

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** (humourous) '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* |kɜ:b|, *currant, current* |'kʌrənt|, *curtsy, curtesy* |'kɜ:tsɪ|, *dependant, dependent* |dɪ'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* |dɪ'zɜ: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* |'pæri|, *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:riŋ|, *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* |di: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 |, navy |'nævi |, navy |'neivi |, slop |slɒp |, slope |sleɪp |.

2.1.4. Diphthong -vowel alternation

e.g. abate |ə'beɪt |, abet |ə'bet |, canary |'kænəri |, cannery |'kænəri |, caper |'keɪpə |, capper |'kæpə |, chafe |tʃeɪf |, chaff |tʃɑ:f | |tʃæf |, dose |dəʊs |, doss |dɒs |, dray |draɪ |, 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 |breɪð |, 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:ʒ |, 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 |rɪ'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
assent, 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
colleger, 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
curricle, curriculum
data, dates
defendant, defender
deference, difference
deliverance, delivery
deportation, deportment
disparagement, disparity
dispensation, dispense

diplomat, diplomate
 disposal, disposition
 ditcher, dither
 dooby, 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
 vindicative, 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
oppose, oppose
attach, attack
avoid, evade
avouch, vouch
boost, boast
charted, chartered
command, commend
decompose, discompose
decry, descry

deduce, deduct
detract, distract
disable, disenable
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, collied; 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, dully;*
- ❖ **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- wolly**.

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 - chevrette, chilli- chilly, commisar - commissary, commissionaire - commissioner, commuter - commuter, comprehansible - 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 |kəmprɪ'hensəbəl| **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 |kəmprɪ'hensɪv| **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 'beneficent' 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.

REFERENCES

- Bryson, B. (1990) *Mother Tongue*. UK: Penguin Books.
- Croitoru, E. (2004) *Dictionary of Confusables as Translation Traps*. Iași: Institutul European.
- Knowles, E. (2006) *Oxford Dictionary of Phrase and Fable*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Levițchi, L. and A., Bantaș (1999) *Dicționar englez-român*. București: Editura Teora.
- Nicolescu, A., L. Pamfil-Teodoreanu, I. Preda and M. Tatos (1982) *Dicționar frazeologic român-englez*. București: Editura Științifică și Enciclopedică.
- ****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.