

Morpho phonemics of Loanwords in Translation

Jamal alQinai

Kuwait University, Kuwait

ABSTRACT

A natural by-product of translation is the adoption of technical, scientific, and culture-specific terms for which ready-made equivalents are either unavailable or unpopular. The infiltration of loanwords into standard Arabic is a landmark of the flexibility of Arabic morphology. Yet, the methods of analyzing assimilated (i.e., Arabicized) loanwords often assumed an impressionistic, arbitrary nature. The current study attempts to linguistically diagnose systematic phonological and morphological changes and provide a typology for classifying them, while also accounting for anomalies. The study adopts a comparative morphophonemic approach to SL/TL forms from the point of view of lexical etymology and the methodology of classical philology and modern linguistics.

Keywords: morpho phonemics, loanwords, etymology