THE INFLUENCE OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES ON ROMANIAN ECOLOGICAL TERMINOLOGY

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Una dintre consecințele principale ale interacțiunii lingvistice o reprezintă infiltrarea în vocabularului unei limbi a împrumuturilor. Articolul de față studiază și analizează influența limbilor străine (engleza, franceza, germana, rusa etc.) asupra terminologiei ecologice românești, filierele și căile de pătrundere a termenilor și, nu în ultimul rând, procesul de asimilare a acestora. Ținând cont de faptul că orice limbă este deschisă spre a accepta noi unități prin mai multe căi, iar uzul determină fixarea lor în dicționare, ne vom axa și pe interpretarea situațiilor de sinonimie care se creează ca urmare a fenomenului discutat în articol.

Cuvinte-cheie*: împrumut, ecologie, vocabular specializat, sinonimie, calc.*

One of the essential consequences of the linguistic interaction is the penetration of borrowings into the vocabulary of a language, which was considered a negative phenomenon from the very beginning. Relating to the issue of linguistic borrowings, the Romanian academician Marius Salla wrote, quoting the sociolinguist Joseph Vendryes: „Contactul dintre limbi există din cele mai vechi timpuri; diferite colectivități umane au intrat în relație unele cu altele în diverse etape istorice, astfel că acest fenomen a jucat un rol important în evoluţia lingvistică. Este un fenomen care se regăseşte în toate regiunile globului, căci nicăieri nu s-a putut constata existența unei limbi complet izolate, fără contact cu limbile vecine" [5].

Similar to linguistic calques, borrowings are the result of knowledge of a foreign language and its influence on the language of the recipient. This influence is determined by various factors and relations of a historical, socio-political and economic character. The number of borrowed terms in a domain is explained by the fact that a language does not have the necessary term to name a concept. Thus, it is necessary to borrow a loan. In other words, the borrowed phrases or phraseological units, are not only necessary, in addition to the fact that they have no correspondents in Romanian, they have more advantages. In this regard, loans possess the advantage of precision, of breviloquence, and international circulation.

They are motivated by the novelty of the reference and, at the same time, keep the technical character of the term. We agree with Ludmila Hometkovski's idea that the number of new terms is changing in the developing countries. This is also the case of the Republic of Moldova, where the enrichment of the language, especially in science and technology, is done by external means, i.e. through loans. In many cases, in the Romanian language, the important words, which express new concepts and ideas, take the forms that already exist in our language and can acquire acceptable morphological aspects: „Aceasta este situația și în Republica Moldova, unde îmbogățirea limbii, în special în știință și tehnică, se face pe cale externă, adică prin împrumuturi. În multe cazuri, în limba română cuvintele importate, care exprimă obiecte și raporturi noi, au forme care corespund spiritului limbii noastre și pot căpăta aspecte morfologice acceptabile" [3]. We can illustrate this idea with terms such as: *ecologizare* (en. ecologization - *an approach, or way of understanding, a wide variety of social and economic activities that from the start take into account environmental impacts and preservation* (*https://www.sciencedirect.com*), *toxicitate* (en. toxicity – *the level of poison contained in a drug, or the ability of a drug to poison the body*), *maturație* (en. maturity – *the state of being completely grown*) etc.

Further, we will make a brief analytical review of borrowings from different languages, with examples and explanations where necessary. Borrowed terms have varied origins, but the most remarkable ones will be classical, from Romanic and Germanic languages, each ensuring a different variety in specific periods of time.

The ecological vocabulary has been enriched with an imposing number of neologisms taken directly from Greek and Latin. We can include here usual Latin expressions, such as: *in vitro* (from Latin *in vitro – happening outside the body in artificial conditions, often in a test tube*), *in vivo* (from Latin *in vivo – happening or existing inside a living body*), *in situ* (from Latin *insitus – in the original place instead of being moved to another place*), *in utero* (from Latin *uterus – uterus, cavity, belly*), *continuum ecologic* (from en. *ecological continuum – the environments favourable to a group of species and functionally linked between each other*, this phrase includes a Latin borrowed term *continuum*, which means *something that changes in character gradually or in very slight stages without any clear dividing points)* etc.

