POLITICAL TERMINOLOGY IN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBALIZATION

Alexandra PORUMBESCU (MA student)
University of Craiova

ABSTRACT

The creation and development of a language terminology represents a cultural fact, of a social and political interest. The influence of globalization over the political language is ever growing, thus justifying the more frequent need for analyzing the situation of national languages within the context of other foreign terms assimilation. Globalization imposed the English language as its main language regarding international relationships. Romania's integration in the UE and the necessity of transposing in the internal legislation of communitary standards imposed the use of a specific terminology in the Romanian language.

Key words: *globalization*, *integration*, *terminology*, *political*, *anglicism*

1. Globalization is a term that defines a phenomenon and a system as well. As a phenomenon, it manifests itself by a rapid growth of economic, social and technological changes, especially after the fall of the former Sovietic Union, as a real alternative for the dissolution or redimensioning of old interstatal economic organizations. Today the phenomenon has got branches and effects in the area of political and social life structures. As a reversible and multidimensional system, it includes the economic, sociopolitical and cultural level, by institutional, organizational and technological actions that function worldwide.

In the process of communication there is used the phrase *linguistic globalization*, which involves the deliberate acceptance of a common and/or single means of communication in international relationships.

Accepting a single natural language as a single instrument of communication comes up as an objective, urgent necessity of today's social life. Therefore, one needs to go beyond the old-fashioned mentality of competition that involves the idea of linguistic supremacy. As a consequence, from a subjective point of view, this may lead to offending some national egos, some cultural ambitions acquired in time and favoured by special historical circumstances; the negative effects of 'lingustic supremacy' appear especially within well-known languages, also by tradition, as "languages of international traffic"[1]. The process of economic, social and scientific evolution of the society imposed English as the

[1] Cristina Călăraşu, „Globalizare lingvistică şi anglicizare", în *Aspecte ale dinamicii limbii române actuale* (coord. Gabriela Pană Dindelegan), Bucureşti, Editura Universității din Bucureşti, 2003: 324.

BDD-A3773 © 2008 Editura Sitech
Provided by Diacronia.ro for IP 216.73.217.142 (2026-11-15 02:02:12 UTC)

language of globalization. The reasons that led to choose English to play this part are obvious:

a. The great development of informatics as well as the banking system took place, first of all, in the USA, thus in a territory where English was spoken. This fact determined the ones who wanted to have access to the American information and new findings to speak English. Also, business parteners had to adopt the language spoken by the overseas interlocutor.

b. After 1945, Japan was interested in the economic recovery, in having true and rapid economic performances in order to be in a high position within the international economy. The interest of promoting their own language would have delayed or limited the rythm of economic development just when the economy of the country needed a rapid rythm, both for recovery and synchronization, and for acquiring a certain supremacy as well. The Japanese officials accepted to communicate in English, initiated measures for the expansion of English study in schools, thus providing direct access to information and also to market takeover, including inside the Americal society. In Japan, the interest of economic development, acquiring performances that may equal the ones of the competition managed to go beyond linguistic and cultural national egoes.

c. Israel understood that only by learning the language of the one whom you make business with, one may reach a true financial prosperity. It was easy to accept, without any prejudices, English as the communication language in the political-economic domain.

The effects of globalization are seen in almost all types of discourse, but especially in the political one. Political terminology, comparatively with other terminologies, presents a greater linguistic interest, due to its wide commincational function in this domain and the part played by mass-media in transmitting the political message[2]. Terms like *alegeri*, *democrație*, *electorat*, *eligibil*, *guvern*, *politică*, *vot*, *vota*, analyzed by Angela Bidu-Vrănceanu[3], show the monoconceptual, monoreferential and monosemantic characteristics of political terms. In various situations of communication these terms present a contextual stability.

By studying the English influence in present-day Romanian, Adriana Stoichițoiu Ichim analyzes a number of English political terms like: *agreement*, *congressman*, *exit poll*, *lider*, *lobby*, *speech*, *staff*, *summit*; English loan translations: *câini de pază ai democrației* (En. *watchdogs*), *cortină de fier* (engl. *iron curtain*), *discriminare pozitivă* (En. *positive*

[2] Angela Bidu-Vrănceanu, „Structură şi funcționare a lexicului specializat – termeni politici", în *Limba română. Structură şi funcționare* (coord. Gabriela Pană Dindelegan), Bucureşti, Editura Universității din Bucureşti, 2005: 287.

[3] Angela Bidu-Vrănceanu, „Terminologia politică românească", în *Lexicul specializat în mişcare de la dicționare la texte*, Bucureşti, Editura Universității din Bucureşti, 2007: 205-225.

