

New words and meanings arising from literature in modern Chinese: A case study of English loanwords in Lu Xun's novel *Call to Arms*

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Abstract. In the period of the May Fourth New Culture Movement, under the background of the Europeanization of Chinese with Western learning in the East, a large number of loanwords were absorbed into Chinese in this period due to the extensive language contact. The use of loanwords in Lu Xun's representative vernacular novel *Call to Arms* embodies Lu Xun's vocabulary concept of constructing modern vernacular. This paper focuses on the study of English loanwords in *Call to Arms*, and classifies them into four categories: pure transliteration, transliteration and free translation, letter words and Japanese borrowing form words. These words mainly involve the fields of science, technology, politics, humanities and society, at the same time, new affixes and word formation have appeared in modern Chinese. After being introduced and transformed into the Chinese language, they have been continuously integrated into the specific meanings in the Chinese cultural background during the development process, and gradually localized, forming a unique Chinese vocabulary form.

1 Introduction

With the evolution of The Times and the integration of cultures, language reflects culture and belongs to a unique part of culture, and gradually accepts and absorbs new elements in the constant development and change. Classical Chinese and vernacular Chinese are the two main forms of written Chinese [1]. In ancient times, classical Chinese was the primary written form. The transformation of written Chinese began during the May Fourth Movement in the early 20th century, making this period crucial for the modernization of the Chinese language.

Vocabulary is the foundation of language, especially the lexical innovation in literary works, which reflects the interaction between social changes and culture. The language phenomenon in May Fourth period, especially the changes in vocabulary, has important research value. Lu Xun is the founder of modern Chinese literature, his works are regarded as a model of modern vernacular works in the May Fourth Period, and *Call to Arms* is the most representative collection of Lu Xun's vernacular novels during the period of the May

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Fourth Period, in which the absorption of new words, especially the integration and transformation of loanwords, is the face of the early modern Chinese vocabulary.

The loanwords in *Call to Arms* mainly come from English and Japanese, and most of the existing literature focuses on the study of Japanese loanwords [2-4]. Therefore, this paper focuses on the analysis of English loanwords in the new words of *Call to Arms*. This paper classifies and summarizes the English loanwords in *Call to Arms*, analyzes their formation, development and changes, discusses how these words are absorbed, transformed and given new meanings in Lu Xun's writing, further discusses the influence of these loanwords on Lu Xun's creation, and explains Lu Xun's important role in the process of integrating English loanwords into modern Chinese. By analyzing the acceptance and transformation of these words and revealing the interactive relationship between vocabulary and language style, people can witness how these English loanwords promote the innovation and development of vocabulary, reflect the dynamics of social culture, and provide references for deepening the study of vocabulary, language style and literature.

2 Types of English loanwords in *Call to Arms*

Mr. Cao Wei believes that new words should be divided into three categories from form and meaning: (1) new form and meaning; (2) New form, old meaning; (3) The form is old and the meaning is new [5]. The sources of new words mainly include new words, loanwords and regional dialect words. This paper selects English loanwords from loanwords to discuss.

According to statistics, there are 184 foreign words in *Call to Arms*, of which 27 are English loanwords [6]. Whether the scope of the concept of "loanwords" includes "free translation" is controversial in academic circles. Therefore, this paper will further classify the English loanwords in *Call to Arms* from four aspects: transliteration words, transliteration and free translation words, letter words and Japanese borrowing form words (see Table 1).

Table 1. Classification of English loanwords.

Type	Concept	Example
Pure transliteration words	Transliteration of English loanwords with Chinese characters directly according to the pronunciation of their original language, without considering the change of their meaning.	Napoleon, Washington, Hatamen, Dickens, Hyena [6]
Transliteration and free translation	It retains part of the pronunciation characteristics of the original word (transliteration) and interprets its meaning by combining Chinese morphemes (free translation).	~ country, ~ language: Russian, British, American, French, Malay; Road, potassium cyanate, Japanese army, Fashion, Russo-Japanese War [6]
Letter words	(1) Pure English alphabet (2) Consists of English letters plus Chinese morphemes (3) Spell it out with English letters according to Chinese pronunciation	(1) Abbreviation: K、S、N (2) The combination of letter or Pinyin and Chinese prefix "Old , A, Little" represents a person's name: Old Q, A Q, A Quei, Little D, Little Don (3) Words: Quei[6]
Japanese borrowing form words (1) Imitation translation of Japanese kanji words	(1) When western vocabulary concepts are introduced into Japanese, they are translated in the form of imitation translation and expressed in the form of Chinese characters.	(1) Micro-organism, Micro-biology (2) society, oppose

(2) Regression words	(2) The Japanese people directly borrowed ready-made word forms from ancient Chinese to paraphrase English, developed new meanings in Chinese characters, and then borrowed them back into Chinese	
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2.1 Pure transliteration words

The conceptual meaning of a word is foreign, and the selected Chinese characters have nothing to do with the meaning of the English word itself, and English words are directly recorded phonetically with Chinese morphemes. Phonetics and semantics are all borrowed from foreign words whose forms and constructions are newly created by the native people or old words are used to express a new foreign meaning.