For example, the Latin medical phrase *in vitro* penetrated into the ecological vocabulary with the meaning "in the laboratory": „Republica Moldova va putea produce soiuri de struguri de masă de o calitate mai bună și mai competitivi pe piețele externe, datorită unui proiect finanțat de Guvernele României și Statele Unite la Institutul de Horticultură și Tehnologii

Alimentare din Chișinău. Este vorba despre amenajarea unei sere moderne de aclimatizare și a unui laborator de propagare in vitro pentru producerea materialului săditor de viță de vie" (https://isphta.md/2019/04/laboratorul-de-virusologie-microbilogie-si-control-fitosanitar-in-care-vor-putea-creste-7000-de-plante-in-vitro/).

This category includes "unnoticeable" loans from Latin or Greek, but which have evolved in modern forms: *program* (*programme*), *strategie* (*strategy*) etc: „Strategia UE privind infrastructurile ecologice susține integrarea deplină a infrastructurii ecologice în politicile UE, astfel încât să devină o componentă standard a dezvoltării teritoriale la nivelul întregii Uniuni" (https://www.eea.europa.eu/ro/articles/infrastructura-ecologica-2013-un-trai).

These loans are usually distinguished as natural units of a language which vindicates the terminologist Maria Teresa Cabré's opinion about the statute of these terms, which are sometimes unnoticeable in comparison with the words that are borrowed form modern languages, even if they belong to the same group of languages [2].

The French influence played a primary role in the formation of the Romanian ecological terminology due to the common Latin origin of both languages. The majority of loans were borrowed in the eighteenth century and, predominantly, at the beginning of the nineteenth century, the process still being very active today. French neologisms adjusted themselves as a rule to the phonetic and morphological systems of the Romanian language: antibioză (fr. antibiose – *antagonistic association between organisms to the detriment of one of them or between one organism and a metabolic product of another*), anorganic (fr. anorganique - *being or composed of matter other than plant or animal*), antiparazit (fr. antiparasitique – *acting against parasites: used or intended to kill, repel, or remove parasites*.

There exist French borrowings that preserve their original pronunciation. At the same time, through the process of borrowing from French a process of re-latinization of the Romanian language takes place, because an imposing number of borrowings from the savant Latin penetrated into Romanian ecological terminology trough the French path.

In recent decades, the French language has given way to the influence of English, which "overshadows any other source of lexical borrowings, semantic and phraseological calques". The process of borrowing from the English language intensified after 1989, given that English became the "language of globalization". The invasion of anglicisms is sometimes seen as a source of polluting the Romanian language, and, at the same time, it is considered an important and inevitable source of enriching the ecological vocabulary. "Even if the number and frequency of anglicisms do not exceed

that of the other neologisms of the French origin, the Romanian language possesses the feature of filtrating the borrowings, assimilating and keeping what is necessary and important" [4]. Among other examples we can list: *blizzard* (en. blizzard – *a severe snow storm with strong winds*), *darwin* (en. darwin – *a unit of evolutionary change, defined by J. B. S. Haldane in 1949*), *green peace* (en. Green Peace - *an international organization dedicated to preserving endangered species of animals, preventing environmental abuses, and heightening environmental awareness through direct confrontations with polluting corporations and governmental authorities*), *feedback* (en. feedback – *the effect that a change in one part of an ecosystem or social system has on the very same part after passing through a chain of effects in other parts of the system*), *scrub* (en. scrub – *an area of land covered with short trees and bushes, growing on dry ground of low quality*), *scul* (en. school – *a large number of fish or other sea creatures swimming in a group*), *skinning* (from en. to skin – *the removal of hazardous surfaces*), *ecobusiness* (en. ecobusiness – *companies acting more environmentally friendly and integrating sustainability principles in their operations. The sustainability efforts often relate to better waste, toxics and energy management. Various big global corporations are doing this what can be called eco-business*), *biohazard* (en. biohazard – *a biological substance that poses a threat to the health of living organisms, primarily humans. This could include a sample of a microorganism, virus or toxin that can adversely affect human health*) etc.

