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Title of paper

Semantic Adaptations of English Loanwords in Saudi Colloquial Arabic: The Case of Computers and Technology

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Abstract:

This study examined the semantic adaptations of English loanwords of computers and technology in Saudi colloquial Arabic (henceforth "SCA"). To do that, English loanwords that are part of every day's lexicon of SCA were collected and analyzed. A simple test consisting of 133 English loanwords was used to identify the most used English loanwords in SCA. 60 speakers of SCA participated in the test. The analysis of the test responses resulted in counting 115 English loanwords as the most used words in SCA. Semantic adaptations of these loanwords were analyzed by comparing their acquired meanings in SCA to their original meanings in English. The Findings revealed that while almost 50% of the used loanwords kept the same original English meanings, the other 50% underwent some semantic change. The types of semantic change that were found active in this study included narrowing, widening, semantic shift, and metaphorical extension. Semantic narrowing was found to be the most dominant type that experienced semantic change. Factors including the need to fill a lexical gap and a semantic similarity were hypothesized as possible triggers for most cases of semantic change. While lexical need seemed to be the main factor behind many cases of semantic change, semantic similarity played a key role in some cases. The results of this study are expected to enrich the growing body of research on semantic adaptations of loanwords.

عنوان البحث

التكيّفات الدلالية للكلمات المستعارة من الإنجليزية في اللهجة العامية السعودية ضمن مجال الحاسوب والتكنولوجيا

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الملخص:

تناولت هذه الدراسة التكيّف الدلالي للكلمات المستعارة من الإنجليزية إلى اللهجة العامية السعودية في مجال الحاسوب والتكنولوجيا، وقامت بجمع الكلمات المستعارة من الإنجليزية والتي تعد جزءًا من المعجم اليومي للهجة العامية السعودية. ومن أجل تحديد الكلمات المستعارة الأكثر شيوعاً في الاستخدام اليومي، تم استخدام اختبار بسيط يحوي ١٣٣ كلمة مستعارة وقد شارك في الإجابة على هذا الاختبار 60 مشارك، وبلغ عدد الكلمات المحتسبة بعد تحليل نتائج الاختبار 115 كلمة. وقامت الدراسة بمقارنة معانيها المكتسبة في اللهجة السعودية مع معانيها الأصلية في اللغة الإنجليزية. وقد كشفت الدراسة أن ما يقرب من نصف الكلمات المدروسة حافظت على معانيها الأصلية كما في لغتها الأم، فيما طرأت تغييرات دلالية على النصف الآخر، وتنوعت هذه التغييرات ما بين (التوسع الدلالي، التحول الدلالي، التضييق الدلالي، والتمدد المجازي)، حيث جاء التضييق الدلالي أكثرها شيوعاً. وبينت الدراسة أن من أبرز الأسباب التي أدت إلى هذا التغيير الدلالي سببان، هما: محاولة سد الفجوة المعجمية في اللهجة السعودية والتشابه الدلالي حيث إن الحاجة إلى سد الفجوة المعجمية كانت العامل الرئيسي وراء الكثير من حالات التغيير الدلالي. من المتوقع أن تثري نتائج هذه الدراسة البحث العلمي حول التغيرات الدلالية للكلمات المستعارة.

الكلمات المفتاحية: التكيّف الدلالي، الاستعارة، الكلمات المستعارة، اللهجة العربية العامية السعودية

1. Introduction

Lexical borrowing is an inevitable process in all languages (Haspelmath & Tadmor, 2009; Millar, 2015). Arabic, both standard and colloquial, in the Saudi context is no exception in this regard despite the enormous efforts to protect its purity due to its link to Islam (Alshahrani, 2016). However, due to globalization, the intensive exposure to internet and media, and the influx of foreign words accompanying modern technologies, Arabic, as many other languages, could not avoid lexical borrowing especially from English due to its dominance as a global language (Omar, 2018). This is evident in the accelerating number of English loanwords used by Saudi speakers in their daily interactions (Alawni, 2019).

Based on these circumstances, Arabic found itself in a situation where it had to borrow words from English. This borrowing took place in different semantic domains such as administration, business, politics, military, etc. This study, however, will only focus on English loanwords in the field of computers and technology. This is due to the heavy reliance and notable presence of English loanwords in this area among speakers of SCA. This is generally attributed to the speakers' lexical needs where Arabic lacks modern scientific and technical terminology (Al-Athwary, 2016). Also, unlike other areas such as sciences or arts, computers and technology relate to almost all the individuals in any society.

The process of lexical borrowing usually undergoes phonological, morphological, and semantic adaptations. This study, however, will focus only on examining the semantic adaptations of English loanwords in SCA since this issue has not received attention in previous research. Accordingly, it is hoped that the findings of this study will contribute to filling this gap. Also, it is hoped that the findings will contribute to the body of research on semantics in general, and lexical borrowing. A final aspect of this study's significance is that it will contribute to documenting and increasing our knowledge regarding the real origin of loanwords since the foreignness of many loanwords is probably not obvious to many Saudi speakers who may think of them as Arabic native words as they have become conventionalized.

The objectives of the current study are twofold, to investigate the semantic adaptation of English loanwords of computers and technology in SCA, and to identify the possible factors that lie behind different patterns of semantic adaptation for these words.

Moreover, the study is guided by the following two questions:

1- How were English loanwords of computers and technology adapted semantically in SCA?

2- What are the possible factors that play a role in the process of semantic adaptation?

2. Literature Review

2.1. Lexical Borrowing

Lexical borrowing is one of the aspects of the larger process of linguistic borrowing which refers to the process of "importing linguistic matters from one of the linguistic systems of a language to the linguistic system of the other language" (Zaidan, Zailaini & Ismail, 2015, p. 51). Accordingly, linguistic borrowing is not just about vocabulary items, it is also about other linguistic elements and features. Lexical borrowing, however, is found to be the most frequent and generic form of linguistic borrowing in comparison to other linguistic features and materials such as syntax, morphology, and stylistic features (Hoffer, 2002; Thomason, 2001).

