A (SOCIO)LINGUISTIC RANGE ANALYSIS: SEMANTIC REPRESENTATIONS OF HETERO *AND ITS COMPOUNDS*

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Abstract*: Our article proposes the study of a range of sociolinguistic terms having in common the prefix -hetero. The first part provides an overview of the prefixes in literature while the second connects it with the analysis of the semantic representations of several compounds (heterophony, heteroglossia, heterolinguality, heterology, heterolingualism, hetero-representations and hetero-identification) and their equivalents in French, English and Romanian, which are to be found in a sociolinguistic dictionary.*

Keywords*: sociolinguistics, prefix, analysis, compounds, representations*

1. Introduction

This article is part of a more complex study undertaken in the sociolinguistic field and which has materialized in the conception and publication of a Romanian dictionary of sociolinguistic terminology.

In any field of activity, there is usually a vocabulary used by people to more efficiently communicate ideas, concepts and to facilitate the understanding of the topics in discussion. From this point of view, sociolinguistics does not differ at all. Many different terms confuse those who make the first steps in this direction.

Besides, it is important to disambiguate terms which - given the increasing heterogeneity of sociolinguistic research - are used with different meanings in different academic traditions.

In what follows we present different aspects of prefixes with focus on Romanian/English and other Latin languages and in the second part we proceed to the sociolinguistic analysis of the *hetero*-compounds.

2. Aspects related to prefixes

Prefixes are important building blocks in the creation of new words. Affixes are part of our living language, in that people regularly use them to create new words for modern products, concepts, phenomena etc., productivity becoming, therefore, an important topic in the field of word-formation in recent decades.

Unlike English or French, which have always preferred etymological type spelling, Romanian (like most other Romance languages: Italian, Spanish) has preferred phonetic

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spelling. The problems arise mostly to those particularly spelt with *h* and with *y* and double letters in the original languages. Generally speaking, Avram (1990) draws attention to the fact that the letters k, q, w, y are specific to other languages and they do not associate with the specific Romanian letters (ă, î, ş, ţ) or the digraph gh. As far as the letter /h/ is concerned we specify that many English and French forms start with this one, thanks to their etymology. It is not the case in the same corresponding Romanian elements. A typical case is that of terms including forming elements *homo-* et *hetero-*/*hétéro-*: *homoglot environment*/*milieu homoglotte*, *heteroglot environment*/*milieu hétéroglotte*, *heterolinguality*/*hétérolingualité*. In Romanian, should one prefer forms with or without h-*h-* (*homoglot* ou *omoglot*, *hetero-* ou *etero-*,etc.)?

A look at the corresponding terms in the other Romance languages (Italian, Spanish, Portuguese) reveals that options are often divergent: Italian prefers forms without h-; Spanish and Portuguese retain the original position /h-/: it. *ambito omeoglotta* but esp. *entorno homoglota* harbor. *área homeoglota.*

Therefore, we had to consider whether to transfer the corresponding terms in Romanian with an initial h- or not. The status of initial /h/ is ambiguous in Romanian. Like other Romance languages, Romanian lost the etymological /h-/ in hereditary words of Latin origin. However, the initial /h-/ is common in different loans from other Balkan languages, which are perfectly integrated (*haimana, haleală, hambar, harta, halviţă*, etc.). Similarly, it is found in many recent adoptions from various Western European languages (English, German, French).

Following a research on the hetero- and homo- prefixes in the Romanian language we found that the variation in the use of /h-/ in the initial position was relatively frequent (forms without h are more popular in Romanian, and most other Latin languages have also eliminated this letter). *Hetero*, for instance, comes from the Greek *heteros* meaning 'other' and it indicates a relation of alterity from the one to the other. Contrary to the prefix *poly*, which implies multiplicity and complementarity, the prefix *hetero* entails the foregrounding of diversity (Raguet 2013:147).

3. *Hetero* and its compounds: semantic representations

The sociolinguistic terms we want to analyse are taken from a recently published sociolinguistics dictionary. These are: heterophony, heteroglossia, heterolinguality, heterology, heterolingualism, hetero-representations and hetero-identification.

3.1. Hetero-representations (ro. hetero-reprezentări, fr. hétéro-représentations)

These are representations belonging to others. It is important to distinguish between hetero-representation and self-representations and the dynamics between these nouns represent the relationship between the ways in which speakers are representing themselves, and the way people perceive them (Quiroga 2013:12). Most of the representations are hetero-representations, the only exceptions being confessions and self-portraits (Foszto/Anăstăsoaie 2001:353). In the narrative genres, there are no self-representations without hetero- representations (Heller/Rundell 2011:194).

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3.2.Heterophony (ro. heterofonie, fr. hétérophonie)

This concept was introduced by Todorov in his attempt to translate the term created by Bakhtin in order to refer to the diversity of (individual) voices. Zbinden (2003: 342) defines it as the internal stratification of a given language. Heterology (multiplicity of viewpoints) heterophony (diversity of voices) and heterolingualism (language difference) build important dimensions of Bakhtinian multilingualism. Heterophony occurs in heterolingual or a monolingual form: different voices are expressed in different languages or in one? Does it express one or more points of view? (Simard 2014).

