

SPELLING AND PRONUNCIATION ADAPTATION OF ENGLISH-ORIGIN NEOLOGISMS – LETTER F

L'ADAPTATION DES NÉOLOGISMES D'ORIGINE ANGLAISE À L'ORTHOGRAPHIE ET PRONONCIATION – LETTRE F

ADAPTAREA NEOLOGISMELOR DE ORIGINE ENGLEZEASCĂ LA ORTOGRAFIE ȘI PRONUNȚARE – LITERA F

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Abstract

Romanian is a language that has been continuously enriching its vocabulary with English-origin neologisms for the last twenty years. Some of these neologisms have been completely or partially adapted to the Romanian system of spelling and pronunciation, while others have preserved their original form. The present article proposes the analysis of a number of English-origin neologisms selected from MDN (2008) – The Great Dictionary of Neologisms and DEX (2012) – The Explicative Dictionary of the Romanian Language (letter F) as far as their adaptation regarding the pronunciation and spelling to the Romanian language system.

Résumé

La langue roumaine est une langue qui pendant les derniers vingt ans a enrichi continûment son vocabulaire par des néologismes d'origine anglaise. Quelques de ces néologismes ont été adaptés complètement ou partialement au système roumain d'orthographe et prononciation, pendant que autres ont gardé leur forme originale. L'article présent propose l'analyse d'un numéro de néologismes d'origine anglaise sélectionnés de le GDN (2008) – le Grand Dictionnaire de Néologismes et le DEX (2012) – Dictionnaire Explicatif de la Langue Roumaine (lettre F) en ce qui concerne l'adaptation à la prononciation et orthographe dans le système de la langue roumaine.

Rezumat

Limba română este o limbă care în ultimii douăzeci de ani în continuu și-a îmbogățit vocabularul prin neologisme de origine englezească. Unele dintre aceste neologisme au fost adaptate complet sau parțial la sistemul românesc de ortografie și pronunție, în timp ce altele și-au păstrat forma originală. Articolul prezent propune analiza unui număr de neologisme de origine englezească selectate din MDN (2008) – Marele Dicționar de Neologisme și DEX (2012) – Dicționarul Explicativ al Limbii Române (litera F) în ceea ce privește adaptarea la pronunțarea și ortografia în sistemul limbii române.

Key-words: neologism, adaptation, Romanian, spelling, pronunciation

Mots-clés: néologisme, adaptation, Roumain, orthographe, prononciation

Cuvinte cheie: *neologism, adaptare, român, ortografie, pronunție***Introduction**

A neologism may be defined as a new word that appears in a language, or the inclusion of a new significance to an already existing word or a new one from another language. The creation of neologisms takes place due to new linguistic influences and fashions. From the “purity” point of view, nowadays we may find unnecessary neologisms (or linguistic barbarisms) and necessary neologisms, the latter being found especially in the specialized languages of medicine, informatics, economics, law, engineering, etc. Another important aspect of the emergence of neologisms today is the fact that the most important promotor are the communication media. Even so, some of these new words have a transitory life. It is a fact that newly created words are both common and widespread in any language that allows us to express ourselves. Moreover, language creativity is closely connected to language variety, leading to the presence of neologisms in every day life, both in the written and spoken language. Algeo says that “the form of a word itself may be novel, a shape that has not been seen or heard in the original language...” [1]. Even though neologisms appear in any spoken language, not all of them will be introduced and adopted into the written language.

As far as the Romanian language is concerned, the last decades have proven very fertile for the emergence of new words, especially of English origin, in the form of borrowings or neologisms. The Romanian papers regarding the English influence upon the Romanian language are quite recent, namely comprising the last 60-70 years. Still, there can be made a distinction between two periods: 1945-1990 and 1990-up to now. If in the first period of research, the study on English-origin neologisms was quite feeble, in the last twenty years there has been noticed a significant increase of the linguists’ interest on this theme, a fact highlighted by the ever growing number of research papers dealing with the effects of the English language upon Romanian.

The present article proposes the analysis of a number of English-origin neologisms selected from MDN (2008) – *The Great Dictionary of Neologisms* and DEX (2012) – *The Eplicative Dictionary of the Romanian Language*, letter F, as far as their adaptation regarding pronunciation and spelling to the Romanian language system. The results of this analysis have determined the following categories of English-origin borrowings, according to the criterion of phonological and graphical adaptation to the Romanian system:

a) unadapted English-origin neologisms – borrowed with the original English pronunciation and spelling:

factoring [fæktəring] < engl. *factoring* [fæktəring]
fading [feidiŋ] < engl. *fading* [feidiŋg]
fair [fe:r] < engl. *fair* [fe:r]
fairplay [fe:rplei] < engl. *fairplay* [fe:rplei]
fairway [fe:ru ei] < engl. *fairway* [fe:ru ei]
fall-out [fol-a ut] < engl. *fall-out* [fol-a ut]
fast-food [fast-fu:d] < engl. *fast-food* [fast-fu:d]
feedback [fi:dbaæk] < engl. *feedback* [fi:dbaæk]
feeling [fi:liŋ] < engl. *feeling* [fi:liŋ]
fellow [feləu] < engl. *fellow* [feləu]
field [fi:ld] < engl. *field* [fi:ld]
fifty-fifty [fifti-fifti] < engl. *fifty-fifty* [fifti-fifti]
fight [fait] < engl. *fight* [fait]
firmware [fə:rmu er] < engl. *firmware* [fə:rmu er]
fitness [fitnes] < engl. *fitness* [fitnes]
five o'clock [faiv əklɒk] < engl. *five o'clock* [faiv əklɒk]

