MORPHOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS UPON THE INTEGRATION OF ENGLISH-ORIGIN BORROWINGS (G LETTER)

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Abstract**:** *The constant promotion of phenomena like internationalization and globalization, together with the new technological and scientific discoveries in the last decades, have ensured a fertile ground for an accelerated absorption of English-origin borrowings, thus reflecting the rapid changes emerging from various social and material cultures. In the present article, we studied the English-origin borrowings (letter G) selected from MDN (2008) – The Great Dictionary of Neologisms and DEX (2016) – The Explicative Dictionary of the Romanian Language, as far as their morphological integration is concerned. The word collection included 98 English-origin borrowings and the method used was an analytical, descriptive one.*

Keywords: *morphological, integration, borrowings, English, Romanian*

Introduction

Over the years, an impressive number of Romanian and foreign linguists, historians and archeologists have highlighted language data and documents stating the origin and character of the Romanian language. The morphology of the Romanian language mainly inherits the reality of the popular Latin language: the noun; the article; the adjective; the pronoun; the numeral; the verb, with its four conjugations. The Romanian language syntax simplifies the verbal tenses and moods, it alters the topic, having the predicate at the end of the sentence, it prefers the coordination report in favour of the subordination, etc, but its basics still remains the same popular Latin.

The main word storage of the Romanian language is almost 60 % composed of inherited Latin words. To these there were added approximately one hundred isolated words (e.g. “abur”, “brad”, “barză”, “gușă”, etc) and 2200 proper names (e.g. “Argeș”, “ Criș”, “Dunăre”, “Motru”, “Mureș”, etc) inherited from the Daco-Getians. All the other peoples passing by have left a mark in the main word background: Slavonic words (approximately 20%), Hungarian words, French words and, more recently, English origin words.

The influence of the English language has manifested mainly in the last two decades. This phenomenon happened within an international worldwide context. The massive borrowing of English-origin words has taken place especially in the last decades.

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Within the context of technological progress, these linguistic borrowings could be considered necessary and accurate, as long as they do not become exaggerated. The Romanian language has been enriched with English-origin words at a round pace, finding its motivation in the necessity of designating certain extra linguistic realities. These realities sometimes require well-defined terms (especially technical and scientific terms) in order to be nominated.

The aspects of English influence upon the Romanian language may be approached from a normative point of view: on the one hand, the social and cultural aspect, and, on the other hand, the linguistic one. The social and cultural normative clarifies the motivation and function of the borrowing according to the specificity of a certain style or registry of a language. The general tendency of the present literary language is to preserve the most similar word form to the original English one. From a morphological point of view, a consequence of the massive intake of English-origin words may be the "undermining" of the flexionary character of the Romanian language, by increasing the number of invariable adjectives and, in some cases, going beyond the borders between speech parts.

Material and Method

In the present article, we analyzed the English-origin words starting with letter G, selected from MDN (2008) – *The Great Dictionary of Neologisms* and DEX (2016) – *The Explicative Dictionary of the Romanian Language,* as far as their morphological integration is concerned. There were selected 98 of English origin borrowings beginning with letter G. The analysis of the content was performed by using a descriptive method, revealing interesting facts upon the way in which English borrowings were integrated according to the Romanian language morphological system.

Morphological Integration

English origin borrowings with letter G selected from MDN (2008) and DEX (2016) were classified into two morphological categories: nouns and adjectives. These two major categories could also be divided into subcategories, namely: feminine, masculine, neuter nouns or variable, invariable adjectives. The verb category was missing, as there could not be found any English origin verb with letter G. Also, the morphological categories of adverbs, pronouns or interjections were absent in our analysis. The table below presents the classification of English origin borrowings beginning with letter G, according to their morphological integration:

Table 1. Morphological integration of English borrowings (letter G) – 98 words:

English origin nouns -- 84			***English origin adjectives -- 8***		
Neuter nouns	*Feminine nouns*	*Masculine nouns*	*Variable Adjectives*	*Invariable Adjectives*	*Multiple Morphology*
45	22	17	7	1	6

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An interesting observation could be made regarding the total number of the English origin words beginning with letter G: 98 is the same number of words found in a previous study (Badea, 2014) upon English origin neologisms beginning with letter E. Still, the morphological distribution was different (Badea, 2014:115). In both cases, the lexical methods by which the words were integrated into the Romanian language system were suffixation and conversion.

Morphological integration of English origin nouns (letter G)

The present study included the analysis of 84 nouns of English origin (letter G), selected from MDN (2008) and DEX (2016). In Romanian, the noun has three genders: masculine, feminine and neuter. In English, nouns can be divided only into masculine vs. feminine, this language lacking the neuter gender. The morphological integration of English borrowings under study showed that most of the English origin nouns beginning with letter G were included in the neuter category (45), followed by feminine nouns (22) and masculine nouns (17). Most of the nouns were perfectly integrated into the Romanian language morphological system, thus allowing us to make the observation regarding the fact that the Romanian language has the tendency to integrate borrowings according to its own morphological particularities.

