

The Use of English Loan Words of Thai Junior and Senior High School Students in Thai Subjects

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Abstract: *This study aimed to investigate the types of English loan words do Thai students use the most in Thai subjects related to transliteration, loan blend, loan translation and loan shifts. The participants were 451 students (Grade 7, 8 and 11) at Wat Phrasrimahadhat Secondary Demonstration School, Phranakhon Rajabhat University, Thailand in the 1st academic year 2023 who studied Thai subjects; Intensive Thai I, Intensive Thai III, and Contemporary Literature. To collect the data of the study, the researchers set up the reading and writing activities which were revised according to some advice from the three experts to investigate the types of English loan words. An activity record sheet was created and required to identify types of English loan words after classes which consisted of two categories: types of loan words and examples. The finding revealed that transliteration was used most (142 words or 81.60%) following with loan blend (32 words or 18.40%), while loan translation and loan shift were not found.*

Key words: English loan words, Thai junior and senior high school students, Thai subjects

INTRODUCTION

In the world of globalization era, English is the medium of communication. Teaching and learning English is vital for global economics and English skills are required for the local, national, and international demands (Khamkhien, 2010). Among the necessary working skills, English language proficiency is one of the most important skills as it is a fundamental language used in this age of globalization (Kanitpong, 2010).

The English language may become the most powerful communicative language when the AEC begins. Kirkpatrick (2012) states the fact that English has become more important in ASEAN countries. Therefore, all ASEAN members should support the use of English and improve English learning to efficiently use English to communicate as an international language and a working language.

Today, English has become the most popular and the main foreign language in Thailand (Rappa and Wee, 2006, p. 107). As English is used as a working language in the AEC, language capability of workers could simplify communication with their colleagues and supervisors (Saraitong, 2012). Thai people should have communicative competence in English for better qualification in their work in the context of the AEC. Besides, developing and improving Thai students' English communicative skills will be essential for their working lives in the future.

Therefore, the English language skills and competencies are more urgent. It is about today's Thai adults in all industrial, business, commercial, and educational sectors waking up to the reality that shortly they are going to be challenged in their jobs and their livelihoods by English speaking immigrants from Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, and the other ASEAN nations where English-language competencies are ahead of Thailand.

In the age of globalization, English plays a very important role as a language for international communication. The demand for English is high with its greater role in Thai society. English language in Thailand has been taught for over a century since 1824. English was made a compulsory subject in the mainstream school system. It was also a required subject in the National University Entrance Examination. English has been taught as a foreign language and has been widely used for business communication and workplaces in Thailand. The ability to communicate in English is seen as one of the important elements in developing human capital (Bureau of International Cooperation of Ministry of Education, 2005; 2006).

According to Yule (1996:145), "Loan words is the adaption by one language of linguistic elements from another language". Loan involves both cases of direct loanword, and the adaptation of a word into the phonetic phonological and grammatical system of the other language. The fact is that borrowing also refers to loan word. Both borrowing and loan word have the basic meaning that is the word or phrase that has been taken from other languages. A phenomenon that can be captured through the language changes is the process of borrowing.

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The effect of the phenomenon caused many variations in using Thai language in Thai daily life. In its development, Thai language absorbs the influence from many languages all over the world. The form of words, phrases, and clauses in English patterns are playing important role in influencing the form of Thai language today.

Thai language increases the stock of its vocabulary by borrowing from English language. It also changes dynamically time to time in every country in the world. Thai language as one of languages in the world also develops from time to time and influenced by the human thought and the result of cultural contact. Thai language not only absorbs the meaning from the language of neighbor country, but also absorbs the aspect of the form. Some of loan words or borrowing words are not listed yet in the dictionary, but they are now popular in Thai society.

