage. In this case, the percentage of each data can be figured out by using "X" referring to the total number of examples found in the data collection, multiples with 100 and divides by "Y" referring to the total number of all examples.

In the analysis procedures, the researcher categorized loanwords into two manners: form and meaning. Regarding form, there are four types: transliteration (carried out directly loanwords with very little or no change to the particular word), loan blend (combined loanwords and an already existing word in the language), loan translation (translated loanwords and made the word already available in the language), and loan shift (extended loanwords from the first language to existing word in the language). When it comes to the change in meaning, four types are also presented: original meaning (Thai meanings of these loanwords are not different from the English meanings), narrower meaning (some parts of English meanings are taken into Thai words), deviating meaning (the Thai meanings of these loanwords are used differently from the English meanings), and broader meaning (the Thai meanings of these loanwords are added to the English meanings).

4. Results

This section analyzes the data collected according to the method applied in the present research. The results are presented according to the actual number in percentage form.

Table 1 Results of English loanwords (form)

Name	Types of Loanwords			
	Transliteration (words)	Loan Blend (words)	Loan Translation (words)	Loan Shift (words)
1.Billionaire Xavier	28 (90%)	3 (10%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
2. Boys House Club	89 (99%)	0 (0%)	1 (1%)	0 (0%)
3. No kiss No kill Series II	24 (83%)	0 (0%)	6 (17%)	0 (0%)
4. My Grumpy Boo	16 (76%)	7 (17%)	2 (1%)	0 (0%)

Name	Types of Loanwords			
	Transliteration (words)	Loan Blend (words)	Loan Translation (words)	Loan Shift (words)
5. 7'x Magic Lover	85 (85%)	8 (8%)	6 (6%)	1 (1%)
6. Pink Kiss	60 (89.5%)	6 (8.95%)	1 (1.49%)	0 (0%)
7. Badass Baker	60 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
8. The Princess	23 (76%)	3 (10%)	2 (7%)	2 (7%)
9. Reality Love	23 (76%)	5 (17%)	2 (7%)	0 (0%)
10. Awake to Love	53 (88%)	6 (10%)	1 (2%)	0 (0%)
11. Beauty and the Dog	24 (83%)	0 (0%)	6 (17%)	0 (0%)

Table 1 reveals that transliteration was used most in all the romantic fictions while loan shift was found the least. Transliteration is the practice of converting or replacing a text from one writing system into another, word-by-word, or ideally letter-by-letter.

Table 2 Results of English loanwords (meaning)

Name	Types of Loanwords			
	Original (words)	Narrower (words)	Deviating (words)	Broader (words)
1.Billionaire Xavier	28 (93.33%)	2 (6.67%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
2. Boys House Club	89 (99%)	0 (0%)	1 (1%)	0 (0%)
3. No kiss No kill Series II	29 (97%)	1 (3%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
4. My Grumpy Boo	30 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
5. 7'x Magic Lover	99 (99%)	1 (1%)	0 (0%)	1 (1%)
6. Pink Kiss	67 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
7. Badass Baker	60 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
8. The Princess	30 (100%)	0 (1%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
9. Reality Love	30 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
10. Awake to Love	57 (95%)	1 (2%)	1 (1%)	2 (3%)
11. Beauty and the Dog	29 (97%)	1 (3%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

In Table 2, it was found that in terms of meaning, English loanwords in Thai language which has the original meaning were used most in all the romantic fictions while broader meaning was found the least. Original meaning refers to the meaning whichis not different from the one given by the original English word. Some examples of loanwords found in the data are presented here with the borrowed words highlighted as follows:

1. "Billionaire Xavier" **Table 3** The analysis of loanwords

No.	English word	Thai word	Content	English meaning	Thai meaning
1.	Keyboard	แป้นคีย์บอร์ด	**ฉันเอาปลายนิ้วจ่อลงไปบนแป้นคีย์บอร์ด สายตามองตรงไปยังหน้าจอคอมพิวเตอร์** (Excerpt from the book)	(N.) A panel of keys that operate a computer or typewriter.	เป็นอุปกรณ์หลักที่ใช้ในการนำข้อมูลลงในเครื่องคอมพิวเตอร์ โดยปกติมักจะมีลักษณะเป็นสี่เหลี่ยมผืนผ้าหรือใกล้เคียง มีแป้นต่างๆ ประมาณร้อยแป้นอยู่บนคีย์บอร์ด (ขึ้นอยู่กับผังแป้นพิมพ์) ซึ่งถอดแบบมาจากเครื่องพิมพ์ดีด (ราชบัณฑิตยสถาน. พจนานุกรมฉบับราชบัณฑิตยสถาน พ.ศ. ๒๕๕๔ เฉลิมพระเกียรติพระบาทสมเด็จพระเจ้าอยู่หัว เนื่องในโอกาสพระราชพิธีมหามงคลเฉลิมพระชนมพรรษา ๗ รอบ ๕ ธันวาคม ๒๕๕๔. กรุงเทพฯ : ราชบัณฑิตยสถาน, 2556, หน้า 262.)