The selected **neuter nouns** beginning with letter G were the following:

gadget < engl. *gadget/ gag* < engl. *gag/ gai* < engl. *gay/ galon* < engl. *gallon/ gang* < engl. *gang/ ganglioblast* < engl. *ganglioblast / ganglioblastom* <engl. *ganglioblastoma/ gantlet* < engl. *gantelet/ gap* < engl. *gap/ garden-party* < engl. *garden-party/ gazlift* < engl. *gaslift/ gem* < engl. *jam/ generativism* < engl. *generativism/ gentlemen's agreement* < engl. *gentlemen's agreement/ gestualism* < engl. *gestualism/ getter* < engl. *getter/ gheizer* < engl. *geyser/ ghem* < engl. *game/ gilt-edget* < engl. *gilt-edget/ gin* < engl. *gin/ girodirecțional* < engl. *girodirectional/ girostabilizator* < engl. *gyrostabilizer/ glei* < engl. *gley/ globulit* < engl. *globulite/ godevil* < engl. *godevil/ gol* < engl. *goal/ golaveraj* < engl. *goal average/ gold-point* < engl. *gold point/ golf* < engl. *golf/ gong* < engl. *gong/ gonioscop* < engl. *gonioscope/ gonocit* < engl. *gonocyte/ gospel* < engl. *gospel/ gradualism* < engl. *gradualism/ graf* < engl. *graph/ graf-plotter* < engl. *graph-plotter/ grant* < engl. *grant/ greder* < engl. *grader/ green* < engl. *green/ grepfrut* < engl. *grapefruit/ grill* < engl. *grill/ grill-room* < engl. *grill-room/ grog* < engl. *grog/ ground* < engl. *ground/ grunge* < engl. *grunge*

The **feminine nouns** under study were represented by 22 English-origin borrowings, almost half of the neuter ones. Feminine nouns are referred to as [-animated], although in English the feminine is usually associated with [+animated]. Next, we will present the feminine English-origin nouns under study, selected from MDN (2008) and DEX (2016):

garnetă < engl. *garnette/ gastrohisterectomie* < engl. *gastrohisterectomy/ gatofilie* < engl. *gatophilia/ gatofobie* < engl. *gatophobia/ gelație* < engl. *gelation/ geomedicină* <

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engl. *geomedicine/ georamă* < engl. *georama/ geriopsihoză* < engl. *geriopsychosis/ germoplasmă* < engl. *germoplasm/ gestualitate* < engl. *gestuality/ gilă* < engl. *gila/ ginoplastie* < engl. *ginoplasty/ gipsologie* < engl. *Gipsy + -ologie/ girectomie* < engl. *girectomy/ girl* < engl. *girl/ glicopenie* < engl. *glycopenia/ glosoplastie* < engl. *glossoplasty/ goniotomie* < engl. *goniotomy/ grandee* < engl. *grandee/ guinee* < engl. *guinea/ gurnă* < engl. *gurney/ gută* < engl. *Gout*

In Romanian, the masculine gender is generally associated with the [- animated] feature from English. In the present article, there were selected 17 **masculine nouns** beginning with letter G that have been borrowed from English. Their integration is not always complete, as far as the morphological form is concerned. Thus, most of these nouns preserved their original English form, such as *gagman*, *gangster*, *gentleman,* etc. The English origin masculine nouns in our study are the following:

gagman < engl. *gagman/ gangster* < engl. *gangster/ gay* < engl. *gay/ gecko* < engl. *gecko/ gentleman* < engl. *gentleman/ gentleman-rider* < engl. *gentleman-rider/ gentry* < engl. *gentry/ gigantopitec* < engl. *gigantopitec/ gil* < engl. *gil/ globe-trotter* < engl. *globe-trotter/ goalkeeper* < engl. *goalkeeper/ golden* < engl. *golden/ golem* < engl. *golem/ golgheter* < engl. *goalgetter/ greyhound* < engl. *greyhound/ grizzly* < engl. *grizzly/ guru* < engl. *Guru.*

Our analysis showed that the category of neuter English-origin nouns starting with letter G is by far the most numerous one (45 entries), followed by the categories of feminine and masculine nouns, quite evenly distributed (22 and 17, respectively). We should also mention the fact that English does not operate with the neuter gender, and, still, the greatest number of English-origin nouns beginning with letter G was referred to as neuter ones in Romanian.

An interesting observation could be made regarding the fact that feminine nouns were integrated into the [- animated] category, thus not preserving the characteristic feature of the English language of feminine nouns referred to as [+ animate]. In contrast, masculine nouns under study were integrated into [+ animated], thus preserving their English characteristic.

