TERMINOLOGICAL CHALLENGES IN TRANSLATING POLITICAL NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

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În cadrul prezentei cercetări, ne-am propus studierea și analiza termino-logiei specifice domeniului politic, în special a dificultăților terminologice întâlnite în procesul de traducere a articolelor politice din ziare, atât din punct de vedere structural, cât și semantic, stabilirea asemănărilor și deosebirilor dintre terminologia limbii engleze și cea a limbii române din domeniul politic, precum și identificarea tehnicilor și strategiilor de bază utilizate în procesul de traducere a acestora.

Terminology refers to a set of specialised words bound to a specific subject field, as well as the study of terms and their application. According to Manuel Sevilla Muñoz, the word "terminology" refers to three concepts: terminology as a theory (the compilation of premises, arguments, and assumptions about the relationships between concepts); terminology as a practice (the collection of practices and methods that arise from putting theory into practice) and terminology as a thesaurus (a structured collection of terms and expressions used in a specific science) [1, p. 2].

The language of politics is seen as: (a) as a "political" lexicon, referring to terminology, notions and political institutions, e.g. *liberalism*, *socialism*, *constitution*, *regime*, *government*, *parliament*, *assembly* etc.; (b) as a way of using language signs in politics, namely linguistic use determined by the political attitudes and ideologies, for example *freedom*, *democracy*, *nation*, etc.; (c) as a set of procedures specific to political discourses and texts, especially persuasion and influence of public opinion [2, p. 10-28].

Due to the fact that language is continuously changing and developing, terminology is also constantly evolving. As political language plays an important role in every country, there is always the need for the translation of political articles, especially editorials, constituting the most significant species of opinion journalism. The

editorial is defined by J. Sinclair as "an article in a newspaper that gives the opinion of the editor or publisher on a topic or item of news" [3, p. 450]. Moreover, S. Preda highlights accuracy of style, accuracy of information, credibility and adequacy as basic features of editorials [4, p. 160].

Analysing the means of forming political terms, the most common is "derivation", being the process of adding a prefix or a suffix to the stem. The majority of prefixes used in forming political terms are of Latin origin, for instance: ***anti***-*government*, ***non***-*voter*, ***inter***relation, ***pro***-*communism*, etc. Furthermore, the most frequently used derivation suffixes are of French origin, such as: *ratific**ation***, *deleg**ation***, *legislat**ure***, *plural**ity***, *major**ity***, *minor**ity***, etc. Another way of creating new political terms is "compounding", the process of "combining existing words or word elements to create a new form which contains two or more roots but designates a single concept" [5, p.32]. Compounds can further be classified into: neutral, morphological and syntactic. Neutral compounds consist of two stems without any linking elements, such as: *chairman*, *chairperson*, etc. Morphological compounds are non-productive compounds and the stems are combined by a linking vowel or consonant, for instance the terms: *spokesperson, statesperson*. Syntactic compounds are formed from segments of speech preserving in their structure numerous traces of syntagmatic relations typical of speech, i.e. articles, prepositions, adverbs. E.g. *winner-take-all-system, first-past-the-post*.

Political terms can be created via "abbreviation" as well, denoting names of organisations, departments, entities that are easy to remember and pronounce. Based on the corpus of examples selected for our study (350 terms), the most common types of abbreviation used in creation of political terms are initialisms (4.2%), acronyms (2.5%) and graphical abbreviations (4.5%). Firstly, initialisms are abbreviated words pronounced as a series of letters, for instance, *FBI* stands for "*The Federal Bureau of Investigation*", being universally known simply as the FBI. In the Romanian language, the initialism is borrowed from English- *FBI*, and the long form in Romanian is translated via inversion as "*Biroul Federal de Investigații*". Another

example is *MP*, being a common initialism throughout the United Kingdom and Commonwealth countries, MP stands for *Member of Parliament*. In Romanian there is no equivalent initialism for MP, being translated as "*deputat*" or "*parlamentar*". Secondly, acronyms are abbreviated words that are read like ordinary English words. For example, the English *NATO* stands for "*North Atlantic Treaty Organization*", being an alliance formed between several countries. The Romanian equivalent is "*Organizația Tratatului Atlanticului de Nord*", however, using the English abbreviation. Another example is the English acronym *NAFTA*, which stands for "*the North American Free Trade Agreement*". In Romanian, the long form is "*Acordul Nord-American de Comerț Liber*", the English acronym *NAFTA* being preserved. Thirdly, graphical abbreviations are read as the original words, such as: *Cons.- Conservative, Dem.– Democrat, Fed.– Federation, Lib Dem – Liberal Democrat, Parl.– Parliament, Rep.– Representative, Repub.– Republic/ Republican, Sen.– senate/ senator etc.*