We should not ignore the presence of terms borrowed from other languages, such as the German language: ințuht (germ. *Inzucht – inbreeding, incest*), *waldsterben* (germ. *Waldsterben – forest dieback*), *tabagism* (germ. *Taback – tabacco*), *permafrost* (germ. *Permafrost – eternally frozen earth*) etc.; or Slavonic languages: *jarişte* (sl. *desolate place of fire, burnt forest on the place where a new woody vegetation develops*), *jgheab* (sl. *open pipe or channel made of stone, in a tree trunk*) etc.

Referring to the penetration of borrowings into a language, we would like to emphasize the idea of H. Paul that: when a person uses a new borrowed term, his or her aim is not to make it usual, his or her intention is to render an idea in clear and concise manner. The term is fixed in a language only after multiple repetitions, when, as a rule, it is reproduced by various speakers. The borrowed word comes into general use gradually [1]. Once the foreign term enters the Romanian language, it is assimilated with or without changes. Therefore, like any other scientific terms, the ecological terms have been borrowed:

- without modifications*: biomonitoring, biofeedback, biohazard, germ-free, wolds, umwelt, inwelt, formenkreis, scull, scrub, set-aside, sex-ratio, hedging, CSR-strategy, darwin, earth summit, feed-before, fuling,*

Green Peace, Homo Economicus, Homo Faber, in cross, in vitro, in vivo, skinning, ecobusiness, silc, washout, tsunami;

- with modifications (graphic modifications): *sibși* (en. *sibs*), *stigon* (en. *stygon*), *stres* (en. *stress*), *urbasistem* (en. *urbasystem*), *insait* (en. *insight*), *ințuht* (germ. *Inzucht*), *apveling* (en. *upwelling*);
- by translating / or reproducing the borrowed elements:

a. literal/absolute translation: *vinerea sanitară* (en. *sanitary Friday*), *voluntarism ecologic* (en. *ecological voluntarism*), *val de eroziune* (en. *erosion wave*), *valută ecologică* (en. *ecological currency*), *vârstă ecologică* (en. *ecological age*), *vacuum ecologic* (en. *ecological vacuum*), *ziua mondială pentru reducerea dezastrelor naturale* (en. *International day of diminuation of natural disasters*), *vulnerabilitatea ecosistemului* (en. *ecosystem's vulnerability*);

b. partial translation: *self-purificare* (en. *self-purification*), *screening genetic* (en. *genetic screening*), *screening toxicologic* (en. *toxicological screening*), *smog fotochimic* (en. *photochemical smog*), *tehnologie end-of-pipe* (en. *end-of-pipe technology*), *mull de pădure* (en. *forest mull*), *feedback pozitiv / negativ* (en. *positive / negative feedback*), *self-reglare* (en. *self-regulation*).

A well-established idea about terminologies is that the use of loans develops the synonymy of terms, which is explained by fact that the use of borrowings and calques create new synonyms to existing terms in the specialized vocabulary of ecological terminology. For example, the English noun phrase *green corridor* is translated as *coridor verde*, which creates a synonym to the existing term in Romanian: *coridor ecologic*. We can also exemplify with the following pairs of synonyms: *împădurire = aforestare* (en. *afforestation - the action of planting trees on an area of land in order to make a forest*), *whaleing = vânătoare de balene* (en. *whaling - the activity of hunting whales*), *dezvoltare durabilă = dezvoltare sustenabilă =dezvoltare susținută = ecodezvoltare* (en. *sustainable development - the organizing principle for meeting human development goals while simultaneously sustaining the ability of natural systems to provide the natural resources and ecosystem services on which the economy and society depend*), *epurare = curățare = purificare* (en. *purification - the act of removing harmful substances from something*) etc.

In conclusion, we should emphasize that ecological terminology, as part of Romanian vocabulary, has known various foreign influences from a linguistic point of view, which have enriched this thesaurus without altering its Latin character. From the one hand, the invasion of foreign terms is regarded as a source of linguistic pollution, on the other hand, it is considered as an important and inevitable source of enriching, modernization and internationalization of Romanian vocabulary. Despite their frequency and

growth, the Romanian language has the ability to filter borrowings and loans, assimilating and keeping only those terms which are necessary from the referential and stylistic point of view. As a result of this process, a qualitative and quantitative evolution is noticed followed by the formation of a terminological system characterized by stability, functionality and modernity.

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