Morphological integration of English origin adjectives (letter G)

In contrast to other similar studies (Badea, 2014), the number of English origin adjectives under study was quite low, namely only 8 entries beginning with letter G. Of these, 7 were integrated as variable adjectives and only 1 as an invariable one. This is an interesting phenomenon, showing us that the morphological integration of the adjectives beginning with letter G was a complete one, as the English language does not use variable adjectives, due to the fact that the adjectives in English do not have different forms for feminine vs. masculine, or for singular vs. plural. Thus, as far as their ending is concerned, the **variable adjectives** of English origin that begin with letter G have been integrated quite rapidly. Their tendency is to add the specific Romanian endings *"-ă"* or *"-e"* in order to form

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the feminine, leading us to the conclusion that these words have been completely adapted to the Romanian morphological system. For example:

gastrohepatic, -ă < engl. *gastrohepatic/ geopotențial, -ă* < engl. *geopotential/ geostrofic, -ă* < engl. *geostrophic/ globoid, -ă* < engl. *globoid/ gonadal, -ă* < engl. *gonadal/ gonadic, -ă* < engl. *gonadic/ gradual, -ă* < engl. *gradual*

As far as the category of **invariable adjectives** is concerned, the English-origin borrowings beginning with letter G offered us only **one** adapted invariable adjective, which preserved its original English form, concerning both the spelling and the pronounciation. Thus, the invariable adjective beginning with letter G is *groggy* < engl. *groggy.*

According to the morphosyntacitc integration of the English-origin adjectives beginning with letter G, the present study showed that most of the English-origin adjectives were adapted to the Romanian morphological and syntactical system, both by the use of feminine and masculine endings and by the after-noun placing (a rule that does not apply to English, a language where the determinant adjective is always placed before the noun it determines). Even the invariable adjective *groggy* is placed after the determined noun in Romanian, even though it preserved its original form from English.

English-origin borrowings with multiple morphology (letter G)

In linguistics, *conversion* is a process of word formation, for a new word or word class from an already existing word, also called zero derivation (Bauer, 2005:131). For example, a noun could be derived from an adjective that has the same form or a verb from a noun, preserving the same spelling and pronunciation. In English, this method is used on a large scale. In contrast, the Romanian language system does not usually operate with such a method of word formation. Still, under the influence of the English language over the past decades, there have been lots of English-origin words that may function both as adjectives and nouns, and as feminine and masculine nouns, according to the information given in the studied dictionaries (DEX, 2016) and (MDN, 2008).

Our analysis on words beginning with letter G, borrowed from English, revealed the following morphological "pairs":

adjective/feminine noun or masculine noun

generativist, -ă engl. *generativist,* adj. /fem./masc. noun < "(adept) al generativismului" (MDN, 2008)

geometrician, -ă < engl. *geometrician,* fem./masc. noun, "specialist în geometrie, geometrician" (MDN, 2008)

gestualist, -ă < engl. *gestualist,* adj. /fem./masc. noun, "(pictor adept) al gestualismului" (MDN, 2008)

gold-medalist, -ă < engl. *gold-medallist,* fem./masc. noun, "deținător al aurului olimpic" (MDN, 2008)

gradualist, -ă < engl. *gradualist,* adj. /fem./masc. noun, "(adept) al gradualismului" (MDN, 2008)

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adjective/neuter noun

geopotențial, -ă < engl. *geopotential*, adj. /neuter noun, "(legat de) potențialul forței de gravitație a Pamântului" (MDN, 2008)

An interesting observation could be made regarding these multiple morphology borrowings, namely that most of them were integrated into the Romanian system with their original spelling form.

Conclusions

As far as the morphological integration of English-origin words was concerned, the present article presented an analysis of the words starting with letter G from MDN (2008) and DEX (2016). Thus, out of a total number of 98 English-origin words, 45 were neuter nouns, 22 were feminine nouns and 17 were masculine nouns. The influence of English upon the Romanian language is no longer a novelty for linguists and lexicologists, or for the speakers. The fact that most of the nouns were attributed the neuter gender in Romanian indicates a complete integration of these words to the Romanian language system, morphologically speaking, taking into consideration the fact that in English there is no neuter gender, only feminine and masculine. Regarding the English-origin adjectives studied, 7 were distributed in the class of variable adjectives, while only 1 adjective preserved its invariable characteristic, specific to the English morphosyntactical system. The class of verbs was not represented by any entry in this study.

In conclusion, the Romanian language remains a fertile ground for the assimilation of new English words, through a continuous process of adaptation of these entities, a process that does not raise any problems as far as their morphological integration is concerned. The English influence, though, should not be seen as a means of "damaging" the Romanian language; on the contrary, it should be considered as a modality of vocabulary enrichment, as far as the use of borrowed words does not exceed a linguistic common sense that any Romanian speaker should hold. Therefore, at least from this perspective, we do not consider the phenomenon of English borrowings to be a negative one, due to the fact that the new words were rapidly integrated into the Romanian morphological system and did not alter the main structure of the Romanian morphosyntactical system.

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