

## **The Theoretical Background of the Project »The English Element in European Languages«**

*Rudolf Filipović*  
*Linguistic Research Institute of the Croatian Academy*

The author defines the basic principles of his new theory of languages in contact which is the basis of the project »The English Element in European Languages.« Contact between English and several European languages is analysed aiming at compiling dictionaries of anglicisms in European languages. The theory is based on an innovative principle distinguishing primary and secondary adaptation. Analysis is carried out on four levels. The orthography of an anglicism is formed according to: (a) the orthography of the model, (b) the pronunciation of the model, (c) both the orthography and the pronunciation of the model, (d) the influence of the intermediary language. Adaptation on the phonological and morphological levels follows the forms of substitution: (a) transphonemization (zero, partial, free), (b) transmorphemization (zero, partial, complete). By applying the distinction between primary and secondary adaptation, the analysis of semantic adaptation has been expanded from three to five categories: (a) zero extension, (b) restriction of meaning in number, (c) restriction of meaning in a semantic field, (d) expansion of meaning in number, (e) expansion of meaning in a semantic field.

### **1. Introduction**

1.0. Contact linguistics, a comparatively recent branch of linguistics, examines the development that takes place when languages come into direct or indirect contact. In order to examine how this process evolves we need to define types of contact and the principles underlying the theory of contact linguistics. Language contacts can be examined from three perspectives: (a) language borrowing, (b) language acquisition, and (c) translation. Each of these has its own principles and applications so that we can speak about (a) a theory of languages in contact, (b) a theory of language acquisition, and (c) a theory of translation.

1.1. Our aim here is to give a survey of our contribution to the theory of languages in contact and how it is applied in our research dealing with language borrowing within the project of the English Element in European Languages. Our project analyses the contacts of about twenty European languages with English and aims at producing a monograph entitled *The English Element in European Languages* and a number of etymological dictionaries of Anglicisms which will serve to complete a synthesis we propose to call *An Etymological Dictionary of Anglicisms in European Languages*.

1.2. It is well known in linguistics that languages which serve the cultural needs of a community often adopt foreign names for the new objects and concepts that they have taken over from other language communities. These new words are adapted to the structure of the language receiving them. This process of adaptation and integration into the receiving language, with the changes that it entails, can be studied linguistically.

1.3. The study of foreign words in languages has been approached from various points of view, explained in different ways, and given different names. Traditional linguistics spoke of *language mixing* or *borrowing*, and attributed a significant role to bilingualism in explaining it. Modern linguistics, though it gives this phenomenon the new name *languages in contact* or *contact linguistics*, starts out from the same fundamental idea: that bilingualism is the basis for linguistic borrowing. All the phenomena that appear in the linguistic process of taking elements from one language into another can best be studied in the behaviour of bilingual speakers (Haugen 1950, Weinreich 1953)

1.4. Since linguistic interference is a fundamental phenomenon which appears in the transition from one structure to another, the first task of a linguist studying foreign words is to analyse all the deviations from the norm which develop as a result of the contact of two or more languages. This in practice means to identify and describe all cases of interference. Interference occurs on all linguistic levels and in various forms. It can be spontaneous or deliberate. Since it can be found in any part of the language, it must be studied in terms of the structure of the borrowing language.

1.5. Much attention in linguistic theory has been devoted to language contact phenomena. Contacts of related and unrelated languages have been studied in many different ways, but most often interference is considered on only one level at a time, and between only two languages. These individual studies, however reliable and detailed, have left many questions open concerning the principles of linguistic borrowing.

## 2. New principles in a new theory.

### 2.0. *Four levels of adaptation.*

When studying the English element in European languages, I came across cases which required redefinition or reevaluation of some principles of the theory of languages in contact. I studied the fate of words borrowed from one language into another, i.e. from English into one of the European languages. Relying on a multi-lingual corpus, I have offered my own descriptions, modifications and innovations which make the old theory more comprehensive and explanatory, and at the same time form the basis for a new theory of languages in contact. In order to apply the new results of my research, I elaborated new principles in my theory of languages in contact. (Filipović 1977) I concentrated on English words as loanwords in various European languages and have pursued with equal interest the general theoretical problems raised by language-contact phenomena and the more practical problems of an exhaustive analysis of borrowed lexical items. My research resulted in a theory of languages in contact (Filipović 1986) discussing its basic aspects from bilingualism, borrowing (direct and indirect), and adaptation (primary and secondary) to an analysis of the process of linguistic borrowing and the adaptation of Anglicisms on four levels: orthographic, phonological, morphological and semantic.

