Pros and Cons Related to English Borrowings in Croatian Agriculture Terminology

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Abstract

Influence of the English language results in borrowing its words to name new things and ideas. However, using anglicisms (English origin words) allow us to express something new on the already known. The paper provides different attitudes of linguists whether using Anglicisms is right or wrong. Based upon various statements and survey in terms of pros and cons in using Anglicisms in common language and ESP (English for specific purpose) the paper should motivate us to replace English borrowings whenever it is possible. This will be contributing to the Croatian language promotion. Results of the papers dealing with pros and cons in the anglicisms use and survey with questions relative to attitudes of the Faculty (Faculty of Agriculture in Osijek) teachers regarding the English borrowings will be used as materials whereas analysis and description methods will be applied. Taking into account attitudes by different linguists on whether or not to use the English borrowings and results of the survey analysis we can say that many of the professors would use replacement for the English borrowings if they knew them, if they are better promoted in media. In most cases English borrowings are required to name new things and ideas. Others are also thought to enrich Croatian vocabulary since they can be applied in different context. Thus, most of the borrowings help us to express better our opinions and they are demanded in this sense.

Keywords: *attitudes, borrowings, concern, native language*

INTRODUCTION

Each language has some words borrowed from other languages. Težak (1999:105), a Croatian linguist, stated that Croatian language borrows foreign words if it doesn't have its own word to express some ideas or things; when foreign word is already well known and if the style demands foreign word use.

Language experts have different attitudes towards this issue. Some of them think that English is considered a global language (contact language) and such a language "becomes our second "me" without identity" (Granić, 2007:204). Opačić (1997:483) said that there should be an adequate commission responsible for providing adequate Croatian replacements for the English borrowings. Aiming to confirm the opinion of some linguists

(Drljača, 2010) that Croatian words, replacing English borrowings, have not been either used or promoted in the media as much as common words the survey has been conducted among the persons teaching specialist subjects. The survey is also supposed to confirm or not awareness on using domestic words instead of the English borrowings in agriculture and common language.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Series of reasons explaining English borrowings usage will show us that there are different linguistic and non-linguistic motivations for the case.

Linguists against using English borrowings

Weinreich (1953:60), Babić (1990:86) and Težak (1999:108) stated that people using

Anglicisms thought they could reach social status symbolizing the prestige English language. They think foreign words sound more profound and are convinced that domestic words can not adequately replace English borrowings.

As for the English borrowings classification Weinreich, in Drljača (2011:54) said there were two types, the first one designating social status, "... *learned loanwords* such as Latin phrases in English and *unnecessary loanwords* i.e. words naming things and concepts already having names in the receiving language."

Aitchison in Drljača (2011:55) says that loanwords entering receiving language for the purpose of prestige and luxury are like young cuckoos entering a nest which, after some time, push out domestic expressions.

Professor Tomašević Lišanin (in Jezični priručnik Coca-Cole :56) from the Department of Marketing at the Zagreb Faculty of Economics (Croatia) says that we should eliminate common prejudices whereby Croatian term is not understood properly while foreign one expresses the concept it designates better and more precisely than Croatian one. She also added that neither of the abovementioned is true.

Linguists advocate using English borrowings

According to Melchers and Shaw (in Drljača 2011:55) functional borrowings are those entering to name some innovations.

Using both English borrowing and its Croatian equivalent is justified if it designates different style, function and (or) meaning. For example, according to Turk (1996:60) the word *atmosphere* is used as a term in astronomy, meteorology and geography whereas its Croatian equivalent (*ozračje*) means 'situation or circumstances'. Also, the word *artery* when using in the anatomy has a denotative meaning whereas in traffic it has a metaphoric meaning pointing out importance of a road.

While using English (or other) borrowings as terms, some terminological principles should be taken into account (Hudaček and Mihaljević, 2009). Here are some of them:

1. Domestic words have the advantage of the foreign ones

2. English borrowings domesticated and more acceptable are preferable
3. Shorter terms are more welcome than longer (unless it opposes the 1st rule) etc.

Since there are different attitudes concerning English borrowings use the author of the paper wanted to find out the opinion of the specialists at the Faculty of Agriculture in Osijek. That is why the survey was conducted among the 40 specialists teaching agriculture subjects. The survey aimed to find out opinion of the agriculture specialists relative to English borrowings use in their field of interest. The second goal was to see how skilful they are in using Croatian replacements for fifteen English borrowings. Assumption is that the specialists should know most of the Croatian replacements.

The survey conducted in July 2015 consisted of 2 parts:

*5 YES /NO questions plus remarks. The questions are as follows: (1) Is there, in your opinion, an adequate promotion of the Croatian replacements for English borrowings?, (2) Are you familiar with adequate domestic terms able to replace English borrowings in Croatian agriculture terminology?, (3) Do you think that domestic terms, as English borrowings replacements, should be promoted and used more in media informing people about their existence?, (4) Not being accustomed to a domestic word leads to its rejection whereas a frequent usage in media brings about its acceptance (eg. *e-pošta* instead of *e-mail*, *računalo* instead of *kompjutor*)?, (5) Do you support usage of both English borrowings and their domestic replacements?