More specifically, lexical borrowing is defined by Payne (2011) as an instance "when speakers of a language treat a word, morpheme, or construction from another language as a lexical item in their own language" (p. 385). Nouns are borrowed more frequently than other types of words (Al-Athwary, 2016; Haspelmath, 2009; Matras, 2009; Millar, 2015). Millar (2015) explained that this might be because nouns are generally more than other classes of words, new objects are more likely to be referred to using nouns, and finally nouns are easier to be accommodated within the linguistic system of the borrowing language.

Although *borrowing* is used metaphorically in this context, Millar (2015) questioned its suitability and suggested that *copying* could be a better term. Millar's (2015) justification

is based on the idea that the lending language does not really lose the word and the borrowing language does not intend to give it back. However, this paper, and in line with most existing scholarly work in this area, uses *borrowing* since this term has long been well-established in this sense and widely used in literature. Therefore, the borrowed words or borrowings are referred to as loanwords which are broadly defined as "word[s] that at some point in the history of a language entered its lexicon as a result of borrowing" (Haspelmath, 2009, p. 36). The language from which words are borrowed is often referred to as the source, lending, or donor language while the language into which those words are assimilated is labeled as recipient or receptor language (Haspelmath, 2009; Matras, 2009; Poplack, 2018; Zenner & Kristiansen, 2014).

When loanwords are incorporated into the lexical system of the recipient language, they usually undergo some modifications in terms of meaning. This process is labeled as semantic change and these modifications are referred to in the literature as types, sequences, or strategies of semantic change (Al-Athwary, 2022). Although this process is not always easy to understand, several semantic change types were found to be so frequent in the literature and as a result they were given specific names (Millar, 2015). The most common types of semantic change include widening (broadening), narrowing (restriction), semantic shift (drift), metaphorical extension (transfer), pejoration, and amelioration (Al-Athwary, 2016, 2022; Millar, 2015).

In the context of lexical borrowing, widening refers to the situation when a word's meaning is expanded to express an additional new sense without losing its original meaning in the source language (Chokoe, 2022; Julul, Rahmawati, Kwary & Sartini, 2019). More specifically, Riemer (2010) refers to widening as a tendency in which "a word's meaning changes to encompass a wider class of referents" (p. 374). Widening then would happen when a loanword becomes more general where it increases its range of senses in the recipient language. Narrowing, on the other hand, is the opposite of widening. Narrowing happens when a loanword takes on a more specific meaning than in the source language (Chokoe, 2022; Julul et al., 2019). Riemer (2010) states that narrowing is a type of semantic change in which "a word narrows its range of reference" (p. 374). Narrowing then would happen when a loanword becomes less inclusive where it refers to one specific kind of object.

Semantic shift, sometimes referred to in the literature as radical semantic shift, happens when a loanword acquires a totally different meaning when borrowed into in the recipient language as opposed to the one in the source language (Akidah, 2013; Al-Athwary, 2022; Chokoe, 2022). In the process of semantic shift, a loanword may "lose some aspect of its former meaning or take on a partially new, but related meaning" (Akidah, 2013, p. 11). Amelioration refers to the situation when the loanword acquires a positive connotation in the recipient language (Akidah, 2013). Pejoration is the opposite of Amelioration. Pejoration refers to the situation when a loanword acquires a negative connotation in the recipient language (Akidah, 2013). Finally, metaphorical extension refers to the situation when a loanword is extended figuratively (Al-Athwary, 2016; Millar, 2015). In this process, a loanword is used as a metaphor in the recipient language to draw attention to a resemblance.

Regarding the reasons for semantic change in loanwords, it has been pointed out that reasons for the specific patterns of semantic change taken by loanwords are not always easy to determine (Al-Athwary, 2016; Hollmann, 2018). This is mostly because semantic change either in loanwords or in the original words of a language is highly irregular and happens in a random manner that is difficult to predict (Hollmann, 2018; van Olmen & Athanasopoulos, 2018). However, this process is not wholly chaotic and "attempts to formulate guesses, conjectures, and hypotheses should not be ruled out" (Bader, 1990, p. 43). In general, semantic changes in loanwords can be attributed to several linguistic and extralinguistic reasons. The former includes factors such as lexical need, semantic similarity and morphological/semantic contiguity, and the latter includes social, cultural, and psychological factors (Al-Athwary, 2016; Campbell, 2013; Millar, 2015).

2.2. Earlier Studies

Reviewing the literature on English loanwords in in SCA reveals several studies that were conducted in this regard. Existing studies, however, focused on phonological and morphological adaptations of these words in Arabic with no studies focusing on their semantic adaptations. Thornburg (1980), for instance, examined the phonological adaptations of 283 English loanwords used in the Saudi dialect spoken in the east region of Saudi Arabia. She focused on the alterations made in consonants and consonant

clusters of these English loanwords from the point of view of generative phonology. Based on her findings, she came out with a few phonological rules which were referred to as "borrowing rules." Similarly, but from the perspective of the Optimality theory, Jarrah (2013) examined the phonological adaptations of English loanwords as used by speakers of Madina Hijazi Arabic. His study focused on the phonological changes in syllable structures that took place in English loanwords that were frequently used by the speakers of Madina Hijazi Arabic.

Alawni (2019) conducted a comprehensive study on English loanwords in SCA. He collected more than 700 English loanwords used in SCA. His study focused on examining the phonological and morphological adaptation processes that English loanwords underwent to become part of the lexical system of SCA. He concluded that English loanwords followed systematic phonological integration patterns which resulted in treating them morphologically as native Arabic words. Moreover, part of his study was devoted to the sociolinguistic analysis of English loanwords in SCA in terms of gender, age, occupation, and educational level. It was well-established that these factors had an impact on the use of English loanwords in SCA.

