

## CLASSIFICATION OF VOCABULARY AND BARBARISMS IN THE GEORGIAN LANGUAGE

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### **Abstract**

Barbarisms, foreign Words, neologisms, archaisms, slangs, jargonisms, vulgarisms are part of vocabulary. They enter a language in every period. Sometimes already existing words change or gain another meaning and enrich existing vocabulary.

The modern Georgian language faces a huge amount of barbarisms entering from English nowadays. Among the numerous factors causing this endless process are: globalization, international relations, development of information technologies and opportunities for our students getting education abroad.

Barbarisms next to foreign words, neologism, archaisms, slangs, jargonisms and vulgarisms form vocabulary.

Barbarism are words of foreign origin which have entered a language. However, foreign words are words or phrases borrowed from other languages. They serve for different stylistic purposes in literature. Barbarisms have entered dictionaries while foreign words are still left away of them. An enormous number of new vocabularies enter a language in every period. Sometimes already existing words change or gain another meaning and enrich existing vocabulary. Sometimes they serve for some reasons or just exist for some occasions. However, if these words appear in a written language, they become fixed and form general vocabulary. They are established in a language and become synonyms of already existing words. So, neologisms are newly entered words in a language. Words changing their meanings or words dropped out of a language are called archaisms. Archaisms sometimes are used in literature, especially, in poetry as well as in some dialects. Slangs are highly colloquial words having humorous or emotional connotations and jargonisms are words or phrases used for professional purpose. They have social character. Vulgar words or vulgarisms are left on the outskirts of standard vocabulary.

**Keywords:** barbarisms, foreign words, neologisms, archaisms, slangs, jargons and vulgarisms.

### **Introduction**

The work deals with Barbarism as words of foreign origin which have entered a language. It also discusses foreign words as words or phrases borrowed from other languages.

An enormous number of new vocabularies enter a language in every period. Neologisms are newly entered words in a language. Words changing their meanings or words dropped out of a language are called archaisms. Slangs are highly colloquial words having humorous or emotional connotations and jargonisms are words or phrases used for professional purpose. Vulgar words or vulgarisms are left on the outskirts of standard vocabulary.

The importance of the English language for our contemporary world, the spread of Internet and IT technologies caused appearing a lot of barbarisms of the English origin in the Georgian language.

### **Methods**

The method widely applied in this article is *literature review method* and the article includes the reviewed and analyzed materials from different dictionaries and from a stylistic dictionary either. The discussed topic is studied by some linguists. Galperin (2018), McKnight (1930), McKnight (1956), Turner (1973), Wales (2002) are among them and their works have a great value for our work.

## Results

The importance of the English language for our contemporary world, the spread of Internet and IT technologies caused appearing a lot of barbarisms of the English origin in Georgian. Widely used barbarisms in Georgian are:

- account, action, action plan, actor, applicant, application;
- board, bowdlerization, break;
- cancel, celebrity, coffee break, challenge, copy, check in, co-author, cohabitation, collaboration, communication, confident, cooperation, co-production, creative;
- day off, deadline, dissemination, destination, download, drive, duty free;
- edit, editor, additional, elimination, emergency, establishment, evaluation;
- face, facilitator, facilitation, fake, fashion, fashion week, feedback, final, figurant, follower, forward, friend;
- girlfriend, guideline;
- highlight, hub;
- inspiration, inspired, invention, inventor;
- leadership, light, like, link, live, location, log in, log out, look, loser;
- manual, masculine, meeting, meeting room, merging, miscommunication, misinterpretation;
- networking;
- observation;
- page, party, password, point, position, preference, primary, processing, puzzle;
- quiz;
- reception, receptionist, registration, report, request, research, reservation;
- save, secondary, see, sensitive, share, shopping, showroom, skills, speech, staff, stock;
- tag, target, target group, team, teambuilding, team leader, trend;
- universe, upload, urgent, user, username;
- valid, visa, visa free, visitor;
- wall.

According to Margalitadze (2017) there are several reasons of entering so many barbarisms in the Georgian Language. They are:

1. *Methodology of teaching foreign languages.* Bilingual dictionaries are not used nowadays and this is one of the real reasons for establishing English barbarisms. The communication approach, which is used in modern methodology of teaching a foreign language, somehow neglects using a native language in foreign language teaching/learning process. That is why foreign language learners sometimes see no connection among English and Georgian words and they try to establish English barbarisms without realizing.

2. *Georgian students studying in different universities in English speaking countries.* The English environment helps them to start using English barbarisms.

3. *Different trainings.* Material used for different trainings are mainly in English and while translating translators prefer to use English words instead of Georgian equivalents.

