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English technical loanwords in Farsi: corpus-based studies

Corpus linguistics is one of the most modern approaches in the study of language. It is constantly developing and expanding the scope of its study. Although, the most well-known corpus-based studies are of the British tradition, the field of corpus linguistics has been noticed and applied in various language communities.

The aim of this paper is to present the application of corpus research into the fields of lexicology, discourse and sociolinguistics. It focuses on assessing Iranian language policy (which is characterized by heavy linguistic purism) towards English lexical borrowings in Farsi. There are two studies that will be described. The first one was conducted for my MA thesis in 2009 "English borrowings in Farsi: a lexicographic and corpus-driven study of technical vocabulary". One of the purposes of this research was to study English loanwords in Farsi. Although there is quite rich monograph concerning Farsi borrowings in English (see for example Ahmad Mirfazalin's *Farsi words in English* from 2006) the literature on English borrowings in Farsi is hardly encountered. It seems that this area has not been investigated thoroughly so far. What is more, there are detailed studies concerning Arabic, Turkic, French or even Russian borrowings in Farsi, yet, English borrowings seem to be rather omitted in that discussion.

The tool used in that research was PLDB (Persian Linguistic Database) first, and actually the only constantly improved corpus of the Persian language. I would present a comparative corpus-driven study of certain English borrowings and their Farsi counterparts proposed by Iranian linguistic purists. These lexical borrowings belong to one semantic group - technology. The first study attempted to verify the differences in usage between certain English loanwords and their Farsi counterparts. This usage relates to collocations, register and frequency. By means of Persian Linguistic Database the question about the successfulness of the Iranian language policy towards this particular semantic group was addressed and it turned out that Iranian Language policy is not very successful. And that particular statement was the starting point for my second research.

Therefore, the hypothesis was: Iranian language policy is not particularly successful when it comes to English technical loanwords. In order to check if it is right or wrong I compiled my own corpus of Persian texts from 2010. The data comes from blogs, newspaper articles, film subtitles and song lyrics. The results of the second study will be presented and then compared with the outcome of the first study. Certain similarities and differences will be also addressed. Finally, the question of the successfulness of the Iranian language policy towards English technical loanwords is going to be answered.

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