Analysis of Neological Anglicisms used in Slovak from Aspects of Orthography and Frequency in the Slovak National Corpus

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Abstract

The aim of an author is to analyse new Anglicisms used in Slovak from the perspective of adapted orthography and frequency in the Slovak National Corpus (SNC). Significant for our research is the time of the first appearance of an English item in a target language (Slovak in our case). Our hypothesis is to prove that modern neological Anglicisms are considered new in source language as well. Combination of observation, description, explication, analysis and comparison and are the main research methods which are to be applied. Two versions of the SNC are compared: an older version, prim-6.0-public-all available for Slovak users since 2013, and a recent version, prim-7.0-public-all, available for the public since 2015. The aim of both electronic databases of enormous size is to collect all expressions emerging Slovak language. The SNC also provides the date of first emergence of an item and its source, too. The work with the British National Corpus and Online Etymology Dictionary was inevitable, too.

Keywords: anglicism, borrowing, frequency, neologism, source language, target language.

1. Introduction

According to *Online Etymology Dictionary*, the term *neologism* appeared in 1772 as a translation from French having reference to a "practice of innovation in language". The meaning referring to a new element, word, or expression in language is known from 1803 (Online Etymology Dictionary). The question is how long can an expression be considered new. It depends on several factors: on its frequency in communication and on language users´ perception (Arnold, 1973; Böhmerová, 2009; Galperin, 1977; Jesenská, 2014c).

Neologisms stand in the centre of research interest of many linguists (Arnold, 1973; Bednárová-Gibová, 2014; Böhmerová, 2009; Crystal, 2010a; Galperin, 1977; Jesenská, 2014a; Jesenská, 2014c; Jesenská, 2016; Katreniaková, 2002; Lančarič, 2016; Štulajterová, 2012; Timko, 2016).

Arnold asserts that a neologism is "any word or set expression, formed according to the productive structural patterns or borrowed from another language and felt by the speakers as something new" (Arnold, 1973:232). Its emergence in language is a result of dynamism and natural development of language, its users, i.e. society. They are common in newspaper vocabulary (Galperin, 1977) and other means of mass media communication. By means of neologisms usually internationalisms, publicistic expressions, terms, slang, and colloquialisms are borrowed according to Štulajterová (Štulajterová, 2012). Borrowings definitely help to enrich target languages. These are common and natural in all European languages, because "everyone borrows" as Crystal (Crystal, 2010a) says, though antagonism towards borrowing can reach various scale in target cultures (languages). He claims that (according to the etymologies of the *Oxford English Dictionary*) in the course of the past thousand years English itself has borrowed words from over 350 languages (Crystal, 2010a: 48), which is a high number. Crystal admits on non-English origin of many of these, however, as he says, nowadays they are "condemned as Anglicisms" which he demonstrates on examples, such as *computer* or *hamburger* (Crystal, 2010a).

It seems that the British or Americans are no longer the only owners of the English language as it spreads out among non-native speakers. For example, Euro-English spoken on the European

continent fulfils a significant communicative role within the EU (Bednárová-Gibová, 2014: 76; Crystal, 2010a: 48-49; Crystal, 2010b).

It is believed that in English appear about 1,000 new words every year (Jesenská, 2015). Moreover, some estimation goes even further claiming over 20,000 new expressions enter English vocabulary every single year (Böhmerová, 2009). One way or the other, this fact must be reflected in the English classroom. I have been teaching English lexicology at Slovak university about 16 years. I have decided to focus on the recent neologisms in English because they are almost immediately after their coinage borrowed into European national languages, Slovak included. These borrowings are known as Anglicisms, i.e. English elements (in our case: single words/one-word expressions) in other languages (Crystal, 2010a, Jesenská, 2007; Katreniaková, 2002).

2. Results
Theoretical background: The notion of Anglicism

There is no agreement on definition of the term. Basically, there are two concepts of the notion. Some linguists do not problematize this phenomenon and define it as "a language element (word, expression, and/or syntactic structure) borrowed from English" (Mistrík et al., 1993:65). This is a traditional concept typical of structural (systemic) linguistics. Anglicism in this concept is understood very specifically and narrowly (e.g. Mistrík et al., 1993). This approach was common and understandable in the past for various reasons which we do not plan to specify due to the topic and length of this study.