To conclude, the tendency of using barbarisms instead of original, Georgian words (unfortunately, we sometimes use barbarisms of English origin to prove our literacy and knowledge) is a great danger for the communicational function of the Georgian language.

## Discussion

In dictionaries there are sections of barbarisms. They are words of foreign origin which have entered a language. The role of foreign borrowings played in the development of a language is well-known. A great number of foreign words are part of the English vocabulary.

It is important to see the difference between barbarisms and foreign words. As many linguists agree barbarisms are words which have already become a part of a language but they still stay away from the literary vocabulary. Foreign words are used for some stylistic purpose and they are not part of vocabulary.

It is interesting to see how famous dictionaries explain the meaning of the word – Barbarism:

- *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English* (2004): “bar-bar-ism ... *noun* [U] (*written*) 1 a state of not having education, respect for art, etc. 2 cruel or violent behavior: *the barbarism of war.*” (p.85).
- *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* (1995): “bar-ba-rism ... (*n*) 1 a: a barbarian or barbarous social or intellectual condition: BACKWARDNESS b: the practice or display of barbarian acts, attitudes or ideas 2: an idea, act or expression that in form or use offends against contemporary standards of good taste or acceptability “(p.91).
- *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* (2002): “bar-ba-rism ... (*n*) 1 an idea, act or expression that in form or use offends against contemporary standards of good taste or acceptability. 2 a: a barbarian or barbarous social or intellectual condition: BACKWARDNESS b: the practice or display of barbarian acts, attitudes, or ideas “(p. 89).

Foreign words are words or phrases borrowed from other languages. For example, foreign words of French origin are: “e.g.”, “bonjour”, “pew a pew” (little by little), “pew de chose” (a small matter), “tout le monde” (everyone). Foreign words of Italian origin are: “alter ego” (a second half).

Foreign words are used in literature for different stylistic purposes. They may be used to express foreign “spirit” or to create “local coloring”. For example, in literary works writers try to use some foreign words to show the atmosphere or to make some scenes with foreigners more impressive. Later these words enter the language as the foreign words used by some writers. Sometimes writers use foreign words to show their characters’ nationalities.

Some foreign words have exact synonyms in the English language. The main difference between the barbarisms and foreign words are that barbarisms may not have exact equivalents in English.

Barbarisms have entered dictionaries while foreign words still stay away of them. Barbarisms as well as foreign words are widely used with different functions, meanings, styles, etc.

Next to barbarisms and foreign words we may find neologisms in our dictionaries. They are generally new words or new meanings of already existing ones.

Wales (2001) defines a neologism as a word “borrowed from a French term”. According to her, a neologism in Lexicology means “a newly invented word” and she also admits that “each year brings its spate of neologisms which may eventually find their way into dictionaries if they become widely accepted through a speech community (e.g. mobile phone, Teletubbies, e-commerce of the 1990s). Words coined in literature, however, are less likely to be borrowed by others, since their motivation for creation comes from the context of the text, and not from some larger-scale pragmatic needs; yet they may be re-used by later generations of writes” (Wales, 2001: 268-269).

Neologisms are defined in dictionaries as:

- *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English* (2001):” ne-ol-o-gism ... *noun* (*formal*) a new word or expression or a new meaning of a word” (p. 770).
- *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* (1995): “neologism ... (*n*) (F) *neologisme*, fr. Ne- +log- +isme (1800) 1: a new word, usage, or expression 2: a meaningless word coined a psychotic \_ ne.ol.o.gis.tic *adj.*” (p. 778).
- *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* (2002): “ne-ol-o-gism ... *n* 1: a word, usage, or expression that is often disapproved because of its newness or barbarousness 2: a meaningless word coined by a psychotic” (p. 770).

How long can a word be considered as a new one? Is there any period after which we may consider that the given word is not a sample of a neologism? Galperin (2018) explains that: “It is suggestive that the latest editions of the dictionaries avoid the use of the stylistic notation “neologism” because of its unambiguous character. If a word is fixed into a dictionary and provided that the dictionary is reliable, it ceases to be a neologism. If a new word is recognized as an element in their semantic structure of a lexical unit, it ceases to be new. However, if we wish to divider the word-stock of a language into chronological periods, we can conventionally mark off a period which might be called new” (p. 92).

As new words enter the language, some words may be changed or dropped out of a language. New words replace old ones. Some words remain in a language for a long time. However, some words leave their function easily. The words having lost their function in a language are called archaisms and this term is defined in dictionaries this way:

- *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English* (2004): “archa-ism noun (technical) a very old word or phrase that is no longer used” (p. 52).
- *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* (2002): “ar-cha-ism... 1: the use of archaic diction or style 2: an instance of archaic usage 3: something that is outmoded or old fashioned...” (p.59).

