ENGLISH NOUNS OFTEN CONFUSED IN ROMANIAN[1]

Abstract: *The current paper presents several English nouns that are often confused in Romanian on the grounds of either their similar pronunciation in the English language, or similar translation of the respective nouns into the Romanian language. The present paper exemplifies by showing the usage of the respective nouns in different contexts and by explaining the reasons for the correct usage of the nouns. Beside the explanation in English of the meaning of nouns in different contexts, each noun is provided with a translation into the Romanian language in order for the nouns to be accurately comprehended by the Romanian speakers. Therefore, the paper intends to render a useful guidance in what regards an adequate usage of the easily mistaken English nouns, starting from easily confused nouns to more complex ones.*

Key words: *meaning, nouns, different*

Résumé : *L'actuel article présente plusieurs noms anglais qui sont souvent confondus en roumain en raison soit de leur prononciation similaire en langue anglaise, soit d'une traduction similaire des noms respectifs en roumain. Le présent article illustre ce fait en montrant l'utilisation des noms respectifs dans différents contextes et en expliquant les raisons de l'utilisation correcte des noms. À côté de l'explication en anglais de la signification des noms dans des contextes différents, chaque substantif est fourni avec une traduction dans la langue roumaine afin que les noms soient correctement compris par les locuteurs roumains. Par conséquent, le document se veut être un guide utile en ce qui concerne l'utilisation adéquate des noms anglais.*

Mots-clés*: sens, noms, différents*

Some English nouns, among other parts of speech, are sometimes mistaken in Romanian and therefore they are either misunderstood, or mistranslated into Romanian. The current paper takes into account several nouns that fall into this category by rendering the context in which they appear, by providing an adequate translation into Romanian as well as by explaining their meaning.

- APPETITE (poftă) is different from DESIRE (poftă).
  Appetite is normally used in connection with food. It refers to the feeling that you want to eat food.
  Desire can be used for study, work or play. It refers to a strong feeling that you want something.
  He's always had a great appetite.
  I have no desire to work today.

- BALL (minge, bal) is different from BOWL (castron).
  Ball means any object in the shape of a sphere, especially one used as a toy in various sports such as tennis and football.
  Ball implies a large formal occasion where people dance.

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Bowl is a round container, open at the top and deep enough to hold fruit, sugar, etc.
His mother bought him a new ball. (minge)
The woman brought her daughters to the ball. (bal)
The little boy prefers the yellow bowl to the green one. (castron)

- BATTLE (luptă) is different from WAR (război).
  A battle is a combat between two or more armed forces.
  War is a state of armed conflict between societies.
  The Battle of Stalingrad was a major battle on the Eastern Front of World War II.
  The deadliest war in history is the Second World War.

- CAUSE (cauză) is different from REASON (motiv).
  A cause is that which produces a result.
  A reason is that which explains or justifies a result.
  What is the cause of the rainbow?
  He had a good reason not to attend the meeting.

- CENTRE (centru) is different from MIDDLE (mijloc)
  Centre refers to a definite point. It is the middle point or part.
  Middle refers to an indefinite space around or near the centre.
  Where is the centre of the triangle?
  When I called him, he was in the middle of the crowd.

- COUNTRY (țară) is different from COUNTY (județ)
  Country stands for an area of land that has its own government, army, etc.
  County implies a political division of the UK or Ireland, forming the largest unit of local government, or the largest political division of a state in the US.
  He has visited many countries of the world so far.
  The county of Pitești is Argeș.

- CROWN (coroană) is different from CROWD (mulțime) and from CROW (cioară).
  Crown refers to a circular decoration for the head, usually made of gold and jewels, and worn by a king or queen at official ceremonies.
  Crowd implies a large group of people who have come together.
  Crow is a large, black bird with a loud, unpleasant cry.
  The Queen's crown was made of pure gold.
  She glimpsed him in the crowd.
  He scared the crows away.

- CUSTOM (obicei) is different from CUSTOMS (vamă, taxe vamale).
  Customs is an authority or agency in a country responsible for collecting tariffs and for controlling the flow of goods, including animals, transports, personal effects and hazardous items, into and out of a country.

