

## ON THE CHALLENGES OF CONFUSABLES AS TRANSLATION TRAPS

It is often difficult to find the right word to express a message in our own language. So much the more difficult is it to find the right word(s) in order to render a message in another language, especially when the two languages are so different like English and Romanian. The arguments which are most often set forth are related to polysemy, synonymy and homonymy.

Besides the large number of traps in the English language into which the natives themselves may often fall, there are lots of traps in translating from English into Romanian, or viceversa. In this respect, Bryson's[1] opinion is as funny as true:

"Any language where the unassuming ... word *fly* signifies an annoying insect, a means of travel, and a critical part of a gentleman's apparel is clearly asking to be mangled".

1.1. By way of illustration, one cannot ignore the other meanings of the word **fly**. Thus, it may seem very interesting to consider the polysemy of **fly**, especially its figurative meanings in idiomatic phrases such as **fly on the wheel**[2] 'a person who overestimates their influence', **fly on the wall**[3] 'an unnoticed observer of a particular situation', or in idiomatic collocations such as **a fly in the ointment**[4] 'a minor irritation spoiling one's enjoyment of something' and **fly in amber** 'a curious relic of the past'[5].

In addition to the denotative meanings of the verb **fly**, its figurative meanings are also obvious in such phrases as **fly a kite**[6] 'try something out in order to test opinions' → a sonda terenul, a încerca să vadă de unde bate vântul[7], **fly off the handle** (fam) 'lose one's temper unexpectedly' → a-și ieși din sărite/ pepeni/ țâțâni; a-i sări muștarul/ bâzdâcul/ țandăra; a se aprinde brusc; a i se sui piperul la nas[8], **fly the nest** (fam) 'leave one's parents in order to live on one's own' → a-și lua zborul, a se descurca singur, a trăi pe cont propriu, **fly the pit** (humorous) 'to move unexpectedly without paying the rent' → a o șterge, a zbura din colivie[9].

Such expressions are used in both common core English and in functional languages: e.g. **a fly-by-night peeson** → trecător, pasager; (ec.) insolubil[10], **fly the eagle** (pol. Am. E) → a ține un discurs bombastic propăvăduind idei expansioniste[11]. Special attention has to be devoted to words such as **flyweight** (box) → categoria muscă, and **flywheel** → volant, which are not collocations but one-word compounds[12].

However, in spite of its polysemy, the word **fly** is not included in dictionaries of troublesome words and phrases. It is worth mentioning, though, as an example of polysemy.

Moreover, I would consider it troublesome in the collocational idiomatic patterns referred to above which may be included among confusables as translation traps.

1.2. Confusables cause great problems in translation, being the source of many misinterpretations and translation errors.

Sometimes the difference(s) between confusables may be explained only in terms of collocability. Their meaning becomes clear only in collocations. In this respect, an example may be the pair of confusable adjectives **distressful**, **distressing**: e.g. **distressful circumstances** (involving stress) and **distressing news** (causing stress). The same may hold valid with the pair of adjectives **disordered**, **disorderly** used with the meaning *nearanjat/ în dezordine* and *dezordonat*, respectively: e.g. **a disordered shelf**, **a disorderly room/crowd**. Moreover, they can be included in the category of false friends.

Furthermore, a series of confusables such as **discord**, **discordance**, **discordancy** may be translation traps[13] because the differences in their meanings are difficult to perceive, and in monolingual dictionaries each of them is explained by using the other two. Thus, it is in a

collocation such as **martial discord** that the meaning of *discord* → *dezacord* is understood as lack of harmony → *lipsă de armonie*. The other two words are specific to Am.E. In addition, the noun **discordance** seems to be usually employed in the singular with the meaning of general discord, i.e. difference of opinions, whereas the noun **discordancy** seems to be frequently employed with its plural form meaning controversies and involving repeatedness.

