# CURRENT STAGE OF MORPHOLOGICAL INTEGRATION OF ENGLISH-ORIGIN WORDS (LETTER H)

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*Abstract:The essential and inevitable process of enriching the vocabulary of a language is ever growing in a worldwide progress within all professional domains. As a consequence, the number of English-origin words in the Romanian language is continuously increasing with time. The present article presents a study upon the morphological integration of English-origin words to the Romanian language system, namely words that start with letter H, collected from two main dictionaries: the Great Dictionary of Neologisms (MDN, 2008) and from the Dictionary of the Romanian Language (DEX, 2016). The study showed that the English-origin words with letter H were classified into five major categories: nouns, adjectives, verbs, interjections and multiple morphology.*

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

**Introduction**

Romanian language had its neologisms at every stage of development: Latin, Turkish, Greek, Hungarian, French and, more recently, English and American Enhlish-origin words. The significant borrowing process of Anglo-American words has thrived especially after World War II, as far as the majority of the European languages are concerned (and not only). The adoption of new words of English origin is still an ever growing phenomenon, an explanation for this being in the necessity of designating new extra linguistic realities; most of the time, these extra linguistic realities require more specific words in order to be expressed.

The first anglicisms appeared ever since Costache Negruzzi (*spleen*), Ion Ghica (*lordul mylordul*), and, last but not least, Ion Luca Caragiale (*five o'clock, high life, cottage, etc*.). Also, an important number of anglicisms appear between the two world wars in the works of various Romanian writers such as Ion Minulescu or Cezar Petrescu. There exists a multitude of reasons why there is more preference for the use of a borrowed word than of a Romanian one. Often, the borrowed word designates a new concept for the Romanian culture and, in such cases, this borrowing comes together with the new entity. But, in some cases, there already exists a Romanian word with an identical or close meaning to that of the English-origin word, and, still, the speakers prefer to use the latter one. No matter the speakers' motivation in order to use an English borrowing, one needs to admit the fact that the English language keeps representing the most important spoken language all over the world, especially as far as communication is concerned. Therefore, English will continue to be a true source for a great number of borrowings not only in what may concern the Romanian language but others as well (Badea, 2013:189).

Therefore, we may state that the process of enriching the vocabulary of a language is both essential and inevitable within the context of a worldwide progress. As a consequence, the number of English-origin neologisms in the Romanian language is ever growing. And, just like lifestyles change, language changes as well: "There can never be a moment of true standstill in language. Like everything else, it gradually transforms itself over centuries"(Aichison, 1991:60). Although we cannot clearly determine the causes of lingusitic



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changes, there could be stated that we can actually observe the consequences of these changes.

As Graur stated in 1968, a new word, in its either morphological, graphical or phonological form is spread enough, then the change is in progress, while if it replaces the old word already existing in the language, then the adaptation process is complete. However, despite the universality of the phenomena of changing in language, the methods and ways of absorbing new words differ from one language to another. Any language reflects the lifestyle of its speakers: social organisation, political system, economy, philosophy, art, customs, etc, which, taken all together, form the culture of a particular community (Graur, 1968:56).

**Material and Method**

In the present article, we proposed to analyze the English-origin borrowings selected from the Great Dictionary of Neologisms (MDN, 2008) and from the Dictionary of the Romanian Language (DEX, 2016), letter H, regarding the morphological framing of these borrowings. Thus, there were selected a total number of 141 English borrowings starting with letter H as nouns, adjectives and verbs.

The method used was the descriptive analysis, through a content analysis of the morphological framing of the selected borrowings. The purpose of such an approach is that of understanding and explaining the phenomena of linguistic evolution of various words from the studied general dictionaries.

**Morphological Adaptation**

Regarding the morphological integration of English-origin words with letter H, they were classified into five major categories: nouns, adjectives, verbs, interjections and multiple morphology. The first two categories, however, were also divided into subcategories, such as: feminine nouns, masculine nouns or neuter nouns and variable or invariable adjectives. The verb category was poorly represented, comprising only one verb, as well as the category of interjections. Still, an interesting morphological category arises in this analysis, as well, namely the one comprising borrowed English-origin words that bear the characteristic of multiple morphology. Furthermore, we will present the distribution of English-origin neologisms (Letter H) selected from MDN (2008) and DEX (2016), ordered in the table below:

**Table 1**

**Total of English-origin Words -- MDN (2008) and DEX (2016), Letter H— 157**

| Neuter Nouns | Fem. Nouns | Masc. Nouns | Var. Adj. | Inv. Adj. | Verbs | Interj. | Multiple Morphology |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 74 | 52 | 16 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 |

By the use of such methods of enriching vocabulary as conversion or suffixation, the process of morphological adaptation to the Romanian language system has continued to become an extended process of borrowing and adapting new words, due to the fact that both the Romanian language and its speakers have an extraordinary receptivity for foreign borrowings, especially from English-origin ones.