Many foreign words were borrowed into Thai over the centuries. Loan words (mostly from English) were frequently used even though there are Thai equivalents. A massive rise of loan word in Thai was noticeable with a drastic increase of loan words entries in Thai dictionaries. A lot of loan words created to fit the Thai phonology system. Therefore, at the first hearing them, it may lead to a bit of confusion. In addition, the meaning of some loan words has changed. Thus, the loan words made it more difficult and complicated to comprehend, not only for Thai students of foreign languages, but also for students of Thai. The similar issue aroused arguments among researchers (Arabski, 2006; Igarashi, 2007; Daulton, 2008) about the advantages and disadvantages of loan words, not only in English learning among Japanese students, but also among learners of Japanese. However, little research has been directed to the topic of how Thai students recognize loan words and their tendency to make errors related to these words in learning Thai.

It would be next to impossible to calculate the number the origin of all loanwords used in Thailand. Some words have been part of the Thai vocabulary that they are now considered as Thai words. In tracing the origins of loanwords, it can be said with certainty that English is the primary source today. In addition to words taken from Chinese, Sanskrit, Persian, Portuguese, and Arabic were the earliest words adopted by the Thai. It is beyond dispute that the mass media such as Line Application, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, TikTok, etc. is the leading source of new loanwords among Thai students. Therefore, many students perceive foreign words and phrases to the Thai language. Even though the loanwords are spreading at an unprecedented rate, the problems using loan words in their written communications can cause problems.

The researchers notice this phenomenon in the use of either daily written or spoken language in Thai subjects, in which the researchers can find many types of borrowed words. In addition, English borrowing words becomes the society's belief that English is a prestigious recognized language internationality that cannot be separated from the social values of the language community concerned. Therefore, if students have a positive attitude toward English language, they are more likely to borrow their language to display their social status.

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In this research, the researchers focus on types of borrowing namely loan words and are interested in the topic: The Use of English Loan Words of Thai Junior and Senior High School Students in Thai Subjects. The students are taken from Wat Phrasimahadhat Secondary Demonstration School, Phranakhon Rajabhat University as source of data. The researchers notice that many borrowed words or loan words are frequently found and sometimes it makes the readers confused and even a misinterpretation may happen. To make the readers understand and know the originally words of the loan words from English to Thai language, especially in Thai text, this research tries to investigate about English loan words in Thai subjects (1. Intensive Thai 1 for Grade 7 students, 2. Intensive Thai 3 for Grade 8 students and 3. Contemporary Literature for Grade 11 students).

Objective of the Study

To investigate the types of English loan words do Thai students use the most in Thai Subjects.

LITERATURE REVIEW

In many parts of Asia, English is the language of education, business, regional cooperation, culture, and tourism. English has been broadened by a number of related economic and social factors, including demographic growth, economic change, technology and educational trends (Graddol, 2006).

Thailand has welcomed English due to the expansion of the British Empire. English has been valued in Thai society, especially in, media, tourism (Horey, 1991), education (Foley, 2005; Wongsothorn, Hiranburana, and Chinnawongs, 2003), and personal communication (Glass, 2009). English is considered a foreign language which has been taught among other languages, such as Chinese, French, and many others. Bennui (2017) notes that the morphological features of Thai English relate to a formation of new words. That is, Thais use Thai words such as Maui Thai, and Tuk Tuk, in English conversations, and sometimes they even mix Thai and English words to create a new word combination like Tom Yam Seafood. Moreover, Jaroensak and Saraceni (2019) demonstrate that Thais even combine English words to coin a new meaning. For example, “checkbill”, a coined word which means asking for the bill, is commonly used in Thailand. This word is a mixture of “check” from American English and “bill” from British English.

According to Durkin (2014), the words “borrowing” and “loan” in terms of linguistics are a normal term to explain the process of duplicating some part or whole feature of one language to become another language. For example, we want to explain something which is a new opinion or something new, but we lack the vocabulary in our language to express new opinions. Thus, we have to borrow some vocabulary of another which has the same meaning as the new opinion to fulfill our opinion. Meanwhile, Spolsky (1998) revealed that the beginning of loan words is changing the words. It appears when new vocabulary or new words are combined into the second language. Likewise, Hornby (2005) defined that “a word, a phrase or an idea that somebody has taken from another person’s work or from another

Publication of the European Centre for Research Training and Development-UK language and is used in his own". In addition, the loan words are claimed that it might be "a recipient language" and another language that people bring to use in the borrowing language is "a source language". In summary, loaning is related to words, phrases, and some ideas. Loan words are important because people normally adapt their external language from the phonetics and the grammar rule of the receiving language.