On the other hand, there are three English nouns used for the Romanian noun **întrerupere**: **discontinuance**, **discontinuation**, **discontinuity**. The first is used with the meaning cessation (*întrerupere*, *încetare*): e.g. **business discontinuance**. The second and the third are used in American English. The noun **discontinuation** is related to a breach in one's activity: e.g. **discontinuation of work**, whereas **discontinuity** refers to some gap or break in something (surface): e.g. **major discontinuities** on the surface of the moon[14].

2. There are a lot of pairs and groups of words which are easily confused both by natives and by translators because their forms are misleading.

These **confusion-generating forms** may be considered at the phonological level, on the one hand, and at the morphological level, on the other.

**2.1. Phonologically** speaking, there are a lot of words which can be confused because they are 'soundalikes', i.e. homophones:

e.g. *brake, break* |breɪk|, *breach, breech* |brɪ:tʃ|, *broach, brooch* |brəʊtʃ|, *canvas, canvass* |'kænvəs|, *cask, casque* |kɑ:sk|, *cast, caste* |kɑ:st|, *sensor, censor* |'sensə|, *check, cheque* |tʃek|, *chord, cord* |kɔ:d|, *council, counsel* |'kaʊnsəl|, *cruise, cruse* |kru:z|, *cubical, cubicle* |'kju:bɪkəl|, *curb, kerb* |kə:b|, *currant, current* |'kʌrənt|, *curtsy, curtesy* |'kə:tsɪ|, *dependant, dependent* |drɪ'pendənt|, *dollar, dolour* |'dɒlə|, *doolie, dooly* |'du:li:|, *enquiry, inquiry* |ɪn'kwɪəri|, *faint, feint* |feɪnt|, *fair, fare* |feə|, *faze, phase* |'feɪz|, *flair, flare* |fleə|, *flea, flee* |fli:|, *indict, indite* |ɪn'daɪt|, *main, mane* |meɪn|, *maize, maze* |meɪz|, *pail, pale* |peɪl|, *pendant, pendent* |'pendənt|, *pray, prey* |preɪ|, *rack, wrack* |ræk|, *reign, rein* |reɪn|, *review, revue* |ri'vju:|, *stake, steak* |steɪk|, *tail, tale* |teɪl|, *vale, veil* |veɪl|, *voracious, voracious* |və'reɪʃəs|.

At the phonological level, other pairs of words show **vowel alternation**, **vowel-diphthong alternation**, or **consonant alternation**.

### 2.1.2. Vowel alternation

e.g. *amend* |ə'mend|, *emend* |ɪ'mend|, *balk* |bɔ:lk|, *bulk* |bʌlk|, *billow* |'bɪləʊ|, *bellow* |'beləʊ|, *breath* |breθ|, *breathe* |bri:ð|, *collision* |kə'lɪʒən|, *collusion* |kə'lu:ʒən|, *confidant* |'kɒnfɪdənt|, *confident* |'kɒnfɪdənt|, *crud* |krʌd|, *crude* |kru:d|, *deference* |'defərəns|, *difference* |'dɪfrəns|, *desert* |'dezət|, *dessert* |drɪ'zə:t|, *don* |dɒn|, *done* |dʌn|, *dram* |dræm|, *drum* |drʌm|, *expanse* |ɪk'spæns|, *expense* |ɪk'spens|, *fallow* |'fæləʊ|, *fellow* |'feləʊ|, *feast* |fi:st|, *fist* |fɪst|, *flutter* |'flʌtə|, *flatter* |'flætə|, *mash* |mæʃ|, *mesh* |mes|, *master* |'mɑ:stə|, *muster* |'mʌstə|, *meal* |mi:l|, *mill* |mɪl|, *moral* |'mɔ:rəl|, *morale* |mə'reɪl|, *mute* |mjʊ:t|, *mutt* |mʌt|, *paddle* |'pædl|, *peddle* |'pedl|, *parish* |'pəri|, *perish* |'perɪʃ|, *reward* |ri'wɔ:d|, *reword* |ri'wɔ: d|, *slather* |'slætə|, *slaughter* |'slɔ:tə|, *snooty* |'snu:ti|, *snotty* |'snɒti|, *splatter* |'splætə|, *splutter* |'splʌtə|, *staff* |stɑ:f|, *stuff* |stʌf|, *warring* |'wɔ:rɪŋ|, *worrying* |'wʌrɪŋ|, *warrior* |'wɔ:riə|, *worrier* |'wʌriə|.