2.1. *Primary and secondary adaptation.* An important new conceptual and methodologically innovative contribution to the theory of languages in contact and an innovation concerning the stages of adaptation of the model, compromise replica and replica, is the distinction between primary and secondary adaptation. The original adaptation was refined by introducing a distinction between primary changes and secondary changes. The distinction is both chronological and qualitative, the latter being much more important in the analysis because it helps record certain changes which remained outside the scope of the earlier theoretical and methodological framework.

2.1.1. *Primary adaptation* takes place in a bilingual setting and results in a compromise replica or a replica of the model. The influence of the donor language and the borrowing language are at work simultaneously in this period, producing multiple and unstable variants of the compromise replica.

2.1.2. *Secondary adaptation* takes place in a monolingual situation: the Anglicism has been completely integrated into the borrowing language and can change in the same way that any other native word in that language does.

2.2. *Orthographic level.* The analysis of adaptation of an English source word into an Anglicism (the citation form) begins on the orthographic level in order to determine the orthography of the Anglicism and its relation to the orthography of

the model. There are four possibilities: (a) the orthography of an Anglicism is formed on the basis of the pronunciation of the model:

E *jeep* /dʒi:p/ - Cr *džip*

(b) the orthography follows the orthography of the model:

E *bard* /ba:d/ - Cr *bard*

(c) the orthography follows both the pronunciation and the spelling of the model in either order:

E *interview* /'Intəvju:/ - Cr *intervju*

(d) the orthography of an Anglicism is formed under the influence of an intermediary language.

E *bluff* /blʌf/ - Cr *blef*

### 3. The process of substitution

3.0. Since a major innovation in my theory concerns the process of substitution, the analysis of the adaptation of a model into an Anglicism is concentrated on what I call »development« covering the phonological and the morphological levels. The innovative analysis on these two levels is also reflected in the new terminology which I have introduced into the theory. Both are self-explanatory. The substitution on the phonological level, phoneme substitution, is called *transphonemization* and the substitution on the morphological level, morpheme substitution, is named *transmorphemization*.

3.1. *Transphonemization*. There are three types of transphonemization: (a) Zero transphonemization, (b) Compromise or partial transphonemization, (c) Free transphonemization.

3.1.1. *Zero transphonemization* denotes the replacement of English phonemes by borrowing-language phonemes whose description corresponds to the description of the corresponding English phonemes.

English /i:/ corr. Croatian i (*chief* /tʃi:f/ – *čif* /čif/)

3.1.2. *Compromise or partial transphonemization* is the replacement of English phonemes by borrowing-language phonemes which are different in the degree of opening (with vowels) or in the place of articulation (with consonants). However, their manner of articulation is the same.

E /ɪ/ corr. Cr i (*lift* /lɪ ft/ – *lift* /lift/)

E /t/ corr. Cr t (*spot* /sp ɒt/ – *spot* /spõt/)

3.1.3. *Free transphonemization* is the replacement of English phonemes by borrowing-language phonemes which are not even partial articulatory equivalents. This type of transphonemization is based on orthography or extralinguistic factors.

E / θ / corr. Cr t (*thriller* / 'θrɪlə / – *triler* /trɪler/)

E / ɜ:/ corr. Cr e (*girl* /gɜ:l/ – *gerla* /gèrɫa/)

3.2. *Transmorphemization*. There are three types of transmorphemization: (a) Zero transmorphemization, (b) Compromise transmorphemization, (c) Complete transmorphemization.

3.2.1. *Zero transmorphemization* takes place when a model (an English word) is taken over by the borrowing language as a free morpheme with a zero bound morpheme. Then the Anglicism corresponds to a replica from a morphological point of view.

E *half* corr. Cr *half*

3.2.2. *Compromise or partial transmorphemization* occurs when a loan, the citation form of an Anglicism, keeps a final bound morpheme that does not conform to the morphological system of the borrowing language and keeps the form of a compromise replica on the morphological level.

<u>bound morpheme</u>	<u>English source word</u>	<u>Anglicism</u>
-er	<i>serv-er</i> /sɜ:və/	<i>serv-er</i>
-ing	<i>rat-ing</i> /'reɪtɪŋ/	<i>rejt-ing</i>
-ist	<i>styl-ist</i> /'staɪlɪst/	<i>stil-ist</i>

3.2.3. *Complete transmorphemization* takes place when an English bound morpheme is replaced by a borrowing-language bound morpheme (a suffix) with the same function. This process is based on the fact that a compromise replica tends to become a replica and to conform to the morphological system of the borrowing language.