Furthermore, loanwords or borrowed words can be defined as the words accepted through the speakers from one language to a different language. It relates to the process of speakers adopting words from a source language into their native language. It is considered one of the most frequent ways of acquiring new words into a language (Thomason and Kaufman, 1992, Kemmer, 2016). A borrowed word initially was not part of the vocabulary of the recipient language; on the contrary, it is adopted from some other language and made part of the vocabulary of borrowing languages. Therefore, borrowing refers to the process of importing linguistic items from one linguistic system into another, arising when two cultures are in contact over a period. That is, loanwords are one of the types of borrowings arising across language boundaries. Moreover, Trask (1996) and Aikhenvald and Dixon (2006) claim that borrowing is a consequence of language contact, referring to "the transfer of linguistic features of any kind from one language to another as the result of contact". Borrowed forms possibly include a phoneme or intonation pattern, phonetic traits and habits of pronunciation, construction types, grammatical forms, grammatical categories, and the organization of grammatical meanings. The degree of this borrowing depends upon several cultural and social factors.

It is implicit that the basic characteristics of loanwords can be seen in both form and meaning of English words transferred into Thai language. In terms of the forms of loanwords used in various sources as indicated in the previous studies (Chakma, 2016; Mahakaew, 2016; and Boonchuay, 2018), there are four main types of English loanwords as follows:

1) Transliteration refers to English words used in the Thai language with the closest feasible pronunciation and the closest possible meaning to the original word with very little or no change to the particular word. For example, a Thai word, "คอมพิวเตอร์" is similar to the English word, "computer," and it is able to be used in the same context.

2) Loan Blend is a loanword formulated by combining English words or English morphemes with Thai words or Thai morphemes. For example, รถสปอร์ต (sport car or sports car) is a combination of a Thai word "รถ" and an English word "sport."

3) Loan Translation refers a loanword coined through the process of item-for-item translation. That is, a meaning of English has been imported for an existing Thai word. For example, a Thai word "โทรทัศน์" is borrowed from "television." The word "tele-" is translated into "โทร-" which means "over a long distance," while the word "vision" is translated into the word "ทัศน์" which means "the ability to see; the area that you can see from a particular position."

4) Loan Shift is the are the terms of sound and spelling that are changed or extended from the original language, but that word exists in other languages. The example of a word in

Thai is “ice” – “น้ำแข็ง”. The word “ice” already exists in Thai word, which is “น้ำแข็ง” or the word “black sheep” – “แกะดำ”. This word also exists as a Thai word, which is “black” – “ดำ” and “sheep” – “แกะ”.

METHODOLOGY

The Participants

This study aimed to investigate the types of English loan words that Grade 7, 8 and 11 Thai students use the most in Thai Subjects at Wat Phrasrimahadhat Secondary Demonstration School, Phranakhon Rajabhat University, Thailand. Focusing on English loan words, the study was carried out to gather information related to Transliteration, Loan blend, Loan translation and Loan shifts. The participants were 451 students in academic year 2023 who studied Thai subjects as follows.

- 1) 181 students of Grade 7 studying Intensive Thai I. Reading for comprehension activities were applied. Students read various news and articles, then summarized using 5W1H techniques in various topics as follows:
 - 1.1 News: Three Killed in A Fatal Car Accident
 - 1.2 News: Flash Floods in Phuket Caused a Major Traffic Jam on Road
 - 1.3 Article: Styrofoam Containers are Poisoning Your Food
- 2) 171 students of Grade 8 studying Intensive Thai III. Writing agree/disagree paragraph activities were introduced. Students wrote the paragraph explaining “how to” in several topics as follows:
 - 2.1 How to Make an Omelet
 - 2.2 How to Do the Laundry
 - 2.3 How to Prepare Seeds for Planting
 - 2.4 Entertainment
- 3) 99 students of Grade 11 studying Contemporary Literature. Students practice writing skill via writing short stories, documentary, and articles in different topics as follows:
 - 3.1 Foods, Beverages, Animals, National Costumes, Tourist Attraction Spots, Artists
 - 3.2 Novel and Short Story Criticism

METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION

To collect the data of the study, the researchers – teaching English and Thai subjects – set up the reading and writing activities to investigate the types of English loan words of Grade 7, 8 and 11 Thai students use the most in Thai Subjects. All activities were assigned in the 1st semester of academic year 2023. Each meeting, teachers distributed worksheet in the classroom and let students did the activities. By the end of the lesson, researchers collected students’ worksheet and classified to find out the types of English loan words students used in reading and writing activities.

Instruments of Data Collection

To investigate the types of English loan words, the researcher gradually made sense of a social phenomenon by contrasting, comparing, replicating, cataloging, and classifying of the objective of the study. To ensure content validity and reliability, reading and writing activities and an activity record sheet form were revised according to some advice from the experts.

Reading and writing activities were developed based on a variety of related research, books, and journals and were revised by the suggestions of three experts in Thai teaching. An activity record sheet was created and required to identify types of English loan words after classes which consisted of two categories: types of loan words and examples.

Method of Data Analysis

The data from an activity record sheet was interpreted, categorized, tabulated, and analyzed qualitatively into the descriptive statistics in terms of transliteration, loan blend, loan translation and loan shift. Furthermore, the activity record sheet written by the researchers were classified to discover English loan words which students used in their assignment. Then, the data was presented in table and graph.

FINDINGS

According to the research objective (To investigate the types of English loan words do Thai students use the most in Thai Subjects.), the researchers conducted the classes and recorded what 451 students of Grades 7, 8 and 11 wrote related to the loan words in the activity record sheets. The activity record sheets presented the types of English loan words and examples.

The results were shown based on the activity record sheet data into as follows:

Intensive Thai I for Grade 7 Students

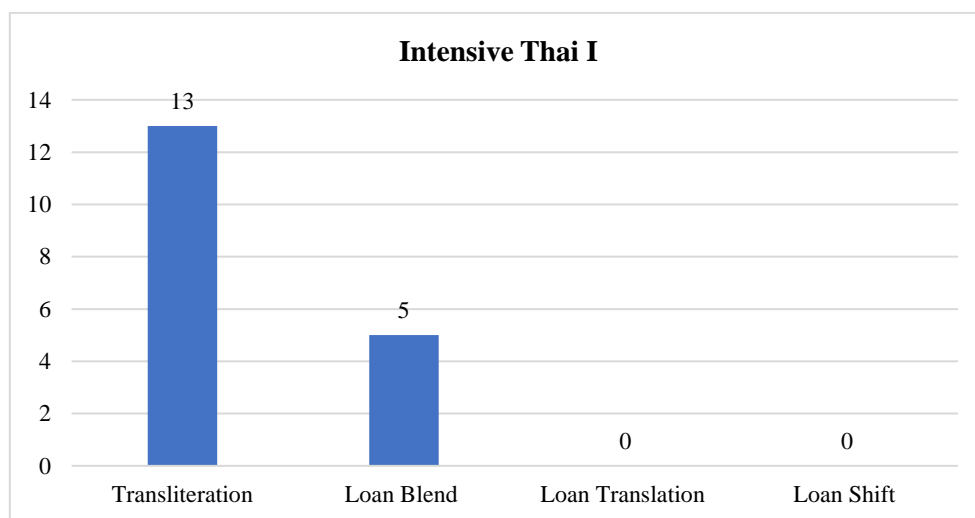


Figure 1: Intensive Thai I; Reading Comprehension using 5W1H Techniques

Figure 1 revealed that transliteration was used most (13 words or 72.22%) following with loan blend (5 words or 27.78%), while loan translation and loan shift were not found. During the Intensive Thai I for grade 7 students, 181 students practiced their reading for comprehension skill. Reading various news and articles, then summarizing using 5W1H techniques were assigned. All students supposed to share their ideas from what they read: 1. News: Three Killed in A Fatal Car Accident, 2. News: Flash Floods in Phuket Caused a Major Traffic Jam on Road, and 3. Article: Styrofoam Containers are Poisoning Your Food.