Mushait and Al-Athwary (2020) examined English loanwords in SCA from a morphological perspective. They focused on how English loanwords were inflected for number and gender in SCA. 250 English loanwords were included in their study, and they found that these words were generally inflected according to the plural formation rules in SCA.

To this end, the most relevant study to this paper is the one conducted by Al-Athwary (2016) on the semantics of English loanwords in Arabic media language. He examined English loanwords in Arabic media language in terms of their semantic change, their semantic fields, and the phenomenon of synonymy. He collected more than 290 English loanwords from six online newspapers belonging to the six states of the Arab Gulf including Saudi Arabia. Analysis of these words showed that they belonged to 15 distinctive semantic fields with loanwords of computers and technology having the highest frequency. Based on his analysis, Al-Athwary (2016) found that English loanwords in Arabic media language underwent several types of semantic change including extension, narrowing, amelioration, pejoration, and metaphor. Narrowing,

however, was found to be the most dominant type of semantic change taken by most English borrowings. He attributed such semantic changes to the need to fill a lexical gap and semantic similarity, and to psychological and social factors like prestige and taboo.

The difference between Al-Athwary's (2016) study and the current study is that the former dealt with English loanwords in a genre that used standard variety of Arabic (Arabic media language) while the current study deals with them as used in a colloquial variety of Arabic (the variety of Arabic spoken in Saudi Arabia). In reference to English loanwords used in these two varieties, Al-Athwary stated that "loanwords elements used in each variety are, in most cases, not the same" (2016, p. 111).

3. Data Collection and Procedure

The current study falls under the category of descriptive-qualitative research. Qualitative research is regarded as a valuable approach to provide insightful descriptions of the borrowing process and the incorporation of loanwords into the recipient language (Mushait & Al-Athwary, 2020). Data collection for this study took place at two stages. Firstly, English loanwords of computers and technology used in SCA were collected. Secondly, necessary data were collected for the sole purpose of pinpointing the commonly used English loanwords in SCA.

For the first stage, almost all available English loanwords of computers and technology in SCA were gathered and that resulted in having an initial list containing 207 words. Those words were collected from various sources including dictionaries, social media, and previous studies conducted on English loanwords in SCA. The initial list, nevertheless, went through a filtering process in which only English loanwords that are familiar to common speakers of SCA were considered. English loanwords that were only used by specialists were excluded. For example, names of computer programming languages such as Visual Basic, Oracle and Python were not included in the final list. Moreover, only English loanwords that have become part of every day's lexicon of SCA were included in the final list. Necessary data for this purpose were collected through a simple survey test.

In this test, 60 participants were provided with a list of the 133 loanwords that resulted from the filtering process mentioned earlier and were asked to respond by explaining what each of those words meant for them (see Appendix A). The participants were undergraduate students at Al-Baha university, Saudi Arabia. Their ages ranged from 18 to 27 years old. They were from various colleges and departments such as Biology, Accounting, Islamic Studies, etc. Students who were specialized in English language studies or computer science were not included as potential participants. This decision was made to avoid any possibility that their knowledge of English terms might affect the responses (i.e., response bias). Those participants who gave their approval to do the test were invited to gather at the same time in an allocated room on campus. The test was professionally observed to explain and to answer any question from the participants. The reason for having all participants taking the test at the same time was to ensure the genuineness of responses since they would not have a chance to ask or search for meanings of any words that they did not know.

No complex statistical analysis was needed for analyzing the participants' responses since the aim of the test was only to survey and identify the commonly used English loanwords. The inclusion of words adhered to the following criterion: if over 90% of the participants did not provide the same meaning for a loanword and/or did not know it at all, then that word was excluded. After the administration of the test and analyzing the responses, the researcher was able to produce a final list which included 115 loanwords that can be considered as commonly used in SCA according to the sampled participants.

To examine the semantic adaptations of English loanwords in the final list, their meanings in SCA as expressed by the participants were compared to their original meanings in English. The *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English* (henceforth "LDCE") was used for this purpose. The results of the comparison were categorized according to the types of their possible semantic change explained earlier and which include, widening, narrowing, semantic shift, metaphorical extension, pejoration, and amelioration. It is worth mentioning at this stage that zero change loanwords that did not show any shift from that of the original meaning in English were not taken into analytical consideration.

4. Results

A total number of 115 English loanwords of computers and technology were found in use as part of every day's lexicon of SCA (these words are included in Appendix B). Most of those words (108) were nouns, and the remaining seven words were verbs. Almost 50% of those words kept their original meanings in English when borrowed into SCA without undergoing any semantic change. The exact number of words with zero semantic change was 56 and that represented 48.69% of the found words. Examples of those words include *ʔɪntərnɪt* 'internet,' *rawtər* 'router,' *labtob* 'laptop,' *rədar* 'radar,' *kəmɪra* 'camera,' and *mudem* 'modem.'

The number of English loanwords that underwent semantic change was 59 words (53 nouns and six verbs) and that represented 51.31% of the whole loanword data. Analysis of those words in relation to their sematic change resulted in categorizing them into four groups, narrowing, widening, semantic shift and metaphorical extension. Table 1 shows the distribution of semantic change types occurring to English loanwords.

