IT LOANWORDS IN ROMANIAN LANGUAGE

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Abstract: The study aims to examine the progress of Informatics language in Romanian, the extent to which vocabulary reflects the latest discoveries in the evolution of this fascinating area of knowledge and activity. The influence of this specialized language on Romanian language is complex, we shall try to approach the linguistic mechanisms by which the Romanian language enriches its specialized terminology, but also a whole phonetical, grammatical and linguistic structure. We start from the reality of language contacts, to explore how the English language influences Romanian vocabulary.

Keywords: computer language, IT loans, abbreviations, translations, derivatives.

The language used by Computers engineers, the conditions of its occurrence, the developing of this language are tributary, as in any other technic language, to the progress of science, to the technological evolutions and to all the changes in technics. This is the language with the most spectacular ascension and the most powerfull impact on everyday language. The internet, which implies the communication by eletronic letters – e-mails, brought about many problems of linguistic adaptation, integration and standardization. We see it as a computers jargon, invading and influencing lexically young people's current speaking. The social, economical and psychological elements have an important influence on formation, evolution, utilisation of Informatics vocabulary, and the main problem has been the exact correspondence of technical terms, from one language to another. We are watching the formation of a new lexical field in our language, starting from one already existing in a foreign language. There has been a tendency to normalize, focus this lexical movement, taking in to account the steps of this formation process and its conditioning elements.

The most important source in the formation of any terminology is the common/current vocabulary. A terminology as a part of the vocabulary has common

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elements with the general one, but still presents specific elements of that determinate terminology. The common elements deals with mobility and it is quantitative, having as an effect the numerical increase of the inventory of terms and meanings. The terminological background includes derivative intern formation and terms that arise from reinterpretation of the current words. This has been done by loan translation, the effect on the transfer of a technical meaning and of annealing any derivative or collocate model, has been associated with specialised senses from one language to another.

There is an immense permeability in any actual terminology; the tendency towards neologism has had as an explanation the dispatch and the convenience of that term. On the one hand, the neologistic term has the advantage of entering into a language from the beginning, bearing the status of a speciality term and of the concepts it designates, while the terms created internally and the translated ones have been hard up against information or terms of common language, needing more time to assert as speciality terms. On the other hand, there is a psychological explanation: the specialists have had the feeling of possession the foreign term, as a condition of their complete and exact information.

The language takes the non-verbal part of the code (schemes, graphical representations) and their semantics, along with the terminology. There are many explanations for this type of loanwords: the need for a graphic economy, a tendency of internalising the code and of individualisation of that model, which has been distinguished terminologically and non-linguistically. In any scientific terminology and especially in Informatics the most frequent types of loans are the abbreviations: AMD – *Advanced Micro Devices* („renumită companie producătoare de echipamente electronice"), ASCII – *American Standard Code for Information Interchange* („cod numeric pentru reprezentarea caracterelor"), AVI – *Audio Video Interleave* („interpunere audio video, o extensie de fişier"), CD-ROM – *Compact Disc-Read Only Memory* („disc de pe care datele pot fi doar citite"), CD-R – *Compact Disc Recordable* („disc folosit pentru iscripţionarea fişierelor"), CD-Rw – *Compact Disc Rewritable* („disc înzestrat cu un proces de codificare reversibil"), CPU – *Central Processing Unit* („unitate centrală de procesare, microprocesor"), DOS – *Disk Operating System* („sistem de operare"), USB – *Universal Serial Bus* („model performant de port serial"), UPS – *Uninterruptible power supply* („dispozitiv de tip acumulator, sursă de alimentare fără întrerupere"), LAN – *Local Area Network* („reţea zonală, locală"), DVD – *Digital Video (Versatile) Disc* („disc video digital"), ESP – *Enhanced Serial Port* („port serial cu performanţe sporite"), FDD – *Floppy Disk Drive* („unitatea de dischetă"), FTP – *File Transfer Protocol* („protocol de transferare a fişierelor de pe Internet"), GUI – *Graphical User Interface* („interfaţa grafică cu utilizatorul a unui sistem de operare"), HDD – *hard disk drive* („unitate de hard-disc"), HPGL – *Hewlett-Packard Graphics Language* („format grafic vectorial folosit în mai multe programe"), HTML – *Hyper-Text Markup Language* („limbaj de programare specific, desemnat

