

MORPHOLOGICAL ADAPTATIONS OF ENGLISH LOANWORDS IN LONTOMBA: CASE OF VOWEL LETTERS

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ABSTRACT

English loanwords in Lontómbá have undergone important changes mainly phonological and morphological adaptations. Unfortunately, no study has focused on morphological adaptation of English loanwords in Lontómbá. This article aims at pointing out morphological adaptations of English loanwords especially at the level of vowels. This investigation answered the research question: how does morphological adaptation of English loanwords occur in Lontómbá language? The answer to this question is that the English loanwords are adapted by adding vowels basing on the type or category of letters composing that English word and the relation between these letters.

Keywords: *Lontómbá, loanwords, morphological adaptation, borrowing, code mixing, code switching, vowel addition, vowel change*

RESUME

Les emprunts anglais en Lontómbá ont subi d'importants changements, principalement des adaptations phonologiques et morphologiques. Malheureusement, aucune étude ne s'est concentrée sur l'adaptation morphologique des emprunts anglais à Lontómbá. Cet article vise à mettre en évidence les adaptations morphologiques des emprunts anglais notamment au niveau des voyelles. Cette enquête a répondu à la question de recherche : comment l'adaptation morphologique des emprunts anglais se produit-elle en langue Lontómbá ? La réponse à cette question est que les emprunts anglais sont adaptés en ajoutant des voyelles en fonction du type ou de la catégorie de lettres composant ce mot anglais et de la relation entre ces lettres.

Mots-clés : *Lontómbá, mots d'emprunt, adaptation morphologique, emprunt, mélange de codes, commutation de code, ajout de voyelles, changement de voyelle*

I. INTRODUCTION

The contact between languages has several consequences such as code switching, code mixing, and borrowings. For the case of borrowings, loanwords can be adopted or adapted. This article focuses on the English loanwords borrowed and adapted in Lontómbá language. The interest is in morphological adaptation of English loanwords in Lontómbá especially

morphological adaptation at the level of vowels. No study in morphological adaptation of English loanwords in Lontómbá has been conducted so far. This is the problem that leads to this investigation. The aim is to point out the morphological adaptations of English loanwords at the level of vowels. The research question that this study attempts to answer is how does morphological adaptation of English loanwords occur in Lontómbá language? The hypothesis is that the morphological adaptation of English loanwords occurs because of mispronunciation of English words due to the influence of Lontómbá language, and this fact impacts on the spellings of loanwords. To answer this question and reach the aim of this investigation, 100 hundred words were collected on the basis observation and interview. The data are analyzed on the basis of corpus-based explanation approach. It explains change in the forms of English loanwords in Lontómbá.

II. BACKGROUND

The internal structure of a word is concerned with morphology. Daniel (2003:65) defines that morphology as “*the study of words, how they are formed, and their relationship to other words in the same language. It analyzes the structure of words and parts of words, such as stems, root words, prefixes, and suffixes...*” For Oz Huseyin (2014), “*morphology is the study of the internal structure of words and the rules governing the formation of words in a language*”. Daniel and Huseyin’s ideas support this study in the sense that the English loanwords found in Lontómbá have been adapted by changing their internal structures. Adaptation of English loanwords by Ntómbá speakers has a remarkable change in the original forms of English loanwords. Many studies about morphological adaptation of English loanwords have been conducted in different languages such as Arabic, Urdu, Kikabete, I&E, twitter, etc. But no study has been conducted into morphological adaptation of English loanwords in Lontómbá. Some studies concerning phonological and graphophonic rules governing English loanwords in Lontómbá have been conducted by Mbeba. As far as phonological rules are concerned, Mbeba (2021:5) says that “*the pronunciation of the English loanwords is not integrated Lontómbá at random: there are phonological rules that govern it*”. Concerning graphophonic rules, Mbeba (2021:13) enumerates the following:

- (1) *no English word that enters Lontómbá language keeps its original form...*
- (2) *Each English loanword entering Lontómbá language must have a vowel grapheme ...*
- (3) *Digraphs and trigraph of English words are eliminated by the process of epenthesis.*
- (4) *An English loanword adapted in Lontómbá should not contain the graphemes t and c.*