**Morphological integration of English origin nouns (letter H)**

In the present study, the best represented category of English-origin neologisms was the **noun** category, followed by the category of the **adjective.** This current phenomenon may be explained by the easiness with which nouns may be borrowed from the English language, especially if we refer to specialized languages.



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As far as the gender of nouns, linguists have usually distinguished three criteria, namely: the etymological criterium, the semantic criterium and the form criterium. Despite the fact that in English there exists a correspondence between the grammatical gender and the natural one, English-origin nouns have not generally preserved their English gender (masculine or feminine). Thus, most of the analyzed nouns belong to the **neuter gender**, according to the studied dictionaries, as it may be observed from the table previously presented. The selected seventy-four **neuter nouns** beginning with letter H were the following:

*hacking* < engl. *hacking/ halniu* < engl. *halnium/ haiku* < engl. *haikku/ half-time* < engl. *half-time/ haloplancton* < engl. *haloplancton/ hammerless* < engl. *hammerless/ handbal* <engl. *Handball/ handicap* < engl. *handicap/ handling* < engl. *handling/ happening* < engl. *happening/ happy-end* < engl. *happy-end/ hardback* < engl. *hardback/ hard disk* < engl. *hard-disk/ hardpan* < engl. *hardpan/ hard rock* < engl. *hard-rock/ hardware* < engl. *hardware/ hard-top* < engl. *hard-top/ hat-trick* < engl. *hat-trick/ header* < engl. *header/ heading* < engl. *heading/ heaging* < engl. *heaging/ heavy metal* < engl. *heavy metal/ hedging* < engl. *hedging/ hemimorfism* < engl. *hemimorphism/ hemocromometru* < engl. *hemochromometer/ hemomanometru* < engl. *hemomanometer/ hemotahometru* < engl. *hemotachometer/ hent* < engl. *hands/ heptatlon* < engl. *heptathlon/ herbartianism* < engl. *herbartian+"-ism"/ hereford* < engl. *hereford/ hermafroditism* < engl. *hermafroditism/ hidrolocator* < engl. *hydrolocator/ hidroscop* < engl. *hydroscope/ high fidelity* < engl. *high-fidelity/ high-life* < engl. *high-life/ hijacking* < engl. *hijacking/ himenotom* < engl. *hymenotome/ hiperadrenalism* < engl. *hyperadrenalism/ hiperbolism* < engl. *hyperbolism/ hiperentuziasm* < engl. *hyperenthisasm/ hipergonadism* < engl. *hypergonadism/ hiperparazitism* < engl. *hyperparasitism/ hipersunet* <engl. *hypersound/ hipnagog* < engl. *hypnagogue/ hiperbarism* < engl. *hyperbarism/ hipofaringe* < engl. *hypopharynx/ hippyism* < engl. *hippyism/ histerolit* < engl. *hysterolith/ histerolitiaza* < engl. *hysterolithiasis/ hit* < engl. *hit/ HIV* < engl. *Human Immunodeficiency Virus/ hobbism* < engl. *hobbism/ hobby* < engl. *hobby/ hochei* < engl. *hockey/ hogback* < engl. *hogback/ holding* < engl. *holding/ holdup* < engl. *hold-up/ home-computer* < engl. *home-computer/ homeless* < engl. *homeless/ home-rule* <engl. *home-rule/ homespun* < engl. *homespun/ hon* < engl. *honn/ hormism* < engl. *hormism/ hot-jazz* < engl. *hot-jazz/ hot monaey* < engl. *hot money/ house* < engl. *house/ hovercraft* < engl. *hovercraft/ howdah* < engl. *howdah/ hula-hoop* < engl. *hula-hoop/ hully-gully* < engl. *hully-gully/ hummock* < engl. *hummock/ hunting* < engl. *hunting/ hurican* < engl. *hurricane/ hurling* < engl. *hurling*

