



SEMANTIC AND GRAMMATICAL ANALYSIS OF ENGLISH ECONOMIC LOANWORDS BORROWED INTO THE UZBEK LANGUAGE

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Abstract: *The rapid integration of English economic terminology into the Uzbek language represents one of the most significant linguistic phenomena of the post-independence era in Uzbekistan. This study presents a systematic semantic and grammatical analysis of English economic loanwords borrowed into Uzbek, examining their phonological adaptation, morphosyntactic transformation, and semantic shift patterns. Drawing on a corpus of 150 economic loanwords extracted from Uzbek financial media, legislative documents, and business discourse (2000–2024), the research employs descriptive-analytical, corpus-based, and comparative methodologies. The findings reveal that 68% of loanwords undergo semantic narrowing upon borrowing, 17% exhibit semantic broadening, and 15% demonstrate semantic shift. Grammatically, 74% of English economic loanwords are integrated as nouns, 18% as verbs (through Uzbek verb-forming suffixes), and 8% as adjectives. The study further identifies four dominant adaptation models: phonological, morphological, semantic, and hybrid. These findings carry significant implications for Uzbek lexicography, higher education language policy, and the standardization of economic terminology in national academic discourse.*

Keywords: *loanwords; economic terminology; Uzbek language; semantic analysis; grammatical analysis; language borrowing; corpus linguistics; lexical innovation*

The phenomenon of lexical borrowing — particularly from prestige languages of international science, commerce, and technology — constitutes a fundamental mechanism of natural language evolution. In the contemporary era of economic globalization, English has assumed the role of a global lingua franca in financial markets, international trade, banking systems, and business management. As a result, languages of developing economies have been compelled to rapidly assimilate English economic terminology to facilitate participation in the global marketplace (Crystal, 2003; Kachru, 2006). The Uzbek language, a member of the Karluk branch of the Turkic language family, has undergone extraordinary lexical expansion since Uzbekistan's declaration of independence in 1991. The transition from a centrally planned Soviet economy to a market-oriented economy necessitated the immediate adoption of an entirely new economic vocabulary — concepts such as market competition, investment banking, franchising, leasing, and



venture capital — most of which arrived via the English language (Mirzaev, 2018; Tursunov, 2020).

However, the process of borrowing economic terminology from English into Uzbek is not merely a matter of phonological transcription. These lexical items undergo complex transformations at phonological, morphological, syntactic, and semantic levels as they are integrated into the target language system. The mechanisms of this integration — and the resulting semantic and grammatical properties of the borrowed items — have received comparatively little systematic scholarly attention. This study addresses this lacuna by conducting a rigorous semantic and grammatical analysis of English economic loanwords in contemporary Uzbek. The research is grounded in the theoretical frameworks of contrastive linguistics, Haugen's (1950) classic typology of loanword integration, and more recent corpus-based approaches to lexical borrowing (Haspelmath & Tadmor, 2009; Winford, 2010). The findings contribute to Uzbek lexicography, inform language policy in higher education, and provide a methodological model for the analysis of English economic borrowings in other Turkic languages.

The scientific study of loanwords has a rich tradition in historical and contact linguistics. Haugen (1950) established the foundational typology distinguishing between loanwords (complete phonological and morphological transfer), loan blends (partial morphological substitution), and loan translations (calques). This tripartite framework has been elaborated and refined by subsequent scholars including Weinreich (1963), Thomason and Kaufman (1988), and Myers-Scotton (2002). Haspelmath and Tadmor (2009), drawing on cross-linguistic data from the World Loanword Database (WOLD), established that nouns constitute the most universally borrowed word class, followed by verbs and adjectives — a finding consistent with the present study's corpus. Winford (2010) proposed that contact-induced change operates on a continuum from lexical borrowing to structural convergence, with economic terminology typically representing the former. In the Turkic linguistic tradition, Baskakov (1966) and Tenishev (2001) documented extensive Arabic and Persian borrowings in historical Uzbek, providing a methodological precedent for the contemporary analysis of English borrowings. More recently, Nurmonov (2012) and Xolmatov (2019) have examined Russian loanwords in Soviet-era Uzbek, offering important parallels for understanding the dynamics of English borrowing in the post-Soviet period.

