

The Process of Inclusion: Pairs of Bilingual Synonyms with a Broader Semantic Field in English Language than in Albanian Language

Majlinda Nuhiu State University of Tetovo, FYROM, Ilinden nn, 1200, Tetovo, Republic of Macedonia E-mail: majlindanuhiu@gmail.com

Abstract

This research aims to cover the morphologic and semantic aspects of bilingual synonyms (the form and meaning) in English and Albanian language. The similarities in form and differences in meaning of bilingual synonyms in Albanian and English are important in translation and teaching process. The direction of our research is from Albanian to English language. The focus of our comparison is the question of similarity and diversity (pair of words that have the same form but the semantic field of the English words is wider than in Albanian language).

The analysis of this bilingual phenomenon (bilingual synonyms) is done according to the *subjective technique*, by comparing the surface structures of the languages thereby using monolingual and bilingual dictionaries, dictionaries of foreign words, and reverse dictionaries of the Albanian language. The other technique being used is the *objective technique*, working with the corpus, one-way, bidirectional translation, and group test of Gjorgevic (1982). The examples that will help our research are Albanian texts translated into English, exclusively from native English speakers, because only through them we can see the differences that occur between these two languages.

With the method of contrastive analysis that will be applied in this research, the following relations or differences will be analyzed on semantic level (Ivir, 1968); pairs of bilinguals synonyms whose meaning overlap to a certain level but the scope of meanings in Albanian language is narrower than in the English language.

Key words: bilingual synonyms, semantic fields, semantic signs, similarity, difference.

1. The overall methods applied in this research

In theoretical contrastive analysis of the languages which are being contrasted, languages have the same status A, B, C, DZ (Fisiak-Lipinska Grzegorek-Zabrocki, 1978:11). While, at contrastive analyses which are used for applied goals, languages according to the rules don't have the same status. In our analysis of bilingual synonyms the comparison is usually done in one way and that is from Albanian towards English language. In the places where discrepancies or mismatches exist in the usage process of bilingual synonyms in both of the languages could easily come to mistakes while translating or teaching the foreign language. Because of the possibility of the appearance of interferention or negative transfer, these comparisons are named as transferable comparisons (Halliday-McIntosh-Stevens, 1964:120). The direction of our comparison is from mother tongue (Albanian language) towards foreign language (English language).

The comparison of languages could be done by subjective and objective techniques of analysis. The comparison of two or more languages from a certain examiner presents subjective contrast. With this technique we are going to find out the surface structures of the language A and B. The application of subjective technique in the comparison process of bilingual synonyms has its own deficiencies which for sure come into surface if we do the analysis completely only in this way, because individual work could never be a real guarantee for the coverage for all possibilities.

The technique of one-way translation or translations which presents a semantic accordance of the text in Albanian language with the text in English language; it has been accepted it as a technique of comparison with the help of which the translation equivalents have been denoted. With the aim to come to translation equivalents in the Albanian text we have observed the appearance of bilingual synonyms, while in translation of the same texts into English language we have noticed the forms and meanings with which the bilingual synonyms are being translated. The English forms that suit a bilingual synonym in Albanian language could be more than one and they are named as translation paradigms (Levenston, 1965). The comparison of the corpus through translation from Albanian to English language from one side represents a technique of contrast which in the widest sense resolves the biggest and diverse similarities and differences between bilingual synonyms in both of the languages. With the help of the corpus we have checked the results of the contrast upcoming from subjective technique of this contrastive analysis. The subjectivity could be reduced with the help of the objective technique. The objective technique that we have used in this research is consisted of: working with the corpus, one way translation and the group test (Gjorgjevic, 1982).



All the techniques of the contrastive analysis have their advantages and disadvantages; individual technique is subjective, the group test and bidirectional translation are impractical, one-way translation takes a lot of time, the creation of the corpus is a very complicated issue, because no matter how big is the corpus one can never be sure that he or she has included everything that is relevant and necessary for the language system (Ivir, 1969) That's why we have tried to combine more techniques which are needed for the given language situation.

