This article deals with the study of lexical units of Arabic origin in Spanish, the analysis of historical factors as well as the division of arabisms into the main semantic groups of borrowings from Arabic. For many centuries, the Spanish culture has experienced a great influence of Arabic world. This process has influenced the appearance of new vocabulary in Spanish. This vocabulary is present until modern days in different spheres. The authors conducted their research in diachronic and synchronic paradigm, revealing historical reasons and presence of arabisms in modern Spanish. In order to increase motivation of learners of Spanish and understand language better, it is necessary to be familiar with etymological characteristics of lexical units. In this article, the notion of “borrowings” is studied, history of Arabic invasion on Spanish territories is briefly described, arabisms are divided into the main thematic groups. The results of the study will be useful for the Spanish language learners; everyone interested in the processes of language formation, Spanish language and culture development; researchers studying Arabic influence on world languages.

Keywords: arabisms, the Spanish language, borrowings, historical background, semantic groups, etymological characteristics, literature.

L. L. Григорьева, Р. Р. Закирова

АРАБИЗМЫ В ИСПАНСКОМ ЯЗЫКЕ

Данная статья посвящена изучению лексических единиц арабского происхождения в испанском языке, анализу исторических факторов, а также разделению арабизмов на основные семантические группы. На протяжении многих веков испанская культура испытывала большое влияние арабского мира. Этот процесс повлиял на появление новой лексики в испанском языке. Эта лексика присутствует до наших дней в разных сферах. Исследование проведено в русле диахронического и синхронического анализа, когда учитываются исторические предпосылки и изучается наличие арабизмов в речи современных носителей испанского языка. Для того чтобы повысить мотивацию изучающих испанский язык и улучшить его понимание, необходимо понимать истоки пополнения лексического богатства языка. В этой статье изучается понятие “заимствования”, кратко описывается история арабского вторжения на испанские территории, арабизмы разделены на основные тематические группы. Результаты исследования будут полезны изучающим испанский язык; всем, кто интересуется процессами становления языка, развитием испанского языка и культуры; исследователям, изучающим влияние арабского языка на мировые языки.

Ключевые слова: арабизмы, испанский язык, заимствования, историческая справка, семантические группы, этимологические характеристики.
Introduction

The history of the Spanish language formation is closely related to the history of Spain — the country, which for centuries experienced invasions of different nations. The Arabs came to Spain in the 2nd part of the VIII century. In three years, they conquered the biggest part of the Iberian Peninsula, the Spanish being able to stay independent only in the north of Spain. In 756, on the territory of conquered Spain, an independent emirate was formed with its center in Cordoba; and its ruler abd al-Rakhman III named himself a khalif. The Arabs named their state al-Andalusia and built an empire, which significantly surpassed any other civilization based in Spain: Cordoba could boast 500,000 inhabitants; 700 mosques, 6000 castles, 70 libraries were built.

By the tenth century, Cordoba boasted a population of 500,000 people (whereas, for example, in Paris at that time there were about 38,000 inhabitants). According to the chronicles of those days, 700 mosques, about 60,000 palaces and 70 libraries were built in the city by that time, one of which reportedly contained 500,000 manuscripts. For almost eight centuries, the Arabs ruled in the Iberian Peninsula. During these times, their language assimilated with the language of the native people. The result of these events we can observe in modern Spanish, when a native speaker uses 4000 borrowed words daily.

Many scientists have turned their attention to the study of Arabic borrowings in the Spanish language. Among them are S. E. Belova [Belova, 2020], G. Erichsen [Erichsen, 2005], A. Kozlova [Kozlova, 2020], A. Shabkhazov [Shabkhazov, 2016], P. Gimenez-Eguibar [Gimenez-Eguibar, 2016] and many others. Despite the existing works on the topic, this article aims at the detailed study of different aspects of the problem, namely:

the study of the notion of “borrowing” as a way of language development and enrichment;

the study of reasons for the appearance of arabisms in the Spanish language;

the analysis of the main thematic groups of more than 500 arabisms in various spheres;

the study of linguistic and cultural influence of Arabic on modern Spanish.