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proiectării paginilor web pe Internet"), HTTP – *Hyper-Text Transfer Protocol* („protocol de transfer de fişiere Hyper-Text"), IBM – *International Bussines Machines* („firma americană inventatoarea şi proiectanta primelor calculatoare"), ISDN – *Integrated Services Digital Network* („reţea digitală de servicii integrate"), ISP – *Internet Service Provider* („firmă sau instituţie specializată în furnizarea de servicii Internet"), IP Address – *Internet Protocol Address* („destinaţie numerică pentru identificarea unui calculator pe Internet"), JPEG – *Joint Pgotographic Experts Group* („format uzual de fişier imagine"), LCD – *Liquid Crystal Display* („tehnologie de redare a imaginilor digitale cu ajutorul unor strucruri de cristale lichide"), MPEG – *Motion Picture Expert Group* („normă de comprimare a imaginilor video"), OCR – *Optical Character Recognition* („posibilitatea de a recunoaşte caracterele cu ajutorul unui scanner"), PC – *Personal Computer* („calculator personal compatibil IBM"), PCI – *Peripheral Component Interconnect* („model performant de magistrală electronică de date"), PDF – *Portable Document Format* („format de fişier pentru transportul de date electronice"), RAM – *Random Acces Memory* („memorie cu acces aleatoriu"), WWW – *World Wide Web* („spaţiul virtual de pe Internet"), etc. Assuming that specialised language is a technical speciality idiom, this has got an interesting semiotical particularity: admitting non-linguistic marks in its utterances.

Occuring as a speciality language, the Informatics vocabulary is used in translations, scientific articles, instruction books: we are looking for synonyms, but we avoid instinctively or programmatic some barbarisms, but we feel a need for international transparency. The specialists develop a jargon, where the linguistic mixture is more powerful and the hybrid forms are often getting a jocosely connotation. There is also a larger area of penetration of Informatics terminology into everyday language, with its inevitable hesitations, simplifications, extensions of meaning: for this fact the interest of the linguists and of the public is large.

For contemporary Romanian language, there are terms with the status of Informatics terms: *computer, soft, hard, mouse, CD, DVD, E-mail,* etc. Other terms have been recently taken from languages where the extension in meaning had already been done. The famous *„a implementa" (engl. to implement)* comes from Informatics and it created a fashion in Economics, Politics, Jurnalism, in French or in Italian, for example, the new dictionaries register the loans (*implémenter,* respectively *implementare*) exclusively with its Informatics meaning, but there are also extensions of meaning in everyday language .

What draws imediately our atention when we look up the speciality dictionaries is the richer and richer neologic lexical series of verbs with the suffix **-a**. Most of them are simple adapted loans of English verbs; some are derivatives from Romanian nouns (the pattern is also foreign: they are equivalent to many conversions from English, where the forms of nouns and verbs are the same): *„a accesa"* (engl. *to access*), *„a downloada"*, *„a uploada"*, *„a forwarda"* („a forwarda un mesaj"), *„a procesa"*, *„a boota"* („a boota de pe CD"), *„a routa"* („a ruta o adresă IP"), *„a mapa"*, *„a formata"*