- The transliteration (English words used in the Thai language with the closest feasible pronunciation and the closest possible meaning to the original word with very little or no change to the particular word.) were:

- 1) Car Accident – lane, brake, petroleum, meter, air (air conditioner), and alcohol.
- 2) Flash Flood – cement.
- 3) Styrofoam Containers – molecule, hormone, percent, plastic, estrogen, and microwave.

- Loan Blend (A loanword formulated by combining English words or English morphemes with Thai words or Thai morphemes.) were:

- 1) Car Accident – road hog (กินเลน), drive by in opposite directions (สวนเลน), and drive too close (เบียดเลน).
- 2) Flash Flood – cubic meter (ลูกบาศก์เมตร)
- 3) Styrofoam Containers – foam container (กล่องโฟม)

Intensive Thai III for Grade 8 Students

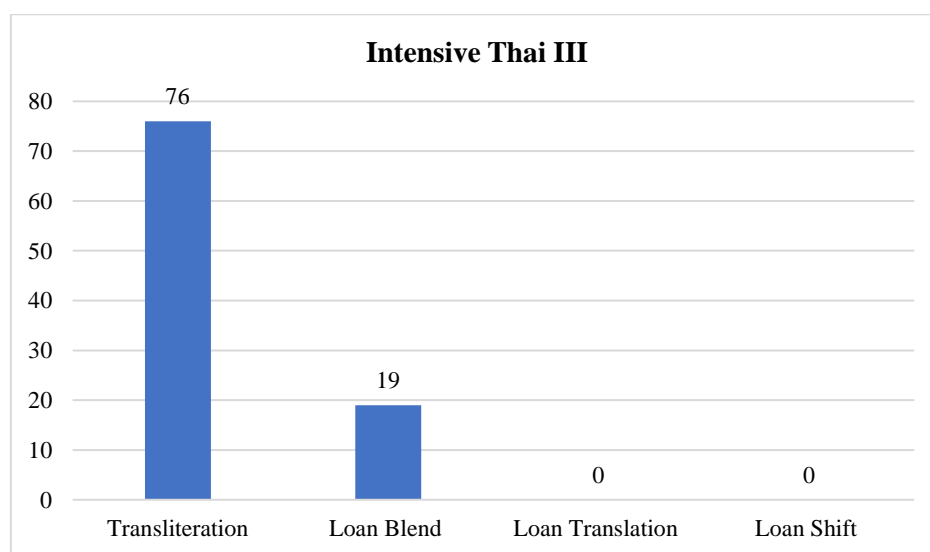


Figure 2: Intensive Thai III; Writing Agree/disagree Paragraph Activities

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Figure 2: it was found that transliteration was used most (76 words or 80.00%) following with loan blend (19 words or 20.00%), while loan translation and loan shift were not found. During the Intensive Thai III for grade 8 students, 171 students practiced their writing agree/disagree paragraph activities. All students expected to share their ideas from what they wrote: 1. How to Make an Omelet, 2. How to Do the Laundry, 3. How to Prepare Seeds for Planting, and 4. Entertainment.

- The transliteration (English words used in the Thai language with the closest feasible pronunciation and the closest possible meaning to the original word with very little or no change to the particular word.) were:

1) How to make an omelet – sauce, start, stop, menu, gram, set, serve, ounce, mix, and gas.