### 2.1.3. Vowel- diphthong alternation

e.g. *bath* |bɑ:θ|, *bathe* |beɪð|, *blithering* |'blɪðərɪŋ|, *blithsome* |'blaɪðsəm|, *boast* |bəʊst|, *boost* |bu:st|, *but* |bʌt|, *butt* |bʌt|, *butte* |bjʊ:t|, *chordal* |'kɔ:dəl|, *cordial* |'kɔ:diəl|, *compromis* |'kɒmprə'mi:|, *compromise* |'kɒmprə'maɪz|, *diva* |drɪ:və|, *dive* |daɪv|, *dobby* |'dɒbi|, *dobie*

|'dəʊbrɪ|, *dom* |dəm|, *dome* |dəʊm|, *dun* |dʌn|, *dune* |'dju:n|, *draught* |dra:ft|, *drought* |draut|,  
*flake* |fleɪk|, *flak*, *flack* |flæk|, *inhuman* |ɪn'hju:mən|, *inhumane* |ɪn'hju:meɪn|, *mod* |mɒd|, *mode*  
 |'məʊd|, *nap* |'næp|, *nape* |neɪp|, *navvy* |'nævi|, *navy* |'neɪvi|, *slop* |slɒp|, *slope* |sləʊp|.

#### 2.1.4. Diphthong -vowel alternation

e.g. *abate* |ə'beɪt|, *abet* |ə'bet|, *canary* |'kæ'nɛəri|, *cannery* |'kænəri|, *caper* |'keɪpə|, *capper*  
 |'kæpə|, *chafe* |tʃeɪf|, *chaff* |tʃɑ:f| |tʃæf|, *dose* |dəʊs|, *doss* |dɒs|, *dray* |dreɪ|, *dry* |draɪ|, *dree*  
 |dri:|, *stable* |'steɪbəl|, *stubble* |'stʌbəl|

#### 2.1.5. Diphthong alternation

e.g. *compeer* |'kɒm'piə|, *compere* |'kɒmpɛə|

#### 2.1.6. Consonant alternation

e.g. *bath* |bɑ:θ|, *bathe* |beɪð|, *blighter* |'blaɪtə|, *blither* |'blaɪðə|, *breath* |breθ|, *breathe* |bri:ð|,  
*canal* |kə'næl|, *channel* |'tʃænəl|, *censor* |'sensə|, *censure* |'senʃə|, *concede* |kən'si:d|,  
*conceit* |kən'si:t|, *deadly* |'dedli|, *deathly* |'deθli|, *delude* |dr'lʊ:d|, *deluge* |'delju:ɔʒ|, *descend*  
 |dr'send|, *descent* |dr'sent|, *device* |dr'vaɪs|, *devise* |dr'vaɪz|, *divers* |'daɪvəz|, *diverse* |dar'və:s|,  
*dither* |'dɪθə|, *ditcher* |'dɪtʃə|, *douse*, *dowse* |dəʊs|, *doze* |dəʊz|, *errand* |'erənd|, *errant* |'erənt|,  
*relief* |rɪ'li:f|, *relieve* |ri'li:v|

#### 2.1.7. Consonant addition

e.g. *bellow* |'beləʊ|, *bellows* |'beləʊz|, *clam* |klæm|, *clamp* |klæmp|, *chum* |tʃʌm|, *chump* |tʃʌmp|,  
*sand* |sænd|, *sands* |sændz|

Mention should be made that vowel or consonant alternation may be combined with **shift of stress**:

e.g. *canal* |kə'næl|, *channel* |'tʃænəl|, *divers* |'daɪvəz|, *diverse* |dar'və:s|, *desert* |'dezət|, *dessert*  
 |dr'zɜ:t|

**2.2. At the morphological level**, a large number of pairs or groups of troublesome words are real traps in translation.