This study attempts to investigate into the English loanwords which have been adapted in Lontómbá at the level of morphology. Most of the previous studies dealt with pluralization and gender of proper nouns. These studies focused especially on proper nouns as Mohamed and Samad (2020: 245) say that “*in the previous, it was found that proper nouns enter Arabic more than common nouns*”. Dashti and Dashti (2017: 232) investigated into morphological adaptation of loanwords in Twitter. Yeboah and Ansah (2022:1) focused on morphological features of English loanwords found in L&E. Mangrio (2016:1) focused on loanword morphology of Urdu look at the nature of loanwords from Persian, Arabic, and English.

III. METHODOLOGY

In this section, English loanwords are analyzed on the basis of corpus-based explanation approach. The focus is on the morphological adaptation at the level of vowels. The vowel endings of loanwords reveal five categories i.e. loanwords ending into -a, -e, -i, -o, -u. Here below, it is the presentation of English loanwords which have been adapted at the level of vowels. In the discussion section, each morphological adaptation is explained clearly.

Loanwords Ending into -a

N°	LONTOMBA	ENGLISH
1	Biblia	Bible
2	Bola	Bowl
3	Bola	Break
4	Mamiwata	Mammy water
5	Mantela	Mattress
6	Masiya	Messiah
7	Masta	Master
8	Mesa	Mass
9	Monima	Monument
10	Montuka	Moto car
11	Ngelesa	English
12	Pelesa	Present
13	Soda	Soldier
14	Yelusalema	Jerusalem

Loan Words Ending into -e

N°	LONTOMBA	ENGLISH
1	Bale	Bal
2	Beteleme	Bethlem
3	Bulé	Blue
4	Dulumele	Drummer

5	Endolope	Envelope
6	Futubale	Football
7	Gobele	Goblet
8	Gole	Goal
9	Jakete	Jacket
10	Kafé	Coffee
11	Kasete	Cassette
12	Kempele	Keeper
13	Ketele	Kettle
14	Me	Me
15	Kitale	Guitar
16	Metete	Meter
17	Mokase	Moccasin
18	Monkaté	My cake
19	Supu	soup
20	Sae/Sanju	Sun
21	Sandale	Sandal
22	Yoane	John

Loanwords Ending into -i

N°	LONTOMBA	ENGLISH
1	Banki	Bank
2	Bateli	Battery
3	Beki	Bach
4	Bichi	Beach
5	Bisengeleti	Bicycle
6	Boi	Boy
7	Bolosi	Brush
8	Foti	Fault
9	Isaeli	Israel
10	Jamani	Germany
11	Kanifi	Knife
12	Kechi	Torch
13	Koboi	Cow Boy
14	Laki	Lake
15	Maliasi	Marriage
16	Mbati	Pants
17	Metingi	Meeting
18	Metaliki	Metallic
19	Miliki	Milk
20	Misi	Miss
21	Molangiti	Blanket
22	Mosiki	Music

23	Misiki	Music (plural)
24	Nkoboti	Cupboard
25	Oleiti	Alright
26	Pandi	Pan
27	Penati	Penalty
28	Pindi	Pin
29	Singeleti	Cigarette
30	Sorti	Shirt
31	Soseti	Sock
32	Sukali	Sugar
33	Ti	Tea
34	Tolosi	Torch

Loan Words Ending into -o

N°	LONTOMBA	ENGLISH
1	Bulo	Bureau (office)
2	Bwato	Boat
3	Dokotolo	Doctor
4	Kopo	Cup
5	Ladio	Radio
6	Malako	Mark
7	Mongolo	Mango
8	Matayo	Matthew
9	Onyo	Onion
10	Petelo	Peter
11	Pitolo	Petrole

Loan Words Ending into -u

N°	LONTOMBA	ENGLISH
1	Angelu	Angel
2	Baafu	Bath
3	Batulu	Bedroom
4	Buku	Book
5	Dulumu	Drum
6	Yesu	Jesus
7	Kuku	Cook
8	Mombafu	My bathe
9	Sukulu	School
10	Supu	Soup
11	Pulusu	Police

IV. DISCUSSION

Loanwords Ending into -a

The loanwords end into -a when the English word ends into:

- a syllabic /l/

ENGLISH	LONTOMBA
Bible	Biblia

- an unvoiced alviolar stop /t/ preceded by the vowel /a/, and followed by the sound /ə/;

e.g.

