THE LINGUISTIC GLOBALIZATION OF ROMANCE LANGUAGES UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ENGLISH

Florina Andronache, Assist., PhD, "Carol Davila" University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Bucharest

Abstract: The aim of this present paper is to approach the issue of "linguistic globalization" within the wider spectrum of "globalization" and to discuss the advantages and drawbacks of the implementation of globalization in today's society. The genuinely achieved status of English as a „lingua franca" can hardly be debated and labored. The paper also aims to illustrate and to discuss some of the good and not so good sides of "linguistic globalization", among which the never-ending competition and rivalry between languages. The languages that represent the starting point of the discussion are Romanian and Italian.

Keywords: globalization, linguistic globalization, English, reaction, Romance languages.

The general concept of *globalization* vs. the phenomenon of *linguistic globalization*

A simple search for the definition of *globalization* on the Romanian version of the website Wikipedia will point out that there is no generally accepted definition, the concept itself being perceived as „un fenomen, o ideologie, o strategie sau toate la un loc" (a phenomenon, an ideology, a strategy or all together)[1]. But, in the past, based on its initial meaning, the word made reference to social changes and world economics.

Călărașu (2003: 323) includes the Romanian term **globalizare** in the group of words with an international circulation, this being a derivative of the adjective *global* with the verbal suffix *–iza* and the abstract ending for nouns *–re*, formed after the Fr. *globalisation* and/or Engl. *globalization*.

In Italian, the term **globalizzazione** is also a derivative (from *globale*), formed after the Fr. *globalisation*, registered for the first time in the year 1956 (Zingarelli 2010: 999). Treccani Vocabulary[2] attempts to explain the meaning of the word, relating it to two fields: psychopedagogy („particolare forma di apprendimento, per cui nella psiche del fanciullo la realtà esterna viene dapprima assunta sincreticamente, ossia tutta insieme e in modo generico, e solo in un secondo momento analizzata e discriminata nei suoi elementi" [A special form of education, through which, in the child's psyche, the external reality is first sincretically assumed, e.g. comprehensively and in a generic way, and only later on analyzed and discriminated into its elements] and economy[3] („fenomeno di unificazione dei mercati al livello mondiale, consentito dalla diffusione delle innovazioni tecnologiche, specie nel campo della telematica, che hanno spinto verso modelli di consumo e di produzione più uniformi e convergenti; anche le conseguenze politiche e sociali di tale unificazione" [Phenomenon of market unification on a world level, especially in the field of telematics, which has lead to uniform and convergent consumption and production patters; and it also designates the political and economic consequences of this unifying process]).

The globalization phenomenon (*globalizzazione*) can sometimes be identified with and may also overlap the mondialization one (*mondializzazione*), illustrating „il fenomeno di crescita progressiva delle relazioni e degli scambi a livello mondiale in diversi ambiti, il cui effetto principale è una decisa standardizzazione economica e culturale tra i popoli e i luoghi

[1] Cf. http://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Globalizare.
[2] The definition may be consulted at the following address http://www.treccani.it/vocabolario/globalizzazione/.
[3] In Italian, the term globalizzazione was used for the first time in the field of economy in the year 1981 (cf. http://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Globalizzazione).

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del mondo"[4] [The phenomenon of progressive development of relations and exchanges in different domains on a global level, whose main effect is a highly economic and cultural standardization among the peoples and regions of the globe].

Ştefănescu (2001: 279-280) brings into light the concept of *Romance westernization* (occidentalization)[5] of Romanian, which he considers to be more comprehensive than the *Re-Romanization* phenomenon, since the first makes reference to the French, Italian and (medieval) Latin influence, but also to the English one as factors of Romanian society and cultural modernization.

Stoichiţoiu Ichim (2006: 218-219) tolerates the idea that *globalization* and *Westernization* (Occidentalization) are seen as synonyms, but with the mentioning of an extremely important fact, e.g. the *Occidentalization* of Romanian was enhanced in the XIXth century, which corresponds to the period in which the English words started penetrating our language (although not directly at the beginning, but mediated by French).