BDD-A3773 © 2008 Editura Sitech
Provided by Diacronia.ro for IP 216.73.217.142 (2026-11-15 02:02:12 UTC)

discrimination), *gulere albe* (En. *white collars*), *guvern din umbră* (En. *shadow government/cabinet*), *lider de opinie* (En. *opinion leader*), *pierderi colaterale* (En. *collateral damage*) etc. Some of these terms have a contextual mobility, as it was shown[4]. To give an example we chose the term *lobby*. The meaning that is frequently met in Romanian is that of "activity of influencing": "G Plus Europe, one for the most influential *lobby* firms in Bruxelles, is the first one to be suspended from the register created in June, last year..." (*Jurnalul Național*, 23.01.2009, *Firma de lobby a Gazprom a fost suspendată de UE*). The term is usually used in the expression *a face lobby*: "Platini, care încearcă să aducă mondialul din 2018 în Europa, *face lobby* pentru Anglia..." (*Jurnalul Național*, 13.06.2009, Michel Platini: *E ciudat ce se întâmplă cu Beckham. Cum să iei un jucător pentru trei luni*, *de ce nu pentru o finală!?*). The notion of "activity" is included in the basic meaning, which does not impede a slightly pleonastic use of the term: "Gitenstein s-a făcut remarcat prin *activități de lobby* la camera de Comerț din SUA..." (*Jurnalul Național*, 13.06.2009, *Juristul ambasador*). The mass-media discourse offers numerous examples of nominal compounds that enter the word *lobby*: *grup de lobby*, *vizită de lobby*, *lobby democrat*, *lobby civic*, *lobby prezidențial* a.s.o. There are also used other terms from the lexical family like *lobbysm*: "Timp de trei zile (23-26 iunie 2008), o delegație a țării noastre, formată din suceveni, membri ai Fundației *Ana*, şi ai *Asociației Naționale de Lobbysm şi Negocieri*, a participat la seminarul *Monitorizarea publică a transformării activității de dispoziție a organelor de autoadministrare locală în condițiile integrării europene*, care s-a desfăşurat la Palatului tinerilor din Cernăuți". (*Crai Nou*, 27.06.2008, *Experiența românilor contează în Ucraina şi R. Moldova*); *lobbyst*: "Patru membri ai Camerei Lorzilor, printre care şi doi foşti miniştri, s-au oferit să ajute reporteri sub acoperire care s-au dat drept *lobbyşti* să obțină un amendament în schimbul unor sume de bani". (*Jurnalul Național*, 26.01.2009, *Marea Britanie/Lorzi corupți*); *lobbistică*: "Noul preşedinte al PD Oradea e mulțumit de echipa sa. E tânăr şi, la putere, sunt foarte mulți ca el. *Asta-i lobbystica*, zâmbeşte cu subînțeles". (*Bihoreanul*, 28.11.2005, *Ierarhie şi necaz*)

A large number of English political terms present a contextual moblilty, as it was demonstrated[4]; they contribute to a semantic and stylistic nuancing of Romanian, to the modernization of the lexis. Adopting these terms is a process that corresponds to both social and cultural necessities of expression (the appearance of some new extra-linguistic realities, determined by facts connected to humanity progress), and also to functional ones (the necessity of the existence in the language of some terms to designate such new realities of the human life).

BDD-A3773 © 2008 Editura Sitech
Provided by Diacronia.ro for IP 216.73.217.142 (2026-11-15 02:02:12 UTC)

The present anglicisation of some languages by the political terminology as well, as a consequence of globalization, remains a low percentage phenomenon. From a linguistic point of view, it enters the superstratum process.