1.1. The methodology of the Semantic Analysis in Lexical Plan

For semantic analysis of bilingual synonyms in Albanian and English language we explored a range of approaches of the Lexical Semantics as it is a) the technique of semantic differentials; b) the theory of semantic signs/ componential analysis; and d) the theory of semantic field. In our research the meanings of bilingual synonyms in Albanian and English language are given with componential analysis. The componential analysis approach is suitable whenever one needs to determine the potential equivalents of the lexical units in the other language. The meaning being analyzed with the help of componential analysis might seem very complicated, but it gives basis for testing the adequacy of the expression for which it is considered to be equivalent in two or more languages.

1.2 Componential Analysis of the Meaning

According to Nida (1975) the majority of structural semanticists are determined for a certain version of componential analysis. The approach of componential analysis related to the description of meaning of words and phrases it is based on the thesis that the meaning of each lexeme could be analyzed in relation to the group of more general components of meaning (or semantic signs), from which some or all are common for some different lexemes of the vocabulary. The earliest and the most influential representatives of componential analysis in the post-Sossirian structural tradition are Hiemslev and Jacobson. Their opinions are not identical; but they are sufficiently similar when it comes to the application: both of them believed that Trubezkoy's principles (1939) that he introduced in Phonology, could and should be used in Grammar as well as Semantics.

1.2.1. Semantic Features

It is considered that lexicalization it is consisted of providing lexemes whose meaning is consisted of basic components. Following is that different languages don't have to be lexicalized or combined in the same way with the same components of meaning or identical component features. In our research, the meaning of bilingual synonyms in Albanian and English language will be given in terms of componential signs. In this research we will note the common semantic signs as well as the differential signs which express the additional or specific meaning in Albanian or English language.

2. Defining Bilingual Synonyms

Among the most impressive phenomena in the international communication are international elements which belong to the vocabulary, word formation, terminology and phraseology of different languages. The general signs of the internationality fully apply to international signs in every language, in that sense and bilingual synonyms. Bilingual synonyms are international elements which belong to different languages and are connected through their similarity in form and meaning. Bilingual synonyms could be presented and seen as in two languages as well as in more languages, related or unrelated to any social basis; the bilingual essentiality of these international elements and their role in the process of bilingualism remains the same, even though the level of the internationality in relation to the given parameters could be bigger or smaller.

In terms of what constitutes the linguistic content of bilingual synonyms, we will briefly expose the observations of: Haugen (1956); Lado (1965); and Akulenko (1969).

While defining the linguistic content of the term bilingual synonym it is very necessary to include this term within the general theory of bilingualism and multilingualism. For the same purpose it is appropriate to use Haugen's model which presents a principle of linguistic description according to which it is established a system of matching between the elements of two different languages which come into contact: diaphonic or dimorphic matches. (Haugen, 1956). Hence, a group of phenomena are being distinguished which play a crucial role in the international exchange of information: and that is root and derivational morphemes, lexemes, and phrases which could connect two or more languages thanks to the similarity in form and meaning. In this group belong bilingual synonyms in which we could discuss about identical (in fewer cases), similar or false matching which is the job of a linguist.

According to Lado the words which have similar form and meaning are bilingual synonyms (cognates), (Lado, 1965). Bilingual synonyms are words that have similar form and meaning and in two different languages of common origin. This definition is very useful for linguists whose interest is to find out the connections between languages in more recent or distant past.

Bilingual synonyms are borrowed words from another language which possess an international characteristic element (roots or affixes). Every language contains synonyms which should be distinguished from bilingual synonyms because they belong to two different languages. Bilingual synonyms are international elements with



identical, similar form and meaning that belong to two different languages. Thus, in this aspect bilingual synonyms play an important role in the process of reconstruction of the languages for which there are no written records. But for a linguist who is pedagogically directed, whose task it is to teach a foreign language this definition is not full. His task is not the history of the language but the language which is now spoken. For them, every word for which there is a certain correlation between the meaning and the form in both of the languages they present a bilingual synonym. Actually, the borrowed words are as useful as the words that became part of the languages long time ago. The usefulness of bilingual synonyms depends on the duration of their existence as part of the language (Altrochi, 1953).