However, we go further in characterising the term Anglicism, asserting that it is not only an English element taken into another language (i.e. target language), but it also is an element taken from Anglophone environment, e.g. *au pair* or *cybernetics*. Our attitude can be backed up by the fact that it is not "only" a source language, but the source culture, we take the borrowing from. This can be demonstrated on the example of *au pair* which is of French origin. Regardless its (French) origin it is borrowed into and used in target languages due to the fact English native speakers use it. Had not it been spoken in Anglophonic environment, highly likely it would not have been taken into other languages either (Jesenská, 2007; Jesenská, 2014b). In other words, Anglicism is understood in terms of Anglophonic etymology as well as a foreign word or hybrid expression used (spoken) in and taken from Anglophonic culture as a whole. Also other linguists prefer this non-traditional understanding of the notion (e.g. Crystal, 2010a; Štulajterová, 2005; Štulajterová 2012; Timko, 2016, and others).

The notion *Anglicism* fulfils the role of an umbrella term (hyperonym) covering Briticisms and Americanisms, both functioning as co-hyponyms in the terminologically hierarchical structure. Other specific sub-types of Anglicisms could be mentioned, too (e.g. Canadianisms or Australianisms). However, for the purpose of this study the standard broad term *Anglicism* is used because it is well-known and used in the field of linguistics.

Anglicisms in Slovak language

There are various aspects of examining this phenomenon. Anglicisms can be investigated from the points of structural linguistics, language contacts, cultivation and language management, etc. Many (predominantly) Slovak linguists have been examining the phenomenon of Anglicisms in the Slovak language from various aspects, e.g. Böhmerová, 2009; Dobrík, 2007; Jesenská, 2007; Jesenská, 2016; Katreniaková, 2002; Ološtiak, 2009; Štulajterová, 2005; Timko, 2016, just to name a few.

Specific classification based on phonetic, graphemic, morphological, and semantic adaptation of selected Anglicisms into Slovak language is discussed in the monograph by Dobrík (Dobrík, 2007). However, some authors focus on particular expressions only, such as Katreniaková (Katreniaková, 2002) who studied English nouns taking a suffix -ing with the emphasis on linguistic and extra-linguistic reasons of their borrowing and usage in Slovak language. Comparison of Anglicisms´ usage in Slovak serious and tabloid newspapers was examined by Jesenská (Jesenská, 2007). The background for research of Anglicisms in publicistic texts had history in Jesenská´s research of serious Slovak weekly *Domino forum* (Jesenská, 2004).

However, there are many other linguists investigating various aspects of English elements in the Slovak language. These were usually highly specific about this phenomenon. For example, Ološtiak (Ološtiak, 2009) focused on morphemic adaptation of English proper nouns used in Slovak.

It has to be mentioned that for the purpose of this paper Anglicisms are to be viewed in the context of structural linguistics. The theoretical background of this study is based on the most recent results of afore-mentioned predominantly structural linguists.

Research aims and methods

The aim of our research was to collect English neologisms borrowed in Slovak language after 2000, i.e. Anglicisms used in Slovak in the 21st century. The source language was meant to be English, while a target language was Slovak as the mother tongue of our university students. Our hypothesis was that all neological Anglicisms would be new in English as well. This presumption is based on our previous research which proved that Slovak borrows more expressions which are still considered new in the source language.

Phenomenon of Anglicisms is objectively noticed in the *Slovak National Corpus* (SNC 2013, SNC 2015) which served us as a significant source of information and research background for us.

There were more research methods chosen to be combined. First, it was the method of collection, observation, and description of neological items in the British National Corpus (BNC). Next, we found those Anglicisms in the Slovak National Corpus (SNC). Its older version, prim-6.0-public-all (2013), and later its recent version as well, prim-7.0-public-all (2015), were checked and examined in order to select particular Anglicisms and compare the way these new elements of language become a solid part of target language vocabulary. After comparison of the first appearance and frequency, we applied the method of qualitative analysis focusing on orthographic adaptation in the target language.