##### 2.2.1. N-N pairs

admission, admittance  
 advance, advancement  
 apposition, opposition  
 ascent, assent  
 assent, consent,  
 assurance, insurance  
 barbarism, barbarity  
 base, basis  
 bondman, bondsman  
 boor, bore  
 brake, break  
 breach, breech  
 camouflage, camouflet  
 canal, channel  
 canary, cannery  
 canteen, cantina

cantle, cantling  
 capa, cape  
 carton, cartoon  
 catch-up, catchup  
 cessation, cession  
 chord, cord  
 chum, chump  
 collegier, collegian  
 collision, collusion  
 commandment,  
 commendation  
 commissar, commissary  
 commissionaire,  
 commissioner  
  
 commutator, commuter  
 compeer, compere

complexion, complexity  
 composer, compositor  
 composite, compound  
 conscience, consciousness  
 consummation,  
 consumption  
 contention, contentment  
 council, counsel  
 curb, kerb  
 curricule, curriculum  
 data, dates  
 defendant, defender  
 deference, difference  
 deliverance, delivery  
 deportation, deportment  
 disparagement, disparity  
 dispensation, dispense

diplomat, diplomate  
disposal, disposition  
ditcher, dither  
dobby, dobie  
doolie, dooly  
draft, draught  
drop-off, drop-out  
emergence, emergency  
emigrant, immigrant  
enormity, enormousness  
enquiry, inquiry  
expanse, expense  
expectancy, expectation  
failing, failure  
fish, fishes  
garb, garbage  
genius, genus  
groove, grove  
informant, informer  
installation, installment  
intent, intention

### 2.2.2. N- N- N groups

cask, casque, casket  
censor, censure, censer  
chatelaine, cahteline, chat  
(up) line  
chink, Chink, Chinkie  
courtesy, curtesy, curtsy  
desert, deserts, dessert  
discord, discordance,  
discordancy

### 2.2.3. Adj. - Adj. pairs

alternate, alternative  
amateurish, amatory  
apposition, opposition  
arbitral, arbitrary  
ashen, ashy  
auspicial, auspicious  
balky, bulky  
blithering, blithesome  
bored, boring  
candent, candescent  
candid, candied  
capacious, capacitive  
carefree, careless  
childish, childlike  
chordal, chordial  
classic, classical  
comic, comical  
commanding,  
commendable  
commutable, commutative  
comprehensible,  
comprehensive  
compulsive, compulsory

confused, confusing  
congruent, congruous  
conscious, conscientious  
consequent, consequential  
contemptible,  
contemptuous  
credible, creditable  
critic, critical  
damn, damned  
deadly, deathly  
decorative, decorous  
deductible, deductive  
defective, deficient  
defensible, defensive  
deferrable, deferred  
definite, definitive  
degraded, degrading  
dejected, disjected  
delighted, delightful  
denominational,  
denominative  
derisive, derisory  
desirable, desirous  
digestible, digestive  
disappointed,  
disappointing  
disordered, disorderly  
disposable, disposed  
disrespectable, disrespectful  
dissentient, dissentious  
dissociable, dissocial  
distinct, distinctive  
divers, diverse  
elemental, elementary  
emotional, emotive  
enviable, envious  
envious, invidious  
exhausting, exhaustive  
expedient, expeditious  
extant, extent  
fearful, fearsome  
fiddling, fiddly  
fierce, fiery  
fitful, fitted  
fixated, fixed  
flagged, flagging  
forced, forceful  
forgivable, forgiving  
gold, golden  
graceful, gracious  
grieved, grievous  
human, humane  
immanent, imminent  
impious, impish  
impractical, impracticable  
incredible, incredulous  
indigenous, indigent  
indistinct, indistinguishable

ingenious, ingenuous  
inhuman, inhumane  
insensible, insensitive  
intent, intentional  
laden, loaded  
leisured, leisurely  
manly, manish  
masterful, masterly  
righteous, rightful  
seasonable, seasonal  
sensible, sensitive  
special, specious  
unreasonable, unreasoning  
vacant, vacuous  
varied, various  
vindictive, vindictive