Table 1. *Distribution of semantic change types of computers and technology English loanwords in SCA*

Type of semantic change	No	%
Narrowing	48	73.84%
Widening	10	15.4%
Shift	1	1.53%
Metaphorical extension	6	9.23%
Total	65	100%

As shown in Table 1, English loanwords of computers and technology varied in their patterns of semantic change when incorporated into SCA. Narrowing represents the most common type of semantic change taken by these words (73.84%) in comparison to other types of semantic change, widening (15.4%), semantic shift (1.53%), and metaphorical extension (9.23%). It is noteworthy to mention that some words belonged to two categories of semantic change types at the same time. This specifically applied to words in the categories of widening and metaphorical extension. Indeed, this explains the discrepancy between the original number of words that underwent semantic change -59

words- and the number of acquired meanings after semantic adaptations as presented in Table 1 -65 meanings-. For example, the loanword *kɪmbjutər* 'computer' was first classified in the category of widening and then in the category of metaphorical extension. In addition to using this loanword in SCA to refer to 'an electronic machine that stores information and uses programs to help users to find, organize, or change the information' (LDCE); it was further metaphorically extended to refer to a person who is intelligent and very quick in doing calculations. In the following, detailed analysis of English loanwords that underwent semantic change is provided.

4.1. Semantic Narrowing

Narrowing was found to be the most dominant semantic change type occurring to most English loanwords included in this study. More specifically, 73.84% of the loanword data that underwent semantic change were subject to restriction. Many of those words had multiple meanings in the source language, but when borrowed into SCA, most of them acquired only one meaning or maximally two meanings in some rare cases. In other words, those words became less inclusive in comparison to their original meanings in English as they were adapted to refer to a very specific object or concept in SCA. In the following discussion, several examples of narrowing were provided. In each example, the original meanings of English loanwords were listed as presented in (LDCE), and the meanings acquired by the loanwords in SCA were italicized.

a) *ʔantəl* 'antenna'

1. One of two long thin parts on an insect's head, that it used to feeling things.

2. *A wire rod used for receiving radio and television signals.*

Although the loanword *ʔantəl* 'antenna' was borrowed into SCA to refer to the meaning a) 2 above, it was further narrowed to cover only a minimal portion of that meaning. In fact, this word is used in SCA to refer specifically to the wire rod used for receiving radio signals in cars or in portable radios.

b) *rɪsifər* 'receiver'

1. The part of a telephone that you hold next to your mouth and ear.

2. Someone who is officially in charge of a business or company that is bankrupt.

3. Someone who buys and sells stolen property.

4. *A radio or television, or other equipment which receives signals.*

The loanword *rɪsifər* 'receiver' is used in SCA to refer specifically to 'satellite receiver.' Although the compound word 'satellite receiver' was reduced to one word 'receiver,' it has nothing to do with other meanings or other similar objects like 'radio receiver.'

c) *sbikər* **'speaker'**

1. Someone who makes a formal speech to a group of people.

2. Someone who speaks a particular language.

3. *The part of a radio, sound system etc. where the sound comes out.*

The loanword *sbikər* 'speaker' is used in SCA to refer specifically to 'phone speaker.' Although the word 'speaker' has several related meanings, it was restricted exclusively to refer to 'phone speaker.'

d) *dɪsk* **'disc'**

1. A round flat shape or object.

2. *A compact disc.*

3. A record that you play on a record player.

4. *A flat piece of cartilage between the bones of your back.*

As indicated above, the loanword *dɪsk* 'disc' took two meanings from the four meanings of this word in English, d) 2 & 4, and as explained earlier, this is a very rare case. In fact, using the loanword *dɪsk* 'disc' to refer to 'a compact disc' became less common today especially among younger generations and that is because this object is now not as popular as it used to be. The other meaning of the loanword *dɪsk* 'disc' which is more common in SCA than the previous one relates to the back part of human body.

e) *maʊs* **'mouse'**

1. A small furry animal with a pointed nose and a long tail that lives in people's houses or in

    fields.

2. *A small object connected to a computer by a wire, which you move around on*

    a flat surface using your hand. You press the buttons to make the computer

    do certain tasks.

The loanword *maʊs* 'mouse' was borrowed into SCA to refer to e) 2, and it is used only to refer to the hand-held pointing device connected to computers.

f) *kɪboʊrd* **'keyboard'**

1. *A board with buttons marked with letters or numbers that are pressed to*

    put information into a computer or other machine.

2. The row of keys on some musical instruments that you press in order to play them.

3. An electronic musical instrument similar to a piano that can make sounds like many different

    instruments.

Although the word 'keyboard' in English can refer to several different boards with buttons, it was restricted in SCA to refer specifically to the one used with computers.

The examples above all belong to the word class, nouns, and as mentioned previously nouns are borrowed more frequently than other word classes. In the categories of semantic change types presented in the current study, only six words in the form of verbs were found and they all belong to the narrowing category. Examples of these verbs include the followings:

a) *ʔɪntər* **'enter'**

1. to go or come into a place.

2. to start working in a particular profession or organization, or to start studying at a school

or university.

3. to start to take part in an activity or become involved in a situation.

4. *to put information into a computer by pressing the keys.*

b) *dili:t* **'delete'**

1. to remove something written on a list, in a document etc.

2. *to remove a document, program etc from a computer.*

As shown above, the two words *ʔɪntər* 'enter' and *dili:t* 'delete' each took only one specific meaning from their multiple English meanings. Although these two verbs can be widely used in other contexts in everyday life's interactions, their use in SCA was restricted to the area of computers and technology only.

4.2 Semantic Widening

Semantic widening came second after narrowing in terms of frequency in the current study. While most words that have undergone semantic change were subject to narrowing (48 cases) as explained earlier, only ten cases of widening were attested in the available data. Six of them were in the form of metaphorical extension while the remaining four cases were in the form of denotative (nonfigurative) extension. The cases of metaphorical extension are explained in detail in the next section (metaphorical extension). It is, however, seen necessary to first include them in the general category of widening. This decision is based on the special nature of metaphors. Similar to the creation of metaphors in any language using its own lexicon, the creation of metaphors using loanwords seems to go through the same process as well. This process requires "metaphorical mapping" between two domains; a concrete domain that is based on experience (source domain), and an abstract domain (target domain) (Lakoff & Johnson, 1980). Accordingly, before

loanwords can be metaphorically extended, they must first settle down in the recipient language to refer to a specific object or concept.