The results of the study can be used by learners of the Spanish language and culture, in further etymological studies of the Spanish language, investigation of Arabic influence on the world languages. Without knowledge of historical development of language, it is impossible to have a clear picture of the modern language and culture formation.
Methods and material

This work is based on etymological, lexical study of more than 500 arabisms found in Spanish etymological dictionaries, division of arabisms into the main semantic groups. The notion “borrowing” is described in the article, reasons for the appearance of arabisms in Spanish are given, brief history of Arabic invasion on the Iberian Peninsula is described, more than 500 arabisms are divided into the main thematic groups, extra-linguistic factors for the dominance of arabisms in specific groups are revealed.

Results

The role of borrowings in the vocabulary enrichment

The term “borrowing” has different definitions. On the one hand, it is a lexeme of foreign origin. On the other hand, it is the process when a word is being transferred from one language to another. Therefore, the essence of the notion “borrowing” is ambivalent.

Linguists distinguish various reasons for borrowing lexical units from one language to another; it occurs when:

The contact between one language with another occurs; one language is more “prestigious” than another and has more lexical diversity in the spheres of culture, education, science, etc.

The language encounters new phenomena, processes, which are not represented in the language by a lexical unit.

Some factors can influence the process of borrowing, for example, one of these factors is geographical closeness. It is obvious that peoples who live near each other may have deeper political, cultural links. Furthermore, when a country becomes a leader in some sphere — political, cultural, academic, etc. — borrowings from this “world leader” will become present in many other languages, for example, nowadays such language is English.

The process of borrowing can be of two types: internal and external. Internal exchange exists between dialects of one and the same language. Nevertheless, external borrowing — which is borrowing between different languages — is a more frequent type of borrowing.

Borrowings can be of different types: lexical, grammatical, morpho-syntactic. In this specific study special attention is given to lexical borrowings from Arabic into Spanish.

According to E.Bernandez, borrowings can be divided into three types: those, which have preserved their initial form, partly preserved
their initial form, and those, which lost their initial form. Those borrowings, which preserved their initial form, are borrowings which did not receive any adaptation, even phonetic. The second group includes lexical units with partly adaptation. More often they preserved some part, namely root, but lost or changed some characteristics — suffixes, endings, having become more like other lexical units in the target language. The Spanish linguist states that to the third group belong assimilated words that are difficult to distinguish from other words of a given language [Bernandez, 1978].

Arabisms are borrowings from Arabic into other languages, or a feature peculiar to Arabic, but transferred to another language. Arabisms and berberisms began to penetrate into the Romance idioms of the Iberian Peninsula with the beginning of the Muslim invasion, that was after 711, when Arabic received the status of the state language. According to the experts, about 10% of lexical units, including about 5-8% of the everyday high-frequency vocabulary of the modern Spanish, go back to Arabic, and, to a lesser extent, Berber borrowings. Traces of Arabic influence are also found in the phonetics, morphology, toponymy of the Spanish language. There are many Arabic geographical names, names and proper names in Spanish, although there are very few Arabic verbs, adjectives and adverbs. This indicates that although the influence of Arabic was broad, it failed to fundamentally change the structure of the European language.

Spanish is one of the languages with the biggest amount of arabisms. The history of interconnection between Spanish and Arabic counts almost eight centuries. During these times, Spanish borrowed a significant amount of words from Arabic as from a more “prestigious” language at these times. The strongest influence was observed in the Southern provinces of Spain. According to linguistic analysis of the professor of University of Cadiz Ignasio Fernando, the biggest amount of arabisms are present in Andalusia, Levant is in the second place, followed by Aragon and Balearic islands. Researchers believe that nowadays approximately 4000 arabisms are present in Spanish. By the word “Arabism”, we understand words of Arabic origin. Knowledge of etymological characteristics of a word will definitely motivate students to learn a language through acquiring historical and cultural heritage [Terentyeva, 2021].