Descriptive Analysis: "แป้นคีย์บอร์ด" is borrowed from "Keyboard". "แป้นคีย์บอร์ด" is a combination of Thai morpheme (แป้น) and English morpheme (Keyboard), so this word is categorized as loan blend. The semantic change is original meaning because the meaning in Thai and English is the same.

2. "Boys House Club" **Table 4** The analysis of loanwords

No.	English word	Thai word	Content	English meaning	Thai meaning
1.	Poster	โปสเตอร์	ฉันยืนมองข้อความบน**โปสเตอร์**หลายใบที่แปะเรียงกันบนกำแพง (Excerpt from the book)	(N.) A large printed picture, notice, or advertisement displayed in a public place.	ภาพขนาดใหญ่พิมพ์บนกระดาษออกแบบเพื่อใช้ติดหรือแขวนบนผนังหรือกำแพง (บรรณารักษ์และสารสนเทศศาสตร์)

Descriptive Analysis: The type of loanwords for "โปสเตอร์" is considered transliteration since this word imitates the character by one-to-one of the original spelling to describe the needed concept in the context. It means a large printed picture, notice, or advertisement displayed in a public place. Moreover, in terms of meaning, it conveys an original meaning because the meaning of this word is the same as the first language.

3. "No kiss No kill Series II" **Table 5** The analysis of loanwords

No.	English word	Thai word	Content	English meaning	Thai meaning
1.	Handbook	หนังสือคู่มือ	ฉันอ่าน<u>หนังสือคู่มือ</u>ซ่อมคอมพ์ด้วยตัวเองอยู่หน้าระเบียง (Excerpt from the book)	(N.) a book giving information such as facts on a particular subject	สมุดหรือหนังสือที่ให้ความรู้เกี่ยวกับเรื่องใดเรื่องหนึ่งที่ต้องการเพื่อใช้ประกอบตำรา เพื่ออำนวยความสะดวกเกี่ยวกับการศึกษาหรือการปฏิบัติเรื่องใดเรื่องหนึ่ง/*ราชบัณฑิตยสถาน. พจนานุกรม ฉบับราชบัณฑิตยสถาน พ.ศ. 2542. กรุงเทพฯ : ราชบัณฑิตยสถาน, 2546 หน้า 256)*

Descriptive Analysis: The word "หนังสือคู่มือ" is considered loan translation because the particular word is translated word for word from English. The translation of the English morpheme (book) means "หนังสือ" in Thai whereas English morpheme (hand) means "มือ" in Thai. When considering the meaning of the word

"Handbook" given in the dictionary is associated with the meaning in the Thai context. Therefore, it conveys an original meaning of the word.

5. Discussion

The present results are relatively consistent with Mahakaew (2016). This study provides insight into the elements of English loanwords in the Thai language with a special discussion on the effects of the loanwords on writing in the advertisements. The sampling data were collected in the advertisement in four Thai magazines: *Cheeze*, *Cleo*, *Cosmopolitan*, and *DONT* (monthly women's magazines). The data were collected from January to December in 2010 for *Cheeze*, in 2014 for *DONT*, and in 2015 for *Cleo* and *Cosmopolitan*. Many borrowing words are mixed and switched on transliteration from one language. Obviously, the most found type of loanwords is transliteration and original meaning because some words cannot be translated into Thai language, so they have to take a part of form or meaning to use directly in those contexts. Moreover, this way is the short way to increase terms in Thai language.

Based on the analysis above, it can be said that English loanwords in Thai teen romantic fictions are frequently used since these readers are able to understand the words directly better than Thai translation meaning. In other words, it could be sometimes regarded very long, inconvenient and not well-known for use in speech or written text.

6. Conclusion

The analysis of English loanwords in Thai teen fictions has given enough evidence of the role of such loanwords. The sampling data were collected in 11 Thai teen romantic fictions. As the finding mentioned above, many borrowing words are mixed and switched on transliteration from one language. Besides, the analysis has emphasized on the processes of phonological adaptation and morphological integration of the English-induced words as the semantic changes occurring in these loanwords. It has also shown that some of the infiltrating English loanwords which have been phonologically adapted and morphologically integrated. Further research may be conducted along different lines. For instance, the sociolinguistic aspect of the use of those loanwords may be studied. This dimension will shed some light on the variation in the use of these loanwords in such parameters as age, gender, social class and educational background. The use of the English loanwords in local newspapers, poetry and proverbs would be also worth investigating.

7. Acknowledgements

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