The *linguistic globalization* through English of the vocabulary of some European languages became obvious only after World War II (ELR 2001: 200-201), when English visibly won the fight which was detrimental to French, due to its cultural prestige, the political situation, its economic and military supremacy, but also due to the Anglo-American influences upon their lifestyle. Despite all these, many English loanwords entered Romanian through French.

Therefore, the *globalization* phenomenon implies the use of English on a world level as a „lingua franca"[6] and also, the massive penetration of English words in the lexicon of the languages it comes into contact with. This process was also facilitated by the characteristic of English to easily adapt to non-native contexts (Rosati 2004: 15).

Moreover, *linguistic globalization* involves the reduction (to one or at most two) of the number of languages spoken on a world level, the ratification and unification of the way in which language is used and the rules/ laws of communication applied (Baldi – Savoia 2007).

There is a unanimously accepted opinion according to which „a language achieves a genuinely global status when it develops a special role that is recognized in every country" (Crystal 2003: 4). This is the status achieved by English, first of all, because it has become the international means of communication with regard to problems of any nature, although it did not benefit from the title of an official language in the respective countries.

Despite all these, the *linguistic globalization* through English also had some negative effects. Thus, there appeared a competition between languages, both on a regional and international level[7]. These differentiations are also obvious at the level of the studies, papers and research undergone regarding the influence of English upon other languages with a more restricted use. Moreover, another negative effect of *linguistic globalization* may be the antagonistic opinions generated amongst the people, regarding the influence of English upon their own language.

The impact of English upon Romanian and Italian. *Anglophilia* and *Anglomania*

As it can be noticed from the studies pertaining to the **impact of English**[8] upon Romanian, the supremacy of the first idiom mentioned started being obvious from the XXth

[4] Definition in accordance with the website http://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Globalizzazione.
[5] The concept of Romance occidentalization is also recurrent at Zafiu (2003: 83).
[6] Crystal (2002) apud Stoichiţoiu Ichim (2002: 259). According to the same author, „a language has traditionally become an international language for one chief reason: the power of its people – especially their political and military power" (Crystal 2003: 9).
[7] Maurais-Morris (2003) apud McKenzie (2010 : 1).
[8] For this problem see, among others, Ştefănescu (2001: 279) and Stoichiţoiu Ichim (2006).

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century, even if it was manifested even from the second half of the XIXth century (Constantinescu – Popovici – Ştefănescu 2002: 168).

Feelings like respect and cherish towards English and everything that is English in origin and nature are comprised in the meaning of the word *anglophilia*, while *anglomania* involves the exaggerated admiration towards them and their customs (DEX: 41).

Irrespective of their knowledge in the field of linguistics, some linguists, journalists or laymen express their opinion regarding the use of Anglicisms and their impact on the language, and most of these reactions are negative, as Görlach (2003: 29) remarked.

The influence of the English vocabulary upon other languages, in different fields of activity, has determined the expression of some firm and steady positions related to this phenomenon, but it also led to the undergoing of some scientific research programs.

We share the opinion expressed by Stoichiţoiu Ichim (2006: 11), who appreciates that the attitudes adopted by culture and media people on the one hand and linguists on the other are totally antagonistic. The feeling expressed by the first is resentment and indignation against the massive influence of English, considered a threat to the identity of Romanian language. At the opposite end, one cannot fail to notice the tolerance expressed by linguists (Mioara Avram, Theodor Hristea, Florica Dimitrescu, Valeria Guţu Romalo, Adriana Stoichiţoiu Ichim, Rodica Zafiu, Ioana Vintilă Rădulescu etc.), who seem rather more preoccupied with signaling the phenomenon and implementing a norm of the use and less preoccupied with forbidding the penetration of English loanwords in the Romanian vocabulary.

In Italian, the English influence starts being obvious from the XVIIth century (Seicento) on a lower level than French through the so-called *Anglophilia*. This leads to naming the respective period „the century of anglophilia" (Giovanardi – Gualdo 2008: 54), stage which gives birth to the interest for the English culture, civilization and language. Dardano[9] (1986) sees the great number of English words as „una seconda europeizzazione dell'italiano" [a second Europenization of Italian], since „la prima [...] era stata promossa dal francese nel corso del Settecento" [the first was accomplished through French in the XVIIIth century].