2. UE integration and the imperative of *community acquis* within internal legislation implicitly brings into discussion the problem of translation or, where this thing is impossible, the use of new terms. For a political and legal terminology in the texts published in Romanian in the Official Journal of UE there are regarded both basic principles of terminologic research, and the practical need to rapidly access a single and multilingual data base of UE, having an interinstitutional and interactive character. This is a requirement of the legislation, especially as there exists a situation of adaptation from French (after the traditional cultural pattern) and the English pattern, for simple and compound terms: *acord* < Fr. *accord*, It. *accordo*; *aderare* (*adera* + suf. *-re*), cf. Fr. *adhésion*, En. *adhesion*; *comitologie* < Fr. *comitologie*, En. *comitology*; *comunitarizare* < Fr., En. *communitarisation*; *acord-cadru*, cf. Fr. *accord-cadre*, En. *framework agreement*; *contract-cadru*, cf. Fr. *contrat-cadre*, En. *framework contract*; *lege-cadru*, cf. Fr. *loi-cadre*, En. *framework law*. For example: “Tot la *c* aflăm şi despre *comitologie*, procesul în care Comisia Europeană consultă comisiile speciale de consilieri ale statelor membre, atunci când se doreşte implementarea unei legi europene”. (*Jurnalul Național*, 31.03.2006, *Eurojargon de UE*); “Este o idee îndrăzneață avînd în vedere că justiția în UE este încă pe palierul interguvernamental, adică acolo unde guvernele membre doar cooperează şi există o opoziție puternică față de orice *comunitarizare* a domeniului...” (*Dilema veche*, 30.04.2009, *Citind proiecte pentru Parlamentul European*); “Potrivit legii, *contractul-cadru* privind condițiile acordării medicamentelor cu şi fără contribuție personală în tratamentul ambulatoriu pe anul în curs se modifică în mod corespunzător...” (*Ziarul de Iaşi*, 28.02.2003, *Sugarii vor primi medicamente gratuit şi nelimitat*). The following compunds have the same behaviour: *autoritate contractantă*, cf. Fr. *autorité contractante*, En. *contracting authority*; *capitol de negociere*, cf. Fr. *chapitre de négociation*, En. *chapter trading*; *fonduri comunitare*, cf. Fr. *fonds communautaires*, En. *funds*; *observator activ*, cf. Fr. *observateur actif*, En. *active observer*; *procedură de cooperare*, cf. Fr. *procédure de coopération*, En. *cooperation procedure*; *procedură de codecizie*, cf. Fr. *procédure de codécision*, En. *codecision procedure*; *procedură de consimțământ*, cf. Fr. *procédure de consentement*, En. *consent procedure*; *politici comunitare*, cf. Fr. *politiques communautaires*, En. *community*; *politică de confidențialitate*, cf. Fr. *politique de confidentialité*, En. *privacy policy*. For example: “Ulterior, în primăvara acestui an, la al doilea an al gripei aviare, *autoritatea contractantă* a organizat o selecție de oferte la care s-au prezentat 30 de firme...” (*Ziarul de Iaşi*, 18.08.2006, *Dezinfecția de 12 milioane euro*

BDD-A3773 © 2008 Editura Sitech
Provided by Diacronia.ro for IP 216.73.217.142 (2026-11-15 02:02:12 UTC)

împotriva gripei aviare a ajuns la Parchetul General); "România a deschis până în prezent 7 *capitole de negociere* din 31 şi urmează să mai deschidă două capitole..." (*Ziarul de Iaşi*, 25.10.2000, *România a deschis două noi capitole de negociere cu Uniunea Europeană*); "Parchetul Național Anticorupție a înregistrat 27 de cazuri privind fraudarea *fondurilor comunitare*, şase dintre acestea fiind transmise instanțelor de judecată..." (*Ziarul de Iaşi*, 1.09.2004, *27 de fraude cu fonduri europene la PNA*).

Political terminology is of outmost interest for lexicology, by reflecting lexis dynamics. At the same time, it is important for sociolinguistics, because by its more or less correct use, it shows the cultural level of various social categories and it develops communication abilities worldwidely.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bidu-Vrănceanu, Angela, „Structură şi funcționare a lexicului specializat – termeni politici", în *Limba română. Structură şi funcționare* (coord. Gabriela Pană Dindelegan), Bucureşti, Editura Universității din Bucureşti, 2005, p. 283-290.

Bidu-Vrănceanu, Angela, *Lexicul specializat în mişcare de la dicționare la texte*, Bucureşti, Editura Universității din Bucureşti, 2007, p. 205-225.

Călăraşu, Cristina, "Globalizare lingvistică şi anglicizare", în *Aspecte ale dinamicii limbii române actuale*, (coord. Gabriela Pană Dindelegan), Bucureşti, Editura Universității din Bucureşti, 2003, p. 323-337.

Călăraşu, Cristina, „Aspecte ale globalizării lingvistice", în *Tradiție şi inovație în studiul limbii române*, Bucureşti, Editura Univerdsității din Bucureşti, 2004, p. 263-271.

Chiş, Dorina, *Cuvânt şi termen*, Timişoara, Editura Augusta, 2001.

Pop, Doru, *Mass media şi politica. Teorii*, *structuri*, *principii*, Iaşi, Editura Institutul European, 2000.

Stoichitoiu Ichim, Adriana, „Influența engleză în terminologia politică românească", în *Aspecte ale dinamicii limbii române actuale* (coord. Gabriela Pană Dindelegan), Bucureşti, Editura Universității din Bucureşti, 2003, p. 299-322.

Stoichitoiu Ichim, Adriana, *Aspecte ale influenței engleze în româna actuală*, Bucureşti, Editura Universității din Bucureşti, 2006.

Thoveron, Gabriel, *Comunicarea politică azi*, Bucureşti, Editura Antet, 1996.

BDD-A3773 © 2008 Editura Sitech
Provided by Diacronia.ro for IP 216.73.217.142 (2026-11-15 02:02:12 UTC)