fixing [f i x i n g] < engl. *fixing* [f i x i n g]
fizz [f i z] < engl. *fizz* [f i z]
flash [f l æ ʃ] < engl. *flash* [f l æ ʃ]
flashback [f l æ ʃ b æ k] < engl. *flashback* [f l æ ʃ b æ k]
floe [f l o] < engl. *floe* [f l o]
flop [f l o p] < engl. *flop* [f l o p]
floppy-disk [f l o p i - d i s k] < engl. *floppy-disk* [f l o p i - d i s k]
flow [f l ə u] < engl. *flow* [f l ə u]
flow-chart [f l ə u - t ʃ a: r t] < engl. *flow-chart* [f l ə u - t ʃ a: r t]
flutter [f l a t ə: r] < engl. *flutter* [f l a t ə: r]
folk [f o l k] < engl. *folk* [f o l k]
folk-rock [f o l k - r o k] < engl. *folk-rock* [f o l k - r o k]
folk-song [f o l k - s o n g] < engl. *folk-song* [f o l k - s o n g]
foot [f u: t] < engl. *foot* [f u: t]
footing [f u: t i n g] < engl. *footing* [f u: t i n g]
forcing [f o: r s i n g] < engl. *forcing* [f o: r s i n g]
forechecking [f o: r t ʃ e k i n g] < engl. *forechecking* [f o: r t ʃ e k i n g]
forehand [f o: r h æ n d] < engl. *forehand* [f o: r h æ n d]
forfeit [f o r f ə t] < engl. *forfeit* [f o r f ə t]
fortran [f o: r t r a n] < engl. *fortran* [f o: r t r a n]
foxing [f o k s i n g] < engl. *foxing* [f o k s i n g]
fox-trot [f o k s - t r o t] < engl. *fox-trot* [f o k s - t r o t]
free-jazz [f r i: - d j æ z] < engl. *free-jazz* [f r i - d j æ z]
free-lance [f r i - l æ n s] < engl. *free-lance* [f r i - l æ n s]
free-lancer [f r i: - l æ n s ə: r] < engl. *free-lancer* [f r i: - l æ n s ə: r]
free-shop [f r i: - ʃ o: p] < engl. *free-shop* [f r i: - ʃ o: p]
freezer [f r i: z ə: r] < engl. *freezer* [f r i: z ə: r]
full-time [f u l - t a i m] < engl. *full-time* [f u l - t a i m]
funky [f a n k i] < engl. *funky* [f a n k i]
fuzz [f a z] < engl. *fuzz* [f a z]

b) partially adapted English-origin neologisms – adapted only phonetically, adapted only to the Romanian pronunciation, respectively, thus preserving the original English spelling:

fabian [f a b i a n] < engl. *fabian* [f e i b i ə n]
fabianism [f a b i a n i s m] < engl. *fabianism* [f e i b i ə n i z m]
factorial [f a k t o r i a l] < engl. *factorial* [f æ k t o r i ə l]
factual [f a k t u a l] < engl. *factual* [f æ k t u ə l]
fan [f a n] < engl. *fan* [f æ: n]
fault [f a u l t] < engl. *fault* [f o: l t]
fax [f a x] < engl. *fax* [f æ x]
fibrotect [f i b r o t e k s t] < engl. *fibrotect* [f a i b r ə u t e k s t]
flanger [f l a n g e r] < engl. *flanger* [f l æ n d j ə: r]
flic-flac [f l i k - f l a k] < engl. *flic-flac* [f l i k - f l æ k]
fractural [f r a k t u r a l] < engl. *fractural* [f r æ k t u r ə l]

c) completely adapted English-origin neologisms – completely adapted to the Romanian spelling and pronunciation system of the language:

Rom. f < Engl. ph

faloplastie < engl. *phalloplasty*
fanerit < engl. *phanerite*
farmacofobie < engl. *pharmacophobia*
farmacopsihoză < engl. *pharmacopsychosis*
fasciorafie < engl. *fasciorhaphy*
feniramin < engl. *pheniramine*
feromon < engl. *pheromone*
filmfonograf < engl. *film phonographe*
fitofarmacologie < engl. *phytopharmacology*
florizină < engl. *phlorizin*
fobofobie < engl. *phobophobia*
fobotaxie < engl. *phobotaxia*
fonoconfort < engl. *phonoconfrot*
fonofobie < engl. *phonophobia*
fonoscop < engl. *phonoscope*
fonospectral < engl. *phonospectral*
fonotip < engl. *phonotype*
fotic < engl. *photic*
fotoalergie < engl. *photoallergy*
fotocoagulare < engl. *photocoagulation*
fotocoagulograf < engl. *photocoagulograph*
fotoconductor < engl. *photoconductor*
fotofiniș < engl. *photofinish*
fotogeologie < engl. *photogeology*
fotografotip < engl. *photographotype*
fotogrametrist < engl. *photogrammetrist*
fotometeor < engl. *photometeor*
fotoperspectograf < engl. *photoperspectograph*
fotorezistor < engl. *photoresistor*
foterapeutic < engl. *phototherapeutic*
fototiristor < engl. *photothyristor*
fototranzistor < engl. *photransistor*
fototrofic < engl. *phototrophic*
ftiriofobie < engl. *ptiriophobia*