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(„a formata harddisc-ul"), „*a adresa*", „*a (se) loga*", „*a transfera*", „*a se înregistra*", „*a instala*", „*a parola*", „*a scana*", „*a printa*", „*a reseta*" („a reseta calculatorul"), „*a virusa*", „*a posta*", „*a hosta*" („a hosta un site pe un server"), „*a defragmenta*", „*a compila*", „*a restarta*", „*a cripta*", „*a upgrada*", „*a updata*", dar şi „*a chat-ui*", „*a hack-ui*", „*a share-ui*" – others are semantic loan translations: the verb „*a apela*" is used (engl. *to call*) with meaning and new sintactic regime: „telefonul este apelat", „va putea apela fişierul x". De multe ori în dicţionar apar doar substantivele-infinitive lungi, dar e de presupus că există şi verbul corespunzător: „*mapare*" („maparea adresei"), „*parolare*" („sistem de parolare"), „*adresare*" („adresarea fişierelor"), „*procesare*", „*formatare*" (şi cu participiul *formatat*: „dischetă formatată"), „*scanare*" (cu participiul *scanat*: „document scanat"), „*updatare*", „*defragmentare*" (cu participiul *defragmentat*: „hard defragmentat"), „*downloadare*" (cu participiul *downloadat*: „fişier downloadat"), etc.

The new Informatics language acknowledges the linguists' remarks about the preference of scientific languages to masculine nouns, sometimes by offering new plural forms. Towards the neutral *registru* from the standard language (with the plural *registre*), we are encounter the masculine *registru, pl. regiştri*, with its speciality meaning taken after the loan translation of engl. *register*, but also *virus* (pl. *viruşi*), *antivirus* (pl. *antiviruşi*), *jumper* (pl. *jumperi*), *hacker* (pl. *hackeri*), *provider* (pl. *provideri*), *user* (pl. *useri*). A word like *director (engl. directory)* is categorized as a neutral (plural *directoare*), at least for avoiding the plural confusion of the masculine administrative function (directori), as also *folder* (pl. *foldere*), *controler* (pl. *controlere*), *driver* (pl. *drivere*), *toner* (pl. *tonere*), *browser* (pl. *browsere*), *server* (pl. *servere*), *cluster* (pl. *cluster*), *scaner* (pl. *scanere*), *tutorial* (pl. *tutoriale*), *screen saver* (pl. *screen savere*), *monitor* (pl. *monitoare*), *procesor* (pl. *procesoare*), but *laptop* (pl. *laptopuri*), *link* (pl. *linkuri*), *kit* (pl. *kituri*), *modem* (pl. *modemuri*), *port* (pl. *porturi*), *script* (pl. *scripturi*), etc.

Other characteristic feature of the scientific language altogether, and mainly the English loan translations – is the frequence of compound nouns formed by juxtaposition: *fişier-text* (*text file*), *aşezare fişier* (*arrange icons*), *adresă email* (*e-mail address*) *adresă IP* (*IP address*), *bibliotecă virtuală* (*virtual library*), *dispozitiv virtual* (*virtual device*), *e-mail* (*electronic mail*), *rezoluţie mare* (*high resolution*), *rezoluţie mică* (*low resolution*), *computer gazdă* (*host computer*), *cafenea internet* (*internet café*), *sistem deschis* (*open system*). Most compounds are still translated from English, the link between nouns is expressed by Genitive or Accusative with preposition: *securitatea fişierului* (*file security*), *editor de text* (*text editor*), *adâncimea culorii* (*color depth*), *efect de bandă* (*banding*), *lăţimea benzii* (*bandwidth*), *navigator pe internet* (*browser*), *cod de pagină* (*page code*), *placă de bază* (*motherboard, system board*), *motor de căutare* (*search engine*), *placă de reţea* (*network card*), *rezoluţie de ecran* (*screen resolution*), *staţie de lucru* (*workstation*), etc.

The technical nouns (agent or instrument names) repeatedly take the endings **-or** or **-er**, taken from English, at the same time with the words: *convertor* (engl.

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convertor), *procesor* (engl. *processor*) *descriptor* (engl. *descriptor*), *ilustrator* (engl. *illustrator*), *accelerator* (engl. *accelerator*), *monitor* (engl. *monitor*), or extended to English words ended in **-er**: *asamblor* (engl. *assembler*), *adaptor* (engl. *adapter, adaptor*), *browser, digitizor* (engl. *digitizer*), *interpretor* (engl. *interpreter*), *acrobat reader, pagemaker, server, cluster, controler* (engl. *controller*), *driver, scaner* (engl. *scanner*), *finder, hacker, jumper, netsurfer/websurfer, provider, router, screen saver, spell checker, streamer, webmaster.* Rarely, this idea is conveyed by adding the Romanian suffix **-tor**: *compiler* is adapted to the form *compilator.* Even the main notion of the domain circulates in parallel as *computer* (with its origin spelling) and *calculator.* More frequent in writing is *calculator, computer* being used mainly in experts and users' speaking.

