Research paper

The Reception of Terms of Informatics Borrowed from English into Albanian in Confrontation with Corresponding Forms in Italian and French

Terminology of Informatics

Esmeralda Strori | **Teacher of Albanian Language and Literature in "Turgut Ozal" High School, Tirana, Albania.**

Abstract

English terms of informatics, as well as of other fields of knowledge, as it is also the case with the English words which are not terms (like simple words) have been inserted and are being inserted into the Albanian language, in its contact with a language of a different nature from the typological and structural point of view, a phenomenon which influences a lot the reception by the speakers of Albanian language. This, adapting also to the nature of the receptive language (Albanian) gives its own reflexes, as the English words further penetrate in different levels of the language. In the same way, the informatics terms as well as every other lexical units, derived from English, an analytical-synthetic language with a strong analytical character, are inserted to the Albanian language, which is a synthetic-analytical language, with developed forms, especially in the inflectional system which is characterized, differently from English, by a rich system of inflections, particularly in the paradigms of nouns. The treatment of English words in the terminology of informatics in the Albanian language is of a special value and primary importance, in confrontation with the Italian and French for resolving the problems of defining the standard terms in Albanian based on the borrowed models from the Italian and French which serve as standardization models in an international level. Based on this the problems of translation and adaption to the specific of Albanian language as well as integration of the English words into the Albanian language will be resolved.

Introduction

Especially during the last decades, English words have been inserted as terms, in a dominating degree, into the Albanian language, in different disciplines of knowledge and particularly in the new branches of sciences and technology, such as in computing, telecommunications, genetics, etc. The fundamental feature of their function in the language lies in the fact that, differently from the past, before 1990s, these terms are encountered not only in the layers of the lexicon with a specialized use, but they also enter the language in a more profound level[3]. In particular, some of them, although rarely, are used in the everyday, simple communication with the conceptual content as terms, but in simplified meanings, as heard in the usual communication of internet users as well as in the case of students and children, e.x. *"klikoj, maus, printoj, printer",* etc.

English terms of informatics, as well as of other fields of knowledge, as it is also the case with the English words which are not terms (like simple words) have been inserted and are being inserted into the Albanian language, in its contact with a language of a different nature from the typological and structural point of view, a phenomenon which influences a lot the reception by the speakers of Albanian language.

---

[3] Duro.A. Vrapi.F, *"Features of terms in the Albanian language, deriving from English", in "The condition and development of the Albanian terminology, problems and tasks",* Tirana. 2009.

Research paper

This, adapting also to the nature of the receptive language (Albanian) gives its own reflexes, as the English words further penetrate in different levels of the language. In the same way, the informatics terms as well as every other lexical units, derived from English, an analytical-synthetic language with a strong analytical character, are inserted to the Albanian language, which is a synthetic- analytical language, with developed forms, especially in the inflectional system which is characterized, differently from English, by a rich system of inflections, particularly in the paradigms of nouns.

Although until today, in the Albanian language, the adaptation of both the English terms in writing (in a text), and those which are not terms, is not defined, it is taken as a criterion the written form, too*: "hardware, file"* as well as the pronunciation form: *"harduer, fajl"* whereas, the morphological adaptation remains as a fully defined criterion.

Therefore, it is written either *"hardware-in", "file-in"*,or *"harduerin, fajlin",* and, in the latter, the written form corresponds with the spoken one, according to the English pronunciation. However, the dominating way of their adaptation in the Albanian language lies in the pronunciation aspect of the form they derive from (how they are pronounced in English), therefore, in this paper, we will also respect the followed criterion in *"Informatics Vocabulary"*[4], Pristine, 2005, where the English terms are given in Albanian based on the pronunciation criterion, such as *"fajl, harduer, softuer",* etc.

Although briefly, it is of interest to examine, in principle, how the terms of this field are received in other languages, like it could be in our case, in Italian and in French. Therefore, it can be observed that these languages, from the typological and structural point of view, in general, are closer to Albanian, whereas from the aspect of their appearance in them of the inflectional system in the nouns paradigm, they are closer to English.