The four English loanwords that have undergone denotative widening in SCA include microphone, print, control, and iPad. The word *məkrofoʊn* 'microphone' in SCA acquired an additional meaning that is not employed in English. The original meaning of this word in English is 'a piece of equipment that you speak into to record your voice or make it louder when you are speaking or performing in public' (LDCE). In addition to this meaning, the word 'microphone' in SCA was extended to refer to external loudspeaker. For instance, the word *məkrofoʊnat* 'microphones' is used by many speakers of SCA to refer to the mosque's external loudspeakers. The loanword *brint* 'print' experienced the same semantic change as well. In English, the word 'print' means 'to produce words, numbers, pictures etc. on paper, using a machine that puts ink onto the surface' (LDCE). In SCA, however, this loanword was extended to mean an official printed record that can be obtained from the department of civil affairs or traffic police.

In addition to its use as a technical term in the area of computers and technology, the loanword *kɪntroʊl* from 'control' was extended in SCA to refer to a committee or a unit that is in charge of administrating final exams in schools or universities. Finally, the word *ʔaɪbad* 'iPad' was extended in SCA to refer to 'any type of a tablet.' The original meaning of 'iPad' is the brand name for Apple's line of tablets." In fact, the case of the word *ʔaɪbad* 'iPad' is like the other three words explained earlier in that all of them when borrowed into SCA, they kept the original meaning in English and then they were extended to refer to other entities that have relevance to the original meanings.

4.3. Metaphorical Extension

Six cases of metaphorical extension were found in loanword data of the current study. Normally, metaphors are not directly borrowed from the source language; they are created by speakers of the receipting language using loanwords that were already integrated into their language. To begin with, the loanword *kɪmbjutər* 'computer' was metaphorically extended in SCA to refer to a person who is intelligent and very quick in doing calculations. In addition to using the loanword *ləmba* 'lamp' to refer to the object that

produces light, it was extended in SCA as a metaphor to refer to the shininess of a person's face especially in reference to women.

The loanword *fju:z* 'fuse' refers to 'a short thin piece of wire inside electrical equipment which prevents damage by melting and stopping the electricity when there is too much power' (LDCE), is occasionally used in SCA in metaphorical expressions like *fju:za:tah dˤarabat* 'his fuses were damaged'. When a person is described using this metaphorical expression in SCA, it means that he has lost his mental stability (insane) or lost his temper (angry) depending on the context in which it is used. In the same way, the loanword *mobarmadʒ* 'programmed' is metaphorically employed in SCA to describe a person who is 'brainwashed,' 'under the influence of some idea or belief' or 'systematic in the way of doing something'. The word 'format' is often used in metaphorical expressions like 'he needs to be formatted' to mean 'his brain needs to be reformatted' or 'to be freed from negative ideas or thoughts.' Finally, the word *dɪnɪmu:* 'dynamo' is widely used as a metaphor in SCA to describe a person who is 'active and energetic.'

4.4 Semantic Shift

Shift is the least occurring semantic change type in the current study. One case of this phenomenon was attested in the available loanword data. This case is evident in the word *su:nar* 'sonar.' In English, the word 'sonar' refers to an 'equipment on a ship or submarine that uses sound waves to find out the position of objects under the water' (LDCE). However, this word acquired a different meaning from its original meaning in English when was borrowed into SCA. It is used by speakers of SCA to refer specifically to fetal doppler ultrasound that is used in pregnancy to assess *fetal* well-being and take images of the infant while it is in the womb.

5. Discussion

Two main conclusions can be drawn from the findings and analysis presented above. Firstly, most English loanwords found in the available loanword data for this study were nouns. This finding corresponds to the observation that was put forward by researchers in the field of lexical borrowing that nouns are the most frequently borrowed word class (Al-Athwary, 2016; Haspelmath, 2009; Matras, 2009; Millar, 2015). A remarkable

observation to be made here is that even the few verbs that were found in the data are mostly treated as nouns in SCA and it can be said that they underwent some morphological change in SCA. For example, when a Saudi speaker wants to ask someone to delete something from the computer, they would normally say *sawwei dili:t* /do or make a delete/ 'delete it.' This applies to the rest of verbs included in data.

Secondly, English loanwords of computers and technology in SCA followed different patterns of semantic adaptations. In general, they can be categorized into two groups; those loanwords that experienced zero semantic change and those loanwords that underwent semantic change. Findings revealed that the distribution of loanwords between these two groups is almost equal. While the former represented 48.69% of loanword data, the latter represented 51.31%. As for those loanwords that had zero semantic change, they were mostly monosemous (i.e., have one meaning). They are mostly either technical words or names of applications. Examples of the former include router, telescope, and radar. Examples of the latter include snapchat, photoshop and Facebook. Taking the nature of the loanwords in this group into consideration, it becomes understandable why they were borrowed into SCA without experiencing any semantic change.

Regarding those loanwords that underwent semantic change, four types of semantic change were found to be active in the context of computers and technology. These include narrowing, widening, shift, and metaphorical extension. Other types of semantic change mentioned in the literature such as amelioration and pejoration were not evident in the context of computers and technology English loanwords in SCA. The findings of this study revealed that narrowing was the most dominant semantic change type occurring in most English loanwords that have undergone semantic change. In fact, this tendency agrees with the conclusion reached by Al-Athwary's (2016) study on English loanwords in Arabic media language where it was found that narrowing was the most common type of semantic change.

Regarding reasons for semantic change and as it was explained earlier, it could be sometimes problematic to determine the definite reasons for semantic change in the context of loanwords. However, attempts to formulate hypotheses and assumptions regarding possible reasons should not be discarded.