Although the registered number of words and phrases of English origin of that period is limited, there are some examples which illustrate that they existed. They belong to fields like gastronomy (*il pudding*, *i toasts*, *il punch*), fashion and clothing (*il tight*, *lo smoking*, *il pijama* also registered with its adapted form *pigiama*)[10].

If by this time, Anglicisms used to be very scarce in Italian, in the XVIIIth century (Settecento), *Anglophilia* is gradually replaced by *Anglomania*, due to the exaggerated admiration for some social and cultural aspects (from institutions, philosophy, sciences, literature, industry etc.) and for the language itself (Migliorini 1991: 447-478). *Anglomania* was considered as partition for the fashionable feeling which involved the fascination towards the English culture[11].

Besides the admiration for the English language and culture, Italians begin to acknowledge the necessity of using English for practical purposes, such as commerce. This is also the period when the purist tendency of suggesting vernacular words and phrases as substitutes for English loanwords was also implemented (as in the literary magazine „Il Caffé" of brothers Alessandro and Pietro Verri, for example).

Towards the end of the XIXth century (Ottocento), the influence exercised by French upon Italian started to pale in front of the English influence, moreover due to political, commercial and linguistic reasons and also due to a feeling of indignation experienced

[9] Apud Dardano (1996: 351).
[10] Apud Migliorini (1991: 524, 640).
[11] Graff (1911) apud Pulcini (2002: 151).

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against France. These were some of the reasons why good speakers of English and admirers of the language were the aristocracy and marine officials.

Despite all these, the increasing interest towards the study of neologisms, in general, and Anglicisms, in particular, started to be obviously manifested from the beginning of the second half of the XXst century (ONLI: *Presentazione*).

The interdependence of the two terms is illustrated in an article[12] from an Italian newspaper („Il Giornale"): „L'anglomania è una perversione dell'anglofilia, una sorta di scimmiottamento che si compiace dell'apparenza nel suo confonderla con la sostanza" [Anglomania is a perversion of anglophilia, a sort of baboonery which endulges itself with appearance mistaken by substance].

In a recent article[13], presented by OLI (*Osservatorio della lingua italiana*) whose topic of discussion was *Anglomania*, this is associated to the phenomenon of *linguistic globalization* through a "link-language" perceived as a threat to the values of the recipient language.

According to some authors, we can also speak of some sort of „fatal attraction"[14] from the part of Italians for the English and American lifestyle and language.

One of the defining features of English words is their vitality (DCR$_2$: 8-9), to which we could add their expressivity obvious in communication. These and some other reasons like productivity[15] have led to considering Anglicisms a starting point in the debates on linguistic topics.

One of the effects of the massive influence of English upon other languages is the frequent use of English in common situations. Thus, one gets to use in the same linguistic contexts both Anglicisms and equivalents in the recipient language, which leads to a hybrid language known as „romgleză[16]" or „itangliano[17]", in the case of the two Romance languages submitted to analysis. The two terms (pejorative – ironical, in essence) represent a loan translation (calque) after the well-known pattern of „franglais", described by Etiemble[18]. Italian was more prolific when it came to the formation of other compounds indicating the hybridization of language as a result of the mixture of English words with Italian elements": *italiaricano, itanglese, italiese*[19] or *itenglish*[20]. The most frequent remains

[12] The article may be consulted at the address http://www.ilgiornale.it/news/anglofilia.html.

[13] The name of the article is „Ancora sull' anglomania" and it can be consulted at the address http://dizionari.zanichelli.it/osservatorio-lingua-italiana/2011/06/23/ancora-sullanglomania/.

[14] Dunlop (1989) apud Rosati (2004: 15).

