

CHAPTER IV

SEMANTICS OF LOAN WORDS



CHAPTER IVSEMANTICS OF LOAN WORDSREASONS OF SEMANTIC CHANGES :

Psychologists have given various reasons of semantic changes in borrowed words but Anuradha Potdar (1969, P. 129) thinks that social, political and religious reasons are also important especially the changing social conditions. Dr. Potdar cites Estrich and Sperber's opinion about this as "Semantic Change is not an affair of isolated words but of word groups held together by social or emotional patterns of behaviour." (P. 171). Changes in our cultural and social life affect the meanings of words.

It is observed that loan words often tend to lose some of their components of meaning and sometimes, components are added to the basic features of a word. Dr. Anuradha Potdar (1969) classifies these changes into various semantic processes in Marathi namely :

arthawista:ṛ	- Expansion of Meaning
arthasankoc̣	- Reduction of Meaning
arthac̣juti	- Degradation of Meaning
arthapraṣasti:	- Upgradation of Meaning
arthabhed	- Differentiation of Meaning
arthabhraṅs'	- Deterioration of Meaning

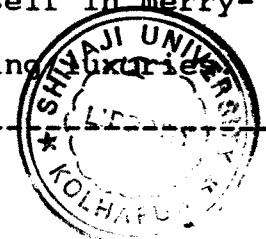
Dr. Potdar's discussion of all these six semantic processes is mainly about Marathi words. Sometimes English words are taken for discussion but it refers to English language itself. While discussing /arthapraṣasti:/, Potdar (1969, P. 132) argues that loan words in any language tend towards degradation in their meaning rather than upgradation. She also makes it clear that such type of

semantic processes are rare regarding English loan words in Marathi.

DEGRADATION (अर्थह्रास) OF ENGLISH LOAN WORDS :

The following are some of the English loan words in Marathi where the processes of degradation may be observed. But it can be observed that only the 'negative' meanings seem to be borrowed in Marathi and this needs more data and information if one wishes to proceed further.

English Loan word	Original English Meaning	Degraded meaning in Marathi
gutter	-a small channel for carrying off water -track made by running water.	-a small channel for carrying off dirty water
native	derived from one's country	uncivilized/ backward
acting	a mode of performing a part of a play	a show/false acting
to copy/copy	-to imitate/writing exercise etc.	malpractice in examination ex. a boy was punished for copying during the examination.
romantic	-a person having aesthetic sense/ fanciful.	-a person engaging himself in merry-making



Only one meaning of the several meanings of the original word is chosen in Marathi.

A bungalow of a small size is referred to as **bungli** in Marathi.

Actually the English words have various meanings and it will be a challenging and interesting task to find out whether these words are used always only with their degraded/ negative meanings in Marathi. This is an area of further research.

DIFFERENTIATION OF MEANING (अर्थभेद) OF
ENGLISH LOAN WORDS :

Anuradha Potdar (1969, P.P.140-142) has discussed by using Breal's term (Breal, P. 27, 35) 'differentiation of meaning'. She argues that meaning is an important aspect of a word. When the words having similar meanings from two different languages come together, meaning of a native word is affected negatively or positively. Differentiation of meaning takes place in the words of the receiving language because of the arrival of the loan words.

It can be observed that negative differentiation of meaning has taken place regarding the native words in Marathi. It is seen that the Marathi equivalent and the borrowed English words are used one after the other. The following are some of the examples of this process.

kha:na:wə| - hotel
ghar - bungla
vaidjə - doctor

The words *khana:wa!* compared to hotel, *ghar* compared to bungla and *vaidja* compared to doctor have negative shade of differentiation. We can say that it is a kind of lowering of meaning of Marathi words. Again, it would be interesting to study whether this is a systematic process in Marathi.

LINGUISTIC TABOO AND USE OF ENGLISH LOAN WORDS ;

Words are borrowed for various reasons and one of them is need - filling motive. Some words are borrowed because the native equivalents are tabooed words in the borrowing language. In Marathi many such English words are borrowed for which Marathi equivalents are tabooed. The speaker's intention here is to restrict the meaning to certain members of a group. This happens particularly among educated speakers. The speaker is successful in expressing his expected but tabooed meaning by using English loan words.

