

**A CONTRASTIVE STUDY OF ENGLISH
AND ROMANIAN TERMINOLOGY IN THE DOMAIN
OF BANKING AND FINANCE**

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This paper focuses on the structural and lexico-semantic analysis of English and Romanian terminology from the domain of banking and finance, paying attention to the specific patterns of term formation occurring within this particular field of study, as well as semantic relations that help us understand the systemic nature of terminology and correlation between concepts that make up the conceptual structures of this domain.

There are a lot of opinions among the researchers when it comes to terminology. Some consider it a separate, autonomous and self-sufficient discipline of study; some view it as a part of another

discipline like linguistics and the particular subject field it is linked to; others emphasize the interdisciplinary character of terminology [2, p.19]. When it comes to the domain of banking and finance, terminology plays a particular role in shaping our understanding of specific phenomena that build the foundation of the financial system as a whole, providing important insights into key concepts of banking activities and financial operations.

Term creation occurs as a conscious and systematic process, and requires consistency when it comes to designation of concepts within a particular field of enquiry. The formation of terms is carried out by three different methods, and namely by use of existing resources, modification of existing resources, and creation of new linguistic entities [6, p. 28]. Analyzing the terms selected from the Financial Stability Report published by the National Bank of Romania [1], we concluded that in the domain of banking and finance there are both **simple terms** as *bond, debt, bank, asset, share, profit*, and terms formed by the modification of existing resources employing the processes of **derivation** involving the addition of **prefixes** (e.g. English: *insolvency, repayment, intermediation*; Romanian: *nerambursare, insolvență, dezintermediere*) and **suffixes** (e.g. English: *investment, liquidity, deleveraging, recession*; Romanian: *lichiditate, creditare, decontare, indemnizație*), compounding, and compression.

If we speak about **compounding**, there are three forms of compound terms: the **closed form** in which the parts of the compound are melted together, the **hyphenated form** in which the parts of the compound are linked through a hyphen (e.g. English: *mortgage-backed commercial loan risk-weighted assets*), and the **open form** in which the parts of the compound are separated (e.g. English: *balance sheet adjustment, inflationary pressures, hedging derivatives*; Romanian: *rata rentabilității financiare, expuneri neperformante, măsuri macroprudențiale*).

Compounds can also be classified according to the type of composition and the linking element into three groups: **neutral** (formed by joining together the parts of the compound without any connecting elements), **morphological** (the components are joined by a linking vowel or consonant - generally quite non-productive) and **syntactic** (contain linking elements such as prepositions, conjunctions, articles,

adverbs). There are three subtypes of neutral compounds depending on the structure of immediate constituents: **simple neutral compounds** which consist of simple stems (e.g. English: *liquid asset, cash flow, euro area, deposit rate*; Romanian: *deficitul contului curent, capital străin, active externe*); **derived compounds** which have affixes in their structure (e.g. English: *financial performance, currency depreciation*; Romanian: *expuneri neperformante, creanțe imobiliare, profit nerepartizat*); **contracted compounds** which have a contracted stem in the structure (e.g. English: *FX swaps*). Regarding **syntactic compounds** we can cite the following several examples in English: *stock of loans, adjustments for impairment*, and in Romanian: *monedă de denominare, fond de pensii*.

These are only a few examples of **abbreviations** in English: *VAT* (for value-added tax), *FX* (for foreign exchange market), *GDP* (for Gross Domestic Product), and in Romanian: *ROA* (for rata rentabilității economice) *TVA* (for taxă pe valoare adăugată), *PIB* (for produs intern brut).

The next aspect that will discuss in this paper is the lexico-semantic analysis. Examining the selected terms we noticed that the majority of terms in both English and Romanian corpus are **mono-semantic**, and are in compliance with the principle of univocity considered an ideal situation when it comes to terminology [8, p.35], e.g.: *solvency* – the ability of an individual or business to pay their long-term debts including any associated interest [5]; *rambursare* – restituire a unui credit sau a unei sume împrumutate la termenul scadent prevazut în contractul de împrumut [4].

As terminology is based on the principle that one designation corresponds to one concept, **polysemy** is considered an undesirable occurrence [3, p.108]. Following our analysis, we found out that in the domain of banking and finance the instance of polysemy is a quite rare one.

The next semantic relation found between terms from our corpus is **synonymy**. We noticed that in the domain of banking and finance, both in English and in Romanian, a concept may be designated using several terms; however, in Romanian the phenomenon of synonymy is more widely present. A few examples of such terms are: *foreign currency lending, foreign currency credit* and *foreign currency-*

denominated loan; *efect de levier* and *efect de pârghie*. In the same context we can speak about **antonymy** – designation of opposite concepts (e.g. English: *domestic currency loan* and *foreign currency loan*; *credit în monedă locală* and *credit în monedă străină*).

The last two semantic relations analyzed are **hyponymy** which represents the hierarchical ordering of the terms based on a certain criteria (e.g. *loan* as hypernym for such terms as *consumer loan* and *housing loan* (the criterion here is the purpose of the loan); *activ* as hypernym for the terms *activ intern* and *activ extern* (the criterion here is the country of provenance of the assets)), and **meronymy** which implies the existence of a holonym, that designates the unit, and one or more meronyms defining the part or parts [7] (e.g. English: *loan portfolio* as holonym, meaning all the loans held by a bank or finance company, and *loan* as meronym; Romanian: *portofoliu de credite* and *credit*).

Banking and finance is an infinitely fascinating domain to explore from the perspective of terminology. The two aspects discussed in this paper, and namely structural and lexico-semantic analysis of English and Romanian terms from this particular field offer an insight into the patterns of term formation and relations between terms, and give us the opportunity to make a comparison between terms from these two languages, and conclude that there are more similarities than one might expect, proving at the same time the diversity and richness of the special language of banking and finance both in English and in Romanian.

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