Due to the extensive translation of Western works, the number of proper nouns used to represent personal names, place names, brand names, and animal names has increased significantly. Such as: Napoleon, Washington, Hatamen for Lu Xun directly used; Dickens and Hyena were literally translated by Lu Xun [6].

2.2 Transliteration and free translation

The transliteration and free translation not only retain the pronunciation characteristics of the original English loanwords, but also add a Chinese morpheme that can express the meaning in the way of free translation, which gives the specific meaning of English loanwords in the Chinese cultural background.

From the internal point of view of the Chinese character system, every word in the written form of transliteration of loanwords is borrowed, which has the function of symbolizing sound, and has no ideographic effect. Chinese is a semantic language, and the Chinese characters in the written forms of Chinese inherent words are mainly used in the original, and assume the ideographic function, which can indicate the meaning of the recorded words [7]. Transliterated words such as "Russian", "English" and "Malaysia" gradually form abbreviated forms such as "é ", "yīng " and "mǎ lái " in language use, which become semi-free morphemes in the Chinese vocabulary system and cannot be used independently without conditions [8]. They carry the meaning of the original words and form new words with the inherent Chinese word formation components "country" and "language", which belong to the country name and language name, and have the classification function.

2.3 Letter words

Words spelled with letters or letters refer to names of people or places.

Lu Xun uses abbreviations such as K, S and N to refer to places. When interpreting the article, readers often need to use annotations to refer to many letter words. For example: "I am going to N to K school." "When I was a child, in S City, the so-called S City, I do not say his real name." With the help of the annotations, N refers to Nanjing, K School refers to Jiangnan ShuiShi School; S-city refers to Shaoxing [9].

Lu Xun used many letter words to obscure names for two reasons. On the one hand, due to the high-pressure environment of "white terror" at that time, the use of English letters for the names of some sensitive identities was Lu Xun's self-protection; On the other hand, inappropriate literary language or comments will be excluded and suppressed, so Lu Xun

chose to use letter words to obscure in his works. The obscure use of letters and words also forms the unique language style of his works [9].

Quei came from the popular spelling in Britain adopted by Lu Xun at that time, slightly called A Q and Old Q.

2.4 Japanese borrowing form words

Japanese borrowing form words refer to the concept meaning of foreign words introduced into Japanese, expressed through the form of Chinese characters. When these borrowed words are reintroduced into Chinese, the composition and structural form of Chinese characters usually remain unchanged. Japanese borrowing form words in *Call to Arms* are divided into two categories: (1) Japanese Chinese words. That refers to a new word created in Japanese by using Chinese characters to express the meaning of Western concepts. In *Call to Arms*, Lu Xun created two Japanese Chinese words by imitation translation when translating English words, such as “Micro-organism” “Micro-biology” [6]. That are translated by literal translation, the morphological form is the same as the English original words and expressed in Chinese form. (2) Regression words. The regression words in Japanese borrowed form words are the words produced when the Japanese people use the ready-made words in ancient Chinese to translate English in free translation. For example, the word "society" originally referred to "the old meeting of greeting the earth gods on the Spring and Autumn Day" and later to "the whole consisting of a certain economic base and superstructure", used in free English translation. “Opposing” originally refers to "the antithetical sentence in a rhyme", which is extended to “opposite”. Japanese is used to paraphrase English opposition and oppose to express disapproval or disagreement [6].

3 Lexical evolution and expansion of English loanwords

The translation of new foreign concepts in *Call to Arms* has a high degree of Sinicization, and many of them remain in the Chinese vocabulary system. Some words are still in use today, while others have been continuously expanded and evolved, which has promoted the final formation of modern Chinese vocabulary.

