

LINGUISTIC AND EXTRALINGUISTIC REASONS OF MAORI BORROWINGS IN NEW ZEALAND ENGLISH

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Abstract

The article considers linguistic and extralinguistic reasons of Maori borrowings in New Zealand English. One of the most important impacts on the New Zealand English vocabulary has been contact with the Maori language and culture. It is worth noting that Maori words were borrowed for aspects of Maori society and cultural practices, place names, flora and fauna. It needs to be noted that recent decades have been characterized by numerous borrowings from the Maori language in connection with the socio-economic transformations in New Zealand, aimed at reviving the Maori language and culture. The culmination of the entire history of borrowing from the Maori language is considered to be 1987, when the language of the indigenous population of New Zealand was legislated as an official language. The paper explores the presence of Maori borrowings as an important feature of the national and cultural identity of New Zealand.

Keywords: New Zealand, Maori, New Zealand English, borrowing, linguistic, extralinguistic.

1 INTRODUCTION

Borrowing is an integral part of the process of functioning and historical change of a language, and one of the main sources of vocabulary replenishment. Borrowed lexical items can reflect the facts of ethnic contacts, cultural, social and economic relations between nations. Maori loanwords are widely used in New Zealand English for linguistic and extralinguistic reasons. The language contact situation in New Zealand provides a unique research for loanwords.

The first inhabitants of New Zealand did not perceive themselves as an ethnic group due to the lack of contact with people from other countries. Before the settlement of the Islands by Europeans, the Maori people did not have a special term for their people. The Maori people identified themselves by the tribes and a type of canoe that their ancestors came to New Zealand from Polynesia. The Maori way of life changed greatly after the European discovery of the New Zealand Islands.

A significant contribution to the activation of borrowings from the Maori language was made by the British captain J. Cook. He explored not only the New Zealand Islands, but also the indigenous language. The traveller's diary was devoted to a description of his acquaintance with the Maori people. Familiarity with the life and culture of the population led to the need for an environmental nomination and borrowing at the initial stage of colonization. In the J. Cook's records first recorded words were from the Maori language, such as: pa – a protective village, patu – a short club which Maori used in hand-to-hand combat, haka – a ceremonial dance or challenge in Maori culture, kumara – a sweet potato. J. Cook and his crew kept detailed and accurate records of what they saw: unusual birds, fish, trees and plants. It is worth noting that these words were first borrowed by the J. Cook's expedition members.

Since 1850, the set of ideas and views of European settlers about Maori as a distinct national community was expressed by the word 'Maori'. From this period, the word 'New Zealanders' meant the European settlers of New Zealand. Before the national self-determination, New Zealand settlers identified themselves as the colonial resident of the British colonies and an old chum 'an experienced colonist'.

It was during the period of colonization that most words from the Maori language were borrowed into the vocabulary of New Zealand English. Borrowings from the Maori language are used to refer to endemic plants, animals and fish, for example, totara 'a New Zealand native tree', kakapo 'a nocturnal, flightless parrot. It's critically endangered and one of New Zealand's unique treasures.

2 METHODOLOGY

Borrowing as a result of language and cultural contacts is the main source of vocabulary replenishment. J. Belich (2001) identified 3 main stages of borrowing from the Maori language in New Zealand English. During the progressive colonisation phase (roughly 1840-1880), when difference and independence from Britain were being emphasised, there was an openness to borrowing from Maori with a resulting addition of Māori loanwords to the lexicon. The main types of borrowing at this time were names of flora and fauna and cultural terms. For the next 90 years, during the recolonization phase (1880-1970), when ties with Britain were being re-established and re-emphasised, there was a resistance to, or at least a stabilisation of, borrowing. The third historical phase, decolonisation, began around 1970 and was in large part defined by 'the disconnection from Britain' (Belich, 2001, p. 426).

Words from the Maori language were borrowed in the early stages of colonization, mainly for plants, trees, animals and birds: kiwi, moa, tui, weka, takahe, pukeko, kokako, kotuku, korimako, piwakawaka – bird species; hapuka, moki, terakihi – species of fish; manuka, totara, kauri, pohutakawa, nikau, ponga, rata, matai – tree species; katipo is a poisonous spider.

In the process of borrowing, there are certain difficulties associated with the mismatch of phonetic systems of the contacting languages, an insufficient knowledge of the Maori language and a unique language situation. English and Maori belong to different functional systems. For a long time, the state's language policy restricted the use and study of the Maori language in educational institutions.