**History of penetration of Arabic borrowings into Spanish**

“Ancestor” of Spanish was Latin, which appeared in the Iberian Peninsula with Romans, who entirely conquered this area in 17 B.C. Gradually mixing with local languages, it was transformed into the Castilian lan-
guage. Castilian became the language of the kingdoms of Castile and Leon in the XII century, its dominance allowed to become the official language of the state. Not all peoples living on these territories spoke Castilian — for example in Catalonia and the Balearic islands, Catalan was spoken, Valencian — in Valencian community, Galician — in Galicia, etc.

Historical traces of Arabic were first observed in VII–VIII centuries B.C.; it was referred to as language spoken in the Arabian Peninsula. It was mostly described by contemporaries from other countries. For the Arabs, the formation and development of their language started with appearance of Islam.

In 710–718, Arabic troops started massive invasion of the Iberian Peninsula. The Arabs were tolerant from a religious point of view and made changes in taxation, which made the Spanish favorable to the Arabs [Mikheeva, 2014]. The Arabic rule lasted for eight more centuries and a significant amount of Arabic words and phrases entered Spanish.

Only defeat of the Arabs started to change this process. Nevertheless, many words of Arabic origin were deeply rooted in Spanish and are still present in modern language, the formation of which began in the XIII century, and castellano was used as a basis. At these times, many Spanish chronicles, scientific, judicial documents, literary works were translated into Spanish. Translations were made from Arabic, the language of science in the Early Middle Ages, which substituted ancient Greek [Amekhina, 2018]. Since translations were made from Arabic, it reinforced penetration of Arabic borrowings into Spanish.

In the X century, the influence of Arabic reached its highest point. In less than one century the Arabic language gained enormous popularity, even Christians started to use it more frequently, partly refusing to use native Spanish. This fact led to inevitable change of Spanish [Zhuravel, 2017]. Borrowings from Arabic played a significant role in the evolution of Spanish; the greatest amount of borrowings entered Spanish at these times. After exile of the Arabs out of the Spanish territories, the Spanish tried to exclude Arabic vocabulary and substitute it with native Spanish words. Nevertheless, vocabulary of Arabic origin stays in Spanish until the recent times and this fact cannot be disregarded.

**Semantic groups of Arabic borrowings in Spanish**

It can be observed that borrowings from Arabic entered Spanish not in separate lexical units but they can be united into specific semantic groups. For example, the presence of arabisms in geographical names can be explained by the fact that the Arabs — during their rule in the coun-
try — founded many settlements. Moreover, during the rule of the Arabs, schools, libraries were built, which stimulated the transfer of knowledge in the sphere of science and education. On the conquered territories, the Arabs established their laws and order, consequently, arabisms are observed in the field of law and jurisprudence. As it was noted before, many cities were built and rebuilt: many arabisms entered the spheres of architecture and everyday life. Since the Arabs were known as excellent merchants, many borrowings were present in the spheres of trade, monetary units, and measures. One more extended group of arabisms is the sphere of gardening and irrigation: the Arabs brought with them new plants, vegetables, fruits, previously unknown to inhabitants of the Iberian Peninsula. Known for military skills, the Arabs left their traces in the vocabulary of the military area.

Our research was based on the study of more than 500 arabisms found in Spanish etymological dictionary and their division into semantic groups. The main semantic groups are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Division of arabisms in Spanish according to the main semantic groups.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geographical objects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plants and vegetables</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Architecture, buildings, people's homes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scientific and technical terms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade, monetary units, measures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gardening</td>
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<tr>
<td>Law, administration</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Examples of arabisms with etymological characteristics in each of the thematic groups are presented below:

Geographical features and their names.