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Customs refer to duties
or taxes imposed on imported and, less commonly, exported goods.
He is not familiar with the Chinese customs.
It's important to know the procedure for getting your products through customs. (vamă)
Some merchants import goods without paying the full customs. (taxe vamale)

- CUSTOMER (client) is different from CLIENT (client).
When referring to a shop, a person can be a customer, whereas referring to an institution such as a bank, for example, a person can be a client.
That supermarket has plenty of customers.
That lawyer doesn't have enough clients.

- DESERT (deşert) is different from DESSERT (desert).
Desert means an area, often covered with sand or rocks, where there is very little rain and not many plants.
Dessert refers to sweet food eaten at the end of a meal.
The Antarctic Desert is the largest desert in the world.
Would you like some dessert? We have strawberry ice cream.

- END (sfârşit) is different from FINISH (finisaj, linie de sosire).
End refers to the final part of something such as a period of time, activity, or story.
Finish means the last covering of paint, polish or varnish for something made of wood to be ready to be used.
Finish also means the end of a race.
All good things must come to an end.
He didn't like the finish of the nightstands. (finisaj)
He saw the racers neck-and-neck at the finish. (linie de sosire)

- FINGER (deget de la mână) is different from TOE (deget de la picior).
Fingers are on the hand.
Toes are on the foot.
I've just hurt a finger of my right hand.
He hurt a toe of his left foot.

- FLOOR (podea) is different from GROUND (pământ).
The floor is that part of the room on which we walk.
The ground is outside the house.
When I got to his place, I saw a book lying on the floor.
The sergeant yelled at his soldiers to stay on the ground.

- FLOWER (floare) is different from FLOUR (făină).
Flower means the part of a plant that is often brightly coloured and has a pleasant smell, or the type of plant that produces these.

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Flour means a fine, powdery foodstuff obtained by grinding and sifting the meal of a grain, expecially wheat, used chiefly in baking.
Most women enjoy receiving flowers.
She placed the flour on the top shelf.

- HABIT (obișnuință) is different from CUSTOM (obicei) and from CUSTOM (obișnuință).
A habit belongs to the individual. It is something that you do often and regularly, sometimes without knowing you are doing it.
A custom belongs to a society or country. It represents a way of behaving or a belief that has been established for a long time.
He has several very bad habits, among which lying to people.
The Romanians have very beautiful customs. (obiceiuri)
Her custom of reading action scripts in the evening didn't agree with her husband. (obișnuință – a habitual practice of a person)

- HOUSE (casă) is different from HOME (acasă).
A house is any building used for dwelling.
Home is the particular house to live in.
She has a beautiful house down the street.
He usually gets home very late.

- IMAGE (imagine) is different from IMAGERY (reprezentări).
Imagery refers to
the use of expressive or evocative images in art, literature, or music.
She couldn't get that image out of her head.
Most of his paintings contain pastoral imagery.

- IMPRUDENCE (imprudență) is different from IMPUDENCE (tupeu, indecență).
Impudence implies offensively bold behaviour.
Unfortunately, her imprudence finally caused her death.
Their constant impudence annoyed everyone.

- INDIVIDUAL (persoană) is different from PERSON (persoană).
Individual refers to a single person as opposed to the group.
Person refers to a man, woman or child.
The individual must act not only to his benefit, but to the benefit of the community.
He's a nice person.

- LEG (picior) is different from FOOT (picior).
Leg is the part of the body from the hip down to the ankle.
Foot is the part of the body below the ankle.
His right leg was severely injured.
He kept on walking despite the pain in his foot.

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- PLAY (joacă) is different from GAME (joc).
  Play means amusement.
  Game means an entertaining activity or the equipment needed for such an activity.
  He is fond of play.
  He wants his parents to buy him a new PC game.

- POETRY(lirică) is different from POEM (poezie).
  Poetry represents the form of literature dealing with poems.
  A poem is one piece of poetry.
  He didn't understand poetry at all.
  She liked most of his poems.

- PREQUEL (poveste anterioară) is different from SEQUEL (continuare).
  A prequel is a literary, dramatic, or cinematic work whose narrative takes place before that of a preexisting work in the same series.
  A sequel is something that follows as a continuation, especially a literary, dramatic, or cinematic work whose narrative continues that of a preexisting work.
  That film is **a prequel to** the TV series.
  He found the sequel to *Divergent* amazing.