Correct answers from the second part of the survey were considered those confirmed by the linguists in the language dictionaries, books and journals.

Results have been statistically analysed in Microsoft Excel spreadsheet.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A large number of the examinees (85%) think that there is no adequate promotion for Croatian replacements for English borrowings (1 q).

Comment: "I think that situation is opposite i.e. English borrowings are elements promoted

*table with three columns

English borrowings list (15)	domestic replacements	no domestic replacements
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(tourism, catering, informatics etc.)- In general, Croatian language should be more promoted." (27)

Such a high percentage is in accordance with the survey conducted by other author (Drljača, 2010) who reported 75% for the same question. A little bit more than half (52,50%) of the total examinees said that they know adequate domestic replacements for the agriculture terms (2 q).

Comments: a) *"It is neither possible nor required to replace English borrowings always since there is so much literature using English borrowings as recognized concepts"* (27)

b) *"I usually such words check on the language portal."* (25)

Examinees (82,50%), related to the 3rd question, think that domestic words should be promoted and used more in media informing people about their existence.

Comment: *"I must say that English borrowings are exceedingly and not necessarily used in the scientific papers writing (effect, computer, system) although there are adequate Croatian words for them."* The same high percentage (82,50%) considered that not being accustomed to a domestic word leads to its rejection whereas a frequent usage in media brings about its acceptance (4 q).

Comment: *"Sometimes violent usage of inadequate domestic replacements doesn't bring any progress."*

Three of the four examinees support usage of both English borrowings and their domestic replacements.

Comment: *"Yes, but priorities are Croatian words"* (9)

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- number + Q= ordinal number of a question
 - only number in a bracket =number of the examinee

In the second part of the survey (Table 1) 409 (68,17%) correct and 191 (31,83%) incorrect

answers were provided by 40 examinees out of 600 possible ones. Out of the below mentioned English borrowings the examinees have written domestic replacements on the average for 10, 2 English borrowings. Variation range of the written replacements for the English borrowings was within 1-15. Only 4 examinees were familiar with the Croatian replacements for the English borrowings written in the Table 1. Three examinees provided correct domestic replacements for 14 English borrowings. Croatian replacements for 13 English borrowings were given by six examinees whereas only 2 examinees were familiar with the Croatian versions of the 12 English borrowings. Five examinees provided domestic replacements for 11 English borrowings whereas 4 of the surveyed persons were familiar with 10 Croatian equivalents. Each of the remaining 16 surveyed persons provided less than 10 Croatian replacements for the mentioned English borrowings.

From the above table it is obvious that the least correct answers (9,10,18) were from the specific area (*agens, preparat* -chemistry) of agriculture and it might be a reason why the examinee were not familiar with them whereas the largest number of the corrected answers (37,35) refer to commonly used words (*period, aklimatizacija*). From the aforesaid it can be concluded that ESP (English for Specific Purpose) words have not been exposed to possible Croatian replacements as much as the common used words (TV and other media).

CONCLUSION

From the literature dealing with English borrowings and the survey conducted at the Faculty of Agriculture in Osijek, Croatia. Some conclusions can be drawn. Different opinions on English borrowings can be met. Some authors of papers focusing on the aforesaid issue advocate using English borrowings since they are more precisely, economic, stylistic determined compared to our

Table 1 Number of the correct answers per English borrowings

ENGLISH BORROWING	1.agens	2. agrikultura	3. aklimatizacija	4. amortizer	5. aspirator
Number of correct answers	9	33	35	18	10
ENGLISH BORROWING	6. autohton	7. atrofija	8. devijacija	9. pedologija	10. period
Number of correct answers	32	29	26	31	37
ENGLISH BORROWING	11. preparat	12. pumpa	13. regeneracija	14. reprodukcija	15. saturacija
Number of correct answers	21	33	35	31	29

domestic equivalents. According to them what matters is that colleagues-experts understand each other. Others stated that one can express almost anything using Croatian language. The author of the paper thinks that communication, not only among the experts but others as well, should be understandable.

As for the survey conducted it is clear that the examinees are aware of the problem relative to using English borrowings instead of the domestic ones. Even 85% of them think that there is no adequate promotion for Croatian replacements for English borrowings. As for other factors having influence on many English borrowings presence in the Croatian language, a large number of the examinees (82,50%) consider media responsible for the problem. Namely, they are on daily basis exposed (TV, internet, radio etc.) to English borrowings instead of their replacements. The fact that only 4 examinees were familiar with the Croatian replacements for the English borrowings written in the Table 1. tells us that domestic words should be better promoted and used more instead of English borrowings if they express the same meaning.

In this way we would protect our native language from the English borrowings invasion.

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