2) How to do the laundry – plug, mode, premium (2), limited, auto, foggy, number, power, open, program, complete, wait, and safety

3) How to prepare seeds for planting – technique, check, tissue, bacteria, centimeter, carrot, recycle, scan, and idea

4) Entertainment – enjoy, bully, TV, fan meet, fan club, surprise, sale, clinic, post, Facebook, internet, presenter, social, lift, share, camp, football, form, champ, team, happy ending, shot, feel, coach, academy, clip, upload, drama, candidate, condo, game show, costume, style, queen dance, music video, live, design, electronic, technology, confirm, net idol, and clear.

- Loan Blend (A loanword formulated by combining English words or English morphemes with Thai words or Thai morphemes.) were:

1) How to make an omelet – tomato sauce (ซอสมะเขือเทศ), stove (เตาแก๊ส), oyster sauce (ซอสหอยนางรม), and seasoning sauce (ซอสปรุงรส) (2).

2) How to do the laundry – switch (สวิตช์ไฟ), plug (ปลั๊กไฟ), and auto button (ปุ่มอัตโนมัติ).

3) How to prepare seeds for planting – tissue paper (กระดาษทิชชู).

4) Entertainment – ball (ลูกบอล), virus (เชื้อไวรัส), pickup truck (กระบะแคป), semester start (เปิดเทอม), social network (โลกออนไลน์), private (casual dress) (ชุดไปรเวท), national team (ทีมชาติ), dance music (เพลงแดนซ์), football player (นักฟุตบอล), and netizen (ชาวนีต).

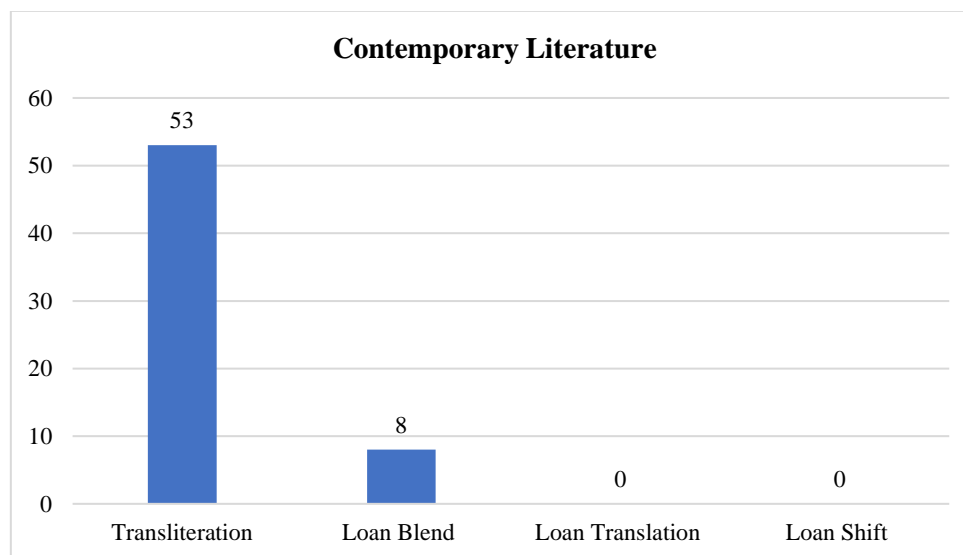
Contemporary Literature for Grade 11 Students**Figure 3: Contemporary Literature; Writing Short Stories, Documentary and Articles**

Figure 3 exposed that transliteration was used most (53 words or 86.89%) following with loan blend (8 words or 13.11%), while loan translation and loan shift were not found. 99 students of Grade 11 studied contemporary literature and practiced their writing skill via writing short stories, documentary, and articles in different topics as follows: .1 Foods, Beverages, Animals, National Costumes, Tourist Attraction Spots, and Artists and 2. Novel and Short Story Criticism

- The transliteration (English words used in the Thai language with the closest feasible pronunciation and the closest possible meaning to the original word with very little or no change to the particular word.) were:

1) Writing about foods, beverages, animals, national costumes, tourist attraction spots, and artists – ballet, show, hall, locker, game, guitar, bass (guitar), internet, take care, line, vote, candidate, sandwich, aerobic, gas, plug, check, social, football, team, chick, layer, menu, pancake, save, website, entrance, real, reality, net, refresh, wow, inter, fan club, support, top chart, champion, pop (music), friendly, concert, call center gang, series, and animation.

