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: *Cette étude se propose de présenter plusieurs noms anglais qui sont souvent confondus en roumain à cause de leur prononciation similaire en anglais ou de leur traduction similaire en roumain. Nous nous proposons aussi d'illustrer l'utilisation des noms respectifs dans des contextes différents en expliquant les raisons de leur utilisation correcte des noms. A côté de l'explication en anglais de la signification des noms dans des contextes différents, chaque nom est accompagné d'une traduction dans la langue roumaine pour que les noms soient compris de façon précise par les locuteurs roumains. Par conséquent, l'étude a l'intention de rendre une orientation utile en ce qui concerne une utilisation adéquate des noms anglais facilement confondus par les locuteurs roumain.*

Mots clés: *signification, noms, diversité.*

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.

- BATTLE (luptă) is different from WAR (război):

> 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.
> A battle is a combat between two or more armed forces.

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War is a state of armed conflict between societies.

- WELFARE (prosperitate) is different from WARFARE (război):

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.
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.

- PREQUEL (poveste anterioară) is different from SEQUEL (continuare):

That film is a prequel to the TV series.
He found the sequel to *Divergent* amazing.
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.

- IMAGE (imagine) is different from IMAGERY (reprezentări):

She couldn't get that image out of her head. Most of his paintings contain pastoral imagery.
Imagery refers to the use of expressive or evocative images in art, literature, music.

- SCENE (privelişte) is different from SCENERY (privelişte):

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

- TOXICITY (toxicitate) is different from TOXICOLOGY (toxicologie):

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

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- IMPRUDENCE (imprudență) is different from IMPUDENCE (tupeu, indecență):

Unfortunately, her imprudence finally caused her death.
Their constant impudence annoyed everyone.
Impudence implies offensively bold behaviour.

- DESERT (deșert) is different from DESSERT (desert):

The Antarctic Desert is the largest desert in the world.
Would you like some dessert? We have strawberry ice cream.

- COUNTRY (țară) is different from COUNTY (județ):

He has visited many countries of the world so far.
The county of Pitești is Argeș.

- SIGH (oftat) is different from SIGHT (priveliște):

Her sighs made him feel bad about it.
The sights of London are magnificent.
Sight refers to something worth seeing; a spectacle.

- SOLITUDE (singurătate, izolare) is different from LONELINESS (singurătate, izolare):

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.
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.

- HOUSE (casă) is different from HOME (acasă):

She has a beautiful house down the street.
He usually gets home very late.
A house is any building used for dwelling.
Home is the particular house to live in.

- STORY (poveste) is different from STOREY (etaj):

In the evening the old man told the children an amazing story.

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Their house has three storeys.
A story is an account of events which may be true or not.
A story means a floor or level of a building.

- STORY (poveste) is different from HISTORY (istorie):

She finished her story in tears.
The little boy found it hard to study the history of the Romans.
History is a systematic record of past events; a subject in school.

- POETRY(lirică) is different from POEM (poezie):

He didn't understand poetry at all.
She liked most of his poems.
Poetry represents the form of literature dealing with poems.
A poem is one piece of poetry.

- END (sfârşit) is different from FINISH (finisaj, linie de sosire):

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)

- STREET (stradă) is different from ROAD (drum):

He didn't know the streets of the town.
The road was icy.
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.*

- BALL (minge, bal) is different from BOWL (castron):

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)

- SHOT (doză) is different from SHUTTER (jaluzea):

He had three shots of Tequila.
The old shutters were broken.
Shutter represents a solid window covering used to block light and winds.

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- FLOWER (floare) is different from FLOUR (făină):

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

- HABIT (obișnuință) is different from CUSTOM (obicei) and from CUSTOM (obișnuință):

He has several very bad habits, among which lying to people.
The Romanians have very beautiful customs. (obiceiuri)
A habit belongs to the individual.
A custom belongs to a society or country.
Her custom of reading action scripts in the evening didn't agree with her husband. (obișnuință – a habitual practice of a person)

- CUSTOM (obicei) is different from CUSTOMS (vamă, taxe vamale):

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)
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.
Customs refer to duties or taxes imposed on imported and, less commonly, exported goods.

- CAUSE (cauză) is different from REASON (motiv):

What is the cause of the rainbow?
He had a good reason not to attend the meeting.
A cause is that which produces a result.
A reason is that which explains or justifies a result.

- CENTRE (centru) is different from MIDDLE (mijloc):

Where is the centre of the triangle?
When I called him, he was in the middle of the crowd.
Centre refers to a definite point.
Middle refers to an indefinite space around or near the centre.

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- CUSTOMER (client) is different from CLIENT (client):

That supermarket has plenty of customers.
That lawyer doesn't have enough clients.
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.

- PRICE (preț) is different from COST (preț):

What is the price of this dress?
The rising cost of food worried them.
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.

- CROWN (coroană) is different from CROWD (mulțime) and from CROW (cioară):

The Queen's crown was made of pure gold.
She glimpsed him in the crowd.
He scared the crows away.

- STRANGER (necunoscut) is different from FOREIGNER (străin):

The little boy was advised not to talk to strangers.
They were just foreigners in Italy.
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.

- SLEEP (somn) is different from SLIP (alunecare):

He couldn't get enough sleep lately.
She noticed his slip on the ice.
A slip is an accidental misstep threatening or causing a fall.

- TRAVEL (călătorie) is different from JOURNEY (călătorie):

He has always loved travels.
Our journey to Norway was interesting.

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Travel is used in a general sense, either in the singular, as in the above example, or in the plural: That book was about his travels.

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

He has just bought a new suit.
They are staying in a suite at the Ritz.
I'd like to have something sweet.
A suite is a connected series of rooms to be used together: a hotel suite.

- LEG (picior) is different from FOOT (picior):

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

- FINGER (deget de la mână) is different from TOE (deget de la picior):

I've just hurt a finger of my right hand.
He hurt a toe of his left foot.
Fingers are on the hand.
Toes are on the foot.

- PLAY (joacă) is different from GAME (joc):

He is fond of play.
He wants his parents to buy him a new PC game.
Play means amusement, as in the above example.

- INDIVIDUAL (persoană) is different from PERSON (persoană):

The individual must act not only to his benefit, but to the benefit of the community.
He's a nice person.
Individual refers to a single person as opposed to the group.

- FLOOR (podea) is different from GROUND (pământ):

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.

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The floor is that part of the room on which we walk.
The ground is outside the house.

- APPETITE (poftă) is different from DESIRE (poftă):

He's always had a great appetite.
I have no desire to work today.
Appetite is normally used in connection with food.
Desire can be used for study, work or play.

Broadly speaking, the current paper aims at offering guidance on the correctness of the language as defined by Sporiș Valerica (2010: 350) – "the general quality of the style which presupposes the strict compliance with the norms of the current literary version of a language within communication". 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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