The penetration of English economic terminology into non-English languages has been documented extensively in European contexts (Görlach, 2002; Furiassi, Pulcini & Rodríguez González, 2012), with business English identified as a primary vector of terminological transfer. The concept of 'Anglicism' — defined as any element of English origin in another language — encompasses phonological, morphological, semantic, and syntactic borrowings (Furiassi & Pulcini, 2021). For post-Soviet Turkic languages, the scholarship is more limited. Johanson (2002)



documented structural copying in Turkic language contact situations, while Sjöberg (1963) provided the earliest systematic analysis of Uzbek language structure. Abdullaev (2015) analyzed the morphological adaptation of Russian-mediated international terms in Uzbek, establishing the precedent for the phonological substitution patterns documented in the present study. The specific analysis of English economic loanwords in Uzbek remains an underexplored field. Tursunov (2020) identified 89 financial anglicisms in Uzbek newspaper discourse but did not conduct systematic semantic or grammatical analysis. Mirzaev (2018) examined the influence of globalization on Uzbek business vocabulary but focused primarily on sociolinguistic rather than structural dimensions. The present study addresses this gap through systematic corpus-based analysis.

This study employs a mixed-methods approach integrating corpus linguistics, descriptive-analytical methodology, and comparative linguistic analysis. The research design is structured in three phases: (1) corpus compilation and loanword identification, (2) semantic analysis, and (3) grammatical analysis.

Corpus Compilation

The analytical corpus was compiled from five primary source categories covering the period 2000–2024:

- Uzbek financial and business journalism: 200 articles from Daryo.uz, Gazeta.uz, and Dunyo.uz economic sections
- Legislative and regulatory documents: Laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan on banking, investment, and commerce
- Academic publications: Uzbek economics and business administration journals (2015–2024)
- Higher education textbooks: University-level economics and business management textbooks in Uzbek (n=12)
- Social media and marketing discourse: LinkedIn Uzbekistan profiles and corporate websites (n=50)

From this corpus, 150 English economic loanwords were systematically identified using the following inclusion criteria: (a) demonstrable English etymological origin (confirmed via the Oxford English Dictionary and Merriam-Webster Dictionary); (b) attested use in at least three independent Uzbek sources; and (c) integration into Uzbek morphological paradigm (inflected or derivationally productive).

Semantic analysis was conducted using Ullmann's (1962) typology of semantic change (narrowing, broadening, shift, amelioration, pejoration) supplemented by Blank's (1999) cognitive-semantic framework. Each loanword was analyzed for: (a) the semantic range of the English source lexeme, (b) the semantic range of the Uzbek loanword as attested in the corpus, and (c) the type and degree of semantic change.



Grammatical analysis examined: (a) word class assignment in Uzbek; (b) inflectional morphology (plural formation, case marking, verbal conjugation); (c) derivational productivity (ability to generate new words through Uzbek affixes); and (d) syntactic behavior in attested Uzbek sentences.

To ensure inter-rater reliability, semantic classifications were independently assessed by two native Uzbek-speaking linguistic experts with PhDs in Uzbek philology. Cohen's kappa coefficient for semantic categorization was $\kappa = 0.87$, indicating excellent agreement. Any discrepancies were resolved through consensus discussion. All loanword etymologies were verified against the Oxford English Dictionary (OED) Online and the Etymological Dictionary of the Uzbek Language (Mirzaev, 2018).

The final corpus of 150 English economic loanwords was classified into nine semantic domains based on the economic subfield from which they originate. Table 1 presents the distribution across these domains.

Table 1.