3.1 Pure transliteration words

‘Hatamen’ was originally called the Gate of Civilization, built in 1267, “The gate of civilization is Hatamen, the palace of Hata is inside the gate, because of the name [10].” Therefore, the civilization gate was also called Hatamen at that time, and "Hata" was also falsely propagated as "Hate", so it was also called ‘Hatemen’ in folk. Later, it was renamed Chongwen Gate after the ‘Chongwen is virtue’ of the Zuo Zhuan. In 1900, Chongwen Gate Archery Tower was destroyed by British artillery fire during the Boxer Rebellion. The ‘Hatamen’ cigarette was designed by British American Tobacco and registered in China in 1919. In 1963, the production of "Hatamen" was forced to stop due to the perceived colonialist overtones. The "Hatamen" in Lu Xun's article criticized the prevailing trend of worshipping foreign things in the society at that time, and revealed the cultural inferiority and lack of confidence in their own culture behind this kind of social climate. It also satirizes the ignorance and superficiality of those who blindly pursue foreign goods. They try to improve their identity and status by consuming foreign goods. This kind of psychology actually reflects the marginalization of the people at the bottom of the society, and they hope to obtain inner satisfaction and external recognition through external material consumption.

The name "mǎ lù" first appeared in Zuo Zhuan·Zhaogong Twenty Years: "Chu Shizishen met Gong on the wide 'mǎ lù' and followed him". The meaning of the 'mǎ lù' here is 'avenue for horses to travel' [11]. The 'mǎ lù' here is not a road in the modern sense, but the ancient name for the road. The modern 'mǎ lù' is named Macadam Road in honor of a new way of building roads designed by John Loudon Macadam, an Englishman. 'mǎ lù' is its abbreviation, 'mǎ' for transliteration. In *Call to Arms*, Lu Xun reveals the conflict between tradition and modernity by contrasting the 'mǎ lù' with the tragic figures.

The word "fashion" first appeared in the book of the History of the Late Han Dynasty · Shundi Jizan: 'At the beginning of Emperor Xiaoshun's accession to the throne, many outstanding people gathered together'. Fashion means a handsome and distinguished man of the time [12]. Now refers to a person's decorative clothes or other things that are novelty and fashionable. The word 'mó dēng' in Chinese is not a transliteration of modern, because it sounds similar to 'modern', so it also has the meaning of 'modern' and 'fashion'. In Lu Xun's work, "fashion" is more of a tool with criticism. Lu Xun used it to satirize and criticize the phenomenon of blindly following tradition and being divorced from reality in society at that time. The so-called "fashion" is often a superficial phenomenon that covers up deep social problems and contradictions.

A Q is a tragic character in *Call to Arms*. He is somewhat ignorant and cowardly in character, but always faces reality through a self-comforting method of spiritual victory. When Lu Xun wrote the true biography of A Q, he did not know A Q's surname, nor did he know how to write his name, and he was afraid that the phonetic alphabet has not yet been used. According to his lifetime people called him A Quei, so Lu Xun can only to use 'foreign word' adopting the popular British spelling to write him as A Quei, brief writing as A Q [13]. The ambiguity of A Q's identity makes him a typical symbol of the people at the bottom, he is a microcosm of the vast masses of the people at the bottom of China's old society, which satirizes the disregard and discrimination of the people at the bottom of China's old society, and has profound social criticism significance. The word is now included in the Modern Chinese Dictionary and has become a synonym for "spiritual victor".

The English loanwords in *Call to Arms* can be accepted and spread, which is in line with the background of social change and cultural adaptation. English loanwords are the symbol of modernization and progress, which accords with people's identification and pursuit of Western culture. Through these words, Lu Xun expressed his expectation for social change and gained resonance. Lu Xun's extensive use of English loanwords in *Call to Arms* is precisely to promote new ideas and new culture, which is in line with the development trend of The Times. These words help people better understand and accept advanced Western ideas and promote cultural innovation. The introduction of English loanwords in this context coincides with people's expectation and pursuit of political change and social progress.

At the same time, China's education system began to reform, and Western science and culture were gradually introduced, which made English loanwords gradually popular among intellectuals and young students. Lu Xun's works spread widely through these newly educated readers, and English loanwords became popular rapidly.

3.2 Lexical expansion

Loanwords have introduced new conceptual meanings and expression forms into Chinese, and provided an opportunity for Chinese to create more new words with the help of new foreign morphemes. While being transformed by Chinese, loanwords enrich the form of Chinese vocabularies, expand the range of Chinese semantics, strengthen the expression of Chinese, give Chinese more modern language features, and have a profound impact on the final formation of modern Chinese vocabularies. The following will be analyzed from three

aspects: the new affix, the change of the original affix meaning and the generation of productive morpheme (see Table 2).

Table 2. Extension Type [6].