As the field is changed, the term heterophony designates an intermediary state between monody and polyphony. According to Russian researchers Arom and Meyer heterophony presents several characteristics: simultaneous execution of two or several varied realizations of the same melodic pattern; instability of vertical relations between voices; more or less rigorous homorhythmy (Arom/Meyer 1993:167). In other research the concept of heterophony is understood as "the situation in which the author maintains contact with, as well as conflict within, the linguistic and cultural system at work" (Raguet 2013:142). The same author considers that hetero implies that each voice has both an original independent meaning and a new sense acquired in contact with other voices (Raguet 2013:142). She explains that in biology and anthropology, researchers have compared métissage (cross-breeding) and creolization and jumped to the conclusion that métissage is perceived negatively, being associated with sterility and creolization is positive and creative (Raguet 2013:143).

3.3.Heteroglossia (ro. heteroglosia, fr. hétéroglossie)

This concept created by Bakhtin refers to the diversity of languages, to the fact that language is not a unified thing but rather consists of many social languages used by professionals, old or young people or a language used in different eras and historical contexts (Swann et al. 2004: 134). Defined as the simultaneous use of different shapes or signs and as the tension and conflicts between them (Bailey 2007: 257), this concept has been adopted by researchers interested in the complicated relationship between linguistic diversity, social difference and power (Baxter 2003 Busch 2004). In other words, hetereglossia represents the heterogeneity of natural languages (Zbinden 2003: 342). Unlike the concept of diglossia, the heteroglossia does not seem to show a hierarchy of languages . It is rather a determination of the presence of various languages (Vouardoux 2011: 13). This word is currently used in Francophony and Creole contexts, where one often enters into contact with the diversity of languages. Ludwig/Poullet (2002: 22) even spoke about hybrid heteroglossia - which they define as a true interpenetration of registers or languages in question.

3.4. Heterolinguality (ro. heterolingualitate, fr. hétérolingualité)

It can be defined as the way a person is able to take advantage of all the languages he/she has access to (Bădulescu 2013: 341-347). Heterolinguality emphasizes in sociolinguistics the addressing form and the linguistic inventiveness, but also the importance of hybrid languages, and the switching of codes. Glissant (1997) uses another term for heterolinguality, namely the creolisation, through which he seeks to emphasize the

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character of the budding language; there is creolisation in the linguistic activity among several languages when this type of poetic activity produces an unforeseeable thing, a creation. Querrien (2013) explains that when immigrants in France are spoken to, heterolinguality does not come only from the inability of understanding the language that they speak but also from the inability of speaking their own language; it comes from the fact that the alleged own language, where French speakers have expressions that they would have liked to forget, they discover, thus, to be bound by generations of colonial relations.

3.5. Heterolingualism (ro. heterolingvism, fr. hétérolinguisme)

This term was launched by Grutman, within literary criticism terminology, to illustrate the presence of foreign idioms in the text, in whatever form they may be and even of (social, regional or chronological) varieties of the main language (Grutman 1997: 37). Heterolingualism plays linguistic hybridity, describing the quality or condition of being understood in different languages (Bădulescu 2013: 341-347). Grutman aimed to ascertain a textual strategy from heterolingualism (Suchet 2009: 25). The heterolingualism, besides being an alternative imaginary of the dominant representations of the "language", allows to hear a "voice", which would be the subject of enunciation (Suchet 2014: 32). The heterolingualism has the merit of making observable, in literary text itself, the construction of languages taking place along a given socio-discursive data (Suchet 2014: 72).

3.6. Heterology (ro. heterologie, fr. hétérologie)

This concept is in fair use nowadays in the humanities; it was introduced by Todorov in his attempt to translate the Russian term created by Mikhail Bakhtin to designate the irreducible diversity of discursive type. According to Certeau's definition (1986), heterology is a speech of the other one, which is at the same time a speech about the other one and a speech in which the other one speaks; it is an "art of playing in two places," a manner to evaluate in one place what is missing in the another. Zbinden (2003: 342) states that the relationship between heteroglossia and heterology passes from the interlinguistic and international level to the intralinguistic and intranational one.

3.7. Hetero-identification (ro. ***heteroidentificare,*** *fr. hétéro-identification)*

Hetero-identifications and self-identifications are usually used in the complex process of racial identification. Globally hetero-identifications bear down on self-identifications, meaning that the subjective dimension of identity, more precisely the representations of the individual in relation to the ethnic group to which he belongs, is impaired in favour of other possible identifications. Not finding themselves into characterizations of the ethnic group, recurring in the collective imagination, the frequent attitude of some members is one of reluctance, respectively assuming the exogenous identity either of the dominant group or of another minority group. Thus, specialized studies show that because of the "instinct of self-preservation" they hide their ethnic identity, especially in contact with other ethnic groups, although in other contexts, ethnic identity can be strongly pronounced.

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4. Conclusions

Any documentation source should constitute a reliable guide and preceptor. Through this analysis we wanted to offer the reader a useful and efficient tool without avoiding the open-ended questions, untranslatability or impossibility of homogenization of different notions (even if sociolinguistics is characterized by increased heterogeneity, it is sometimes a minefield, with similar terms, used differently in different academic tradition). At the same time, we wanted to shed light on the notions which sometimes pose major interpretational issues. Following our analysis, it is to be considered that the prefix "hetero" does not necessarily refer to a specific number of semantic representations. It is rather to identify certain areas of linguistic homogeneity, to observe their limits, sometimes (and not constantly) porous, and then to question the interaction of these areas with each other.

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