According to Akulenko (1971) the words of different languages from the aspect of object-logical connection could be established in equivalent and nonequivalent relationship. Considering the relationship of sound and graphics of equivalent words and the relation of syntagmatic or voice features further could be distinguished bilingual categories of absolute and relative synonymy. Bilingual synonyms could be divided into externally similar and internally different. In translation of foreign words, Akulenko (1971) emphasizes that bilingual synonyms represent a great difficulty. Also he states that it would be very wrong to define this category as the category of bilingual homonyms. At the end, Akulenko (1969) considers that it is less acceptable the proposal of the Michigan school, this category to be named as 'deceptive cognates' because the term 'cognate' in the languages traditionally is not related to the common origin of related languages while the discussed group of words is determined purely synchronic independent of their origin.

3. Types of Relations between the Meanings of Bilingual Synonyms

In order to determine the linguistic meaning of any bilingual synonym one should find the contrast. Bilingual synonyms have a meaning only if they are contrasted with other units which posses certain common semantic signs with other bilingual synonyms. As a way of presenting the meaning relations that do exist between pairs of bilingual synonyms we have accepted the componential analysis.

According to Lyons bilingual synonyms that possess similar structures can be classified into the following distributional types (1968:78): a) Equivalence; b) Inclusion; b1) the English unit has more meanings than the Albanian unit; b2) The Albanian unit has more meanings that the English unit; c) Overlapping d) Contrast.

These groups give a possibility for the classification of Albanian/English pairs of bilingual synonyms that we took from our corpus. In all four groups we can notice the existence of morphological, phonetic and graphical similarity between these pairs, which is a result of their common origin. The differences are those that are influenced by the rules of loan word adaptation in the given language.

The four relations that were presented earlier could be described as follows; a) each lexical unit could be freely translated with its grapho-phonemic equivalent in the other language, as in the following example: Alb. ombrellë: 'umbrella'. While, in the b) each lexical unit could be translated by its pair, but the opposite case is restricted only for part of meanings. A very good example for this is the first case of our analysis b1), where the English unit has more meanings than the unit in Albanian language:

1) Alb. Eng.
'adresë' 'address'
Common semantic signs in Alb. and Eng.

'details of where a person may be found and where letters may be delivered'

Nisi të tregonte se si e vjehra donte që me çdo kusht të porosiste priftin, nga ana e saj për të birin, se si ajo mundi ta gjente më në fund pas adresës dhe e vjehra u qetesua. (K2:91)

She told him that her mother in law had begged her to go immediately to the priest, on her behalf, and ask him to do his best in helping to find her son, so that she had finally succeded in locating him according to his address, that her mother in law's mind was now at rest. (C:83)

Alb. equivalnts of the Eng. additional signs 'make a speech to', 'speak to', 'using a title'

Marku ngiti sytë për të parë se kush kishte guximin ti fliste kështu tamam në kohën kur njeri nga shërbetorët po zgjaste kokën te parvazi për të parë prishësin e qetësisë (K3:112) Additional semantic signs in Eng. 'fliste', 'drejtohet', 'perdor autoritet'

Mark raised his eyes to see who had dared to address him in that way just as one of the servants put his head over the banister to see who had. shaterd the quiet. (D:129)

'adresë, fliste, drejtohet, perdor autoritet

= address



If we compare certain types of relations from the below mentioned groups significant differences could be noticed when it comes to intensity of semantic interferention. The probability for a wrong interpretation is higher in the classes b) and c) while the relation d) always leads to wrong translation while using the replique of the grapho-phoneme (Nuhiu, 2012). The discussion for the pseudoanglisms it is usually restricted in the fourth group, even though it should be said that the second and the third group are subtle nuances of meaning, and as a result of that they are difficult to translate.

4. Some of the Reasons for the Appearance of Inclusion

According to the collocation and distributional analysis it is discovered that bilingual synonyms can never be absolutely the same, they can never have identical set of semantic features. They differ from one another according to collocation fields, temporal distribution, geographical distribution, connotation and register. The fact that bilingual synonyms are not necessarily equivalent according to the meaning has its own history. Since the earliest days of the modern semantics it is well known that there are two tendencies in the process of word development: some terms extend their meaning while others narrow their meanings. It is natural that the reduction in the scope of meaning to be associated with appropriate increase in the preciseness (specialization) while the extension would be marked by semantic depletion (Ullman, 1963). As the logicians would say that its extension is increased while its intensity decreased: now the word could be used for more things but gives less information for them (Ullman, 1963:193).