The main research aim was to collect and analyse neological Anglicisms used in Slovak language from the viewpoint of orthographic adaptation into a target language together with frequency of neological English borrowings as reflected in two versions of the Slovak National Corpus. The older version, titled prim-6.0-public-all, goes back to 2013. Recent version of the SNC, titled prim-7.0-public-all, was available since December 2015. We decided to compare outputs of either version.

Source of research

The Slovak National Corpus (SNC) is an electronic database collecting Slovak texts of various styles, genres, and fields. The Corpus covers texts from the year 1955 till modern contributions. There are more SNC versions focusing on various aspects of language. We have chosen two of them for the following reasons: considering size and texts, both versions are relevant, reliable, and available for the public.

SNC version prim-6.0-public-all covers all texts that are available for the public, including over 77 % publicistic texts, over 9 % belles lettres style, over 11 % technical texts, and over 1.4 % other texts). This older version provides 1 155 742 085 tokens and 881 084 173 words.

SNC version prim-7.0-public-all covers all texts that are available for the public, including over 65 % publicistic texts, over 15 % belles lettres style, over 9 % technical texts, and over 10 % other texts). This particular version provides 1 250 382 876 tokens and 971 799 239 words.

We have collected a small sample of neological Anglicisms borrowed into Slovak. All of them were expected to be perceived new in English and Slovak. However, our research did not utterly prove this hypothesis – some have been functioning in English for some time (e.g. *whistleblower*). But majority of examined items are considered new in both languages (e.g. *belfie, killfie, lelfie, pelfie, telfie* or *emoji*). We checked their first appearance in the BNC and/or in *Online Etymology Dictionary* (OED).

Alt-right (*alternative right*) appeared in English 2016 for the very first time, however, this fact has not been reflected (noticed) in the BNC yet. Its usage has been noticed in Anglophonic and Slovak print and electronic mass media ´only´. Logically, it is noticed in neither versions of the SNC. Its compound form, *alternative right*, has been known since 2008 from media.

Research results
Our results and findings are listed in the table below:

Table 1. 21st-century English neologisms and their frequency in Slovakia

English Neologism (the first appearance in English and/or in the BNC)	Appearence in the SNC prim-6.0-public-all (frequency; year)	Appearence in the SNC prim-7.0-public-all (frequency; year)
alt-right (-; 2016)	-	-
belfie (-; 2012)	-	-
Brexit (4198; 2012), *Brexiteer* (38, 2016)	- -	*brexit* (48; 2012) -
emoji (63; 2014)	-	-
Facebook (79, 178; 2004)	*facebook* (911; 2006)	*facebook* (22, 135; 2006) *fejsbuk* (48;2009) *fejs* (36; 2011)
glamping (338; beginning of the 21ˢᵗ C)	*glamping* (1; 2012)	*glamping* (7; 2012)
hashtag (1,076; used in social networks of twitter since 2007 (however, the 1ˢᵗ usage appears in late 1990s)	-	*hashtag* (41; 2011)
infotainment (14; 1983)	-	*infortainment* (1; 2000)
killfie (-;)	-	-
lelfies (-; beginning of the 21ˢᵗ C)	-	-
militainment (-;)	-	-
pelfie (-; beginning of the 21ˢᵗ C)	-	-
post-truth (29; 2016)	-	-
selfie (188; around 2002)	-	*selfie* (117; 2012)
urbex (-; around 2006)	*urbex* (9; 2010)	*urbex* (17; 2010)
telfie (-;beginning of the 21ˢᵗ C)	-	-
Twitter (81, 170; around 2006)	*twitter* (71;2007)	*twitter* (6,360;2007)
whistleblower (215; 1963)	*whistleblower* (5; 2002)	*whistleblower* (68;2002)
webinar (2,323; after 1990)	*webinár* (2; 2003)	*webinár* (9; 2003)

Explanation of the table 1: *orthographic form* in a target language (i.e. in Slovak); mark – refers to absence of an item in the SNC; numerals in brackets (x; x) refer to the frequency and the year of the first appearance/usage in the SNC.

