



Tranzition from “Russification” to “Englishisation” of Romanian Language

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Abstract: This article aims to highlight the problem of bilingualism especially in professional area and the notion of linguistic borrowing which is reflected not only on the level of lexical borrowing but also on a more extensive level as on the level of some syntactical structures. In this paper we argue that there is a tendency of some Englishized Romanian structures to be maintained in Romanian language along with the standard ones in the process of assimilation to express different socio-pragmatic connotations.

Keywords: hybridization, Englishization, communication, professional language, lexical borrowing, bilingualism

The purpose of this paper is to highlight the problem of bilingualism, especially in the professional environment, and the notion of linguistic borrowing, which is reflected not only at the level of lexical borrowing, but also at a more extensive level, such as the borrowing of syntactic structures entirety. In this study we argue that there is a tendency for some Englishized constructions to be used in some contexts with the standard ones in the process of assimilation and to express different socio-pragmatic connotations. Bilingual lexical variations in professional environments and in the online environment increase the formation of a language closer to Romanian, contributing to the modification of the standard Romanian language.

According to the theory of Teun van Dijkreferring to discourse analysis, the content is highly connected to the context and to our perception about the reality as well as to our perception about how others perceive the reality. [4, p.358]

This being said to our lexical choice in a certain moment contribute the environment, the location and our perception about the knowledge that group of people we address possess. This way the bilingual speakers from Republic of Moldova (having Romanian language as a native one) adopted English language as the third language after adopting Russian as a second and adapted semantic constructions depending on the context. Usually, some constructions are borrowed photographically from the language they first heard it from native speakers. Some semantic constructions will be borrowed with the same emotional intensity used by the speaker. It is of a common use already in the professional area along with the technical and professional terms that were borrowed from Russian language when Moldova was under the communist regime and all the professional documentation was written in Russian[1, p.57] according to the same model some terms and expressions were borrowed from English language in the digital era. The process of borrowing was facilitated by the pandemic, when as a result of the social restrictions, people adopted online communication as a primary source and the use of the technology already could not be attributed only to the younger generation.

Some expressions said on a high emotional tone in English language (in some professional areas considered to be the working language) and leaned naturally without effort will be used in the same way with the same tone in a similar situation in English language, though in a working meeting there might be only Romanian speakers, who speak English as a learned language [3, p.3]. In a professional conversation we might hear the expression:” This is ridiculous!”with the same tone as in English as this expression said in Romanian,, Aceasta e ridicol!” might not reproduce the same emotion and message about the gravity of situation. Current studies are focused on the evolutionary processes of the transformation of the Romanian language that is highly influenced by the English language at the

same time being influenced by Russian, which was acquired during the childhood. The earlier we learn a language and the less formal our environment was, the more emotions we invest in the expressions that we use. The more formal the language is acquired the less we are tempted to use when expressing our feelings, personal opinions, and to make jokes. [a., p.6]

Englishization of the Romanian language, though was initially perceived as a substitute of the Russian, now it's gaining more space in the bilingual society, for younger generation it is the second language and for older generation this is the third language. Some young people, born after 1990, the years of independence (after the collapse of Soviet Union), will use in the same way Russian and English. There are frequent cases when none of the languages are spoken fluently. Despite the fact that some young people don't really speak Russian and are not familiar with the Cyrillic alphabet will use Russian expressions and adapt them for online communication.

Researchers are concerned about the way the standard language is impacted in a bilingual society, studies on Romanian language are made in both countries, Romania and Republic of Moldova (Molea V., Moldovanu Gh., Petraru A.) [b]. Some studies suggest that the borrowing is mutual. [2, p.370]

Romanian language form Republic of Moldova accepted hybrid format of expressions easier form English language in the professional area. On the market professionals are requested to have English speaking skills along with the technical skills and depending on the level of English proficiency the offering might change. Even in the areas of economy were professionals are not required by their daily activity to speak English, a minimum knowledge of it facilitates hiring and integration in a professional community as this helps communication. Words like “job, feedback, freelancer, meetings” are no longer spoken only by English speakers, but became common terms in the standard language. Some mistakes as semantic calculus are made in standard professional language, similarity between the Latin words like “to fix” in English and “a fixa (*to establish, to hold still*)” in Romanian led to the use of this word in a wrong context: “to fix an issue” which is a correct and widely used expression in the professional daily activity became in Romanian “a fixa o problema” which is the opposite of what is meant to be said. Some words are borrowed as they are and adopted for a long time now, due to the remote way of work and now to the hybrid professional environment (“to be on a call” or “to reject something” in Romanian became “a fi în call”, “a da reject” even if the same message can be sent using only native words). Some words are adapted with the Romanian suffix – “to skip a request” was adapted “a skipui/schipui un request”. Code switch and the code mixing between the languages advanced from professional and school to the academical environment. A major impact had marketing and advertising in extending the phenomenon of hybridization. To promote and reinforce the original message agencies adapt branding expressions to raise visibility and recognition of the brand.

CONCLUSIONS

With the rapid changes of technologies and the mode of communication in the given circumstances researchers are concerned about the influence of English language on a global scale. At the same time dominant languages under the pressure of socio-economic factors are influenced by native languages. English the lingua Franca is spoken differently depending on the geographical area with all the varieties in the process of adaptation [c]. Some sociologists and sociolinguists are preoccupied by the language imperialism of the English language and the future of its usage, comparing it to the Latin language and its influence on a global scale [d]. Nowadays we are less tempted to use the term monolingual societies as we have access to a wide variety of information. New studies are preoccupied by the way we make our language choice and how the way we speak influences our way of thinking and vice versa.

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