ENGLISH	LONTOMBA
Mammy water	Mamiwata
Master	Masta

- an unvoiced alveolar stop /t/ preceded by a nasal consonant or a consonant cluster:

e.g.

ENGLISH	LONTOMBA
Monument	Monima
Present	Pelesa

- a voiced alveolar stop /d/ preceded by a voiced lateral cluster /l/ with the sound /ə/ or /ɜ:/;

e.g.

ENGLISH	LONTOMBA
Soldier	Soda

- a sound /k/ preceded by a vowel that follows the sound /r/;

e.g.

ENGLISH	LONTOMBA
Break	Bola

- a sound /k/ followed by the sound /a:/;

e.g.

ENGLISH	LONTOMBA
Motocar	Montuka

- a nasal sound preceded by the combination of the sounds /al /;

e.g.

ENGLISH

Jerusalem

LONTOMBA

Yelusalema

- a fricative sound preceded by the vowel sounds /I/ or /ə/ that follows the sound /r/ or a fricative preceded by the vowel sound [æ] or /I/ which follows the sound /l/.

e.g.

ENGLISH

Mattress

Mass

English

LONTOMBA

Mantela

Mesa

Ngelesa

- a triphthong /aiə/.

e.g.

ENGLISH

Messiah

LONTOMBA

Masiya

- a sound /l/ preceded by a diphthong /ʊə /;

e.g.

ENGLISH

Bowl

LONTOMBA

Bola

Loanwords Ending into -e

The loanwords end into -e when the English word ends into:

- the sound /l/ preceded by the vowel sound /ɔ:/ or /ɔ/ or /t/;

e.g.

ENGLISH

Ball

Football

Goal

Kettle

LONTOMBA

Bale

Futubale

Gole

Ketel

- the sounds /t/ and /p/

e.g.

ENGLISH	LONTOMBA
Cassette	Kasete
Jacket	Jakete
Goblet	Gobele
Envelope	Endolope

- the sound /ə/

e.g.

ENGLISH	LONTOMBA
Corner	Conele
Drummer	Dulumele
Keeper	Kempele
Meter	Metele

- the sound /a:/ or /r/

e.g.

ENGLISH	LONTOMBA
Guitar	Kitale

- the sound /u:/

e.g.

ENGLISH	LONTOMBA
Blue	Bulé

- the sound /i/

e.g.

ENGLISH	LONTOMBA
Baby	Bébé
Coffee	Kafé

- the nasal sound /n/ or /m/

e.g.

ENGLISH	LONTOMBA
Bethlehem	Beteleme
Moccasin	Mokase
Sun	Sae
John	Yoane

- *the sound /k/ preceded by another sound /k/ followed by the diphthong /ei/.*

ENGLISH

My cake

LONTOMBA

Monkaté

Loanwords Ending into -i

The English loanwords end into -i when it:

- *contains the sound /ŋ/*

e.g.

ENGLISH

Bank
Meeting
Blanket

LONTOMBA

Banki
Mentingi
Molangiti

- *ends into the sound /k/ when the word does not contain the sound /r/;*

e.g.

ENGLISH

Back
Lake
Metalic
Milk
Sock
Music
Music

LONTOMBA

Baki
Laki
Metaliki
Miliki
Soseti
Mosiki
Misiki (plural)

- *ends into a fricative sound that does not follow the sound /i/ which is preceded by the sound /r/, and a fricative the sound that immediately does not precede the sound /æ/.*

e.g.

ENGLISH

Brush
Pants
Miss
Knife

LONTOMBA

Bolosi
Mbatl
Misi
Kanife

- *ends into an affricate sound;*

e.g.