The **feminine nouns** included in our study were represented by fifty-two English-origin words, far lesser than the ones belonging to the neuter gender. We refer to these nouns as [-animated], although in English the feminine gender is usually associated with [+animated]. Among the feminine English-origin nouns with letter H, we have:

*hagiolatrie* < engl. *hagiolatry/ hamartofobie* < engl. *hamartophobia/ haptofobie* < engl. *haptophobia/ hedonofobie* < engl. *hedonophobia/ helmintofobie* < engl. *helmintophobia/ helotomie* < engl. *helotomy/ hemianalgezie* <engl. *hemianalgesia/ hemicefalie* < engl. *hemicephalia/ hemocrioscopie* < engl. *hemocryoscopy/ hemofobie* < engl. *hemophobia/ hepaticolitiaza* < engl. *hepaticolithiasis/ heptada* < engl. *heptad/ hernioplastie* < engl. *hernioplastia/ heterodinare* < engl. *heterodyne/ hialofobie* < engl. *hyalophobia/ hidrodipsomanie* < engl. *hydrodipsomania/ hidrofinare* < engl. *hydrofining/ hidroplasma* < engl. *hydroplasm/ hierofobie* < engl. *hierophobia/ hilofobie* < engl. *hylophobia/ himenologie* < engl. *hymenology/ himenorafie* < engl. *hymenorrhaphy/ himenotomie* < engl. *hymenotomy/ hiperactivitate* < engl. *hyperactivity/ hiperbrahicefalie* < engl. *hyperbrachicephalia/ hiperextensiune* < engl. *hyperextension/ hiperinflatie* < engl. *hyperinflation/ hipermotilitate* <



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engl. *hypermotility/ hipernutritie* < engl. *hypernutrition/ hiperpigmentatie* < engl. *hyperpigmentation/ hiperventilatie* < engl. *hyperventilation/ hipnofobie* < engl. *hypnophobia/ hipnogeneza* < engl. *hypnogenesis/ hipnolepsie* <engl. *hypnolepsia/ hipnologie* < engl. *hypnologia/ hipnomanie* < engl. *hypnomania/ hipnoterapie* < engl. *hypnotherapy/ hipobaropatie* < engl. *hypobaropathy/ hipocromazie* < engl. *hypochromasia/ hipodontie* < engl. *hypodontia/ hipomotilitate* < engl. *hypomotility/ hipoonichie* < engl. *hypoonychium/ hipoventilatie* < engl. *hypoventilation/ hipoxantina* < engl. *hypohanthine/ hipoxidoza* < engl. *hypoxidosis/ histerodinie* < engl. *hysterodynia/ histerolitiaza* < engl. *hysterolysthiasis/ hormefobie* < engl. *hormephobia/ hostess* < engl. *hostess/ hotline* < engl. *hotline*

**Masculine nouns** represent the third category of English-origin nouns studied, poorly represented by only sixteen items as far as gender rendering is concerned. In Romanian, the masculine gender is generally associated with the [- animated] feature from English. Next, we will enumerate the masculine English-origin nouns starting with letter H selected from the studied dictionaries:

*hadrozaur* < engl. *hadrosaur/ half* < engl. *half/ hamburger* < engl. *hamburger/ haustor* < engl. *haustorium/ hemicefal* < engl. *hemicephalus/ heterocefal* < engl. *heterocephalus/ hibakusha* <engl. *hibakusha/ hidronaut* < engl. *hydronaut/ hipomicron* < engl. *hypomicron/ hippy* < engl. *hippy/ hobbit* < engl. *hobbit/ hobbyist* < engl. *hobbyist/ hocheist* < engl. *hockey+ "-ist"/ hotdog* < engl. *hotdog/ hunter* < engl. *hunter/ hurdler* < engl. *hurdler*

**Morphological Adaptation of English-origin Adjectives (letter H)**

In our study, we also found quite an important number of English-origin adjectives, although in a much lower number than English-origin nouns. Out of the total number of 7 adjectives studied, 6 are variable adjectives and only 1 is an invariable adjective; due to the fact that the Romanian language does not operate with invariable adjectives, the fact that the majority of English-origin adjectives adapted as variable ones in Romanian is a sign that the process of morphological adaptation of these adjectives is in a continuous progress.

