THE EUROJARGON AND THE SPECIALISED COMMUNITARY TERMINOLOGY

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Abstract*: The evolution of the European construction from a dream to a solid economic and then political reality generated numerous official meetings, official documents and legislation which together gave birth to a specific terminology. Within the Romanian vocabulary the communitary terminology covers a new conceptual field which appeared after 1989. The communitary specialized terminology cannot be conceived or analysed without having in mind the political, legal and institutional framework of the European Union on the one hand; on the other hand, due to its novelty and in spite of the dissemination policy, this terminology is still a rather closed code, not very accessible for the wide public, because of the communication conditions it requires and not necessarily because of its nature. The definitions of communitary terms are usually explicit definitions but most often the definition is based on the context. Most people will agree that the terminology and acronyms of the European Union are difficult to follow, even for those working within the sound of the European Community bells. Eurojargon can be very confusing to the general public. Eurospeak, eurojargon, eurobabble can be very tiresome to comprehend and quick definitions are often impossible to find. Eurojargon could be an attempt to give us Europeans a head start in understanding what is being talked about by people in and out of suits in Europe.*

Key words: *European Union, specialized terminology, eurojargon.*

The premises of this article are mainly the international events (the process of European construction, european enlargement, globalization, Europeanization), which justify the interest of the wide public for topics and concepts related to the institutional-communitary domain and implicitly for the terminology which gives access to these topics.

1. The proces of European Accession and the Linguistic Influence

The proces of European accession has had a wide influence in all the domains of our country's political, economic and cultural life.

The language has started to reflect all these changes and a new corpus of neologisms has been created – the communitary terminology. As far as the terms included in this terminology are concerned, the ones starting with the prefix *euro-* and the acronyms and abbreviations are among the most frequent (*eurosceptic, eurocrat, eurobarometru, eurodeputat, euro-funcționar, euro-observator, euro-parlamentar* or *DG, FSE, PAC, PODCA, OOLAF,* etc).

In Romania the main institution dealing with the creation, validation and standardization of communitary terminology is the European Institute (IER).

The communitary terminology benefits of a particular attention and many official documents contribute to its standardization. These documents are both political

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documents (among the most recent being the Treaty of Lisbon) and collateral documents of a legal, political, linguistic nature which stipulate language rules to be used for the drafting of the first type of the documents mentioned above. An example of such documents is the Common Practical Guide of the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission to be used when drafting legal texts of the communitary institutions (2008). Other publications are Models of legal documents drafted by the Council and the Interinstitutional stylistic guide or the LegisWrite models. Such language guides are written by the three legal services of the European Union: the European Parliament, the Council and Commission.

2. The Communitary Terminology - Characteristics

Two core characteristics of the communitary terminology to be noted are the fact that it is a multilingual terminology, without being based on translations (as the Acts are usually drafted in paralel in all the EU languages) and the fcat that the main sources of the communitary terminology are the common language and the legal terminology.

The communitary terminology is the one present in different fields of the political, economic, cultural life included / affected by the integration and belonging to the European Communities until 1993 and to the European Union from this date on. From this point of view, we can distinguish between a communitary terminology born in 1957 and respectively about a terminology of the Euroipean Union which represents the current form of the communitary terminology, after the change of name and status of the Communities into the European Union and the coming into force of the Treaty of Maastricht.

Regarding the nature of the communitary terminology we believe that we cannot discuss about the existence of such a terminology in the absolute meaning. The communitary terminology consists of different groups of terms covering communitary issues but basically included in another termionlogy. For example we can talk about a communitary political terminology, a communitary economic terminology, and also about communitary terminology included in the fields of environment, education, etc. Each such larger group of terms can be subdivided into more specialized sub-groups. For example, the communitary legal terminology can be divided into sub-terminologies referring to the basic Union's legislation, labour legislation, customs legislation, civil legislation, etc. Therefore it would be more appropriate to talk about a core communitary terminology of a political nature and of numerous satellite terminologies expressing their realities of all the domains of life affected by European membership.

3. Definition Issues. From the Dictionary to the Text and the Other Way round

Disseminating the idea of European accession and the impact of the legislative changes on our daily live is still an important objective of the state institutions involved in the processes of accession and legislative harmonization, an objective whose achievement has received the financial support of the European Union, so that the phenomenon of European integration should be explained to the Romanians.

At first sight, the communitary terminology enjoys a special attention; a proof is the great number of monolingual, bilingual, multilingual glossaries (many of them on-line), explanatory monolingual dictionaries, terminological lists for translators.

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Unfortunately most of such valuable lists are used only internally by different institutions and aren not officially published.

The terminographic activity dealing with the communitary terminology is limited to such volumes. The general linguistic dictionaries (DEX, MDN, DCR) the communitary terminology is very poorly represented.

The specialized dictionaries, the glossaries and the lists of communitary terms are not terminographic works. They ony offer encyclopedic definitions, with references to other entries. From this point of view, many definitions can be characterized as circular

A general view over the works dealing with the inventory of communitary terms can help us distinguis among different categories:

- Names of institutions of the European Union (often used as acronyms): *Comisia Europeană, Consiliul European, Consiliul Uniunii Europene, Parlamentul European,* etc. (the most frequent noun head of the syntagms being *comisie, consiliu, comitet*).