Wales (2002) in *A Dictionary of Stylistics* writes about archaisms: “Archaism and its derivative adjective archaic reflects an awareness of language change, and belong to a set of terms which range from “obsolescence/obsolete” to innovation/innovatory”. (Wales, 2001: 29).

Archaisms are usually remained in some variants of a language. “Archaism is the retention or survival of linguistic features no longer generally current, usually in VARIETIES that are themselves “unusual” in some way. So archaisms and archaic grammatical features are commonly found in regional DIALECTS. They are also found in the language of the liturgy (*forthwith; ye; thou; takest;* etc.), although they have now expunged (controversially) from revised versions of the Bible or Prayer Book. They occur also in legal language still (e. g. *witnessteth; aforesaid; hereunder*), and in linguistic situations that are characteristically “conservative or ceremonial” (Wales, 2001: 29).

Sometimes we confuse archaisms with rare or formal words. In *A Dictionary of Stylistics* we read: “It is thus very difficult to dissociate archaisms from words which are simply rare or formal (e.g. *cavalcade* in a report on a royal wedding). This is particularly true in POETIC LANGUAGE, where at least until the early twentieth century archaism was an accepted part of standard poetic usage, along the APOSTROPHE, PERSONALIFICATION and POETIC DICTIONS” (Wales, 2001: 29).

Next to barbarisms, foreign words, neologisms, archaisms there are slangs which are highly colloquial words or expressions used with humorous, emotional and vulgar connotations and are not appropriate words for literary use. A word slang is defined in different dictionaries:

- *Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary* (2004): “slang ... *n* [U]very informal words and expressions that are more common in spoken language, especially used by a particular group of people, for example, children, criminals, soldiers, etc.” (p. 1209).
- *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* (1995): “slang ... *n* (origin unknown) (1756) 1: a language peculiar to a particular group... 2: an informal nonstandard vocabulary composed typically of coinages, arbitrarily changed words, and extravagant, forced, or facetious figures of speech \_ slang \_ slang-i-ly *adv.* \_ slang-i-ness *n* \_ slang-i-ly *adj*” (p. 1102).
- *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* (2002): “slang ... *n* (origin unknown) 1: language peculiar to a nonstandard vocabulary composed typically of coinages, arbitrarily changed words, and extravagant, forced, or facetious figures of speech *syn see* DIALECT \_ slang *adj* \_ slang-i-ly *adv.*” (p. 1090).

Wales (2001) defines slang as: “(1) Popularly used as an equivalent to JARGON ... The term refers to the individual vocabulary used by different social groups. However, jargon is best reserved for technical or professional vocabulary arising from rather specialized needs... (2) In a more general sense slang has a wide circulation: at least it is associated with large social groups as adolescents, or dialect speakers... Again, it is characteristically very informal REGISTERS, and speech predominantly; and again it presents an alternative LEXIS, of an extremely colloquial, non-standard kind, co-occurring with swearing... Slang words can come and go very quickly: either passing out of the language completely, or being ‘promoted’ to standard usage...” (Wales, 2001:361).

As Turner (16973) claims, slang lacks cognitive distinctions that usually encourages technical jargon.

As for “American slang” McKnight remarks (1930) that it “on the whole remains a foreign language to the Englishman. American play such as “I zat so” and American novels such as “Babbitt” have had to be provided with glossaries in order to be intelligible in England. John Galsworthy in his recent novel “The Silver Spoon” makes a naturalistic use of colloquial idiom. He exhibits the rich element of native slang in the colloquial speech of England” (McKnight, 1930: 556).

Jargonisms are words or phrases which are used in a professional field.

Jargon is defined in dictionaries as:

- *Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary* (2004): “Jargon ... *n* [U] Often disapproving) words and expressions that are used by a particular profession or group of people and are difficult for others to understand: medical / legal / computer jargon” (p. 693).
- *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* (1995): “Jargon...*n* ... 1 a: confused unintelligible language b:a strange, outlandish, or barbarous language or dialect c: a hybrid language or dialect simplified in vocabulary and grammar and used for communication between people s of different speech 2: the technical terminology or characteristic idiom of a special activity or group 3: obscure and often pretentious language marked by circumlocutions and long words \_ jar-gon-ish...*adj* \_ jar-go-nis-tic...*adj*” (p. 627).
- *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* (2002): “Jargon ... *n* 1 a: confused unintelligible language b: a strange, outlandish, or barbarous language or dialect c: a hybrid language or dialect simplified in vocabulary and grammar and used for communication between peoples of different speech 2 the technical terminology of characteristic idiom of a special activity or group 3: obscure and often pretentious language marked by circumlocutions and long words” (p.619).