Thus, the **variable adjectives** have been integrated quite rapidly as far as their ending is concerned. They add the endings *"-ă"* in order to form the feminine, which is not the case of the source adjective in English that remains unchanged in the feminine, a fact that proves us that these terms have been completely adapted to the Romanian morphological system. For example:

*hiperacid, -a* < engl. *hyperacid/ hiperactiv, -a* < engl. *hyperactive/ hiperentectic* < engl. *hyperentectic/ hiperploid* < engl. *hyperploid/ hipobaric, -a* < engl. *hypobaric/ hipobrahial* < engl. *hypobrachial*

As far as the category of **invariable adjectives** is concerned, the English-origin words starting with letter H provided us with only **one** unadapted invariable adjective, which preserved its original English form, concerning both the spelling and the pronounciation. Thus, the invariable adjective is *hot*< engl. *hot.*

**Morphological Adaptation of English-origin Verbs (letter H)**

The present study showed only a single **English-origin verb**, namely *hiperboliza* < engl. *hyperbolize.* This verb is a transitive one and there may be noticed a tendency to be integrated into the Romanian morphological system by adding the ending *„-iza"* to the infinitive. In spite of the scarce presence of English-origin verbs with letter H, we support the belief that, in use, there are a lot more such verbs of English origin that have not been registered yet in the general dictionaries under study.

The only **English-origin interjection with letter H** is in fact an informal greeting, used mainly by young people. In our opinion, there is a tendency to overuse this English-origin greeting, instead of the Romanian variants "buna" or "salut".

*hello* < engl. *hello*

**English-origin Words with Multiple Morphology (letter H)**



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***Conversion*** is a process of morphological class alternation specific to the English language system; despite this fact, it has become ever productive in Romanian as well.When performing the present study, we also observed English-origin words that may function both as adjectives and nouns, or as feminine and masculine nouns, according to the information given in the studied dictionaries. These multiple morphology words sum up to six, having a double or even triple morphological status. Therefore, our study determined the following morphological "pairs":

**Adjective/ feminine noun or masculine noun**

*heptastih, -a* < engl. *heptastich,* adj./fem./masc. noun,"(poezie, strofa) din sapte versuri" (MDN, 2008:458)

*herbartian, -a* < engl. *herbartian,* adj./fem./masc. noun, "(adept) al herbartianismului" (MDN, 2008:458)

*hipnofobic, -ă* < engl. *hypnophobic,* adj./fem./masc. noun,"(suferind) de hipnofobie" (MDN, 2008:471)

*hobbesian, -a* < engl. *hobbesian,* adj./fem./masc. noun,"(adept) al hobbesianismului" (MDN, 2008:477)

**Adjective/ masculine noun or neuter noun**

*hippy* < engl. *hippy,* adj./masc. noun,"(adept al miscarii hippy) miscarea, moda hippy" (MDN, 2008:475)

*horror* < engl. *horror,* adj./neuter noun,"(gen artistic; film; roman) care starneste groaza" (MDN, 2008:479)

**Conclusion**

Romanian linguists and speakers are not surprised any more by the extent of the influence of English upon the Romanian language. As far as the morphological adaptation of English-origin borrowings is concerned, the present article presents an analysis performed upon the Englsih-origin neologisms starting with letter H, selected from MDN (2008) and DEX (2016). As such, out of a total number of 157 English-origin words, 74 were neuter nouns, 52 were feminine nouns and only 16 were masculine nouns. The fact that most of the nouns were attributed the neuter gender in Romanian indicates a complete adaptation 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, we distributed 6 within the class of variable adjctives, while only 1 adjective preserved its original invariable feature, specific to the English morphosyntactical system. The English-origin verbs under analysis were observed in a very small number, namley only 1, its adaptation being performed by changing the English verb ending *"-ise"* into the Romanian verb *„-iza"* in the infinitive. There was also present the category of interjections, represented by a highly used greeting borrowed from English, especially by the young population in informal contexts, namely "*hello*".

Even though the phenomenon of borrowing word from English has been a continuous linguistic reality, our attitude, both as specialists and speakers, should be a rational one, taking into considerations both the advantages and disadvantages. However, the English influence should not be seen as a means of "destroying" the Romanian language; on the contrary, it should be considered as a way of enriching the vocabulary of the Romanian language, with a sense of responsibility towards the use of new words, so as to avoid the so-called "linguistic snobbery". Therefore, at least from this perspective, we do not consider the



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phenomenon of English borrowings to be a negative one, due to the fact that the new words were rapidly adapted to the Romanian morphological system and did not alter the main structure of the Romanian morphosyntactical system.

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