

ABSTRACT

MORPHOLOGICAL ASSIMILATION OF BORROWINGS IN TAGALOG

Ekaterina Baklanova, PhD student

Institute of Asian and African Studies, Moscow State University

E-mail: langit7@yandex.ru

Integration, or *assimilation*, of foreign words implies their adaptation to the rules of the recipient language. The present paper is an analysis of the Tagalog's main strategies in *morphological assimilation* of its numerous borrowings from Chinese, Sanskrit, Malay, Spanish, English, etc. The following aspects will be examined:

1. Use of “phonological citations” as the least adopted borrowings.

The so-called “*phonological citations*” are unassimilated borrowings used in the recipient language in their original form. However, Tagalog tends to partially bring them into accord with its morphological rules. Thus,

- in the modern Tagalog such loanwords may participate in the Tagalog word-building and derivation by acquiring native affixes, e.g.: *mag-i-spray ng kemikal*, *ma-control ang sitwasyon*.
- the loanwords used in derivational processes may undergo reduplication of their first syllable, with regular phonetic assimilation (!) of the latter: *pagdodraw-up ng project*; *pag-gagraduate sa Unibersidad*.

2. Simplification of borrowings and their use as roots.

Borrowings are usually *simplified* in Tagalog, i.e. become morphologically indivisible, and are used as root words, with the following derivation according to the Tagalog rules:

Mal *barat laut* “North-West” > Tag *balaklaot* “north-western wind”,

Arab *hikay’at* “preach, legend” > Tag *hikayat* “persuasion” > *hikayat* “the one persuaded”,
hikayatin “to persuade, to talk into”,

Sp *en paz* “in peace” > Tag *impas* “settled”, *mag-impas* “to settle (an affair)”,

Eng (*to*) *stand by* > Tag *istambay* “to stand by, to stare”.

Many early borrowings, which underwent derivation in previous times, are now used as simplified forms, too:

Skt *yūpa* “post for sacrifice” > Tag *yupapà* “humble submission; prostration”,

Mal *alēh* “to move; change” > Tag *halili* “substitute”;

Ch *kut* “to dig, excavate” > Tag *kutkót* “to dig; scratch”,

Skt *muni* “sage, ascetic” > Tag *magmunimuni* “to reflect, meditate”;

Skt *aga* “sun” > Tag *maaga* “early”, *umaga* “morning”, *agahan* “breakfast”,

Sp-Mex. *ciruelas* “plums” > Tag *sinigwelas* “plum”.

3. Annulment of borrowings’ grammatical characteristics.

Even late borrowings are adopted as indivisible root words, with all their grammatical characteristics annulled:

Sp *jugar* “to play” > Tag *sugál* “gamble”,

Sp *Vale! lit.* “It fits!” (*valer* “to cost; to fit”) > Tag *bale* “worth; valuable”.

Loanwords were usually assimilated in the forms which Filipinos heard most of all, e.g. regardless the number of the originals:

Sp *bolsicos* “purses on clothes; pockets” > Tag *bolsikos/bolsikot* “deep pocket of woman’s skirt”,

Sp *pliegues* “folds, pleats” > Tag *pileges / pleges* “fold, bend”,

Eng *buys* > Tag *bays* “a buy”,

Eng *fight*s > Tag *pait*s “a fight”.

As for the gender, with more and more Spanish borrowings adopted, Tagalog speakers began to distinguish the gender of the loanwords denoting animates: *Manong/Manang* “elder brother/sister” [< Sp *hermano/-a* “brother/sister”], *Pilipino/Pilipina* “Philippine male/female”, *seryoso/seryosa* “serious m/f” (cf. Sp *serio*, not “serioso”!).

4. **Hypercorrection: wrong interpretation of a borrowing’s morphemic structure.**

Due to differences between the donor’s and recipient’s morphological systems the borrowings may undergo a *hypercorrection*:

- word combinations become merged (the above-mentioned simplification):

Mal *juru bahasa* “expert in language, interpreter” > Tag *dalubhasà* “expert”,

Mal *lèpas tangan* “free hand” > Tag *lapastangan* “irreverent; sacrilegious”,

Sp *¿Cómo está?* > Tag *Kumustá?* “How are you?”

- some elements are regarded as native:

Skt *parīkṣā* “to thoroughly examine, check” > **ligsá* (as derived by Tagalog dictionaries),
paligsahan “competition”,

Sp *limosna* “alms” > Tag *limós* “alms, charity, grant”,

Sp-Mex. *zaquisamé* “loft, upper floor” > Tag *kisamé* “ceiling”.

5. **Hybridization.**

While adopting a borrowing Tagalog may replace some part of it with the native lexical material, thus making a hybrid loanword:

Sp *carnero marino* ‘seal’ (lit. ‘ram-sea’) + Tag *dagat* ‘sea’ > *karnerong-dagat*
‘seal’,

Sp *largo(mira)* ‘binoculars, telescope’ + Tag *bista* ‘sight; view, landscape’ [<
Sp *vista*] > *largabista* (cf. Sp *vista larga* ‘long-sight’).

Here the problem of *early hybrid loans* will also be discussed.