2) Writing about novel and short story criticism – happy ending, bully, form, style, script, plot, comedy sci-fi, technique, course, and online,

- Loan Blend (A loanword formulated by combining English words or English morphemes with Thai words or Thai morphemes.) were:

1) Writing about foods, beverages, animals, national costumes, tourist attraction spots, and artists – hook (ท่อนสุกของเพลง), ICU (ห้องไอซียู), bassist or bass player or bass guitarist (มือเบส), pastel (สีพาสเทล), and computer screen (จอคอมพิวเตอร์).

2) Writing about novel and short story criticism – climax (จุดไคลแมกซ์), peak (จุดพีค), and class (คลาสเรียน).

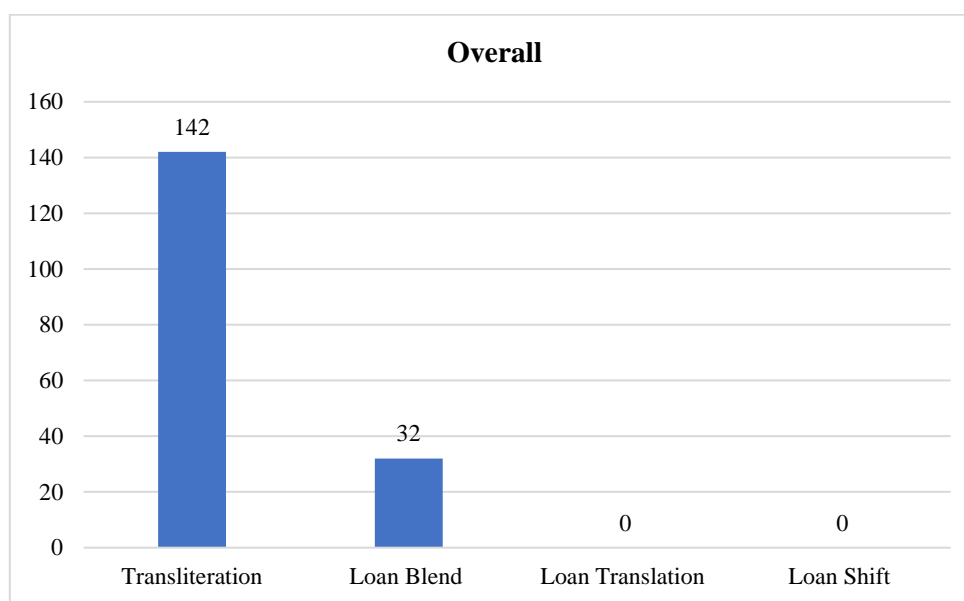
Overall**Figure 4: Overall**

Figure 4 presented 451 students studying in grade 7, 8 and 11 learned in different subjects such as Intensive Thai I, Intensive Thai III, and contemporary literature. They practiced 1) how to read about news and articles via reading for comprehension activities using 5W1H, 2) how to write agree/disagree paragraph activities and 3) how to write short stories, documentary, and articles. In overall, transliteration was used most (142 words or 81.60%) following with loan blend (32 words or 18.40%), while loan translation and loan shift were not found.

DISCUSSION

Based on the research objective “To investigate the types of English loan words do Thai students use the most in Thai Subjects”, transliteration was used most because it is considered one of the most frequent ways of acquiring new words into a language (Thomason and Kaufman, 1988, Kemmer, 2016) following with loan blend, while loan translation and loan shift were not found among 451 students studying in grade 7, 8 and 11 learned in different subjects such as Intensive Thai I, Intensive Thai III, and contemporary literature.

Spolsky (1998) revealed that the beginning of loan words is changing the words. It appears when new vocabulary or new words are combined into the second language. Some loanwords students used in the paragraph were written in a short form such as air (air conditioner/AC), bass (bassist or bass player or bass guitarist) and call center (call center gang). This is line with Yule (1996) who asserts that “Loan words is the adaption by one language of linguistic elements from another language”.