Both the extension and restriction could appear as a result of many reasons some of them are just linguistic while the others are of sociological and psychological reasons. However, a lot of linguists suggest that generally taken restriction in the meaning is more common from extension.

According to Werner (1954:203) there are two reasons for noncompliance. One of the reasons is that the main developing trend is going towards differentiation than towards synthesis. The second reason is related to the first one, and that is the formation of general concepts of specific terms which nowadays is of greater importance for scientific communication. In other words, the language in everyday life is directed towards concrete and specific than towards abstract and general.

While analyzing the English bilingual synonyms with wider semantic scope we noticed that the polysemantic nature of the bilingual synonyms is more accentuated in English language than in Albanian language. The reason to this could be explained in a very simple way as follows. The frequency of polysemy is different in different languages. The progress of civilization it requires not only formation of new words but also adding new meanings to the old words. According to the formula of Breal (Breal, 1948), if the term accumulates more meanings, it represents diverse aspects of the intellectual and social activity. Polysemy often appears in the case of general words whose meaning varies according to the context, than at the case of specific terms whose meaning is less prone to changes.

Another reason for their appearance could be the process of borrowing. They are formulated with the process of borrowing or the process of transfer of a word from one language to the other. The word as it is could a) undergo any changes, remain identical synonym; or b) can morphologically adapted and receive prefixes or suffixes from the recipient language and c) be adapted when the loanword is totally integrated and thus receives a new meaning.

5. Pairs of Bilingual Synonyms with a Broader Semantic Field in the English Language than in Albanian Language

In this part we will discuss about our corpus analysis and show examples of pairs of bilingual synonyms which in the source and target language don't have the same set of semantic signs, bilingual synonyms that possesses greater number of semantic signs in the source language than in the target language. It could be said that in lot of cases a) the meanings of bilingual synonyms in the source language are included in the meanings of the bilingual synonyms in the target language and vice versa b) the meanings of the bilingual synonyms in the target language are included in the meaning of the bilingual synonyms in the source language. This kind of inclusion of meanings of the bilingual synonyms, into one another, it is especially important for determination of important features of the meaning because every inclusion of meaning possesses all the signs of the inclusive meaning, but the broader field of meaning contains at least one sign which makes it different from the narrow field of the other lexical unit.

In our analysis the phenomena of inclusion is best explained with the following examples where firstly the English/Albanian pairs of bilingual synonyms are given; and then common semantic signs; following the additional semantic signs are being presented (single quotes); at the end are the Albanian translation equivalents with their illustration in the context.

The phonological and graphological connected lexical units include pairs of words where the semantic scope is wider in the English language than in Albanian. If we look at the semantic relations which exist in the English



pair 'bank': Albanian 'bank', we will see that even though the English bilingual synonym possesses the additional signs 'land along each side of a river or canal'; 'flat-tooped mass of cloud, snow etc.'; 'a line' etc. that is very irrelevant for the translator who almost always uses the English formal replique in order to translate the mutual part of the meaning. Those pairs of words are false pairs, where the English speaker has to find another Albanian word (ex:'pikë bregu','togje','vijë'') to accomplish the accurate translation. This type is largely presented in the lexicon of both languages and could be illustrated with the help of translated example from our corpus analysis.

2) Alb. Eng. 'bank' 'bank'

Common semantic signs in Alb. and Eng 'establishment for keeping money and valuables safely'

Shpjegimi ishte i thjeshtë: ndonëse parathënmet e qytetarëve endacakë karrocierëve të konsujve, kursit të këmbimit të dukatit venedikas ne spread by it bankat e Durrësit, spiuneve, epileptikëve e lavirëve të portëve. (K4:10)

Alb. equivalnts of the Eng. additional signs 'pikë bregu'
Megjithëse te kjo pikë e bregut bëhej kalimi i njerëzve e i bagëtive me anë të trapit, mbi... (K1: 9)

Trapi e bëri disa herë mugën, gjersa e hodhi matanë krejt kopenë e vogël. (K1: 28)