Analysing the semantic aspect of terms from political newspaper articles, polysemy is peculiar to political terminology. For example, the term *deputy* means a person appointed as "a substitute with power to act or a second in command" or "a member of the lower house of some legislative assemblies". Therefore, the term "deputy" can be rendered into Romanian as "adjunct" or "deputat". However, monosemous terms from political field usually refer to names of political movements, for instance the terms *anti-capitalism*, *anti-fascism, Neo-Nazism*, etc.

As political terminology connects the individual and the society, it is compulsory to mention the need of translation as a product, reproducing the message of the SLT into the TL. In order to achieve the goal of translating in an accurate, faithful and precise manner, J. P. Vinay and J. Darbelnet distinguished seven translation strategies: direct or literal translation procedures (borrowing, calque and literal translation) and indirect or oblique translation procedures (transposition, modulation, equivalence and adaptation) [6, p. 56]. The most common direct translation procedures used to render political

terminology are borrowing (84/350 political terms= 24%) and calque (129/350 political terms= 36.8%).

Borrowing implies the transfer of the SL term into the TL, as the target language has no equivalent for it. For instance, the term *leadership*, which refers to the "position of a leader, command" was borrowed into Romanian, being preserved both form and meaning. Another English term that was borrowed into Romanian is "*lobby*" meaning "those who seek to influence legislation". Calque represents a translation technique, where the subcomponents of terms are retained, being literally translated. For example, the English term "*first lady*" is calqued into Romanian- *„prima doamnă"* meaning the wife or female partner of the chief executive of a country or jurisdiction. Other examples of calque: *diplomatic relations- relații diplomatice (ro), Green Paper-Carte verde (ro), iron curtain- cortina de fier (ro), opinion leader-lider de opinie (ro), party leader- lider de partid (ro),* etc.

Equivalence and explicitation are mostly used indirect translation techniques. Equivalence refers to situations where languages describe the same situation using different stylistic or structural means [6, p. 38-39]. For example, the idiomatic expression *to toe the party line*, which means "to say what the party expects you to say or not to have a different view from the official party policy" is translated into Romanian as "*a se supune partidului*". Another example is the idiom *spin doctor*, meaning "a person who gives political information to journalists expressed in a way that is good for the party or government by which he or she is employed", which is rendered into Romanian using its equivalent as "*propagandist*". Meanwhile, explicitation is "the process of introducing information into the TL which is present only implicitly in the SL, but can be derived from the context or the situation" [6, p. 8]. The term *brinkmanship*, meaning "the practice of allowing a dispute to come close to war in the hope of forcing the opposition to agree to a proposal" is translated into Romanian using explicitation as *politica de tipul "totul sau nimic"*. The English term "*open government*", which means "a system in which most decisions by government and most government records are available for any

citizen to read" is rendered via explicitation as "*sistem deschis de guvernare*".

Since languages are systems that differ in terms of structure, grammar and semantics, there are several challenges while translating English political terminology into Romanian. One challenge is represented by collocations, e.g. the adjective "*public*" is translated differrently: "*public man*" as *om politic (ro)*, "*public opinion*"– *opinie publică (ro)*, "*public image*" – *imaginea unui conducător sau partid create de opinia publică (ro)*, "*public property*" – *proprietate de stat (ro)*, "*public revenue*" – *venituri ale statului (ro)*. Realia are also seen as challenges in translation: *forum – forum (ro), senate – senat (ro), congress – congres (ro), chancellor – cancelar (ro), Bolshevik – bolşevic (ro), Bundestag – parlament german Bundestag (ro), president pro tempore – preşedinte pro tempore (ro)* etc. They are either calqued or translated via explicitation.

To conclude, in order to translate political terminology used in political newspaper articles, it is necessary to take into consideration differences between English and Romanian to avoid ambiguity and mistranslation.

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