During the eight centuries of Arabic rule in Spain, arabisms have penetrated into a large number of names of Spanish cities. For example, the current center of the Kingdom of Spain, according to one version of the scientists, has an Arabic origin: its capital Madrid — from the Arabic word “macherit” (macha — water source, particle it — multiplication, abundance. Madrid is a rich water source). This name was given by the Arabs, in view of the richest groundwater resources that fed almost 30% of the country. Other examples of geographical names include: Almudena
is the name of the cathedral of Arabic origin, from the Arabic toponym Almudaina (small town), the place where the Mother of God Almudena (María de Almudena), the patroness of Madrid, appeared; Gibraltar — from the Arabic phrase “Jabal Tariq” (Mount Tariq, was named after the Arab commander Tariq ibn Ziyad, who led the Arab invasion of the Iberian Peninsula); La-Mancha — from the Arabic word “mandza” (plateau); Medina — from the Arabic word “madinatun” (city); Alcira — from the Arabic word “al-gazira” (island); Granada — from the Arabic word “gargnata” (gorge between mountains), etc.

**Scientific and technical terms**

Arabic conquerors helped the development of science in Spain by transferring knowledge of a very high level. Thus, the following group of lexical units appeared. Some examples include: algebra — from the Arabic word “al-Jabr” (finding a missing value); algorithmo — comes from the name of the great Central Asian scientist of the 8th–9th centuries Abu Abdullah Muhammad ibn Mussa Al-Khorezmi; elixir — from the Arabic word “iksir” (medicine); cénit (zenith) — from the Arabic word “samt” (way over the head); nadir (astronomical concept) — from the Arabic word “naîīru as-samt” (opposite to the zenith), etc.

3. Plants, vegetables, fruits. For instance, albaricoque (apricot) — from the Arabic word “al-birqûq”; acelga (white beet) — from the Arabic word “as-silqa” (beetroots); alcachofa (artichoke) — from the Arabic word “al harshaf” (edible thistle); azafrán or saffron (saffron) — from the Arabic word “safrun” (yellow); algodón (cotton) — from the Arabic word “al-qúţun”, etc.

Architecture, houses, dwellings, everyday life.

The Arabs left a wealthy heritage in architecture. For example, five miles outside the city of Cordoba was the residence of the Caliph Madinat al-Zahra. The construction of this complex of marble, gypsum, ivory and onyx took forty years. In those days — before the destruction in the XIth century — it was considered one of the wonders of the world. Some arabisms are connected to architecture and building: alacent (the foundation of the building) — from the Arabic word “asasun”; alcázar (palace) — from the Arabic word “al-qasr” (citadel); tabique (wall, curtain) — from the Arabic word “tab” (partition); alacena (closet) — from the Arabic word “hizanah”; alcoba (bedroom) — from the Arabic “qubba” (night), etc.

5. A fairly large group of words of Arabic origin appeared in Spanish when the Arabs passed on their knowledge in the field of gardening and water supply: almunia (orchard) — from the Arabic word “almúnya”;
noria (water pump) — from the Arabic word “nā’urra (grumbler); acequia (irrigation canal) — from the Arabic word “saqiyah” (canal); aljibe (reservoir) — from the Arabic word “yubb” (place of accumulation of water); albufera (lagoon) — from the Arabic word “al-buhayra”.

6. Management and law: alguacil (constable, but in the XVth century this word began to mean the duty of a judge) — from the Arabic word “wazir” (vizier, that is, assistant to the khalif); adalid (military commander, commander, head of a political party) — from the Arabic “dalil” (leader); alcalde (governor, mayor) — from Arabic “al-qāīī” (judge); alcabala (tax levied on the purchase or sale of goods) — from the Arabic “alkibal” (collection); alborque (award, encouragement) — from the Arabic “al-bark” (treat), etc.