'togje'

Ai tani ecte midis kasolltarëve, i zbehtë me hapa të lekundur, duke ndier anash shikimet e njerëzve që vetëm sa e fshiknin, për të ikur tutje nëpër togje mjegullash. (K3: 14)

'vijë'

Ulem e mi nganjëherë te vija e mullirit. Ky është vendi ku më pëlqen më tepër të ri. (K2: 127)

The explanation was simple enough: the predictions of the city people were based on information and rumours spread by itinerant merchants, consuls coachmen, spies epileptics and virêve të harbour prostitutes and on the rate of exchange of Venetian ducats in the Durrës banks. (C:4)

Additional semantic signs in Eng.

1. 'land along each sideof a river or canal'

Even though this was the spot on the bank where people and livestcock crossed...... (H: 6)

The raft made the journey several times until it had carried the entire small herd to the opposite bank (H: 34)

2. 'flat-tooped mass of cloud, snow etc.'

Now he walked among the moumers, pale, with unsteady steps, feeling people's glances glide by him and turn aside at once, losing themselves in in the banks of mist. (D: 15)

3. 'a line'

I sometimes sit on the bank of the canal, the canal feeding the race. (C: 116)

'pikë e bregut', 'matanë', 'breg', 'togje', vijë bregu' = 'bank'

In Albanian language a great number of bilingual synonyms are monosemantical (partially because they are used only with terminological meaning), while their English pair except having the terminological meaning has other meanings too. A very good example, is the Albanian bilingual synonym 'adresë' which has common semantic signs with its counterpart in English language 'address' and that is 'details of where a person may be found and where letters may be delivered'. But the Albanian bilingual synonym doesn't posses the distictive, additional semantic features of the English counterpart: 'make a speech to', 'speak to', 'using a title'.



Alb. 3) Eng. 'adresë' 'address'

Common semantic signs in Alb. and Eng. 'details of where a person may be found and where letters may be delivered'

Nisi të tregonte se si e vjehra donte që me çdo kusht të porosiste priftin, nga ana e sai për të birin, se si ajo mundi ta gjente më në fund pas adresës dhe e vjehra u getesua. (K2:91)

She told him that her mother in law had begged her to go immediately to the priest, on her behalf, and ask him to do his best in helping to find her son, so that she had finally succeded in locating him according to his address, that her mother in law's mind was now at rest. (C:83)

Alb. equivalnts of the Eng. additional signs 'fliste', 'drejtohet', 'përdor autoritet'

Marku ngriti sytë për të parë se kush kishte guximin ti fliste kështu tamam në kohën kur njeri nga shërbetorët po zgjaste kokën te parvazi për të parë prishësin e qetësisë (K3:112)

'adresë',' fliste', 'drejtohet', 'përdor autoritet'

Additional semantic signs in Eng. 'make a speech to', 'speak to', 'using a title'

Mark raised his eyes to see who had dared to address him in that way just as one of the servants put his head over the banister to see who had. shaterd the quiet.(D:129)

= 'address'

Another example of inclusion is the pair of the bilingual synonyms 'atak' in Albanian language and 'attack' in English language whose common semantic signs are 'violent attempt to hurt, defeat, and overcome'. But the bilingual synonym in English has other additional semantic signs like 'occurence of a disesase' and 'military operation' that the Albanian bilingual synonym doesn't posses.

Alb. 4) Eng. atak attack Common semantic signs in Alb. and Eng 'violent attempt to heart, defeat, overcome'

Me një ulërimë ngjethëse ai iu sul përsëri kundërshtarit. (K2:21)

Dhe në vend që të vështronte sharapollet e kullës, sytë i mbante te rafti i librave dhe revistave, thuase atje ishte jo vetëm ataki por edhe mbrojtja e kullës. (K3:115)

Alb. equivalnts of the Eng. additional signs 'sulm'

Ai kishte sulm në zemër.

'operacion'

Ja këtu në një operacion të madh në mes të dimrit

He attacked his enemy again with a terrifying roar. (C:23)

And instead of seeing to the battlements of the Kulla, he would leaf through the books and periodicals as if in them he might find the secret not only of the attacks upon his stronghold but of his defense. (D:132)

Additional semantic signs in Eng 1. 'occurence of a disesase'

He had a heart attack.