Type	Concept	Form
Add new affixes	Introducing foreign affixes and new words are formed by adding affixes to existing Chinese morphemes.	(1) English prefix 're-' means oppose: revolt; 'micro-' means tiny: microbiology; (2) English suffix '-ism' means 'doctrine': angry stareism; '-lity' means properties: flexibility; means subject: medicine, chemistry, biology; '-ize' denotes a certain state : modernization
Original meaning of the affix is changed	The form of the imported affix is the same as that of the existing affix in Chinese, but the meaning is different. The meaning of foreign affix overlays the meaning of Chinese affix.	-ist Chinese affix: A person with whom someone has a certain relationship, such as an enemy, or a person who is engaged in a certain occupation, as in 'peasant'. English affix: Chinese translation of '-ist' means a person who is talented in a certain field, such as 'idealist, connoisseur, musician'
Productive morpheme	The new concepts introduced by loanwords bring about the generation of some Chinese morphemes, and then create more Chinese neologisms.	Movies, electric lights

The introduction of English loanwords has added some new affixes, accelerated the development of Chinese affixation, and some morphemes began to appear affixation tendency, which is one of the main ways to produce new words. As mentioned in the types of loanwords, Lu Xun created two Japanese Chinese words by imitation translation when translating English words, for example “Micro-organism” and “Micro-biology”. Afterwards, “micro” became a special affix used to express the meaning of “tiny”. In physics, “micro” is commonly used to represent the millionth of the original unit, such as “microwatt” and the contemporary “microblog”. When English loanwords are introduced, the meanings of some original Chinese affixes are also changed [6] (see Table 2).

The introduction of new concepts from loanwords leads to the production of some new productive morphemes. There are many words consisted by the morpheme ‘electricity’, such as ‘film, electric lamp’ and so on. Lu Xun mentioned in his article that when he studied in Japan, teachers used movies to show the shapes of microorganisms and pictures of landscapes or current events for students to see.

In the face of the movie of Chinese compatriots being beheaded by the Japanese army, the students clapped and applauded, and people's yearning for modernization contrasted with their ignorance and cartilage, triggering Lu Xun's reflection on the stupid and weak people must change their spirit. The emergence of these new words reflects the social changes in the process of modernization, not only represents the process of modernization, is a symbol of

people seeking development, but also becomes an important tool for Lu Xun to criticize the old society and promote new ideas.

Loanwords not only enrich the vocabulary resources, but also provide convenience for the expression of modern concepts, thus driving the change of literary style. These English loanwords contrast tradition with modernity, bring impact, and make literary works more direct and closer to reality. In the fields of western science and technology, chemistry, sociology and so on, many concepts have no direct corresponding words in Chinese, and the introduction of English loanwords makes these concepts can be accurately expressed. This not only improves the professionalism and accuracy of the written language, but also promotes the popularization and development of knowledge in these fields.

4 Conclusion

Through literal translation, the English loanwords in Lu Xun's *Call to Arms* are not only to retain the characteristics of foreign culture, but also to make these loanwords more practical and profound local characteristics through pure transliteration and semantic induction and expansion close to localization. Through transliteration and free translation, Lu Xun not only retains the pronunciation of the original words, but also gives them new Chinese meanings. This processing method makes these loanwords not only convey the phonetic information of the original words, but also have the sound of the original words, and meet the semantic meaning of the Chinese language, achieving a perfect integration. Lu Xun endowed letter words with different roles and connotations, which made them play a unique role in the Chinese system, and also showed Lu Xun's literary personality. Japanese borrowing form words not only input new conceptual meanings, but also provide an opportunity for Chinese to create more new words with the help of new foreign morphemes. These words not only reflect the innovation of language, but also represent the innovation of thought.

By analyzing the appearance, development and changes of English loanwords in *Call to Arms* in modern Chinese, it can be found that the English loanwords in *Call to Arms* in the early modern Chinese stage played a stable and lexical expansion role in the final formation of modern Chinese vocabulary. English loanwords have exerted a profound influence on the modern Chinese vocabulary system, introducing new things from the west and systematic and scientific term concepts and accelerating the affixation of Chinese, promoting the standardization of word forms due to the various forms of loanwords. Although the proportion of foreign words is insignificant in the whole modern Chinese vocabulary system, it is an indispensable opportunity for Chinese vocabulary to change from quantitative change to qualitative change in the time node of May 4th.

Loanwords introduced new concepts and new ideas, reflected the scientific spirit and social progress of the May Fourth era, and made Lu Xun's literary style different. By absorbing and transforming the loanwords, Lu Xun made them a powerful tool to criticize and mock the old society, which greatly enhanced the expressive force of his works. At the same time, it also fills the gap of modern science and other concepts in Chinese, spreads modern ideas, promotes the exchange and integration of Chinese and western cultures, enriches the Chinese vocabulary system, and promotes the innovation and development of literary language and the modernization process of Chines.

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