Peter Trudgill (1983, P. 29) describes taboo as being concerned with behaviour which is believed to be supernaturally forbidden or regarded as immoral or improper; it deals with behaviour which is prohibited in an apparently irrational manner. In a language, taboo is associated with things which are not said and in particular with words and expressions which are not used. In practice, of course, this simply means that there are inhibitions about the normal use of items of this kind. Taboo words occur in most languages and failure to adhere to the often strict rules governing their use can lead to punishment or public shame. Many people never use these words of this type and most others will only use them in a restricted set of situations.



Anuradha Potdar (1969, PP. 98-99) states that these tabooed words, among other things are from various sources, for ex. words relating to human body and its natural rites, words describing sexual relations between man and woman etc. She argues that due to linguistic taboo, words from foreign language are supposed as acceptable and mild as opposed to strong and hurting native words. Marathi speakers use the English words like 'latrine' and 'toilet' for Marathi *sau'ku:ḥ* and *mutḥi* respectively. They also use the words like 'expired' (passed away) for Marathi 'mela'/ 'mele' (the past participle of the Marathi verb *marāḥe* (to die); mad and half-mad for *vedā:* and *ardhawaḥor didśāhaḥa:* They use the words like 'keep' to refer to a woman having unlawful marital relations with a man; and 'impotent' for a 'powerless' person or a person of a neuter gender. The original hurting power of the Marathi words is taken away by using English words. English language itself has many Greek and Latin words to refer to parts of human body.

The following are some of the English loan words/expressions used to express tabooed elements in Marathi. Some of these words express meaning which is tabooed in Marathi and due to cultural difference, many of the English words have no Marathi equivalents coined yet.

English loan word/expression	Tabooed word/element in Marathi	Field of the tabooed word
backward class or B.C.	<i>ma:ga:swārgijā</i>	caste
drink/s	<i>madjā:/dā:ḥu:</i>	charity
Sex plays	<i>śeḥapāḥ</i>	sex

English loan word/expression	Tabooed word/element in Marathi	Field of the tabooed word
blue film	as'ali:l c'it'rapata	sex
rape	bala:t'kar	relations between man & woman
first night		---,,---
abortion	garbhapa:t	
Pregnancy	garbhara:pana:	—,,—
Pregnant	garoda:r	

Of the six semantic processes described by Anuradha Potdar, the present researcher found examples of only two processes- i.e. *arthabhed* and *arthac'juti*: from his selected data.

However given the limited scope of our data, it is possible that these processes do apply to the English borrowed words. More data, however, is necessary for ascertaining this and this suggests an area for further research.

Semantic Intensification :

When an English word is borrowed into Marathi, there are many non-English suffixes added to it. This addition of a non-English suffix gives a different meaning to the original English word.

For ex. the non-English suffix - ba added to trunk. when suffix -ba is added to trunk, it becomes trunkoba - a trunk of a large size.

Other examples are power + baj = Powerbaj. This process can be described as semantic intensification.

Semantic intensification is also seen when Marathi speakers use the immediate Marathi equivalent word after the borrowed English word.

Examples of this are

kac̣eri - court + kac̣eri

go!a: - bomb + go!a:

ga:di - tra:m + ga:di

kirḍ - kirḍ + book

ma:rg - rail + way + ma:rg.

etc.

In the above examples the Marathi word sometimes precedes or follows the English word, but definitely intensifies the meaning of the borrowed English word.

Observations

Psychologists have given various reasons of semantic changes. But according to Anuradha Potdar, social, political and religious reasons are also important especially the changing social conditions. Changes in our cultural and social life affect the meanings of words.

* It is observed that loan words often tend to lose some of their components of meaning, and sometimes components are added to the basic features of the word.

* Anuradha Potdar argues that loan words in any language tend towards degradation in their meaning rather than upgradation.

* Marathi speakers use borrowed English words when Marathi equivalents of those words are tabooed. In a language, taboo is associated with things which are not said and in particular with words which are not used.