

# Boundary Between Loanwords and Calques Across Languages

Presentation for Linguistics D

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# How Loan and Calque Occurs

- **Cultural exchanges**
- **1. Social Interaction:**
  - Migration: From immigrant communities
  - E.g. Yiddish words in English (bagel).
- **2. Trade and Commerce:**
  - The Silk Road.
  - E.g. English word sugar from Arabic and Latin.
- **3. Conquest and Colonization:**
  - Languages of conquerors influence subjugated people.
  - E.g. Spanish in the Americas introduced words like patio and adobe to English.
- **4. Globalization and Media:**
  - Modern technology and social media
  - E.g. Emoji became universal through social media.

# Loanword

## Definition

- A word at least partly assimilated from one language into another language.
- Create word within the process of borrowing.

## Wasei-eigo (Japanese-made English):

- Some loanwords are repurposed into uniquely Japanese expressions.
  - コンセント (*konsento*, "electrical outlet") from English "consent."
  - バイキング (*baikingu*, "viking") from English "Viking".
  - タバコ (*tabako*, meaning "tobacco") from the Portuguese word *tabaco*

# Calque

## Definition

- A word at least partly assimilated from one language into another language.
- Create word within the process of borrowing.

## Examples of Calques:

### •Japanese:

- 自由業 (*jiyūgyō*): "freelancer" from English "free" + "profession"
- 冷戦 (*reisen*): "cold war" from English "cold" + "war"

### •English:

- "Skyscraper" → **Gratte-ciel** (French: "scratch-sky").

### •Chinese:

- 电话 (*diànhuà*): "telephone," from "electric" + "speech."

# Comparison between loan and calque

- The distinction between loan and calque is not clear cut. (Grzega, J. (2003).)
- **Phonological Boundaries**
- **Loanwords** retain phonological elements of the source language, even as they are integrated into the grammar of the recipient language.
  - Japanese グーグル: Direct borrowing from English, adapted for Japanese phonology.(even adopted as a verb **ググる** (*guguru*))
- **Semantic Boundaries**
- **Calque** maintain the original structure and meaning but replace the source language's phonetics with native linguistic components.
  - English *long time no see* from Chinese 好久不见 (*hǎo jiǔ bú jiàn*)
- **Contextual Overlap: Hybrid Forms**
- Some terms may involve both phonological and semantic elements of borrowing
  - **Alcohol** From Arabic *al-kuḥl* Retains the phonological trace of Arabic while semantically expanded in English to mean "ethanol."

# Conclusion

- Loanwords and calques represent distinct but overlapping strategies in linguistic borrowing.
- The boundary is context-sensitive, influenced by phonology, semantics, and cultural integration.
- Further research is needed to refine criteria for categorizing complex cases (e.g., hybrid forms).

**Meme** (/mi:m/)(Internet Meme)

Japanese: ミーム (インターネット ミーム),

Chinese: 模因 (互联网模因)

Thanks!

# Reference

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