Wales (2001) writes about jargon: “It is hard to imagine that this word, which is often used pejoratively in ordinary speech, derives from an old OF word meaning “the warbling of birds” and is so used in Chaucer’s *Merchant’s Tale* to describe an old man, January: *And ful of jargon as a flekked pye* (=“ magpie”). But it is an easy semantic shift from bird noises to unintelligible human language, and then to a REGISTERED or VARIETY of language which non-users fail to understand because of the kind of specialized vocabulary used which has been in common significance since the seventeenth century” (Wales, 2001: 226).

The non-literary vocabulary consists of words called jargonisms. As Galperin (2018) claims jargonisms are not newly born words. They are old words with new meanings. “Most of the jargonisms of any language, and of the English language too, are absolutely incomprehensible to those outside the social group which has invented them. They may be defined as a code within a code, that is special meaning of words that are imposed on the recognized code \_ the dictionary meaning of this words” (Galperin, 2018: 110).

Jargonisms have social character. Every social group may have its own jargon. We can find thousands of jargonisms which are already part of the English literary language. McKnight (1956) writes: “The language of the underworld provided words facetiously adopted by the fashionable world, many of which, such as *fan* and *queer* and *banter* and *bluff* and *sham* and *humbug*, eventually made their way into dignified use” (McKnight, 1956: 552).

Linguistics treat vulgar words or vulgarisms as low colloquial words. They distinguish vulgarisms as:

1. Lexical vulgarisms. They are words which are usually replaced by scientific terms.
2. Stylistic vulgarisms. They are words which express speakers’ attitude towards spoken context.

Galperin (2018) writes: “Vulgarisms are often used in conversations out of that without any thought of what they, mean, or in imitation of those who use them in order not to seem old-fashioned or prudish. Unfortunately, in modern fiction these words have gained legitimacy. The most vulgar of them are now to be found even in a good novel. This lifting of the taboo has given rise to the most unrestrained employment of words which soil the literary language” (Galperin, 2018: 118).

Despite this fact vulgarism will not take the position of standard vocabulary and as Galperin (2018) claims: “They will remain on the outskirts” (Galperin, 2018: 118).

In conclusion, barbarism are words of foreign origin which have entered a language. However, foreign words are words or phrases borrowed from other languages. They serve for different stylistic purposes in literature. Barbarisms have entered dictionaries while foreign words are still left away of them. An enormous number of new vocabularies enter a language in every period. Sometimes already existing words change or gain another meaning and enrich existing vocabulary as well. Sometimes they serve for some reasons or just exist for some occasions. However, if these words appear in a written language, they become fixed and form general vocabulary. They are established in a language and become synonyms of already existing words. So, neologisms are newly entered words in a language. Words changing their meanings or words dropped out of a language are called archaisms. Archaisms sometimes are used in literature, especially, in poetry as well as in some dialects. Slangs are highly colloquial words having humorous or emotional connotations and jargonisms are words or

phrases used for professional purpose. They have social character. Vulgar words or vulgarisms are left on the outskirts of standard vocabulary. However, they as well as barbarisms, foreign words, neologisms, archaisms, slangs, jargonisms and vulgarisms form vocabulary.

### Conclusion

Having analyzed the existing literature about the discussed topic, we may admit that:

- barbarisms are words of foreign origin which have entered a language;
- the role of foreign borrowings played in the development of a language is well-known;
- a great number of foreign words are part of the English vocabulary;
- barbarisms are words which have already become a part of a language but they still stay away from the literary vocabulary;
- foreign words are used for some stylistic purpose and they are not part of vocabulary;
- foreign words are used in literature for different stylistic purposes;
- neologisms are generally new words or new meanings of already existing ones;
- slangs are highly colloquial words or expressions used with humorous, emotional and vulgar connotations and are not appropriate words for literary use;
- some words remain in a language for a long time but some words leave their function easily;
- the words having lost their function in a language are called archaisms;
- archaisms are usually remained in some variants of a language and sometimes we confuse archaisms with rare or formal words;
- jargonisms are words or phrases which are used in a professional field and have social character.
- every social group may have its own jargon.
- we can find thousands of jargonisms which are already part of the English literary language;
- linguistics treats vulgar words or vulgarisms as low colloquial words;
- vulgarisms have not taken the position of standard vocabulary;
- an enormous number of new vocabulary enter a language in every period;
- sometimes already existing words change or gain another meaning and enrich existing vocabulary;
- the tendency of using barbarisms instead of the original, Georgian words is growing.

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