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## "TURKIC INFLUENCE ON ENGLISH LEXICON: LOANWORDS"

Charos Ismoilova Shuhrat qizi

English Teacher, Independent Researcher Samarkand Campus,  
University of Economics and Pedagogy Samarkand, Uzbekistan

Charosismoilova180@gmail.com

+998904767733

### Abstract

This study explores the linguistic influence of Turkic languages, particularly Turkic, on the English lexicon, focusing on loanwords. These loanwords provide valuable information about the historical exchanges between Turkic-speaking peoples and English-speaking societies. The analysis examines the various categories of Turkic words that have been introduced into English, such as food, currency, titles, and everyday objects. This article examines the broader cultural influence they have had on English, as well.

**Keywords:** Turkic, lexicon, loanwords, cultural, Turkic-speaking, English-speaking

### Introduction

Languages often borrow words from other cultures, and English is no exception. One important but often overlooked source of loanwords from English is the Turkic language family. Turkish in particular has contributed a large number of terms through historical periods, especially during the Ottoman Empire. Often the result of interactions in trade, warfare, and cultural exchange, these words provide a glimpse into the complex history of Turkic-speaking peoples. This article focuses on the origins, meanings, and cultural significance of selected words borrowed from Turkic languages in English.

Key terms such as Agaluk, Ayran, Altai, and Akçe demonstrate the broad linguistic influence of the Turkic world. By examining how these words have developed in English, we should gain insight into the historical interactions between Turkic-speaking societies and the English-speaking world.



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### Methods

A qualitative etymological analysis was used to trace the origins and changes of selected Turkic words in English. The main research was conducted using linguistic databases, historical dictionaries, and online etymology tools such as Google Scholar and JSTOR. The study focused on words borrowed from Turkic and other Turkic languages that have had a direct historical or cultural influence on English. The study involved cross-linguistic comparisons to compare the original meanings of these loanwords in Turkic languages with their current usage in English and to understand their influence in other languages such as Russian, Persian, French and other languages.

### Results

The following terms were chosen for their historical and cultural significance: Agaluk (from Turkish Agalik): A feudal title in the Ottoman Empire, denoting a local lord or ruler. Tanavoli states that the Afshar, possibly the oldest Turkic tribe, are now scattered across Iran, with the largest concentration in western Kerman province. Despite changes over time, their lifestyle has remained largely nomadic for over a thousand years [1].

Airan (from Turkish ayran): A traditional Turkish yogurt drink known today in many cultures. The term is first known to have been used in 1823 in reference to the Turkish drink ayran [2], [10].

Akbash (from Turkish akbaş): A breed of Turkish dog, literally "white head"[5].

Akçe (from Turkish akçe): A small silver coin used during the Ottoman Empire. The akçe or akça (also akche, akchek; Ottoman Turkish: Āqç; Turkish pronunciation: [ak'tʃe], [ak'tʃa], known in Europe as asper or aspre) was a silver coin that was the main currency of the Ottoman Empire. It was once used by the Aq Qoyunlu during the early period.[9]

Akhissar (from Ottoman Turkish: آق حصار) is a municipality and district of Manisa Province, also known for its distinctive carpets [4].

Altai (from Turkish altan): Refers to the Altai Mountains, known for their rich resources such as horses and sheep [11].



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Araba (Turkish loan form araba, arba or aroba) is a horse-drawn or ox-drawn cart used in Turkey and neighboring countries in the 18th and 19th centuries, usually with a cross-seat and a canopy for sun protection and privacy. When equipped with springs, it is called a spring cart, the term for a spring-loaded cart [3],[7], [8]. These words have undergone phonological changes upon their entry into English, but many have retained their original meanings or acquired new, distinctive connotations. [6]

### Discussion

The findings suggest that Turkic languages, particularly Turkic, have had a long-term influence on the English lexicon, influenced by historical events such as trade and military campaigns. Words related to social structures (e.g. Agaluk), currency (e.g. Akche), food (e.g. Ayran), and animals (e.g. Akbash) reflect extensive cultural exchange between Turkic and English-speaking societies.

Some terms, such as Aslan (lion), have entered the English language with minimal change, while others, such as Aul (village), emphasize the geographical and cultural spread of Turkic-speaking peoples. In addition, words such as Ataman and Atabeg speak of the political and military influence of Turkic cultures, especially during the Ottoman period, when European powers frequently interacted with the empire. The influence of Turkic food culture, seen in terms such as baklava, is a reflection of this exchange.

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3. Bower, H. (1895). "A Trip to Turkistan". The Geographical Journal. 5 (3): 252. doi:10.2307/1773933. JSTOR 1773933. Traveling along the road was very easy and pleasant; my baggage was carried in an araba, or cart with four horses, three being harnessed as leaders, and one in the shafts, while I rode myself.



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