Belfie, killfie, lelfie, pelfie, telfie – all five blends are motivated by the existence of *selfie*, derivative of *self* + diminutive suffix -*ie*. None of those neological blends appears in the BNC, OED or SNC. This may be understood as a sign of their novelty which is the reason why these were not included into the mentioned databases. They are all connected with electronic communication and presentation oneself on various kinds of social networks. Some are monosemantic (e.g. *belfie* or *lelfie*), while others are polysemous (*pelfie, telfie*). Their semantics is connected with a deliberate and intentional presentation (sharing) of parts of human body or other things (e.g. pets) on social networks. Out of these the most recent is *killfie* referring to a selfie taken in a dangerous situation, in other words, it is ´a selfie that kills´. It is needles to mention that all these expressions (selfie and killfie included) are to be found in Slovak mass media, be it print or electronic copies.

Blend *Brexit* is noticed in the BNC 4198x (2012), while its derivative, *Brexiteer*, has been reflected in 38 research results. Blend *Brexit* (British exit from the EU structures) was coined analogically to already known and widely used *Grexit* (Greek/Greece exit) earlier the same year. Early 21ˢᵗ century informal British expression, *Brexiteer*, was coined by means of suffixation, such as *Brexit* + -*eer*, referring to a person who is in favour of Brexit (https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/). In fact, Slovak borrowed ´only´ *brexit* (SNC, 2015) leaving *Brexiteer* unnoticed. Anglicism *brexit* has immediately adapted Slovak lower case spelling and it goes without saying that morphemic adaptation occured as well due to the fact that Slovak is a West Slavic language which respects declination reflected in adding suffixes.

Emoji appears in the BNC and exploring its usage it was found that it is enormous: between 350,000 and 700,000 usages in total depending on researched pages. However, the BNC notices "only" 63 appearances. It has its origin in Japanese (coined around 1990s), combining expressions referring to ´picture´ and ´character´. However, Slovak language users prefer *emotikon* (English *emoticon*) to emoji which has not become very frequent yet.

Facebook is a noun coined in 1983 and spread among American university students (Online Etymology Dictionary). However, spelled with capital letter as a name for social network, dates only from 2004 in English (acc. to the BNC). In the SNC it dates from 2006 and its Slovak adapted version, *fejsbuk,* in 2009 and its Slovakized clipped form, *fejs*, appears two years later in 2011. This brings an evidence of orthographic adaptation of borrowed expressions which tend to use vernacular repertoire of Slovak graphemes. It this case it took a couple of years to develop.

Glamping (glamorous camping) is too new to appear in OED, but it was found in the BNC and in either version of the SNC. The expression is used in Slovak media ´only´ to explain a specific way of travelling and spending leisure time.

Hashtag is listed in the BNC and is listed as a term used in electronic communication since 2007. However, the expression was coined around 1990s in English. The older version of the SNC does not notice it, but the newer one collected over 40 usages since 2011.

Infotainment and *militainment* are two blends which are considered brand new in the Slovak language, however, these are not new in English. *Infotainment* has been found in 14 results in the BNC and according to the *OED* it emerged in English around 1983 by means of blending (or so-called lexical amalgamation/fusion) of *info* (taken from *information*) and *tainment* (taken from *entertainment*). Analogically, *militainment* was coined recently from *military + entertainment*. It still carries a sigh of novelty due to the fact that it has not been noticed in the BNC yet.

Post-truth together with expression such as *post-future* or *post-fact* refer to the situation after a significant situation when relevant facts are revealed that used to be untold before in order to influence particular situation (elections, referendum, etc.). *Post-truth* appeared in the BNC, but not in the OED. However, it became ´The Word of the Year 2016´ for Oxford dictionaries. More information can be found on webpage https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/word-of-the-year/word-of-the-year-2016.

Selfie is believed to appear around 2002 in English and can be found in the BNC, OED, and newer version of the SNC as well. According to the SNC it was borrowed into Slovak 10 years after its first coinage in English. It is massively used in either language. Moreover, the BNC claims that

«its usage has increased 17,000 percent since this time last year; and it has been popularised by celebrities including Beyonce, Rihanna, Cheryl Cole and Justin Bieber» (BNC, 03/11/2016).

