Linguistic Analysis of the English Loanwords in
Journalistic Jordanian Arabic as Read by
an Educated Native Speaker of Arabic

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ABSTRACT

LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF THE ENGLISH LOANWORDS IN
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This study has aimed at analyzing the English loanwords in Jordanian Written Arabic at the phonological, morphological and semantic levels.

The sample of the study consisted of sixty issues of the two daily Arabic newspapers "Al-Ra'ī" and "Al-Dostour" in a period of three years between 1979-1981. All the loanwords which could be traced back to English were collected, classified, and then analyzed.

The purpose of the study is to:

1. Identify the English loanwords in Jordanian Written Arabic and conjecture the causes of borrowing in the case of Arabic.

2. Analyze these words linguistically in terms of phonology, morphology and semantics.
3. Point out the effect of these words on Arabic in terms of phonology, morphology and semantics.

It was found that the loanwords occurred in the following areas:

1. Modern Innovations.
3. Food and Drink.
4. Profession, Degrees and Titles.
5. Disease and Medicine.
6. Measurement Units.
7. Politics and Foreign Newspapers.
8. Construction and Housing.
9. Sciences and Substance.
10. Clothes.
11. Religion
12. Oil products.
13. Finance and Banking.

At the phonological level, it was found that the following strategies used:

1. **Substitution**: Some consonants were substituted by other sounds to fit the writing system of Arabic, as \(/ʒ/ \rightarrow /dʒ/, \,/tʃ/ \rightarrow /ʃ/\)

2. **Voicing**: Some voiceless consonants were voiced, as \(/p/ \rightarrow /b/, \,/s/ \rightarrow /z/\)
3. Devoicing: Some voiced consonants were devoiced, as
   /v/ ---- /f/
   /z/ ---- /s/

4. Velarization: "emphasis", as
   /s/ ---- /ʃ/
   /t/ ---- /t̝/

5. Insertion. New consonants were added to simplify consonantal clusters, as /tifoʔi:d/ for /taifɔid/, or before initial vowels, /ʔisment/ for /Siment/.

6. Omission: Some consonants were dropped, /Seirk/ for /Sə:kəs/.

As far as vowels are concerned, the following strategies were observed:

1. Lengthening: /u/ ---- /u:/
   /i/ ---- /i:/

2. Shortening: /i:/ ---- /i/
   /u:/ ---- /u/
   /a:/ ---- /æ/ /e/ ---- /ei/
   /ə/ ---- /ou/ /i/ ---- /æ/ /æ/ ---- /i/
   /u:/ ---- /o/
Concerning diphthongs, it was noticed that they were either substituted or vowelled:

/ai/  ---  /i/

/au/  ---  /u/

At the morphological level, it was noticed that the loanwords were treated as if they were Arabic. They were given the same Arabic morphemes such as: gender, number, possession, verb formation, voice and declension of nouns.

The meanings of the borrowed words were either restricted as in "tank", or extended as in "gallon" and "automobile".