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Today, English has become the most popular and the main foreign language in Thailand (Rappa and Wee, 2006). Since the topics provided related to 1) car accident, 2) flash flood, 3) Styrofoam containers, 4) how to make an omelet, 5) how to do the laundry, 6) how to prepare seeds for planting, 7) entertainment, 8) writing about foods, beverages, animals, national costumes, tourist attraction spots, and artists, and 9) writing about novel and short story criticism, students, the loanwords students used would be general terms which everyone knew such as petroleum, plastic, microwave, sauce, menu, mix, program, complete, wait, safety, technique, scan, bully, fan club, presenter, happy ending, and drama. All students straightforwardly used loanwords with very little or no change to the particular word. It could be assumed that researchers and teachers did not probably need to interpret or try hard to understand each word or the message these students want to convey. Therefore, it could be summarized that English loanwords are frequently used since all students were able to understand the words directly better than Thai translation meaning because all students perceived loanwords from various resources such as Facebook, X, Instagram, YouTube, etc. This finding corresponded with other research studies of Trask (1996) and Aikhenvald and Dixon (2006) who claimed that borrowing is a consequence of language contact, referring to “the transfer of linguistic features of any kind from one language to another as the result of contact”.

Limitation of the Study and Recommendation

It is expected that the present study would shed some light on the understanding of English loanwords used by Thai students in the present era as well as how Thai language has been influenced by English language. This study was conducted with only grade 7, 8 and 11 Thai students who studied Thai subjects (Intensive Thai I, Intensive Thai III, and Contemporary Literature) by doing various activities related to reading and writing in the 1st semester of academic year 2023 which is a short period of time. Moreover, the activities' topics assigned are not possible for the researchers to cover every aspect of the topic, but they only cover some topics. Therefore, the results of this study reveal short-term results at that time and the results of the study will not cover all real-life topics. In addition, this study only focused on the use of English loan words in Thai subjects.

Further research should study for longer period for the stable results and study on other topics which are daily popular topics and might investigate the use of English loan words of Thai people in other subjects such as mathematics, social studies, and science. Also, the focus of the research on loanwords may shift from investigating the types of the loanwords to examining factors which may account for the phenomenon of word borrowing by focusing on the roles of media, educational background of the individuals, professions, and more. In addition, further studies may investigate if sociolinguistic factors such as gender, age, social class, etc. have an influence on the loan words.

CONCLUSION

The Thai language, like many other languages, has incorporated numerous loanwords from various languages over time due to historical, cultural, and economic interactions. The use of loanwords in the Thai language presents many advantages. For example, 1) Loanwords expand the precise terms for new concepts which facilitate clearer communication, especially in specialized fields such as science, medicine, and technology, 2) The integration of loanwords contributes to the dynamism and adaptability of the Thai language and helps the language evolve to meet the changing needs of its speakers, ensuring its continued relevance in a rapidly changing world, and 3) Exposure to loanwords, particularly from widely spoken languages like English, can provide educational benefits to prepare Thai speakers for global communication and enhances their ability to learn and use other languages.

As discussed above, English loan words most inserted into Thai daily life. Based on the study with 451 students studying in grade 7, 8 and 11 in different subjects such as Intensive Thai I, Intensive Thai III, and contemporary literature, transliteration was used most following with loan blend, while loan translation and loan shift were not found.

Loanwords in Thai are often adapted to fit Thai language. This adaptation process demonstrates the flexibility and evolving nature of the Thai language. The incorporation of loanwords into the Thai language is a double-edged sword, bringing both significant advantages and notable disadvantages. While loanwords enrich the language, enhance communication, and reflect cultural dynamism, they also pose challenges related to cultural preservation, communication barriers, and social equity. Balancing these factors is key to ensuring that the Thai language continues to evolve in a way that benefits all speakers while preserving its unique cultural identity.

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