- PRICE (preț) is different from COST (preț).
  Price is the amount of money paid by the customer.
  Cost is the amount of money paid by the shopkeeper.
  Cost also refers to the amount of money needed to do or make something:
  The cost of raising a child is very high.
  What is the price of this dress?
  The rising cost of food worried them.

- SCENE (privelişte) is different from SCENERY (privelişte).
  Scenery refers to the general appearance of the country in the above example and cannot be used in the plural.
  That scene of the sunset really impressed her.
  The scenery in Greece is amazing.
  A scene is of one particular place.

- SHOT (doză) is different from SHUTTER (jaluzea).
  Shot represents a small amount of an alcoholic drink.
  Shutter represents a solid window covering used to block light and winds.
  He had three shots of Tequila.
  The old shutters were broken.

- SIGH (oftat) is different from SIGHT (privelişte).
  Sight refers to something worth seeing; a spectacle.
  Her sighs made him feel bad about it.

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The sights of London are magnificent.

- SLEEP (somn) is different from SLIP (alunecare).
  Sleep implies the resting state in which the body is not active and the mind is unconscious.
  A slip is an accidental misstep threatening or causing a fall.
  He couldn't get enough sleep lately.
  She noticed his slip on the ice.

- SOLITUDE (singurătate, izolare) is different from LONELINESS (singurătate, izolare).
  Solitude is a state of seclusion or isolation, i.e. lack of contact with people.
  Loneliness is a complex and usually unpleasant emotional response to isolation or lack of companionship. Loneliness typically includes anxious feelings about a lack of connectedness or communality with other beings.
  She decided to resort to solitude in order to toughen up her spirit. That's why she became a nun.
  She sometimes felt a profound state of loneliness overwhelming her.

- STORY (poveste) is different from STOREY (etaj).
  A story is an account of events which may be true or not.
  A story means a floor or level of a building.
  In the evening the old man told the children an amazing story.
  Their house has three storeys.

- STORY (poveste) is different from HISTORY (istorie).
  History is a systematic record of past events; a subject in school.
  She finished her story in tears.
  The little boy found it hard to study the history of the Romans.

- STRANGER (necunoscut) is different from FOREIGNER (străin).
  A stranger is a person unknown to us.
  A foreigner is a person born in another country that is temporarily or permanently in a different country than his or her own.
  The little boy was advised not to talk to strangers.
  They were just foreigners in Italy.

- STREET (stradă) is different from ROAD (drum).
  A street is a way in a town or village with buildings on the sides.
  A road usually refers to a way leading from one town or village to another.
  The correct forms are: *on the road, on the way* and *in the street.*
  He didn't know the streets of the town.
  The road was icy.

- SUIT (costum) is different from SUITE (anfiladă de camere) and from SWEET (dulce).

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Suit refers to a jacket and trousers or a jacket and a skirt, made from the same material.
A suite is a connected series of rooms to be used together: a hotel suite.
Something sweet is something that has a taste similar to that of sugar; not bitter or salty.
He has just bought a new suit.
They are staying in a suite at the Ritz.
I'd like to have something sweet.

- TOXICITY (toxicitate) is different from TOXICOLOGY (toxicologie).
Toxicology is a branch of biology, chemistry, and medicine concerned with the study of the adverse effects of chemicals on living organisms.
The toxicity of the city made him leave the urban area.
He has always been interested in toxicology.

- TRAVEL (călătorie) is different from JOURNEY (călătorie).
Travel is used in a general sense, either in the singular, or in the plural.
Journey means going from one place to another, usually implying a long distance.
That book was about his travels.
He has always loved travels.
The journey takes five hours by plane.

- WELFARE (prosperitate) is different from WARFARE (război)
Welfare means health, happiness, and good fortune.
The set of techniques and actions used to conduct war is known as warfare.
Warfare stands for armed conflict.
Every person is concerned with the welfare of his or her family.
The mind is like a battlefield where spiritual warfare can be either won or lost.

Broadly speaking, the current paper aims at offering guidance on the correctness of the language as defined by Sporiș Valerica – "the general quality of the style which presupposes the strict compliance with the norms of the current literary version of a language within communication" (Sporiș, 2010). The part of speech taken into account, nouns, are debated upon with specifics that enhance the importance of compliance with the current linguistic norms

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