

Manfred Görlach. *English Words Abroad*. 2003, xii + 189 pp. ISBN 90 272 2331 9 / ISBN 1 58811 435 X. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins. Price: €70, US\$70 (Hb.).

Since the Second World War, the infiltration of English into the Romance languages has remarkably increased, notably diffused by various media such as newspapers, radio and television broadcasts, popular music, and the internet. This comprehensive, thorough and authoritative work, whose data has been collected from these different sources, strives to quantify the spread of Anglicisms within individual foreign languages.

In French, for instance, Anglicisms are used daily as trendy slang which lends an exotic feel to the language; they also refer to concepts otherwise lacking in the foreign tongue. The ease of and preference for using Anglicisms lie in their condensing of otherwise long paraphrases, such as the use of *start-up* which translates in French as "une entreprise en pleine expansion".

Most Anglicisms are fairly recent acquisitions, dating from the 19th and 20th centuries. Certain European languages like Dutch, German and French have been frequently scrutinized, but little is known about the linguistic influence of English on languages such as Czech, Croatian and Polish.

Since 1988, Görlach has been working on the *Dictionary of European Anglicisms* project (2001), a lexicographical study on the diffusion of English in sixteen languages from different language families: Romance languages (French, Spanish, Italian, Romanian), but also German, Dutch, Norwegian, Icelandic (Germanic), Russian, Polish, Croatian, Bulgarian (Slavonic), Finnish, Hungarian (Finno-Ugric) and Albanian and Modern Greek. Two sequels, *An Annotated Bibliography of European Anglicisms* (2002), followed by *English in Europe* (2002), serve as companions to the dictionary. In *English Words Abroad*, Görlach explores the methods used for the compilation of this dictionary showing the present-day impact of Anglicisms as well as the degree of integration of loanwords and the transformation, whether phonological, graphemic, morphological or semantic, they might undergo in the receptor language. He also gauges their chance of survival in the short and long run: some are adopted in the vocabulary of younger people, while others have become dated and are only used by the older generation, the calques of which sometimes gain a certain popularity.

A similar investigation has already been conducted in the 1970s by the Croatian precursor Rudolf Filipović who elaborated a large corpus of Anglicisms in twenty selected languages in order to establish the growing contact of these languages with English. Görlach's *English Words Abroad* is a collection of conference papers and articles showing his own work's progress. The author discusses data analysis, accounts for linguistic prescriptive attitudes to language and presents the methodological and terminological problems faced when compiling a database of Anglicisms and building a multilingual dictionary. The enterprise is ambitious and the results of almost twenty years of research cautions us against potential difficulties and obstacles.

Görlach makes a distinction between *loanwords* and *aliens*. The former relate to lexical items that are fully integrated into a language, the latter refer to words which, due to phonological and morphological differences with the receptor language or other factors such as stigmatization or lack of mediatization, will not be successfully integrated. To be included in the dictionary, Görlach targeted words that "were recognizably English in form" (Görlach 2003: 44) and frequent enough to be considered part of the national language and cultural history of a country. Calques are often competing with loanwords and will be considered separately.

Although some of the material of this book seems to overlap, this study is far from being repetitive and it can actually be seen how the work has progressed throughout the years. Chapter 1 lays the foundations of the project, gives definitions and also presents a survey of current research. Chapter 2 focuses on the impact of English and on data collection. Chapter 3 is an update of the work in progress. Chapter 4 deals with etymological issues, chapter 5 with marginal lexis such as foreignisms (words like *pub* and *shilling* which strictly refer to Anglo-Saxon culture), technical words and archaisms. Chapter 6 focuses on the graphemic, phonological, stylistic and social development of Anglicisms. The integration of Anglicisms may imply some phonological, stylistic and social changes. Preliminary statistics made on 876 lexical items show that in decreasing order German, Dutch and Norwegian were the languages which most attested the investigated Anglicisms, followed by Italian, French and Finnish. Albanian, on the contrary, was the language which proved least susceptible to these Anglicisms.

The problem of distinguishing between pseudo-Anglicisms and true English coinages makes this study all the more difficult. As languages are constantly evolving, the vocabulary is at times fleeting and it can hardly be foreseen whether such items will become obsolete or will survive in the linguistic repertoire of native speakers. Chapter 7 investigates the integration of Anglicisms and the ensuing grammatical problems such as gender attribution, pluralization, and compounding as well as marginal morphemes or phonemes which do not exist in a receptor language. This is the case of *-ing* and *-er* derivatives which become integrated into Croatian, Polish, Bulgarian and French for instance. Chapter 8 analyses semantic changes (the extension or reduction of meaning) which affect loanwords in the receptor language. The borrowed items can acquire particular connotations which convey a derogative, metaphoric or colloquial meaning. Görlach looks at varieties of calques and semicalques in chapter 9 and shows how the translation of foreign lexical items is part of a long-lasting tradition by purists and language legislation (such as the 1994s *loi Toubon* in France) to preserve languages from foreign intrusion. He also attempts to establish the effectiveness of such legislation in safeguarding the purity of the receptor language. The following chapter is dedicated to the issue of acceptability and analyses the gradual process whereby a word of foreign origin becomes a component of the receptor language. Some words are

fully integrated, while the usage of others is restricted. Chapter 11 summarizes a large number of recent research conducted on Anglicisms and chapter 12 presents a contrastive analysis. Görlach encourages researchers to work on Gallisms, Germanisms and neoclassical lexis in order to complement this overall study of Anglicisms, and gives suggestions on how to elaborate dictionaries recording such items. Using two pilot studies conducted on selected representative items in both French and German to illustrate his results, Görlach shows the dominance of French in the languages of educated Europe, mostly in German, Dutch and English. The function of French before 1900 can be paralleled with the current role of English. He equally considers the expansion of German in Eastern countries and in Scandinavia. In the last chapter, statistical data obtained from a CD-ROM is opening new perspectives for research.

Clearly illustrated with grids and graphs and substantiated with rich footnotes, this fascinating, multicultural study provides both tools for research and invaluable advice in the elicitation and reading of data. It will undoubtedly appeal to linguists and students alike, as well as to those simply interested in languages.

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Michaël Abecassis
Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages
University of Oxford
Oxford
United Kingdom
(michael.abecassis@modern-languages.oxford.ac.uk)