On the confrontiation level with the Albanian language, these two languages, Italian as well as French in the nouns system have a lack of inflections, for each noun unit but this feature is compensated by the relations in which the foreign word enters, into these languages, in the syntactical relations. Differently from these languages, in the Albanian, its articles respond to the respective inflections, which is thought to influence, in general, in having a preference to insert the English terms according to the pronunciation and not the written form, or, to put it in a better way, it influences its dominating presentation in forms such as: *"file-it,* në *file-in, i fajlit,* në *fajlin".* Therefore, this morphological adaptation, due to the presence of inflections in Albanian, affects the adaptation of the English term, based on the pronunciation criterion: *"i fajl-it, i harduer-it,* në *fajlin,* në *harduerin".*

This means that the cover in Italian and French of the cases relations through the articles and prepositions renders it possible that in this language the English term (the English entity) is inserted according to the written form, since, there is a lack of the means (forms) of inflections, which, in Albanian, their presence is a strong factor to accept the pronunciation criterion.

---

[4] Caka. N, etc*, "Computing Dictionary" (English- Albanian, Albanian- English),* Pristina 2005.

Let us have another look at the example of "*harduerin*" and not *"hardware (-in)"*. This means that in Albanian there are three factors, especially in the case when the entity belongs to the morphological and syntactical circle of the relation and, in particular, the article or the preposition, *phonemes' adaptation and morphological formation.*

Whereas in Italian and in French we would have two factors: the phonemic formation (the pronunciation form in the spoken language) and the article or the preposition, which, is not included in the structure of the foreign form but is part of the morphological and syntactical structure. These cases are schematically presented through the examples found below, in the three languages, based on the English language as a starting point from where these entities are inserted:

The reception of the English words in the written form.

English

term: *facebook*	Albanian	Italian	French
writing: facebook	*facebook*	*facebook*	*facebook*
pronunciation: *fejsbuk*	*fejsbuk*	*fejsbuk*	*fejsbuk*
the formation	*1.i(e) facebook-ut*	*del facebook*	*de facebook*
morphologically:	*2.i(e) fejsbukut*		

The phenomena that are observed in the three languages that are approached, leave their reflexes of different receptions of the terms and every other English unit in these languages but in such a way that in Italian and in French are closer to each other, whereas in Albanian, as a language with strong inflections, with noun forms, they include in their system every foreign form (English), by adapting it to their phonemic and morphological system such as *"i(e) fajl-it, i(e) fejsbuk-ut; i(e) file-it, i(e) facebook-ut",* whereas in Italian and in French, the lack of suffixes is compensated through the articles as we stressed above: *"di file, de file".*

In Italian and in French, this creates a stronger need of translation of the English terms with the noun-forming means and the lexical sources of these languages, as it can be observed in the translation from English of certain basic terms of computing, into these languages, such as in French: *"logiciel"* for *"software", "materie'l"* for *"hardware", "fichier"* for *"file".*

Differently from these languages, in Albanian the phonemic and morphological formation has inserted the English terms more easily, based more on the pronunciation, which is more preferred and accepted due to the ability of the language. As A. Kostallari expresses himself, that

the Albanian language is able to integrate foreign words in its own nominal word-formation system.[5]

This is a characteristic feature of the Albanian language related to the above languages. Sometimes, in Italian, as it also happens in French, there are observed big fluctuations that are reflected on the formation of synonyms, where the English terms compete with the foreign ones. We are speaking about the terms that consist the basis of the terminology in the field of computing.

Albanian	Italian	French
kompjuter	*ordinatore (computer)*	*ordinateur*
harduer	*hardware*	*materie'l*
softuer	*software*	*logiciel*
maus (mi)	*mouse*	*souris*
databazë	*base dei dati*	*base dei donne'es*
fajl	*file*	*fichier*
printer	*printer*	*imprimieur*