### 2.2.4. Adj. - Adj. - Adj. groups

allusive, elusive, illusive  
amenable, amiable,  
amicable  
barbarian, barbaric,  
barbarous  
benefic, beneficent,  
beneficial  
civic, civil, civilian  
congeneric, congenial,  
congenital  
continual, continuative,  
continuous  
decretal, decreative,  
decretory  
depressed, depressing,  
depressive  
diffuse, diffusible, diffusive  
distressed, distressful,  
distressing  
effective, effectual, efficient  
entranced, entrancing,  
entrenched  
enviable, envious, invidious  
explanatory, explicable,  
expletive  
fatal, fated, fateful  
ineffective, ineffectual,  
inefficient

### 2.2.5. N - Adj. pairs

blight, blithe  
chilli, chilly  
cleric, clerical  
clinic, clinical  
commode, commodious  
confidant, confident  
crud, crude

currant, current  
dependant, dependent  
dinghy, dingy  
dope, dopey  
errand, errant

## 2.2.6. V - V pairs

adjudge, adjudicate  
afflict, inflict  
alleviate, elevate  
allude, elude  
appose, oppose  
attach, attack  
avoid, evade  
avouch, vouch  
boost, boast  
charted, chartered  
command, commend  
decompose, discompose  
decry, descry

deduce, deduct  
detract, distract  
disable, disable  
distrust, mistrust  
elapse, lapse  
enjoin, join  
endanger, engender  
implicate, imply  
induce, induct  
merge, emerge  
\*\*\*  
fasten on, fasten onto  
follow up, follow up with  
fix up, fix up with  
get down, get down to  
give over, give over to  
give up, give up on, give up  
to  
go through, go through  
with

mess around, mess around  
with, mess with  
muck about, muck up  
\*\*\*

approve, approve of  
become, become of  
believe, believe in

## 2.2.7. N - V pairs

advice, advise  
bath, bathe  
blighter, blither  
breath, breathe  
clam, clamp  
cloth, clothe  
cold pack, cold-pack  
device, devise  
dispensation, dispense  
disproof, disprove

