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## **THE CONVERGENT PHENOMENA OF INTERNATIONALISMS IN ENGLISH AND ALBANIAN LANGUAGE**

### **Abstract:**

This research aims to cover the morphological and semantic differences in form and meaning of internationalisms in English and Albanian language. We will try to find out the similarities in form and differences in meaning of internationalisms in English and Albanian language. With the method of contrastive analysis (Ivir, 1968); we will try to analyze pairs of words that have the same form in both of the languages, English and Albanian, but the semantic field of Albanian words is wider than in English language. With the help of translation paradigms from Albanian to English language translated exclusively from native English speakers we will try to analyse pairs of internationalisms whose meaning overlap to a certain level but the scope of meanings in Albanian language is wider than in English language. The direction of our research is from Albanian to English language.

With the help of subjective technique, comparing the surface structures of internationalisms and objective technique, working with the corpus, one-way, bidirectional translation, and group test of Gjorgevic (Gjorgjevic, 1982) we will try to find out internationalisms with the same form and whose meaning overlap to a certain level but the scope of meanings in Albanian language is wider than in the English language.

### **Keywords:**

Internationalisms, semantic fields, semantic signs.

**JEL Classification:** I29

## **The methods applied in this research**

Our aim in this research is to analyze the semantic aspect of internationalisms which we will be done according to two different methodologies closely connected to meaning. The first methodology is based upon componential analysis of meaning which serves as a base for: a) for determining the potential equivalent lexical units in both of the languages in our case Albanian and English language; and b) the analysis of interrelated meanings (Nida, 1975). The second methodology presents the lexical fields. From most of its representatives of this theory we will consult the settings of Trier (1934), Ullman (1957), and Simpson (1979). For the analysis of the distinctive signs, the relation of lexical fields it is undoubtedly the most important part since it represents the main relations between closely connected meanings which compose clearly defined semantic fields and show precisely marked contrasts. Since we are analysing the meaning of internationalisms in two compared languages Albanian and English that's why it is very useful to mention the basic components of lexical meanings: a) referential meaning or denotation; b) emotional meaning or connotation and c) the range of application Nida, (1964); Zgusta, (1971). The first manner could be named as a "type" or 'designatum' according to Moris (1946) or general meaning. The second manner it is based on listing the signs of the class or "denotatum" according to Moris (1946) which could be also named as special meaning. The third type of meaning it is consisted of listing of "considerate and necessary number of signs of the class". In our analysis we will try to find out common meanings of internationalisms or in other words general meanings which could be found in both of the languages Albanian and English. Secondly, the analysis will continue with finding out the special meaning which exists only in one language but doesn't exist in the other one. In other words, finding out convergent cases or cases where the internationalisms in Albanian language have additional signs or broader semantic field, which makes them different from the internationalisms in English language.

## **Defining Internationalisms**

As a first case of mentioning a special word for denoting the phenomena of internationalisms it is considered the English adverb 'international' from J. Bentam (Balabuha, 1980:14). This word constructed upon understandable material in Europe, with a transparent internal which during the 19th century it was spread in European languages. While during the 20th century entered in the languages of all continents in the shape of phonetic borrowing.

In terms of what constitutes the linguistic content of the phenomena 'lexical internationalism', shortly we will present the observations of: a) Haugen (1956); b) Lado (1965); and c) Akulenko (1971). While deciding about the linguistic content of the phenomena internationalism it is necessary to add this phenomenon within the frames of general theory of bilingualism and multilingualism. For this purpose it is convenient to use the model that Haugen suggests which represents a principle of dialinguistic description, according to which in the knowledge of the bilingualisms a system of direct match is being established between the elements of the languages in contact:

diaphonic and diamorphic matching (Haugen, 1956). Besides these two terms there are two other terms which are added by Zlutenko the term 'dialexeme' (Zlutenko, 1966:11) and Akulenko 'diaphrase' (Akulenko, 1971:254).

According to Lado, the words that are similar according to their form and meaning should be named as cognates (Lado, 1965). The cognate word is usually described as a word which has a similar form and meaning in two or more languages but with a common origin. This definition is very helpful for those linguists who are interested in finding out the roots and relations between the languages from the close or far past. Thus, cognates play an important role in reconstruction of the languages that there is no written evidence. Lado mentions the existence of another group of words similar according to their form but different according to their meaning. He names them as deceptive cognates. This term refers to similarity in form and difference in meaning; it does not refer to the origin of these words. The terms which are used by the compilers of the French-German and German-English dictionaries for pairs of words similar in form but different in meaning are cited as "faux amis du traducteur", (false friends of the translators).