In the context of loanwords in this study, two possible reasons can be invoked including lexical need and semantic similarity. In most cases of semantic narrowing attested in the current study, the factor of lexical need seems to be the main impetus for this type of semantic change. Words such as cassette, cylinder and antenna have no Arabic equivalents in SCA and, therefore, were borrowed to refer to an object or a concept that was imported from a culture associated with English. When these words were borrowed, a single and a specific meaning that corresponded to the SCA speakers' communication needs was acquired. This becomes so clear in polysemous words in which only one meaning was taken over and usually this meaning is technical; other meanings (often non-technical) were simply not taken into consideration. More specifically, there seems to be a tendency that one of the secondary meanings was borrowed into SCA and interestingly not the basic meaning of the word in English. This might be because new technological objects in many cases were referred to by expanding the already existing lexical items in English. A good example of this is the word 'mouse.' The original meaning of the word 'mouse' in English is a kind of animal and the secondary -although common- meaning is a hand-held pointing device used in computer. When this word was borrowed into SCA, it took the secondary meaning, and it is not used by speakers of SCA to refer to the original meaning in English.

In the cases of semantic widening of loanwords in this study, factors of lexical need and semantic similarity can be deemed to justify the extension in meaning. A good example of this is the loanword *məkro*foʊn 'microphone' whose sense was expanded to refer to 'external speakers.' The semantic similarity between microphone and external speakers can be detected though it is slight. This semantic similarity coupled with the lexical need are more likely to be behind this additional meaning of the loanword microphone in SCA. These criteria of lexical need and semantic similarity can be hypothesized as the main reason for widening the meanings of all loanwords that had nonfigurative semantic widening in this study. This includes the loanwords *ʔaɪbad* 'iPad,' *kɪntroʊl* 'control', and *'brint'* print.

Semantic similarity and lexical need were at interplay also in the only case of semantic shift attested in this study. This case is represented by the loanword *su:nar* 'sonar' which was borrowed into SCA to denote an object which is different from the original object in

English. As explained earlier, this loanword is used in SCA to refer to doppler ultrasound whereas in English refers to the device used for the detection of objects under water. Although sonar and doppler ultrasound are different devices belonging to two different fields, there is resemblance in the mechanism of the operation of both devices. This similarity is more likely to be the reason for using the word 'sonar' to refer to doppler ultrasound in SCA which seems to have needed a word to refer to this device.

Regarding cases of metaphorical extension, semantic similarity seems to be the sole factor behind this type of extension. This applies to metaphors in general and not just those that were extended from loanwords. Lexical need does not really seem to have a role here since SCA has many words meaning 'intelligent' (*kɪmbjutər)*, 'energic' (dɪnɪmu:), and 'shininess' (lamp). The words in parentheses are used in SCA to convey the meanings indicated. Regarding semantic similarity, we can notice the resemblance between features of these objects and their metaphorical extensions in SCA.

A crucial point to be mentioned in the context of semantic changes of loanwords is the effect of cultural and technological developments on the patterns of semantic change occurring in loanwords. A loanword might take a specific semantic change type when it is first borrowed into the recipient language but later and due to some societal changes, it might take another type of semantic change. For example, when the loanword ʔɪstɪrju: 'stereo' was borrowed into SCA, it denoted the same original meaning in English which is a 'machine for playing records that produces sound from two speakers' (LDCE). It was also widened to refer to shops selling music cassettes. However, it is currently used to refer to the original meaning in English and the additional meaning is not in use any more especially among young generation. This is due to the disappearance of those shops because of technological development in which cassettes were replaced by other modern objects such as CDs, DVDs, and flash drives.

Another example relates to the loanword 'satellite.' In his study on English loanwords in Arabic media language, Al-Athwary (2016) classified this loanword as pejoration. Al-Athwary (2016) explained that this word has "the derogatory connotation of 'bad' or even 'immoral' because such words are dealt with in Arabic societies as the source and means of many obscene movies and corrupt programmes" (p. 115). His explanation could be true at the earlier times when this object was first introduced into the Arabic society;

today, however, the case is different where this object is looked at positively and lost its association to obscene movies and shows. In the Saudi society, for instance, when the satellite receiver was first introduced into the society in the 1990s, it was associated with immorality and only few houses had it. Today, almost every house has it and it does not carry that negative connotation anymore.

6. Conclusion

The objective of this study was to examine the semantic adaptations of English loanwords of computers and technology in SCA. Analysis of these loanwords showed that they followed different patterns of semantic adaptations when borrowed into SCA. While almost half of these loanwords experienced zero semantic change, the other half underwent semantic change. Regarding those loanwords that underwent semantic change, four types of semantic change were found evident in the loanword data available for this study. These include narrowing, widening, shift, and metaphorical extension. Narrowing, however, represented the most dominant semantic change type occurring in the data. When loanwords are polysemous in the source language, they are usually borrowed with one meaning that corresponds to the needs of SCA speakers. Usually, the adopted meaning is one of the secondary meanings and not the basic meaning in English.

Although lexical need seemed to be the most possible factor behind most cases of semantic change in this study, it is difficult to see why speakers of SCA rely heavily on these loanwords in their daily interactions when many of them have equivalents in modern standard Arabic. Although colloquial Arabic and standard Arabic represent two varieties of Arabic, the influence of the latter on the former cannot be understated. Reasons for such a phenomenon need to be investigated thoroughly and could possibly be related to the language attitudes of SCA speakers. This can be further reinforced by examining this issue from a sociolinguistic perspective.

Since the identification of commonly used loanwords in this research was based on participants belonging to one age group, further research focusing mainly on the conventionalization process of these loanwords in SCA is recommended by considering different age groups and other social variables and linguistic factors. Finally, since this research focused only on English loanwords of computers and technology in SCA, further

research examining loanwords in other semantic domains is expected to enrich this area especially if comparison between different domains is taken into consideration.