Rom. ie < Engl. y/a

faloplastie < engl. *phalloplasty*
fasciorafie < engl. *fasciorrhaphy*
fasciotomie < engl. *fasciotomy*
farmacofobie < engl. *pharmacophobia*
fenolurie < engl. *phenoluria*
feroterapie < engl. *ferrotherapy*
fetometrie < engl. *fetometry*
fiabilitate < engl. *fiability*
fibrodisplazie < engl. *fibrodysplasia*
fitofarmacologie < engl. *phytopharmacology*
fonofobie < engl. *phonophobia*
fobotaxie < engl. *phobotaxia*
fotoalergie < engl. *photoallergy*
fotooftalmie < engl. *photoophthalmia*

Rom. - < Engl. e

fanerit < engl. *phanerite*
feromon < engl. *pheromone*
folclor < engl. *folklore*
fonoscop < engl. *phonoscope*
fonotip < engl. *phonotype*
fotografotip < engl. *photographotype*
flocul < engl. *flocule*

Double letters**Rom. l/r/s/t/m < Engl. ll/rr/ss/tt/mm**

falism < engl. *phallism*
faloplastie < engl. *phalloplasty*
feribot < engl. *ferry-boat*
ferodou < engl. *ferrodo*
feroterapie < engl. *ferrotherapy*
filer < engl. *filler*
fiting < engl. *fitting*
fisiune < engl. *fission*
formator < engl. *formatter*
fotbal < engl. *football*
fotoalergie < engl. *photoallergy*
fotogrametrizist < engl. *photogrammetrist*
ful < engl. *full*
fuling < engl. *fulling*

Other changes

faradmetru < engl. *faradmeter*
fibrozită < engl. *fibrositis*
fibrotorax < engl. *fibrothorax*
ficțional < engl. *fictional*
fider < engl. *feeder*
filmpac < engl. *filmpack*
finiș < engl. *finish*
flaier < engl. *flyer*
formațional < engl. *formtional*
fotocompoziție < engl. *photocomposition*
fotofiniș < engl. *photofinish*
fototiristor < engl. *photothyristor*
franciză < engl. *franchise*

We can observe from the performed analysis that most of the neologisms beginning with letter F were completely adapted to the Romanian pronunciation and spelling. This, in fact, is not such a surprising phenomenon, as, generally, the Romanian language has been a fertile and welcoming ground for the English-origin neologisms. What is peculiar about this analysis is that, in comparison to the neologisms beginning with letter E [2], where the number of unadapted words was quite small, the unadapted English-origin neologisms beginning with letter F were present in a surprisingly large number. If the partially adapted words usually outbalance the unadapted ones, in the present analysis, the number of words that have not been adapted to the Romanian system of spelling and pronunciation was almost three times larger than the partially adapted English-origin neologisms. A possible explanation for this phenomenon may be that most of the unadapted new

words belong to the economic field, where the international communication and business relations are part of every day activities and communication, the new words denoting entities that Romanian speakers have not been acquainted with.

Nevertheless, the large number of unadapted English-origin words does not exceed the number of completely adapted ones, which remains the most significant one in the present analysis. This proves, once again, the fact that the Romanian language continues to remain a flexible and genuine language, preserving its Romance character, in spite of the phonetic and graphic differences between the two languages, Romanian and English.

In our opinion, both the English pronunciation and spelling should be preserved, as an alternative for the speakers, only for those words that belong to an international specialized language, including the specialized terminologies of medicine, business, law, etc, used in order to fill up some terminological gaps. Any other linguistic exaggeration should be avoided, as the speakers should become more aware of the importance of preserving the Romanian language linguistic integrity.

Conclusions

Despite the large number of new words of English origin present in the last decades, the Romanian language still preserves its capacity to assimilate new words and adapt them to its system, without losing its linguistic integrity. Every period of time had its neologisms of various origins. Nowadays, alongside French and German, the most important language used for international communication is the English language. As a consequence, English-origin words have generally entered all modern languages and the Romanian language, respectively. Their adaptation may be complete, partial or absent. In the present article we performed an analysis upon the adaptation of English-origin neologisms (letter F) to the Romanian pronunciation and spelling. Even though the number of unadapted English-origin neologisms was a large one, the words that have been completely adapted to the Romanian system of pronunciation and spelling are, by far, the most numerous one. We can only compliment this natural tendency of the language to fashion its new entries and hope that the Romanian speakers will understand the importance of maintaining the genuine Romance character of our native language.

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