Distribution of english economic loanwords in uzbek by semantic domain

Semantic Domain	No. of Terms	% of Corpus	Representative Examples
Banking & Finance	38	25.3%	bank, kredit, depozit, broker
Investment & Capital Markets	24	16.0%	investor, dividend, portfel, fond
Trade & Commerce	22	14.7%	marketing, brend, dealer, distribyutor
Management & Governance	20	13.3%	menejer, menecment, audit, monitoring
Information Economy	18	12.0%	startup, biznes, platform, onlayn
Taxation & Accounting	12	8.0%	leyzin, defolt, aktiv, tovar
Insurance & Risk	8	5.3%	risk, strakhovka, franshiza
Entrepreneurship	5	3.3%	franshayz, venture, spin-off



Labour Economics	3	2.0%	аутсорсинг , frilans, kouching
TOTAL	150	100%	—

Source: Author's corpus compilation (2024)

Semantic narrowing — the restriction of a word's meaning to a more specific domain — was the dominant semantic process observed, accounting for 68% (n=102) of all loanwords analyzed. This finding aligns with Sager's (1990) prediction that technical terminology tends toward specialization upon borrowing, as recipient communities adopt borrowed terms for specific professional purposes. The most illustrative case is the loanword market (Uzbek: market). In English, market encompasses a broad spectrum of meanings: a physical marketplace, an abstract system of exchange, the totality of buyers and sellers for a good or service, and metaphorical extensions (a market for ideas). In Uzbek economic discourse, however, market has been narrowed to refer specifically to a supermarket or large retail outlet — a concrete, physical referent. The abstract economic senses are rendered by the native Uzbek term bozor (traditional market) or the Russian-mediated rynok. This narrowing represents a significant semantic shift with direct implications for economic literacy education.

Similarly, the term broker (Uzbek: broker) retains only the financial intermediary sense in Uzbek, whereas English broker encompasses additional meanings including real estate agents, marriage brokers, and political negotiators. The English term default (Uzbek: defolt) undergoes analogous narrowing from its broad English sense (any failure to fulfill an obligation) to the specific financial sense of failure to meet debt payment obligations.

Table 2.

Examples of semantic narrowing in uzbek economic loanwords

English Source	Uzbek Form	English Semantic Range	Uzbek Semantic Range (Narrowed)
market	market	Marketplace; abstract market system; demand for goods; metaphorical extension	Large retail store; supermarket (physical)
broker	broker	Financial intermediary; real estate agent; marriage broker; political negotiator	Financial securities intermediary only
default	defolt	Any failure to fulfill obligation; computing default settings; legal	Failure to meet debt/loan payment obligations



		default	
bonus	bonus	Extra payment; free gift; military bonus; advantage; sports bonus system	Employee performance-based extra payment only
rating	reyting	Any ranking or evaluation; personal reputation; entertainment rating system	Credit rating or institutional performance score
stock	stok	Inventory; financial stock; livestock; soup stock; theatrical stock	Retail inventory or warehouse stock only
audit	audit	Financial examination; computing audit; any systematic review	Financial/accounting examination by external body

Source: Author's analysis based on corpus data and OED (2024)

Semantic broadening — the expansion of a term's meaning — was observed in 17% (n=25) of loanwords. This process is less common but particularly significant in cases where Uzbek lacked a generic term for a concept and the borrowed English term filled the gap at a more general level of abstraction. A notable example is the loanword menejer (from English manager). In English, manager refers specifically to a person responsible for controlling or administering an organization or group. In contemporary Uzbek usage, menejer has been broadened to encompass any white-collar professional, supervisor, coordinator, or specialist — functioning as a near-synonym of the more general 'office worker' or 'professional employee'. This broadening reflects both the prestige of the English term in post-Soviet Uzbek professional culture and the absence of a generic Uzbek equivalent. Similarly, biznes (from English business) has been broadened in Uzbek to encompass any form of commercial activity or enterprise, including small-scale trading, street vending, and informal economic activities that would typically be excluded from the formal English denotation of business as organized commercial enterprise.

Pure semantic shift — where a borrowed term acquires a meaning that diverges significantly from the source without clearly narrowing or broadening — was observed in 15% (n=23) of loanwords. The term sponsor (Uzbek: sponsor) presents an instructive case: while English sponsor encompasses financial supporter, godparent, legislative sponsor, and broadcast sponsor, in Uzbek sponsor has acquired the specific colloquial meaning of a wealthy individual who



provides financial support to a romantic partner — a semantic development with no equivalent in English usage.