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Appendix A: The Test

الاختبار

الاسم (اختياري):   العمر: التخصص:

شكراً على قيامك بالمشاركة في هذا الاختبار والذي يهدف إلى دراسة موضوع التكيّف الدلالي للكلمات المستعارة من الإنجليزية إلى اللهجة العامية السعودية في مجال الحاسوب والتكنولوجيا. المطلوب منك هو كتابة وشرح ما تعنيه كل كلمة في الجدول التالي حسب معرفتك واستخدامك لها. في حالة عدم معرفتك لمعنى أي كلمة الرجاء كتابة "لا اعرف". هذا الاختبار هو لأغراض البحث العلمي فقط وسوف تبقى هوية المشاركين فيه مجهولة تماما.

معناها	الكلمة	م	معناها	الكلمة	م
	أيباد	٢٦		إستريو	١
	البوم	٢٧		إلكتروني	٢
	بلوتوث	٢٨		إنترنت	٣
	باركود	٢٩		إيميل	٤
	برنت	٣٠		أنتركوم	٥
	برمجة	٣١		أي فور	٦
	برنت سكرين	٣٢		أي ثري	٧
	بوربوينت	٣٣		أيكلاود	٨
	باك اب	٣٤		أندرويد	٩
	بروكسي	٣٥		أيقونة	١٠
	بيجر	٣٦		أب ديت	١١
	باس وورد	٣٧		أبلكيشن	١٢
	بروجكتر	٣٨		إكسل	١٣
	بلازما	٣٩		اوتكاد	١٤
	بلك	٤٠		أنتل	١٥
	تليفون	٤١		أريل	١٦
	تويتر	٤٢		إنتر	١٧
	تكنولوجيا	٤٣		أكسس	١٨
	تيلسكوب	٤٤		أونلاين	١٩
	سكيورتي	٤٥		توماتيك	٢٠
	سلندر	٤٦		تلفزيون	٢١
	سيف	٤٧		نتش	٢٢
	ستلايت	٤٨		دينمو	٢٣
	سبسكرايب	٤٩		ديسك	٢٤
	سوفت وير	٥٠		ديس لايك	٢٥

	سيرفر	٨٤		ديليت	٥١
	سبراني	٨٥		داون لود	٥٢
	سيستم	٨٦		داتا شو	٥٣
	سبيكر	٨٧		داتا بيس	٥٤
	شات	٨٨		درايف	٥٥
	فيوز	٨٩		دسك توب	٥٦
	فديو	٩٠		ديجتل	٥٧
	فلتر	٩١		دي في دي	٥٨
	فلاش	٩٢		رادار	٥٩
	فيسات	٩٣		راوتر	٦٠
	فاكس	٩٤		رسيفر	٦١
	فريزر	٩٥		ريموت	٦٢
	فيروس	٩٦		راديو رادو\	٦٣
	فيس بوك	٩٧		روبوت	٦٤
	فوتوشوب	٩٨		زنون	٦٥
	فرمتة	٩٩		زوم	٦٦
	قرافك	١٠٠		ستور	٦٧
	قروب	١٠١		سلفي	٦٨
	كاسيت	١٠٢		سناب شات	٦٩
	كنترول	١٠٣		سي دي	٧٠
	كيبل	١٠٤		سكنر	٧١
	كمنت	١٠٥		سونار	٧٢
	كميرة	١٠٦		سنترال	٧٣
	كوبي	١٠٧		سايلنت	٧٤
	مسنجر	١٠٨		كود	٧٥
	مودم	١٠٩		كمبيوتر	٧٦
	نت وورك	١١٠		كيبورد	٧٧
	هشتاق	١١١		لاب توب	٧٨
	هارد وير	١١٢		لايك	٧٩
	هيدروليك	١١٣		ليزك	٨٠
	هكر	١١٤		لينك	٨١
	هيدفون	١١٥		لمبه	٨٢
	وآي فاي	١١٦		ليد	٨٣

	وورد	١٢٦		ليزر	١١٧
	واتس أب	١٢٧		لوكيشن	١١٨
	وايرلس	١٢٨		ملتيميديا	١١٩
	ويب	١٢٩		ميكروسكوب	١٢٠
	يوزر	١٣٠		موبايل	١٢١
	يوتيوب	١٣١		مسج	١٢٢
	يو إس بي	١٣٢		ماوس	١٢٣
	ويندوز	١٣٣		مكرفون	١٢٤
				ميكروويف	١٢٥