The toponymical system of New Zealand English, which is closely related to the Maori ethnic culture, has the greatest linguistic and cultural potential. According to linguists, 0.9% of all loanwords are of Maori origin, the largest part are the place names, for example: Timaru, Takapuna, Rotorua, Rangitoto island, Wanganui, Whangarei, Waikato, Waipapu, Waikohu, Waimarino, Waitotara, Opotiki, Taranaki; volcanoes: Tongariro, Ruapehu, Ngauruhoe; rivers: Okareka, Okataina, Rotoehu, Rotoichi, Rotokakahi, Rotokawa, Rotoma, Rotomahana, Tarawera. These toponyms were adapted according to the rules of phonetics and word formation of the English language.

Geographical names from the Maori language contain a complex of cultural, historical and mythological information about the Maori people:

a) the name given to New Zealand's early Polynesian navigators: Taonui-o-kupe (now Cape Jackson) and Te Mana-o-kupe-Ki-Aotearoa (Mana suburbs in Porirua town), Motu-Kairangi (now Miramar Peninsula), Whanganui-a-Tara (now Wellington).

b) the names from Maori mythology: Maketu (a town on the island of the Bay of Plenty, Mount Mohau).

c) the names from Polynesian mythology: Aorangi (Mount Cook), Otane, Tanetua (names of towns), Te Ika-a-Maui (the name of the North island).

d) the names describing the shape, size, or extent of geographical features: Rotorua (two lakes) is derived from the basis of the word-forming element producing roto 'lake' and rua 'two'. Whanganui and Whangaeahu contain the root morpheme whanga (harbour). The main component of wai 'water' forms the names of the

towns: Wairoa, Waikato, Wainui (lots of water). From the productive word motu 'island' derived originated the following place names: Motupipi, Motuhora, Ngamotu, Motuweka, Motutapu.

3 RESULTS

Recent decades have been characterized by numerous borrowings from the Maori language in connection with the socio-economic transformations in New Zealand, aimed at reviving the Maori language and culture. The culmination of the entire history of borrowing from the Maori language is considered to be 1987, when the language of the indigenous population of the country received the status of the state language.

Most of the borrowed words from the Maori language in New Zealand English are nouns: place names, names of flora and fauna, terms of material and social culture of Maori, household items and lifestyle of the indigenous Maori population. The Dictionary of New Zealand English (H. Orsman, 1997) contained 746 headwords of Maori origin, over 10% of its full headword list. Nearly 69% of these are names of flora and fauna, 18% are words connected with social culture, and 13% are words of material culture.

P. Durkin (2014) identified several connected factors motivating this recent increase in Maori loanwords: a Maori speaking population that is growing both in absolute terms and as a proportion of the population as a whole, and that is becoming less rural-based; positive support for Maori through language planning; greater prominence of Maori in political discussion in New Zealand; and more positive attitudes towards the Maori language and culture among the general population (Durkin, 2014, p. 29).

J. Hay, M. Maclagan and E. (2008) pointed out that for some of the Maori borrowings, there is no English equivalent. Some words are highly culturally specific, such as mana whenua, meaning 'title, customary rights over land, sovereignty land', kapa haka, the popular form of traditional Maori performing arts, often perform competitively. Some Maori loanwords relate to modern Maori developments, such as Kohanga Reo (a language nest), an educational innovation of the 1980s, involving Maori language immersion preschool education. A very common term for the Maori people today is tangata whenua literally 'people of the land' and carries the acknowledgement that Maori were the first settlers in New Zealand.

4 CONCLUSION

Reasons for borrowing or using Maori words in New Zealand English (Macalister, 2005, p. 21) include: being the most economical way of referring to something; expressing a distinctive national identity; expressing empathy with Maoridom (the Maori people), its values and aspirations; making an impact on the audience; and aiming for the precision of meaning. J. Macalister claims that some of the motivations identified as driving the use of Maori loans today have to do with filling semantic gaps in existing vocabulary of New Zealand English, economy of expression, expression of identity and display of empathy, clarity of meaning, and language play (Macalister, 2007, p.492).

New Zealand English contains Maori words related to Maori cultural traditions, many of which have become part of New Zealand culture, as well as to the flora and fauna of New Zealand, particularly for endemic species, along with place names. Maori borrowings are the most outstanding feature of the New Zealand English vocabulary. The authors have come to the conclusion that the productivity of borrowings from the Maori language in the nomination of floral objects is due to a whole complex of reasons of a linguistic and extralinguistic nature. The linguistic reasons for borrowing include: the need to fill in the missing links in the lexical and semantic system of New Zealand English for the nomination of new floral objects; the desire to improve and preserve the communicative clarity of language units, which is expressed in the elimination of polysemy or homonymy; preserving the characteristics of the Maori language, which had a fairly simple phonological system. The reasons for extralinguistic nature include: long-term, political, economic and cultural contacts between English-speaking settlers and Maori, the presence of bilingualism in the country; the cultural and social development of Maori. The presence of borrowings from the Maori language is an important feature of the national and cultural identity New Zealand.

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