

JULIA SCHULTZ, *The Influence of Spanish on the English Language since 1801: A Lexical Investigation*, Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2018, xi + 314 pp.
(Reviewed by José A. Sánchez Fajardo, University of Alicante, Spain)

The complexity of language contact is linked to the interconnection of at least two different linguistic codes, in which the investigation of loanwords represents the innermost notion. When English is one of these languages in contact, the influence that it exerts on the other is much higher due to historical and sociopolitical reasons. This explains why a significant amount of present-day research is devoted to the study of anglicisms. Julia Schultz's *The Influence of Spanish on the English Language since 1801*, however, centers on "the opposite direction of lexical borrowing, which has as yet been comparatively neglected in existing analyses of the language contact situation between Spanish and English" (2018: x). Besides, some prior publications in the field seem to agree on the historical influx of words that has gone along with the social and political changes undergone in English-speaking countries, particularly in the US (Rodríguez González 1996; Cannon 1994; Algeo – Algeo 1991). This, together with the need for descriptive and/or lexicographical works of hispanicisms in English, corroborates the book's academic relevance.

The book begins with Part 1 (Schultz 2018: 2-33), devoted to the revision of prior studies (Chapter 1), and to a description of the aims and methodology used in the extraction and analysis of the data (Chapter 2). The former chapter reviews some relevant sources in the study of Spanish loanwords, in which a special emphasis is made on their limitedness. The objective of the latter is twofold: (a) to show readers some detailed information about the data-compilation phase, such as the number of lexical units extracted (1,355) and the usefulness of OED Online in the annotation of these lemmas; and (b) to define some basic terminology that could be of interest to guarantee a conceptual coherence throughout the book, e.g. *lexical item*, *categories of semantic change*, *stylistic function*, *varieties of loan influence*, *grammatical terminology*, to name a few.

Part II (2018: 34-237) is by far the most valuable section in the book as it contains all the data extracted from the OED Online, neatly arranged by semantic fields, e.g. 'technology', 'leisure and pleasure', 'the fine arts and crafts', 'gastronomy', etc. This part is also divided into two chapters, which are intended to group words in analogous but chronologically dissimilar subsections: 'Subject Fields and Spheres of Life Influenced by Spanish in the Nineteenth Century' (Chapter 1), and 'Subject Fields and Spheres of Life Influenced by Spanish since 1901' (Chapter 2). The presentation of the data is nothing but a clear and user-friendly revision of the Spanish loanwords. Although the author could have presented the list of words in a glossary format, the choice of describing many of the lemmas in a natural and coherent manner allows for a better understanding of the cultural and linguistic impact of Spanish on English. Such description consists of specific stylistic variation, interesting etymological facts, grammatical markers ('noun', 'adjective', etc.), semantic shift, and contextual information. The documentary evidence extracted from the corpora should help readers follow the types of semantic and stylistic changes more easily, and correlate their paradigmatic characteristics with their stylistic functions in authentic, corpus-based texts. For example, the use of *plateresque* (<*plateresco*<*platero* 'silversmith') in a scholarly context on ornate Spanish churches (2018: 62) provides readers with some general insights into language use and register.

The last section of the book, Part III (2018: 238-307), includes a quantitative and qualitative summary of the findings, conveniently presented through graphs, diagrams, and tables. This is intended to show a more comprehensive picture of the influence of Spanish on English through the examination of Spanish loanwords as to "their chronological distribution, sense development, stylistic function, and pragmatic-contextual use in English" (2018: 238). Some conclusive remarks corroborate that EFL dictionaries are not sufficient enough to show some of the aforementioned traits, and further compilation from descriptive dictionaries (e.g. OED) and corpora (NOW, COCA, etc.) was necessary to trace the nature of these variations in contemporary English. The classification of loanwords by semantic fields leads to a more accurate description of the mutable evolution of the words' denotational plane.

My only complaint about the published study is the absence of a brief account on some historical and macro-sociolinguistic features of the Spanish language. As the book also concerns the chronological evolution of the process of borrowing and loanwords since 1801, there should also be some explicit comments or references to the historical singularities of the linguistic inflow

of Spanish and English that has come about in bordering territories such as South America, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Gibraltar, or the Philippines. In addition, readers, especially those unaware of the process of language contact between Spanish and English, would certainly appreciate a few more clarifications on the dialectal differences between the Spanish spoken in the peninsula and in the Americas, and the socio-political role played by the US in the area. In particular, an in-depth review of the phenomenon of *Spanglish* in the US as a source of Spanish loanwords in American English is highly advisable. I would venture to say that some of the words extracted from the corpora are associated with the emergence of dialectal *Spanglishes*, such as Floridan or Californian ones, which have contributed greatly to the importation of lexical units from the foreign system into the native one. Take for example *paladar*, referred to as “an acquisition from Cuban Spanish” (2018: 199), which is in fact used by the English-speaking Cuban community in southern Florida to designate a restaurant in which typical Cuban food is offered. Therefore, Floridan *Spanglish*, or Cuban-American Spanish, has been the immediate source language, which, as seen in the quote provided in the book (2018: 199), has had an impact on the gastronomical jargon in the US.

The foregoing, however, weighs very little when the values and contributions of the book are taken into consideration. Its most exceptional merit, besides bridging the academic gap in this domain, lies in the clarity of the justifications and examples, making it highly accessible to all kinds of readers. Thus, this work should prove to be a fundamental tool not only for empirical researchers in general, but also for any reader who is interested in the phenomena of interculturality and lexical borrowing between Spanish and English.

REFERENCES

- Algeo, J.– A. Algeo (eds.)
 1991 *Fifty Years Among the New Words. A Dictionary of Neologisms, 1941-1991*.
 Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Cannon, G.
 1994 “Modern Spanish-based Lexical Items in English”, *Dictionaries: Journal of the Dictionary Society of North America* 15, 117-131.
- Rodríguez González, F. (ed.)
 1996 *Spanish Loanwords in the English Language. A Tendency towards Hegemony Reversal*. Berlin, New York: De Gruyter.