Appendix B

	Loanword in Arabic	Transcription	Word in English		Loanword in Arabic	Transcription	Word in English
					Loanwords with zero semantic change		
1	إنترنت	/ʔɪn.tər.nɪt/	internet	27	يوتيوب	/ju:.tu:b/	YouTube
2	إيميل	/ʔɪ.meɪl/	Email	28	كميرة	/kə.mɪ.rə/	Camera
3	إستريو	/ʔɪs.tɪr.ju:/	stereo	29	روبوت	/ro.bʊt/	robot
4	إلكتروني	/ʔɪ.lɪk.tru:.nɪ/	electronic	30	هكر	/hə.kər/	Hacker
5	أنتركوم	/ʔan.tər.kʊm/	intercom	31	فوتوشوب	/fo.to.ʃob/	Photoshop
6	أي فور	/ʔeɪ.fʊr/	A4	32	بوربوينت	/bə.wər.bo.jɪnt/	PowerPoint
7	أي ثري	/ʔeɪ.θri:/	A3	33	ويندوز	/wɪn.doz/	Windows
8	بروجكتر	/brʊ.dʒekt.ər/	projector	34	هشتاق	/haʃ.tag/	hashtag
9	بلوتوث	/blu:.tu:θ/	bluetooth	35	رادار	/rə.dar/	radar
10	باركود	/bar.ku:d/	Barcode	36	زنون	/zɪ.non/	Xenon lights
11	تلفزيون	/tɪl.fɪz.ju:n/	television	37	يو إس بي	/ju:.ɪs.bɪ/	USB
12	تليفون	/tɪ.lɪ.foʊn/	telephone	38	تكنولوجيا	/tɪk.no.loʊd ʒ.ja/	Technology
13	أيكلاود	ʔaɪ. klaw.d/	icloud	39	تيلسكوب	/tɪ.lɪs.ku:b/	Telescope
14	دي في دي	/dɪ.fɪ.dɪ/	DVD	40	توماتيك	/to.mə.t i:k/	Automatic
15	داون لود	/dawɪn.loʊd/	download	41	ليد	/lɪd /	light-emitting diode (LED)
16	وأي فاي	/waɪ.faɪ/	Wi Fi	42	بلازما	/blaz.ma/	Plasma
17	باس وورد	/bas.woʊrd/	password	43	راوتر	/raw.tər/	router
18	لاب توب	/lab.tob/	laptop	44	دسك توب	/dɪsk.tob/	desktop
19	ليزر	/leɪ.zər/	laser	45	ديجتل	/dɪ.dʒɪ.təl/	digital
20	ليزك	/leɪ.zək/	lasik	46	هيدروليك	/hɪd.ro.li:k/	hydraulic
21	مودم	/mu:.dem/	modem	47	وايرلس	/wa.jɪr.lɪs/	wireless
22	سلفي	/sɪl.fɪ/	selfie	48	تويتر	/twɪ.tər/	Twitter
23	سناب شات	/snb.ʃat/	snapchat	49	أونلاين	/ʔʊnlaɪn/	online
24	فاكس	/faks/	fax	50	ميكروويف	/mɪk.ro.weɪf/	microwave
25	فريزر	/freɪ.zər/	freezer	51	سي دي	/si:.dɪ/	CD
26	فيروس	/fai.r u:s/	virus	52	سكنر	/ˈskɪ.nər/	scanner

53	فيس بوك	/feɪs.bok/	Facebook	55	فديو	/fɪd.ju:/	video
54	واتس أب	/wats.əb/	Whatsup	56	فلتر	/fɪl.tər/	filter

			Loanwords with semantic narrowing			
	Loanword in Arabic	**Transcription**	**Word in English**		**Loanword in Arabic**	**Transcription**	**Word in English**
1	أنتل	/ʔan.təl/	antenna	25	شات	/ʃat/	chat
2	أريل	/ʔar.jəl/	aerial	26	قروب	/gru:b/	group
3	إنتر	/ʔin.tər/	enter	27	سبيكر	/'sbi:.kər/	Speaker
4	ديليت	/dili:t/	delete	28	زوم	/zu:m/	Zoom
5	بلك	/blok/	block	29	أندرويد	/ʔand.roʊɪd/	Android
6	سنترال	/sint.ral/	central	30	مسنجر	/mə.sin.d͡ʒər/	messenger
7	باك اب	/bak.əb/	backup	31	أيقونة	/ʔaɪ.qu:.nə/	icon
8	ديسك	/dɪsk/	disc	32	يوزر	/ju:.zər/	user
9	ديس لايك	/dɪs.laɪk/	dislike	33	فيسات	/feɪ.sat/	faces
10	كمنت	/ko.mɪnt/	comment	34	نت وورك	/nɪt.woʊrk/	network
11	كوبي	/ko.bɪ/	copy	35	أكسس	/ʔak.sɪs/	access
12	سايلنت	/saɪ.lənt/	silent	36	سيستم	/sɪs.tɪm/	system
13	لايك	/laɪk/	like	37	تتش	/tətʃ/	touch
14	مسج	/mə.sɪd͡ʒ/	message	38	وورد	/woʊrd/	Word
15	ماوس	/maʊs/	mouse	39	إكسل	/ʔɪk.sɪl/	Excel
16	كود	/ku:d/ /koʊd/	code	40	أب ديت	/ʔab.deɪt/	update
17	سكيورتي	/sɪk.ju:.rɪ.tɪ/	security	41	أبلكيشن	/ʔab.li.keɪ.ʃən/	application
18	سلندر	/'slɪn.dər/	cylinder	42	ستور	/'stoʊr/	store
19	سيف	/seɪf/	save	43	لوكيشن	/lo.keɪ.ʃən/	location
20	ستلايت	/sə.tə.laɪt/	satellite	44	كيبل	/keɪ.bəl/	cable
21	فلاش	/flaʃ/	flash	45	راديو رادو\	/ra.dju:/ /ra.du:/	radio
22	رسيفر	/rɪ.seɪ:.fər/	receiver	46	موبايل	/mo.baɪl/ /mo.ba.jɪl/	mobile
23	ريموت	/rɪ.moʊt/	Remote control	47	كيبورد	/kɪ.boʊrd/	keyboard
24	لينك	/lɪnk/	link	48	كاسيت	/ka.seɪt/ /kə.sɪt/	cassette

Loanwords with semantic widening						
	Loanword in Arabic	Transcription	Word in English		Loanword in Arabic	Transcription	Word in English
1	كنترول	/kɪnt.roʊl/	control	6	كمبيوتر	/kɪm.bju:.tər/	computer
2	فيوز	/fju:z/	Fuse	7	فرمتة	/fər.mə.ta/	formatting
3	مكرفون	/mək.ro.foʊn/	Microphone	8	دينمو	/dɪ.nɪ.mu:/	Dynamo
4	برنت	/brint/	Print	9	لمبه	/ ləmba/	lamp
5	برمجة	/bər.mə.d͡ʒa/	Programming	10	أيباد	/ʔaɪ.bad/	iPad

Loanwords with semantic shift			
	Loanword in Arabic	Transcription	Word in English
1	سونار	/su:.nar/	sonar

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