- Names of European organizations, associations. In this case, the core terms used in the communitary vocabulary are *agenție, centru, oficiu.* E.g.: *Agenția Europeană a Mediului, Centrul Comun de Cercetare, Oficiul Comunitar pentru Varietăți Vegetale.*

- Names of documents, most often built starting from one of the following core concepts: *acord, act, cartă / carte, criterii, program, protocol, raport, regulament, tratat. (Acord European, Actul unic European, Carta serviciilor publice, Criteriile de aderare, Tratatul asupra Uniunii Europene).*

- Names of European programmes and policies, under the form of expansions starting from these two terms, *politică* and *program* to which two more can be added *principiu* and *procedură*. There is a large number of acronyms used in this field in parallel with the full name of the respective term. E.g.: *Politica Agricolă Comună (PAC), Politica Externă şi de Securitate Comună (PESC), Principiul nediscriminării, Procedura de codecizie.*

- Names of official meetings, the nucleus terms from this semantic field being: *conferință* and *consiliu*. E.g.: *Conferință interguvernamentală, Conferința europeană*.

- Heterogeneous terms: *fiscalitate europeană, comitologie, Troica UE*, etc.

As it entered in the Romanian vocabulary in a very short period of time, the communitary terminology led to a significant growth of the number of neologisms as well as of the number of words borrowed from English and French. The same situation stands true for calques.

4. The Eurojargon or Communitary Jargon (Jargon Communautaire)

While the international specialized works use the syntagm of European terminology or terminology of the European Union, in Romania, the stylistic guides and non-linguistic dictionaries prefer the expression communitary terminology including definitions of European concepts, practices, procedures, policies, etc.

Multilinguism, the diversity of the languages spoken in the 27 member states, the use of the same ideas and concepts in these countries have popularized the concept of eurojargon refering strictly to institutional, political and technical terms defining the institutions and activities of the European Union.

The *Eurolect* is used by researchers starting from 1994 when Roger Gauffin published an article in Montreal - “L’Eurolecte: oui, jargon communautaire: non”, and

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in 1998 (18 September) at the Lisbon Conference Hubert Paesmans used it as a new concept for defining the linguistic policy of the Union.

Diego Marani, translator for the Union's Council, uses the term of *europanto* in order to define the mixture of foreign elements in his own language, "the first and only language which can be understood in the United Europe and which is learnt without being studied. In order to speak it, it is enoug to talk in our own language while using also a few words from the foreign languages we know" (the parody is obvious here). By analogy with the word neonim (a neologism belonging to a certain terminology) the concept of *euronim* was created.

All these terms are a result of the European multilinguism, of the equality among the member states and of the respect for their citizens, the most visible proof being that the names of the institutions have official equivalents in all the languages, at European and international level).

The acronyms used in communitary texts ar part of the terminology of the EU's institutional system:

- Decision making institutions: *CE – Consiliul Europei (Conseil de l'Europe/ European Council), PE – Parlamentul European (Parlement Europeen/ European Parliament), CAEM – Consiliul de Asistență Economică Mutuală (Conseil d'Assistance Economique / Council for Mutual Economic Aid)*;

- Counseling bodies and committees: *CSEE – Comitetul Sindical European al Educației (Comite Syndical Europeen de l'Education / European Trade Union for Education), CET – Comitetul European al Transporturilor (Comite Europeen des Transports/ European Transport Committee);*

- Authorities for administrative and / or legislative control: *CEDO- Curtea Europeană a Drepturilor Omului (Cour Europeenne des Droits de l'Homme)*

- Parliamentary groups or unions: *UEO- Uniunea Europei Occidentale (Union de l'Europe Occidentale/ Western European Union), CEA – Confederația Europeană de Agricultură (Confederation Europeenne de l'Agriculture)*

- Legislation / acts: *AUE –Actul Unic European (Acte Unique Europeen/Single European Act), TUE – Tratatul asupra Uniunii Europene (Traite sur l'UE);*

- programmes and policies: *PC – Program Comunitar (Communitary Programme) , SAPARD- Program Special de Aderare pentru Agricultură şi Dezvoltare Rurală (Special Accession Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development), FSE – Fondul Social European (European Social Fund), PO- program operațional (operational programme), PESA- Politica Europeană de Securitate şi Apărare (Politique Europeenne de Securite et de Defense).*

In Romanian, at the level of expression many acronyms coincide with the French ones or sometimes with the English ones, some of them being very close to the foreign form.

The formation and wide use of acronyms is very productive in the communitary vocabulary, mainly due to the large amount of information and media – television, internet, radio, and newspapers. The enrichment of the vocabulary by introducing acronyms from the communitary terminology is a phenomenon present in all the EU languages as they mirror more than other categories of words the socio-political, economic, and cultural changes in each member state.

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5. Euro- as prefix

The terms and words starting with *euro-:* two prefixoides should be distinguished, not only one: (1) *euro$_1$*, resulting from the proper noun *Europe*, and meaning "which refers to Europe, which deals with European economic, cultural, values or with certain European standards" and (2) *euro$_2$*, formed by conversion from the common noun *euro* "name of the European currency", originally also a part of the proper noun *Europe*. From the point of view of their productivity *euro$_1$* is clearly more widely used than *euro$_2$*.

The first prefixoid is currently used under four different forms: (1) *eu-* (*EUBusiness*) (2) *euro-* (*euroatlantic*), (3) *eur-* (*Eurasia*), (4) *europo-* (*europocentrism*).

In an attempt to find a convenient classification criterion in Romanian, the following categories of terms / words resulted:

-Names of professions, trades and dignities (in a very wide acception): euroagricultor, euroalegător, eurobirocrat, eurocetățean

-Names of domains, activities, institutions, characteristics which are related to the firs category in terms of content and form: *euroalegeri, euroalegeri, eurobarometru, eurojustiție, Europol, eurojustiție.*

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