## 2.2.8. The pairs of groups which are less frequent are the following:

- ❖ **Adj.- N:** *Cambrian, Cambric; directional, directory; duff, duffer; fair, fare; fallow, fellow;*
- ❖ **V- Adj.:** *decouple, decuple; collide, collid; disparage, disparate; leer, leery; drowse, drowsy;*
- ❖ **V - N:** *applaud, applause; avenge, revenge; broach, brooch; caper, capper; chafe, chaff; commandeer, commander; concede, conceit; cruise, cruse; descend, descent; keep away, keepaway;*
- ❖ **Adj. - Adj. - Adj. - Adj. groups:** *lone, lonely, lonesome, alone;*
- ❖ **N - N - Adj.:** *adherend, adherent, adhesive;*
- ❖ **N - N -N- Adj - Adj.:** *dud, dude, duds, duddy, duddish;*
- ❖ **N - Adj. - N:** *diagnosis, diagnostic, diagnostics;*
- ❖ **N - Adj. - Adj.:** *descendant, descendent, descendible; maniac, maniacal, manic; dough, doughy, doughy;*
- ❖ **N - Adj.- N- N:** *desert, deserted, deserts, dessert;*
- ❖ **Adj.-N- Adj:** *cameral, cameralist, cameralistic;disputable, disputant, disputations;*
- ❖ **Adj. - Adj. - N:** *civic, civil, civilian;*
- ❖ **Adj. - V-en:** *complected, completed; drab, drub;*
- ❖ **Adj. - V - Adj. - Adj.:** *dilatate, dilate, dilative, dilatory;*
- ❖ **Adj. - N- V:** *agape, gap, gape;*
- ❖ **Adj. - V - N - Adj:** *loath, loathe, loathing, loathsome;*
- ❖ **N - V- Adj. - Adj.:** *dot, dote, doting, dotty;*
- ❖ **Adj.- N- Adj- Adj.:** *dull, dullard, dullish, duly;*
- ❖ **Vt Vi/ Vi Vt:** *avouch, vouch; decompose, discompose;*
- ❖ **N - V- N:** *commandant, commandeer, commander;*
- ❖ **V-V-V:** *assure, ensure, insure;*
- ❖ **V-V-V-V-V:** *raise, rise, rouse, arise, arouse;*
- ❖ **V-N-N:** *ascend, ascent, assent;*
- ❖ **V-N-Adj. -N:** *dodge, dodger, dodgy, doge;*
- ❖ **V-Adj.- N-Adj. :** *dump, dumpish, dumpling, dumpy;*
- ❖ **Conj-N-N:** *but, butt, bute;*
- ❖ **V-V-N:** *billow, bellow, bellows;*
- ❖ **Adj.- Adv.:** *light, lightly; mere, merely;*
- ❖ **Adv. -Adj.:** *readily; ready;*
- ❖ **Adj.- Adv. - Adv.:** *outward, outwardly, outwards;*
- ❖ **Adv.- Adv.:** *alternately, alternatively; altogether, all together; exceedingly, excessively; especially, specially; first, firstly;*
- ❖ **Adv.- Adv. - Adv.:** *at last, lastly, last of all.*

**2.2.9.** There are pairs of troublesome adjectives which may be real traps for translators, i.e. the adjectives getting the suffix **-al** or **-ic**:

*e.g. classic, classical, clinic, clinical, comic, comical, critic, critical, economic, economical, electric, electrical, ethnic, ethnical, magic, magical, tactic, tactical, topic, topical; capitalist, capitalistic, modern, modernistic, pessimist, pessimistic, sadist, sadistic.*

**2.2.10.** There are differences between past participle forms such as **certified - certificated, packaged - packed**, not to mention the basic differences between such forms as **drunk - drunken, or sunk-sunken**. They are usually pointed out when discussing the differences between pairs or groups such as **gold-golden, rot-rotten, wood - wooded - wooden**, and **wool-woolen- woolly**.

**3. Culture specific confusables** are some of the greatest translation traps. Some examples of such confusables are:

*assure - ensure - insure, cafe - cafeteria, canteen - cantina, carline - car line, centenary - centennial, cheveret - chevrete - chevette, chilli- chilly, commissar - commissary, commissionaire - commissioner, commuter - commuter, comprehensible - comprehensive, council - counsel, dooby- dobie, dom-dome, doolie - dooly, dragon- dragoon.*

The explanations concerning the cultural differences are given either in brackets, like the indications of grammatical status, modality, register, variety of English, or as a cultural note. For example:

**council** |'kaʊnsəl| **n.** (+ sing./pl. v.) 1. a group of people appointed or elected to make laws, or to take decisions: *The matter was debated in the Security Council (fig.) There was a family council to decide what to do with the land:* **consiliu**. 2. (esp. BrE) the group representing local government in a town: *The council have told them to clean the streets:* **consiliu local/ municipal**. 3. **be on the council:** to be an elected member of it: *Her husband is on the council:* **a fi membru (ales) în consiliu**.

**Cultural note** In British English **council** is used for local government authority. It is not very common in the US, where the system of local government varies from state to state. That is why the Americans use the collocations: **city council, town council, county council**.