According to Akulenko (1971) the words of any synchronic languages, from the aspect of their object-logical relation could be put in equivalent and non-equivalent relation or in other words synonymy and homonymy. Akulenko (1971) proposed the terms internationalism which includes inside the terms cognates, bilingual synonyms and the term pseudo internationalism which includes false cognates and bilingual homonyms.

Generally, internationalisms are as a result of direct and indirect borrowing from a third language and in each of these two languages (Albanian and English) entered with different meanings or developed different meanings. They are words (usually from the classical, but from the modern too) which have entered in other languages and have become as part of their lexical fund. They appear as a result of some processes of influence: a) the influence of the languages and b) random coincidences. Internationalisms are words which largely depend on genetic kinship as well as the duration of cultural, political and economical contacts. Their number is largely increased if the duration of these contacts is longer. Despite the case when there are very close links between the regions of the languages which are compared, the culture of the linguistic community in some cases reflects various visions of reality which are characteristic for them but totally unacceptable for the other community. So, as a result of that, we can say that the meaning of the words are culturally determined or modified and they differ between linguistic communities. Words do not possess meanings but people give meanings to the words.

### **The convergent phenomena (what and why)**

During the research history of Contemporary Semantics it was found out that there are two types of the word's development: some words expand their meanings and some narrow their meanings. It is natural that the narrowing in the range of preciseness is considered as specialization, while the expansion it is noted with semantic depletion

(Ullman, 1963:191). As the logicians would say, its extension it is expanded while its intensity it is narrowed: now the word itself could be used for many things, but gives less information for them (Ullman, 1963: 193).

Some of the reasons of the appearance of the semantic extension and the restriction could be purely linguistic, and some of them psychological or sociological nature. According to linguistic research it has been seen that the process of restriction of meaning is more common than the extension. However, according to Werner (1954:2013) there are two main reasons for the mismatch: a) the developing trend which is going towards differentiation rather than synthesis; and b) the formation process of the general concepts from specific terms which is nowadays of greater importance for the scientific communication. But all of these reasons lead to adding new nuances of meaning to the already existing meanings, polysemy. According to the formula of Breal (Breal, 1948) if the term accumulates more meanings, it represents diverse aspects of the intellectuality and the activity of the society. Often polysemy appears at general words in our case internationalisms, whose meaning varies according to the context than at the specific terms whose meaning undergoes fewer changes. (Nuhiu, 2013:74)

The similarities and differences of internationalisms could be found out only when there is contrastive analysis in two compared languages regarding the three fields of grammatical study: form, meaning and distribution of the elements in two or more languages or in possible combinations of these criteria for the observation of the language phenomena. (Lado,1957). Regarding the contrastive analysis of internationalisms in two compared languages three types of relations could be found: a) convergent; b) divergent; and c) zero correlation.

### **Some examples of the convergent phenomena**

In this research we are trying to examine internationalisms in Albanian language whose semantic field is wider than that of the English language. We will try to observe the convergent phenomena of internationalisms with a broader semantic field in Albanian than in English language. In these cases the English internationalism in certain sense presents specific aspects of the Albanian concepts. The first example is the internationalism 'base' which has more additional semantic signs from the English 'base' but it is also used in the meaning of figurative support. In English language except 'base' it is also used the word 'basis'.

Ex1:Alb. Eng.

**'bazë'****'basis'***Common semantic signs in Alb. and**Eng. ('foundation' ; 'integral part')*

'baza'

'base'

Princi shqiptar nxori në The Albanian prince brought dritë dokumente të vjetra to light  
 some old documents që vërtetonin se baza proving that the Orikum base e Orikumit i  
 përkiste Arbërisë. belongs to Arberia.(H:45) (K1:35)

Mendja i thoshte se do të His instict told him that it ishte më mirë që, përvec, would be  
 useful to descend takimeve me ta të to the terrain that was the zbriste edhe atje ku  
 ishte foundation of death, baza e vdekjes së gjakësit. murder himself.  
 (K3:131) (D: 153)

Additional semantic signs in Albanian and English equivalentns of the Albanian additional signs

### 1. 'me ndihmën e, sipas' / with the help of, according to'

Më tepër se një orë ai dhe The general spent over specialisti shqiptar u an hour with the Albanian munduan  
 të përcaktonin expert were trying to në bazë të shënimeve work out with the  
 help të hartës topografike, of information on the vendin e përpiktë të map,  
 the precise varrimit dhe më në location of the graves fund e përcaktuan.  
 (K2:57) graves. (C:47)