There is a continuous and mutual influence between the speciality and everyday language. The meaning of many words from current language is extended to speciality language by metaphors (this is done by loan translations): *fereastră, tablou, rădăcină, câmp, bloc, nod, coadă, arhitectură, ecou, hartă, virus, bibliotecă virtuală, ecluză, magistrală, meniu, pachet, poartă, a salva, a naviga, a vizita, adâncimea culorii, aplicaţie, ataşare, lăţimea benzii, emulare, compilator, consolă, decriptare, domeniu, extensie, magistrală, navigare, navigator, realitate virtuală,* etc.

Another phenomenon is when the speciality terminology reenters in the current language, by semantic extension, more and more often using the informal speaking. For example, the verbs *a accesa* (engl. *to access*) or *a reseta* (engl. *to reset*) are very common in informal speaking: „Acest site este accesat de sute de oameni („This site is accessed by hundred people"), „căsuţa poştală nu a mai fost accesată de mult timp" („the e-mail hasn't been accessed for a long time") or: „Resetează-te!" – „pleacă, dispari, ascunde-te" („go away, get lost, hide"); these are also metaphors, which have been recently used in colloquial language of young computers users. Let's all remember the famous TV advertisment to an even more famous chips' brand: „Vrei să ne *downloadăm* la prima?/ *Eroare*! Dă *restart* poate îţi iese data viitoare!" („Would you like us to *download* at the first stop?/ *Error*! Press *restart* you may be luckier next time!"). These quotations are ephemeral, but the tendency of using Informatics metaphors in common language is very normal and the informal speaking is wide open to this speciality language.

Unfortunatelly, some Romanian computers users do not understand the concordance between common words and Informatics terminology, and support the assumption of all English Informatics terms, even though they mainly had a non-technic meaning: („*mouse*", „*thread*", „*core*", „*driver*", „*link*", „*blog*", „*buffer*", „*bug*", „*chat*", „*cluster*", *cookie*", *cracker*", „*date*", „*flash*", „*hacker*", „*hard*", „*soft*", „*icon*", „*jumper*", *player*", „*menu*", „*surf*", „*notebook*", „*virus*", „*window*", etc). In the vision of the „barbarişti" the Romanian translation would be almost absurd; the approach between the Informatics jargon and the common language would be too disturbant. The dificulty of adopting a homogeneous Informatics terminology in Romanian

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language is obvious; Informatics has many problems, especially related to polysemantic words, which develop more specialised meanings and proper to different scientific discourses.

From the linguistics point of view, the texts in computers magazines or books are characterized by attempts of adapting the English speciality terminology to Romanian language: „Spatele dispozitivului ascunde prizele de conectare, o priză Ethernet şi două port-uri USB, dar şi butoanele de aprindere-stingere şi reset." (PC Magazine), or by the tendency of colloquial mixing the Romanian and English words: „Faceţi reload/download la cea mai recenta versiune de spyware..."; „Puteţi căuta acest program cu comanda search", „formatează hard disk-ul şi apoi reglează refresh-ul PC-ului", „deletează fişierul şi compilează codul sursă", „cu reţeaua ta wireless poţi face un upgrade la antivirus", etc.

The influence of Informatics English on Romanian language is a complex phenomenon, surpassing in amplitude and profundity the common transfers due to „distance linguistic contacts". This terminology thoroughly affects the management of Romanian vocabulary and creates the ground for an exclusive speciality terminology from many domains, providing neological synonyms, new meanings and phrases, which modernized, nuanced and enriched the actual Romanian language.

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