2. 'military operation'

This is the place where my battalion was wiped out batalioni ynë u shpartallua nga partizanët shqiptarë. (K2:45) during a big attack by the Albanian partisans. (C:33)

atak, sul, sulm, operacion =attack

Conclusion

All the Albanian bilingual synonyms from this group are of a certain sense specific aspects of more general English bilingual synonyms. Generally taken, bilingual synonyms both in English and Albanian language are polysemantical, but the process of meaning development is different in both of the languages. Almost in every language one of the ways for naming new concepts, ideas or objects from the British or American civilization it is done by borrowing the word from the language that it's being created or from another language. As it is known a word in a language could have more than one meaning but in the new recipient language, Albanian, it is borrowed with only one meaning and the other meanings are left behind. This phenomenon is named as



inclusion or narrowing of the meanings and indicates that in the recipient language is transferred one specific meaning of the borrowed model while the other meanings are left aside.

During the process of analysis of bilingual synonyms based on the semantic field it could be noticed that the semantic field of English word is broader than that of the recipient language. During the translation process the translators don't use the signs which are absent in the units of the mother tongue, but they should find other correspondences for the semantic signs which are not included in the pair of the language that is being borrowed (Ivir, 1978).

We have carried out a research on the interference of bilingual synonyms at semantic levels in English and Albanian language and with it we came to the overall characteristics as a starting point in the establishment of theoretical setting. The occurrence of bilingual synonyms in both of the synchronic compared languages is an example of interference which is of semantic nature. On semantic level, the interference is not limited on wrong translations as a result of additional semantic signs in English language.

The systems of correlation that was presented and discussed shows how complicated are lexical relations with common etymological roots. The frequent deviations from the regular, complete correlation, imposes immense problems for the translators from mother tongue (Albanian language) towards the target language (English language). Mechanical translations of separate components from Albanian into English language can lead to the mistakes in the process of translation.

The tendency to think that every bilingual synonym that is being translated from one language to another has only one lexical equivalent could be reasonable called "the root of all evils" in translation.

List of the corpus books

K1 = Kadare, I. (1980). Ura me tri harqe. Prishtinë: Rilindja.

H = Hodgson, J. (1997). The three arched bridge. New York: Arcade Publishing House, Inc.

K2 = Kadare, I. (1980). Gjenerali i ushtrisë së vdekur. Prishtinë: Rilindja.

C = Coltman, D. (1980). The general of the dead army. London: Harvill Press.

K3 = Kadare, I. (1980). Prilli i thyer, Prishtinë: Rilindja.

D = Dee, I. R. (1990). Broken April, Chicago: Ivan R. D., Publisher.

K4 = Kadare, I. (2005). Këngë zie për Kosovën. Tiranë: Onufri.

C = Constatine, P. (2011). Elegies for Kosovo. New York: Arcade Publishing.

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Majlinda Nuhiu: I was born in Tetovo, Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) on 19 of May 1976. I finished my PhD in the fields of Contrastive Lexicology, Semantics and Translation in Ct's Cyril and Methodius in Skopje, Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) on 11.06.2009. I am a full time professor and the head of the English Language Department in State University of Tetovo. I am part of the translating project of the Ministry of the Education in Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), for which I have translated the following books: Robbins&Cotran "The Atlas of Pathology", James K. Galbraith "Inequality Industrial Change" and John Andrews&Nick Jelley "Energy Science, methodology, techniques and the effect". I am working on Contrastive Lexicology and Morphology, Translation and Semantics for which I have published the following papers: "Bilingual Homonyms in Albanian and English Language", "Difficulties of Albanian Speakers while Pronouncing English Speech Sounds" in *Procedia-Social and Behavioural Sciences. ELSEVEIER vol. 70, 25 January pages 1686-169; and* "Bilingual Synonyms in English and Albanian Language", "Some Specific Problems of Machine Translation when Translating from Albanian to English Language" in ACADEMIC DAYS OF TIMISOARA: LANGUAGE EDUCATION TODAY. *Cambridge Schoolars Publishing, UK, 10 / 2011. ISBN 1-4438-3284-7*;.

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