One of the most consistent findings of grammatical analysis concerns the overwhelmingly nominal character of English economic loanwords in Uzbek. As Table 3 demonstrates, 74% of all loanwords are integrated as nouns, 18% as verbs (through verbal derivation), and 8% as adjectives.

Table 3.

Grammatical category distribution of english economic loanwords in uzbek

Grammatical Category	n	%	Derivational Mechanism in Uzbek
Noun	111	74.0%	Direct adoption; Uzbek plural suffix -lar; case suffixes (-ning, -ga, -dan)
Verb	27	18.0%	Uzbek verb suffixes: -lamoq, -lash, -lanmoq added to nominal base
Adjective	12	8.0%	Uzbek adjectival suffix -li or analytic constructions (noun + copula)
Total	150	100%	—

Source: Author's grammatical analysis

The integration of English economic loanwords as Uzbek nouns follows well-established morphological patterns. Uzbek, as an agglutinative language, attaches suffixes sequentially to the nominal base. English loanwords, once phonologically adapted, become fully productive Uzbek nominal stems.

Plural formation follows the standard Uzbek rule: the suffix -lar is attached to the loanword stem (broker → brokerlar; investor → investorlar; kredit → kreditlar). Case marking likewise follows standard Uzbek paradigms:

- investor + -ning → investorning (genitive: 'of the investor')
- kredit + -ga → kreditga (dative: 'to/for credit')
- bank + -dan → bankdan (ablative: 'from the bank')
- depozit + -ni → depozitni (accusative: 'the deposit' [direct object])

This full case paradigm demonstrates the complete morphological integration of English loanwords into the Uzbek nominal system. Notably, all 111 nominal loanwords in the corpus showed productive case marking in at least three attested corpus instances, confirming their full integration as Uzbek nouns.

Perhaps the most linguistically significant finding concerns the process by which English nominal loanwords are converted into Uzbek verbs through derivational morphology. Uzbek employs a productive set of verb-forming suffixes that can be attached to any nominal stem, including borrowed English roots. Three primary patterns were identified:



Table 4.

Verbal derivation patterns for english economic loanwords in uzbek

English Source / Uzbek Base	Uzbek Verb Suffix	Derived Uzbek Verb	Meaning & Usage
market → market	-lamoq	marketlamoq	To market (a product); to engage in marketing activities
invest → invest	-lash	investlash	To invest; investment process (abstract noun of action)
audit → audit	-lamoq	auditlamoq	To audit; to conduct an audit examination
brand → brend	-lamoq	brendlamoq	To brand; to create brand identity for a product
monitor → monitor	-lash	monitoring qilish	To monitor; ongoing process of monitoring (hybrid form)
plan → plan	-lamoq	planlamoq	To plan; to make a plan (competing with mahalliy rejalamoq)
copy → kopi	-lamoq	kopilamoq	To copy; to make copies; informal business usage

Source: Author's analysis; corpus attestations (n ≥ 3 per item)

This study has conducted the first systematic semantic and grammatical analysis of English economic loanwords in contemporary Uzbek, drawing on a corpus of 150 items from financial journalism, legislative discourse, academic publications, and business communication (2000–2024). The principal findings may be summarized as follows: (1) Semantic narrowing is the dominant process of meaning change, affecting 68% of all loanwords; (2) English economic loanwords are overwhelmingly integrated as nouns (74%), with a productive verbal derivation mechanism through the suffix -lamoq; (3) Phonological adaptation follows systematic rules driven by Uzbek phonotactic constraints, with Russian mediation accounting for approximately 35% of historical borrowings; (4) Four adaptation models — phonological, morphological, semantic, and hybrid — account for the full diversity of integration patterns. These findings contribute to the theoretical understanding of lexical borrowing in agglutinative Turkic languages, provide an



empirical foundation for Uzbek economic lexicography, and generate actionable implications for ESP pedagogy and national terminology standardization. Future research should extend the corpus to spoken economic discourse and examine diachronic changes in loanword semantics across the post-independence period.

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