[15] More and more derivatives and compounds of English words start being formed and registered in Romanian dictionaries (see DCR$_3$): laptop – laptopist; hobby - hobbyst/ă; hacker - a hackeri, hackerit, hackeriță; blog - a bloga, blogat, blogăr, blogăreală, a blogări, blogărit, blogăriță, bloger, blogeriță, bloggeriță, blogher, a blogui, bloguit etc.

[16] Cf. românează, a mixture of român(ă) + (engl)ează, word seen at Constantinescu – Popovici – Ştefănescu (2002: 185), which makes reference to computer science slang, language in which loanwords are preferred to Romanian words.

[17] The term „itangleză" appears in an article published on the international website of the newspaper „Adevărul". From this results the fact that „în ultimii 8 ani numărul termenilor anglosaxoni care au invadat limba lui Dante a crescut cu 773%" (in the past 8 years, the number of Anglo-saxon words that invaded the language of Dante has increased with 773%). This huge percentage (which is due to the massive invasion of English words used on a regular basis) resulted as a consequence of a study undertaken by the main union of professional translators in Italy, named Federlingue. The results were made public in the Italian newspaper „Il Messaggero". The article may be consulted at the address http://www.adevarul.it/stiri/social/rotaliana-i-itangleza-reprezinta-evolu-ia-fireasca-limbii.

[18] Etiemble (1964) apud Stochiţoiu Ichim (2006: 9).

[19] L'italiese is the consequence of introducing English lexical elements into Italian grammatical structures (Ray: 2004).

[20] Schweickard (2006) apud Viviani (2010).

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itangliano[21], considered a form of widespread „exhibitionism" especially by mass-media and the youngsters. This mixture of lexical elements belonging to more languages was roughly criticized by Italian academic voices, being perceived as a possible cause of all wrong translations and debatable semantic transfers (Pulcini 2002: 154).

Some other opinions refer to the occurrence of both „romgleza" and „itangliano" due to reasons which pertain, first of all, to the obvious display of snobbism from the part of non-native English speakers who might want to impress their interlocutors. In the article dedicated to „romglish", Adriana Stoichiţoiu Ichim (2006: 7-28) points out that this type of hybrid idiom may be considered an *effect of globalization* by linguists, whose main preoccupation is to draw a norm for the ongoing phenomenon, but also a *personal choice* for journalists, advertisers and people engaged in the process of selling. The latter sometimes make use and also abuse of English loanwords according to the purpose of communication (if they want to persuade or manipulate the readers or, after case, of the prospective buyers), or simply out of commodity or of the insufficient knowledge of English.

Italians seem to have both tolerated and accepted English and sometimes their discourse is taken to the extreme, in which case we refer to them as „Anglomaniacs". Still, Italians have not reached the level in which they passively accept words or phrases from English without altering them in such a way that they should match their needs for communication. In other words, in both languages analyzed in this paper, the phenomenon of *linguistic globalization* is manifested at all grammatical levels, including the semantic and the syntactic ones. The English loanwords are further on adapted to all grammatical levels, given the rules and laws of each language.

In an article by Sergio Romano published in one the most read newspapers of Italy (www.corrieredellasera.it, from 07.06.2019), named "La Tirannia dell'inglese, lingua della globalizzazione", the author starts by admitting the importance of knowing English and the advantages of such knowledge.

The same author insists upon our choice as non-native speakers of English to speak this language without it being compelled by an external stimulus or force. He refers to the common choice of different nations as „una sorta di tacito plebiscito" (a sort of tacit unanimity) since people have acknowledged the need to speak a common language in this world of globalization.

„The global power of English can be harnessed at the local level to promote forms of *intra*national and *inter*national connectivity" (Botticella 2007) due to the fact that it is seen as a „link language" between different nations. Knowledge of English has eventually proven more than a simple and trivial advantage in life, but also as a mark of social prestige.

In conclusion, if we admit that there is also another way of referring to English, namely as a World Language, this perception will unwittingly bring about many controversies and contradictions which are very likely to last as long as English will have such a reference, "the language of power" (Tosi[22] 2001: 211).

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[21] Trifone (2007) apud Viviani (2010); Rosati (2004: 21); Pulcini (2002: 154).
[22] Apud Botticella (2007).

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