Urbex (*urban exploration*), quite surprisingly, can be found in both versions of the SNC, but not in the BNC or OED. However, it is believed to appear in 2006 for the very first time in English. In Slovak it appears 4 years later. In fact, this expression nor its derivatives (e.g. *urbexer*) have not yet appeared in Oxford dictionaries.

Twitter, according to OED, originates in the late 14th C in a verb *twiteren*. As a noun it is believed to be coined in early 19th C, but its modern usage referring to chattering on social networks appears around 2006 in English. It emerges in Slovak a year or two later. Its spelling (orthographic) and morphemic adaptations into Slovak are obvious (e.g. lower case spelling).

Whistle-blower is a noun that appears in 1963 according to the Online Etymology Dictionary. It is no longer considered a neologism in English. But it has been known over ten years in Slovak bearing narrow very specific meaning when referring to the information scandal. Its meaning is so specific that only insiders understand its semantics when used in Slovak. Usually, an equivalent translation into Slovak is preferred instead. Probably that is the main reason why it is still considered knew after all those years of existence in the target (Slovak) language.

Webinar is too recent to appear in OED, however, it appears in the BNC and both Slovak versions as well. Oxford dictionaries date its first appearance (usage) into 1990s explaining it as "a seminar conducted over the Internet" (https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/webinar). From the point of word-formative processes it is classified as a blend of *(worldwide) web + (sem)inar*. Slovak has been using this Anglicism for about thirteen years and in the course of that time it has undergone the complete process of spelling and morphemic adaptations. Though the process of adaptation underwent, Slovak users still may perceive this expression new.

3. Conclusion

Anglicisms entering Slovak language predominantly come from a virtual (i.e. electronic) environment which is believed to be the most dynamic and effective means of communication at the moment. That is the main reason why the source of our research sample was searched and observed in this specific environment.

A sample of neological Anglicisms used in Slovak was collected and observed in order to be further analysed from the point of orthographic adaptation in Slovak. This phenomenon is connected with the first appearance of the expression in target language. It takes some time for any borrowed or newly coined expression to become adapted. In some cases it took two or more years. Our hypothesis about neological perception among the source language users was more or less confirmed. Majority of examined English expressions are still considered new in English (source language) and as such they were borrowed and are now perceived new in Slovak (target language). There were some exceptions noticed, but they represent only a small amount of examined items.

Appearance and the time of first emergence in a particular language were checked out in electronic databases, such as the British National Corpus and Slovak National Corpus. In the case of the SNC two versions (2013 and 2015) were compared due to time needed for borrowed items to adapt.

Our comparison has showed that newly borrowed items usually keep their original orthography, as is the case of words like *belfie, glamping, hashtag, lelfie, pelfie, selfie,* and *telfie*. As for proper names (*Facebook* or *Twitter*), they seem to lose their upper-case spelling in target language if the situation (high frequency and/or spelling rules of target langue) enables it (*facebook, twitter*). Spelling features typical of the target language are preferred where possible, e.g. *webinár*.

Considering the frequency of Anglicisms, it can be asserted that their usage arises. It can be demonstrated on an example of Anglicism *facebook* whose usage is reflected in the older SNC version (2013) as 911x while in the newer SNC version (2015) *facebook* appears 22,135x, not to mention its Slovakized adaptations. Similarly *twitter* emerges 71x in 2013-version while a two years later it notices 6,360x. Some Anglicisms do not appear in 2013-version, but in 2015-version their frequency is quite high, as in the case of *selfie* having 117 appearances.

The alphabetically listed Anglicisms presented in the table of the paper represent only a small sample of our larger ongoing research on neological Anglicisms used in Slovak.

The question is which expressions are going to stay within our language (be it source or target) and which are going to be forgotten soon. One thing is clear, electronic communication strongly influences the choice of language and visual (e.g. *emoji*) means. It can be assumed that social networks are going to stay with us for some time as well as their means of communication. However, they may modify in various ways, but only time will show how and into what extend.

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