### 2. 'bazë': 'according to'

Në këtë fshat në bazë të And according to our listave duhet të jenë lists  
 there should be two  
 dy ushtarë të varrosur two men of his battalion (K2:54) buried in this  
 very village. (C:44)

**bazë = base, foundation, the help of , according to, integral part,**

As we can notice in the above example the internationalism 'base' firstly became phonologically adapted in Albanian language into the word 'bazë' but during time it also passed through the process of semantic adaptation and received more and different meanings in Albanian language than in the English. In other words the internationalism 'base' received additional semantic signs, meanings in Albanian language, which could be translated as: the help of, according to, integral part and foundation.

Ex: Alb.

Eng.

**'modern'****'modern'***Common semantic signs in Alb. and Eng.***('present or recent times')**

Kisha dukej që larg e bukur, He was already in  
 e ndërtuar me stil of the church a handsome  
**modern** drejt e në **modern** edifice with its rugën e madhe. (K2:228)  
 with its main door  
 leading directly to the street.  
 (C:227)

*Additional semantic signs in Alb. Eng. equivalents  
 of the Alb. additional signs*

**1. 'elegant i veshur' 'fashionable,  
 'sipas modës së fundit' 'up to date'**

Ne jemi varrmihësit më We are the most **up to modern** të botës. (K2: 94) **date**  
 grave diggers in  
 the world (C: 87).

**2. 'i ri' 'new'**

Kaluan pranë villave të plazhit, They drove past the që tani dukeshin të ftohta  
 villas which lined the e të trishtuara me beach, cold and grillat të  
 mbyllura dismal looking with their  
 dhe pranë ndërtesave blank shutters then on in  
 të mëdha **moderne** të front of the **new** hotels  
 hoteleve dhe restauranteve and restaurants all  
 verore, që s'punonin long closed  
 prej kohësh.(K2: 160) now. (C: 151)

**modern= modern, up to date, new, fashionable**

When it comes to the internationalism 'modern' which has an identical form in English and Albanian language it has a broader semantic field in Albanian language. According to the "Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English" by Hornby, A.S. (2000) and "Albanian English Dictionary" by Duro, I. –Hysa, R. (1988), the common semantic signs in both of the languages are: present or recent times while additional semantic signs are: 'fashionable', 'up to date' and 'new'. All these new nuances of meaning that has the Albanian pair which could for sure lead to wrong translations. The mistake that is usually done is the idea that every internationalism from the source language has only one lexical equivalent in the target language, that's why the convergent phenomena is very important for the process of translation.

## Conclusions

During the process of analysis of internationalism based on the semantic field it could be noticed that the semantic field of English word is narrower than that of the mother tongue, Albanian language. During the translation process the translators don't use the signs which are absent in the units of the foreign language, 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, 1978a).

The analysis of semantic signs of internationalisms can help the translators to indicate a) that every internationalism from the source language has just one form there is only one appropriate lexical unit in the target language; b) it is important to also take into account the group of related meanings and not only the apparent equivalence; and c) should consider lexical units, not only in terms of single words. (Nida, 1979).

Traditionally was thought that the only task of the translator is to find out verbal equivalents of words from the source language. But the translator of the text has to deal not only with the words but with the strings of components that are presented by these words. Because every internationalism or every linguistic unit could have a string of semantic signs (string for every meaning), that's why the translator should decide which one of these strings has the greater possibility for mutual adjustment. All these decisions that the translator must determine are not only the exact strings of semantic signs but also must understand how they fit in the larger communication models of the language. His or her task is not only reproducing internationalisms, but also finding the closest natural equivalents for the signs of the closest words. That means that one string of component signs, which can be grouped together in a word of the source language, maybe it is needed to be translated with some words in the target language.

The accuracy of translation shouldn't be determined in relation to the appropriate words, but is based on the extent to which precisely is represented the corresponding strings of semantic signs in restructuring. This is very important if the resulting form the message of the source language should present the closest natural equivalent of the text in the source language. The relation of such meaning convergence of internationalisms into one another it is very important in determination of significant characteristics of meaning, because each "convergent" meaning possess all the signs of the "convergent" meaning, but a wider field of meaning has at least one additional semantic sign which makes it different from the narrower field.

### **List of the corpus books**

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 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.

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