In the further development in Albanian, such as in Italian and in French, the English term *"is eliminated"* by the native word, which passes into its own language with its lexical substance or through the respective word formation means. In the first case, there is founded an equal value in the native language which responds to the internal form of the English term, which is dismantled through the motivation, such as for example, *"maus-mi-souris, window-dritare-finestra",* whereas in the second case there is a shift from the internal form of the English term into other languages through their own word formation means. For instance, *" password-fjalëkalim-parola chiave, interface-ndërfaqe-interfaccia".* In all three languages, what happens more frequently is the phenomenon of replacing the English terms with native words, which appear as direct translations such as *"flag-flamur-indicatore, window-dritare-finestra, shift-zhvendosje-spostamento, navigate-lundroj-navigate".*

Another form is also the finding of the equal values in meaning, which in the receptive language are produced not only as direct pairs but they also create pairs or verses of synonyms, which approximately give the conceptual content of the foreign term but not the complete (the same) concept. This synonymy is presented as harmful for the receptive terminology. In the level of standardization of the terminology of informatics this is a situation that must be resolved, by choosing one of the two suitable pairs, which must be given in the vocabulary as standing alone.

---

[5] Kostallari. A, *"On certain directions of reaching perfection of the structure of the system of our literary language", "Philological Studies"*, 1982/2.

This synonymy is observed in the three languages but it is more obvious in the Albanian language, such as in the examples: **pin:** *pin, këmbëz, thumb;* **cracker:** *thyerës, pirat informatik;* **character:** *karakter, shkronjë, numër, simbol;* **smart:** *inteligjent, i zgjuar.* In the other two languages there

are observed cases of synonyms but in most of the cases there is a lack of them. In Italian, **pirata informatico:** *cracker,* **carattere:** *simbolo* etc.

The English terms in the Albanian language, such as also in the two languages that approach with it, in Italian and in French, can be observed from certain viewpoints, but they, in most of the cases, have different scales of appearance in the level of standardization:

A. From the viewpoint of their involvement in the lexical and terminological system of the language.

1. A part of units that appear as direct English words but that are integrated as standard terms, especially in Albanian, such as: *" kompjuter, modem, softuer, harduer".*

2. When they are used in parallel with the names of the native language , as primary or secondary, e.x. *"maus-mi, ndërfaqe-interface, fjalëkalim-password".* In the cases when the foreign term has the complete equal value in the receptive language. e.x. *"signatoj* for *nënshkruaj, apdejtoj* for *përditësoj",* a term which refers to the deadline.

B. As terms with the same meaning (concept) used in several disciplines or as determinologised units or as borrowed units from one field to another. In general, these terms belong to a discipline or to certain main disciplines (e.x. informatics, telecommunication, electronics): defining objects and common phenomena in these disciplines. These terms may define devices and accessories such as *"monitor, displej, akses, bekgraund".* Then, they become consolidated by reinforcing their standard character.

1. As terms with different meanings (concepts) e.x. *"fidbek"* has different meanings in computing, medicine and psychology.

2. As terms that are used in a conversational level and colloquial communication, for e.x. *"selektoj, monitor, klikoj*, etc".

3. Terms as determinologized units such as *"bunker, input, insert,*etc*"* are used in figurative way.

C. Based on the similarities and the degree of the differences from one language to another.

a. the same in all four languages, both in the pronunciation and in writing. The similarity may be:

1. Complete in all languages, for example:

Albanian	English	Italian	French

bar	*bar*	*bar*	*bar*
asterisk	*asterisk*	*asterisk*	*asterisk*
bit	*bit*	*bit*	*bit*
blenk	*blenk*	*blenk*	*blenk*
ditogram	*ditogram*	*ditogram*	*ditogram*
miniterm	*miniterm*	*miniterm*	*miniterm*
hab	*hab*	*hab*	*hab*
loging	*loging*	*loging*	*loging*
robot	*robot*	*robot*	*robot*
slesh	*slesh*	*slesh*	*slesh*
standard	*standard*	*standard*	*standard*
simlink	*simlink*	*simlink*	*simlink*
video	*video*	*video*	*video*
modem	*modem*	*modem*	*modem*
ident	*ident*	*ident*	*ident*
internet	*internet*	*internet*	*internet*

2.Similarity which is closer to the phonemic level, in the four languages, or minimally in two, for example:

Albanian	English	Italian	French
aksesibilitet	*accessibility*	*accessibilita*	*accessibilite'*
actuator	*actuator*	*attuatore*	*actuateur*
ankor	*anchor*	*ancora*	*ancre*
descriptor	*descriptor*	*descrittore*	*descripteur*
editor	*editor*	*editore*	*editeuer*
emitter	*emitter*	*emettitore*	*emetteur*
navigator	*navigatore*	*navigator*	*naviguateur*
redundancë	*redundancy*	*ridondanza*	*redondance*
graf	*graph*	*grafico*	*graphique*

b.Similarity in Albanian and in English based on the same pronunciation for example:

Albanian	English	Albanian	English
ajtëm	*ajtëm*	*autput*	*autput*
aplet	*aplet*	*assembler*	*assembler*
audiofajl	*audiofajl*	*autotekst*	*autotext*
bekgraund	*backgraund*	*bekap*	*backup*
bexh	*bexh*	*bip*	*beep*
barkod	*barkod*	*bimep*	*bitmap*
blekaut	*blackout*	*blenk*	*blenk*

c.The similarity in Albanian and in Italian based on the pronunciation in Albanian and writing in Italian, for example:

Albanian	Italian	Albanian	Italian
bajt	*byte*	*bajtkod*	*bytecode*
dizajn	*design*	*ditogram*	*ditogram*
markap	*markup*	*fajl*	*file*
fidbek	*feedback*	*faks*	*fax*
gigabajt	*gigabite*	*minidisk*	*minidisc*
maus	*mouse*	*onlajn*	*online*
pointer	*pointer*	*plotter*	*plotter*
log	*log*	*loging*	*loging*

d.The similarity in Albanian and in French based on the pronunciation in Albanian and writing in French, for example:

Albanian	French	Albanian	French
absortancë	*absortance*	*bar*	*bar*
bit	*bit*	*bitmep*	*bitmap*
fejsbuk	*facebook*	*bajpas*	*bypass*

| *bajtkod* | *bytecode* | *ditogram* | *ditogram* |
| *port* | *port* | *record* | *record* |

D. Different forms based on the writing.

a. In Albanian and English, for example:

assistoj	*to assist*	*buferoj*	*to buffer*
formatoj	*to format*	*llogaris*	*to computing*
printoj	*to print*	*selektoj*	*to select*
(hybrid forms)			

b. In Albanian and in Italian:

audiencë	*publico*	*autput*	*produzione*
bekgraund	*sfondo*	*bandë*	*grapolo*
bipër	*cicalino*	*print*	*stampa*

c. In Albanian and French

audio	*acoustique*	*bold*	*audacieux*
bookmark	*favoris*	*bos*	*patron*
buffer	*tampon*	*buferoj*	*tamponer*
drajv	*conduire*	*dizajn*	*conception*
autput	*sortie*	*fajl*	*dossier*

The treatment of English words in the terminology of informatics in the Albanian language is of a special value and primary importance, in confrontation with the Italian and French for resolving the problems of defining the standard terms in Albanian based on the borrowed models from the Italian and French which serve as standardization models in an international level. Based on this the problems of translation and adaption to the specific of Albanian language as well as integration of the English words into the Albanian language will be resolved.

References

1. Duro.A. Vrapi.F, *"Features of terms in the Albanian language, deriving from English", in "The condition and development of the Albanian terminology, problems and tasks",* Tirana. 2009.

2. Caka. N, etc*, "Computing Dictionary" (English- Albanian, Albanian- English),* Pristina 2005.

3. Kostallari. A*, "On certain directions of reaching perfection of the structure of the system of our literary language", "Philological Studies*", 1982/2.

Further references

1. Shalesi. F. *"A step in the computer's world",* Tirana, 1996.

2. Ninka.J. *"Programming in Pascal"*, Tirana 2001.

3. Caka.N. *"Computing terminology in Albanian and its standardization in dictionaries"* in the summary *"Albanian lexicology, heritage and perspective".*

4. Hoti.I. *"Encyclopedic Dictionary for banks, business, stocks, economy and internet",* Tirana, 2001.