<b>bound morpheme</b>	<b>English source word</b>	<b>Compromise replica</b>	<b>Anglicism</b>
E -er > Cr -ač	<i>box-er</i>	<i>boks-er</i>	<i>boks-ač</i>
E -er > Cr -aš	<i>boycott-er</i>	<i>bojkot-er</i>	<i>bojkot-aš</i>

#### 4. Adaptation of meaning

4.0. By applying primary and secondary adaptation, the original pattern of *semantic adaptation* has been expanded from three to five categories. Both restriction of meaning and expansion of meaning have been given two subcategories: (a) in number and (b) in semantic field.

4.1. *Zero extension* denotes that there is no change of meaning during the transfer of a model into an Anglicism.

E *interviewer* (one meaning) – Cr *intervjuer* (one meaning)

4.2. *Restriction of meaning in number* represents specialization from several meanings of a model to one or two in the Anglicism.

E *folklore* (three meanings) – Cr *folklor* (one meaning)

4.3. *Restriction of meaning in a semantic field* denotes the restriction of one meaning of a model.

E *pantry* (two meanings) – Cr *pentri* (the first meaning is restricted in its field denoting that *pentri* is restricted to the boat)

4.4. *Expansion of meaning in number* represents some generalization from one to more senses.

E *nylon* (three meanings) Cr *najlon* (has acquired a new meaning plastic which it does not have in English)

4.5. *Expansion of meaning in a semantic field* denotes that the Anglicism has undergone a secondary semantic extension acquiring a new meaning in the semantic field which neither the model nor the Anglicism have in the primary adaptation.

E *corner* (four meanings) – Cr *kornar* (has acquired an extended meaning »area behind the goal line«)

#### 5. Conclusion

All research done or in progress in the project »The English Element in European Languages« is based on the principles discussed in this paper.

Five papers written by members of the project (G. Antunović, L. Zergollern-Miletić, V. Muhvić-Dimanovski, B. Pritchard, L. Sočanac) illustrate the application

of some principles of the theory in research done in French, German, Italian, Swedish, and in analysing the contact of maritime English with maritime Croatian.

#### LITERATURE

- FILIPOVIĆ, Rudolf (1977) »Some Basic Principles of Languages in Contact Reinterpreted«, *Studia Romanica et Anglica Zagrabiensia* 43-44:157-166.
- FILIPOVIĆ, Rudolf (1986) *Teorija jezika u kontaktu*, Zagreb: JAZU – Školska knjiga, 322 p. p.
- FILIPOVIĆ, Rudolf (1990) *Anglicizmi u hrvatskom ili srpskom jeziku: porijeklo-razvoj-značenje*, Zagreb: JAZU- Školska knjiga, 336 p. p.
- HAUGEN, Einar (1950) »The Analysis of Linguistic Borrowing«, *Language* 26:210-231
- HAUGEN, Einar (1969) *The Norwegian Language in America*, Indiana University Press, Blomington, XI, 699 p. p.
- WEINREICH, Uriel (1953) *Languages in Contact : Findings and Problems*, Linguistic Circle of New York XII, 148 p. p.

#### TEORETSKA OSNOVA PROJEKTA

##### »Engleski element u europskim jezicima«

Autor je prikazao osnovne principe svoje teorije jezika u kontaktu po kojoj se u projektu »Engleski elementi u europskim jezicima« proučavaju dodiri pojedinih europskih jezika s engleskim, da bi se kao konačni rezultat istraživanja sastavio rječnik anglicizama u izabranim europskim jezicima. Teorija je izgrađena na ovom principu, razlikovanju primarne i sekundarne adaptacije, a analiza se vrši na četiri razine. Ortografija anglicizama formira se prema: (a) ortografiji modela, (b) izgovoru modela. (c) dijelom prema ortografiji i dijelom prema izgovoru modela, (d) utjecaju jezika posrednika. Adaptacija na fonološkoj i morfološkoj razini slijedi oblike supstitucije: (a) transfonemizacije (nulta, djelomična, slobodna), (b) transmorfemizacije (nulta, djelomična, potpuna). Primjenom novog principa (razlikovanje primarne i sekundarne adaptacije) analiza semantičke adaptacije proširena je od tri na pet kategorija: (a) nulta ekstenzija značenja, (b) suženje značenja u broju, (c) suženje značenja u polju, (d) proširenje značenja u broju, (e) proširenje značenja u polju.