ENGLISH

Beach
Ketch
Torch
Marriage

LONTOMBA

Bichi
Kechi
Tolosi
Maliasi

- ends into /i/ which is preceded either by the sound /r/ or a nasal sound or not.
e.g.

ENGLISH	LONTOMBA
Battery	Bateli
Germany	Jamani
Tea	Ti

- ends into the sounds /d/ or /t/ (dental sounds) preceded by the sound /l/ or not;
e.g.

ENGLISH	LONTOMBA
Fault	Foti
Penalty	Penati
Alright	Oleiti
Cigarette	Singeleti
Shirt	Sorti
Cupboard	Nkobodi

- ends into the sound /l/;
e.g.

ENGLISH	LONTOMBA
Bicycle	Bisengeleti
Israel	Isalaeli

- ends into the diphthong /ɔi/;
e.g.

ENGLISH	LONTOMBA
Boy	Boi
Cowboy	Koboi

- ends into the sound /ə/ followed by the sound /g/;
e.g.

ENGLISH	LONTOMBA
Sugar	Sukali

- ends into the sound /n/ preceded by the sound /i/ or /æ/ which immediately follows the plosive unvoiced sound.

e.g.

ENGLISH	LONTOMBA
Pin	Pindi
Pan	Pandi

Loanwords Ending into -o

The loanwords end into -o when:

- *the English word ends into the sound /u:/ or /ɔɔ/ or when the sound /ɔɔ/ precedes the last sound;*

e.g.

ENGLISH	LONTOMBA
Matthew	Matayo
Bureau	Bulo
Boat	Bwato
Radio	Ladio
Mango	Mangolo

- *the English long vowel sound /a:/ or /i:/ precedes an unvoiced sound;*

e.g.

ENGLISH	LONTOMBA
Doctor	Dokotolo
Mark	Malako
Peter	Petelo

- *the English sound /n/ or /l/ is preceded at the end of the word by the sound /ə/;*

e.g.

ENGLISH	LONTOMBA
Onion	Onyo
Petrol	Pitolo

- *the English the sound /p/ at the end of the word is preceded by the sound /ɹ/.*

e.g.

ENGLISH	LONTOMBA
Cup	Kopo

Loanwords Ending into -u

The loanwords end into -u when:

- *the English word ends into the sound /l/ preceded by the sound /dʒ/ or the sound /u:/;*

e.g.

ENGLISH	LONTOMBA
Angel	Angelu
School	Sukulu

- *the English word ends into the sound /p/ preceded by the sound /u:/;*

e.g.

ENGLISH	LONTOMBA
Soup	Supu

- *the English word ends into the sound /θ/ or the sound /ð/;*

e.g.

ENGLISH	LONTOMBA
Bath	Baafu
My bathe	Mombafu

- *the English word ends into the sound /m/ preceded by a sound vowel that is preceded by the sound /r/;*

e.g.

ENGLISH	LONTOMBA
Bedroom	Batulu
Drum	Dulumu

- *the English word ends into the sound /k/ preceded /u/;*

e.g.

ENGLISH	LONTOMBA
Book	Buku
Cook	Kuku

- *The English word ends into the sound /s/ preceded /ə/ or /i:/*

e.g.

ENGLISH	LONTOMBA
Jesus	Yesu
police	Pulusu

CONCLUSION

This article investigated into the morphological adaptation of English loanwords in Lontómbá. The problem was the absence of any study about the morphological adaptation of English loanwords in Lontómbá. The aim was to point out the morphological adaptations of English loanwords in Lontómbá. This investigation was guided by this research question 'how does morphological adaptation of English loanwords occur in Lontómbá language?' The hypothesis was that the morphological adaptation of English loanwords occur by mispronunciation of English words due to the influence of Lontómbá language. After the analysis based on corpus explanation approach of the data collected through observation and interview, it was found in the discussion that the morphological adaptation of English loanwords occurs by adding vowels according to the types of category of letters composing the English word and the relation between these letters. Therefore, the aim is reached since the morphological adaptations are pointed out in the discussion section of this article.

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