**counsel** |'kaʊnsəl| **n.** 1.(law) a lawyer (in Britain a **barrister**) defending someone in law court: *Neither of the parties were represented by counsel (= neither of them had lawyers). The judge called the defence counsel to set forth evidence:* **avocat**. 2. (formal, or literary) advice: *The president took counsel from some clever specialists:* **sfat**. 3. **to keep one's own counsel:** to keep one's opinions, or intentions secret: *He had been known to be a man who used to keep his own counsel:* **a nu-și spune secretul, a nu-și face cunoscute planurile, intențiile**.

**comprehensible** |kəmˈprɪˈhensəbəl| **adj.** (to) (formal) that can be made out: *It was a short, comprehensible speech appreciated by everybody. This document is comprehensible only to specialists:* **care se poate înțelege, inteligibil, clar**.

**comprehensive** |kəmˈprɪˈhensɪv| **adj.** 1. thorough, minute: *There had been comprehensive inspection of the whole factory. This article gives a comprehensive knowledge of the subject:* **minuțios; cuprinzător, vast**. 2. (no comp. BrE.) (of education) teaching pupils of different abilities over the age of 11: *She goes to the local comprehensive (school).*

**Cultural note.** The comprehensive system, introduced in 1965, replaced the old system of grammar schools and secondary moderns, which took pupils depending on whether they had passed or failed an exam called the eleven-plus. Over 80% of British pupils attend comprehensive schools.

Children are often put in groups according to their level of ability at a comprehensive: *We didn't want to send our son to a public school, we thought of the local comprehensive.*



**4. To conclude**, besides the explanations referring to the differences in meaning between confusable words, a dictionary of troublesome words or confusables is very useful for giving indications about usage, pronunciation, spelling, the contextualizations being as essential as their translation because they reinforce the meaning and show how words are used in context.

Last, but not least, an index of Romanian words and phrases corresponding to the English confusables is of a great help to the 'end-users'.

An ideal to touch is for such a 'beneficient' act of writing a book of *confusables as translation traps* to be 'beneficial' to the 'next-users' too.

#### NOTE

- [1] Bryson 1990: 2.
- [2] Reference is implicit to Aesop's fable of a fly sitting on the axle of a moving chariot and saying 'See what a dust I raise' (Knowles 2006: 261).
- [3] It may also occur as a modifier, e.g. *a fly-on-the-wall documentary* used with reference to 'a film making technique whereby events are merely observed and presented realistically with minimum interference rather than acted out under direction' (ibidem).
- [4] It was originally used with biblical allusion to Ecclesiastes 10:1, 'Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savour' (ibidem).
- [5] Allusion is made to the amber -trapped fossilized bodies of insects. "The image was given a different slant by Michael Crichton's thriller *Jurassic Park* (1990) and the Spielberg film based on it, in which the DNA essential to the recreation of dinosaurs was retrieved from the animal's blood supposedly fossilized with the insect that had fed from it" (ibidem).
- [6] This meaning is derived from the historical sense 'raise money on credit'. Thus, the sense of testing public opinion about "one's creditworthiness gave rise to the current figurative usage". (ibidem)
- [7] Nicolescu et al. 1982: 116.
- [8] Nicolescu et al. 1982: 116.
- [9] Nicolescu et al. 1982: 116.
- [10] Levițchi and Bantaș 1999: 342.
- [11] Nicolescu et al. 1982: 117.
- [12] Levițchi and Bantaș 1999: 343.
- [13] Croitoru 2004: 112.
- [14] Croitoru 2004: 111.

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- \*\*\**Longman Dictionary of English Language and Culture* (1992) UK: Longman Group Ltd.

#### ABSTRACT

*What are the challenges to be faced by learners of English when translating troublesome words, collocational patterns and idiomatic phrases into Romanian? The entries included in Confusables as Translation Traps with their contextualizations and Romanian equivalents may give you a clue about this.*