7. Trade, monetary units, weight and volume measures: almacén (a large store) — from the Arabic “almus” (choice); azumbre (measure of liquid = 2.16 liters) — from the Arabic “assumr” (edge of the vessel); quintal (measure of weight of 50 kg) — from the Arabic “qanatir”; arancel (customs duty) — from the Arabic “arans” (fee); zoco (market) — from the Arabic “sukun”, etc.

The modern influence of the Arabic language on the Spanish language and culture, the preservation and disappearance of arabisms

An important aspect is that the Arabic influence is still noticeable in the daily life of today’s Spaniards. The Arabic language continues to play a significant role in the process of incorporating cultural elements from the East. In Spain, one would constantly encounter Arabic terms related to Arabic cuisine, food, gardening, etc. For example, the Arabic tradition of selling and eating nuts has become a part of Andalusian culture. Arabic and Persian desserts, such as Baklava, Dedos de Novia, etc. reached the Iberian Peninsula and were accepted by Spanish cuisine. Albóndigas — meatballs — is a traditional Andalusian dish rooted in oriental cuisine. The Arabs called this dish “al bundukua”, which means “a ball”.

Although in the case of traditional dishes or products, many people do not know their origin, Arabic elements in everyday culture are usually more explicit. For example, especially in Andalusia, examples of oriental architecture are found everywhere. These are shops, cafes, and ancient castles (Alhambra) in the center of Malaga there is a restaurant called Palacio Nazari (Nazari Palace), which refers to the Nazari dynasty, the last dynasty of Muslims in Granada from 1238 to 1492. The defeat of this dynasty marked the end of the Al-Andalusia Empire.
Currently, Spain, especially its eastern part, is the territory with the highest settlement of Muslim fellow citizens. The majority of the Arab population of Spain are Moroccans. According to 2016 statistics, about 700 thousand people are residents of Morocco in Spain. In addition, a significant part of the Arab population living on the peninsula consists of people of Algerian origin. Therefore, we observe the presence of the Arabic language as such in Andalusian areas and areas with a high proportion of people of Arabic nationality. Trade and exchange with the Arab world, as well as Arabic-Spanish interdependence, remain unchanged. This can be recognized as one of the reasons for the spread of the Arabic language both in its spoken form and in writing. According to Juan Pablo Arias-Torres, a professor at the University of Malaga, an expert in Arabic-Spanish philology and history, Andalusia also continues to be a region where the Arabic presence is currently more noticeable in the language. In the cities of Ceuta and Melilla and regions with a high percentage of immigration, for example, in Almeria or Murcia, contact with the Arabic language and culture is the most constant and direct. The expert states that the historical connection in which the Arabic language refers to the rural world and artisans. According to him, agriculture, the army and clothing still remain the fields with the greatest number of arabisms. He also emphasizes that the evidence of cultural traces and linguistic features of the Al-Andalusia Empire are in monuments and archaeological finds, gastronomy, agriculture and toponymy. The Andalusian lexicon has a linguistic imprint of the Arabic language. The professor explains the more limited influence on the phonological and syntactic level of the Castilian language with a lack of phonological or syntactic characteristics due to the significant difference between the Arabic and Castilian languages [Arias-Torres, 2012].

According to Arias-Torres, most of the arabisms are unused archaisms. Arabisms that still exist in everyday speech are used without the speaker being aware of their Arabic roots, arabisms are no longer perceived by Spanish speakers as borrowings, because close contact ceased in the XV century, and arabisms were assimilated. The professor gives examples of very common arabisms in Spanish and others that are no longer used.

As for modern bilingualism, J.B. Arias-Torres claims that it existed only among immigrants, in some cases in the second generation. According to the expert, it was an imperfect bilingualism, that is, bilingual people often cannot speak both languages at a very advanced level. Although bilingualism was indispensable during Muslim rule, today Arabic immigrants are forced to learn Spanish [Arias-Torres, 2012].

Arabic-Spanish bilingualism, its cultural recognition and social significance in the Al-Andalusia Empire demonstrates the possibility of ex-
panding linguistic horizons and serves as a good evidence of the coexistence of people of different nationalities and languages.

Thus, we can conclude that arabisms are still present in everyday speech, but most speakers do not see Arabic roots in them, arabisms are no longer considered as borrowings.

Discussion

The results clearly show that intersection of Arabic culture with Spanish brought borrowings into Spanish which are still present nowadays. It is evident that almost all words starting with -al go back to the Arabic language. Moreover, all words starting with -z are of Arabic origin. The biggest amount of the most recent research works on borrowings from Arabic into Spanish aim at pointing out that stability of the role of lexical units of Arabic origin in Spanish and give understanding of enormous influence of Arabic world on Spanish culture. This specific study is aimed at the study of some common semantic groups of borrowings from Arabic, historical background and existence in the modern language. Most borrowings are connected with the spheres, in which Arabs brought the most changes on Spanish life culture. In some spheres, the Arabs were particularly distinguished (architecture, military, science, etc.); consequently, in these specific spheres Arabic influence is the most notable.

The results of the study will be of interest to students learning Spanish, since understanding of vocabulary origins increases motivation to study a foreign language and makes memorizing easier and faster [Kondrateva, 2021].

During the whole history of intensive coexistence of the two cultures — through borrowings from Arabic — speakers of the Spanish language acquired new ways of thinking and communication. Each borrowed lexical element brings with itself a cultural fragment. Combination of these fragments can enrich and change a language. Despite the fact that Arabic influence decreased, Spanish still possesses elements from Arabic. Arabisms experienced linguistic evolution and adaptation; some became archaic, other changed their meaning or form, but still preserve a role of one of the cornerstones of Spanish.

Conclusion

In this paper, the strongest influence of the Arabic language on Spanish, manifested at the lexical level, was considered. The most notable characteristics of the Arabic presence on the Iberian Peninsula throughout
history were highlighted. Innovative ideas from the Arabic world, adopted by the Spanish population, were transmitted through language communication and had a noticeable impact on cultural exchange. Thus, the following conclusions can be made:

In the Empire of Al-Andalus, as well as in modern Spain, there were and are still present areas with significant Arabic influence, especially in the south of the Iberian Peninsula, in Andalusia, in the Levant region, Aragon.

Arabic influence on the Spanish language and culture is due to the close contact of the Arabs and Spaniards.

Among the fields with the largest number of arabisms are agriculture, geographical names, plants, law, administration, etc.

4. Although many arabisms have fallen out of use, a large number of Arabic borrowings still exist in everyday speech.

5. Speakers of Spanish frequently use arabisms without knowledge of their Arabic origin.

6. In order to motivate learners of Spanish, it is necessary to know etymological characteristics of lexical units.

7. Without knowledge of historical background of language formation, it is impossible to understand modern processes of language functioning.

Thus, throughout the history of intensive coexistence of cultures and languages, through Arabic borrowings, native speakers of the Spanish language have adopted new ways of thinking and communicating. Each transmitted linguistic element brings with it a cultural fragment. The combination of these phrases can redefine and enrich the language. Although bilingualism has been reduced, knowledge of Arabic elements inherent in the Spanish language and culture is preserved in the lexical field and its application. Arabisms have experienced linguistic evolution and adaptation: some have fallen out of use, others have been restored.

In order to understand language and culture, it is essential to know the roots, which formed them. For Spanish, one of these roots lay in the Arabic language and culture. Close interrelation of the two languages left a rich heritage of lexical units. These lexical units can be found in different spheres of life: military, agriculture, irrigation, trade, geographical names, etc. Better knowledge of etymology of vocabulary leads to better motivation in studying a foreign language, easier memorizing. Spanish and Arabic are the two languages, based on the example of which, it is possible to observe how borrowings enter a foreign language and stay in language for centuries or forever.
References


