



GENERAL SCIENTIFIC AND TERMINOLOGICAL ECONOMIC VOCABULARY IN EU DIRECTIVES: SEMANTIC EQUIVALENTS IN ENGLISH, GERMAN, FRENCH AND BULGARIAN LANGUAGES

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ABSTRACT

The research team presents in this paper some of their linguistic observations and comparative analysis of texts of EU Directives in the field of General Economic Policy.

The main objective is to present the formal language characteristics of general and specialized economic vocabulary, compared in the four languages: English, German, French and Bulgarian. What is being compared is the syntactic organization of the parts of speech in the phrases and the content of the presented information.

The research methodology includes: observation, excerpting, comparative analysis, retrospective and statistical method.

In the process of excerpting and analyzing linguistic material on a comparative basis, the ways of transfer of international terminology to a given language system are traced, as well as the accuracy of the presented information of the respective document conveyed to readers for whom the stated languages are official. The analytical and evidential parts of the paper include examples of neglecting the polysemantic nature of some of the terminological phrases, the specific requirements of the context, as well as the possibility of synonymy in academic style, so that the communicative task is achieved adequately.

Key words: text linguistics, comparative linguistics, semantic correspondences, international terminology, translation theory, communicative competencies.

In this report, the team presents some of their linguistic observations and comparative analysis on the texts of the European Union directives in the field of general economic policy. In implementation of engagements to the scientific project at Faculty of Economics, funded by the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports on the theme "Languages, intercultural competence and training of specialists in Economics," the authors limited documentary sources for a language parallel:

1. Commission Regulation (EC) No482/2009 of 8 June 2009.

2. Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament – The Renewable Energy Progress Report.

As a final product of the project is completed vocabulary in English, German, French and Bulgarian with etymological comment for morpheme base in the ancient languages – Latin and ancient Greek – volume of five hundred terminological word forms and phrases.

The main objective of the submitted scientific report is to present the formal linguistic characteristics of two, three or more constituent phrases and terms, juxtaposing them in four languages – English, German, French and Bulgarian. The team is comparing the syntactic organization of the parts of the speech in phrases and the content of presented information.

The methods used are:

observation, excerpting, comparative analysis, retrospective and statistical methods.

Existing in the European Union diversity contains peculiarities that affect the further development of new linguistic structures and especially the level of development of the international vocabulary and neologisms. Some of the most typical examples are the official documents of the European Union, most of which were originally developed in several languages and then translated the rest of the 23 European languages.

We based on the view that Bulgarian language is almost always the receiver-language as it is official (mother-tongue) for a small percentage of the population of the European Union.

For basic languages - "sources" are accepted English, German and French. They are done the initial linguistic record of the new risen concept. In the Bulgarian language, new concepts and their lexical equivalents enters as translated.

In the current globalization it is difficult to ascertain exactly which of the indicated languages the language-source is. So we take a criterion for assessment the accuracy of the translation of any term reverse translation. There are often found deviations from the contextual sense....

In the process of excerpting and analyzing linguistic material on a comparative basis, the ways of transfer of international terminology to a given language system are traced, as well as the accuracy of the presented information of the respective document conveyed to readers for whom the stated languages are official.

We are introducing the most typical cases of the elements combination of term phrases from syntactic and morphological position, comparing their semantic counterparts in the four languages.

The most common types are the following:

1. English - **Rural development** – (a phrase of an adjective + a noun)

German - **Entwicklung des ländlichen Raums** – (a phrase of a noun + an adjective + a noun).

French - **Développement rural** (a phrase of a noun + an adjective) with the meaning „rural development”.

Bulgarian - **Развитие на селските райони** – a discordant attribute in gender and number: (two nouns connected with the preposition „на”, as the second one is preceded by concordant attribute in gender and number with the noun (селски район)

2. English- **Rules for the application** (two nouns, connected with a preposition)

German – **Durchführungsvorschriften**-(a compound noun with components two nouns)

French- **Modalités d’application** (a noun+a preposition +a noun) - it means “modality”, “variety”, not”rules” (in reverse translation from Bulgarian the translator shall not use the same French word but the other, for example : **règles d’application**

Bulgarian- **Правила за прилагане** – classic form of a discordant attribute: (two nouns, connected with a preposition „за”)

3. English - **Keeping of accounts** – (gerund +preposition + a noun)

German- **Buchhaltung**- (double-compounded noun)

French- **Tenue des comptes**: (substantivized participle + a preposition+ a noun). An usual word “book-keeping” was not used, and “accounts”

Bulgarian- **Водене на счетоводство** - (two nouns with a prepositional connection)

4. English - **Paying agencies** (a phrase of a present participle and a noun)

German - **Zahlstellen** – (a compound noun with components two nouns)

French - **Organismes payeurs** (two nouns, as the second one is an apposition)

Bulgarian - **Разплащателни агенции**-(a phrase of a noun + an adjective as the adjective is in concordance with a noun in gender and number)

5. English- **Expenditure and revenue** (a phrase of two nouns)

German - **Ausgaben und Einnahmen** (a phrase of two nouns)

French - **dépenses et recettes** (a phrase of two nouns), a common accounting term was used

Bulgarian - **Разходи и приходи**- (a free phrase of homogeneous parts - nouns)

6. English - **European Agricultural Fund** (a phrase of two adjectives as attributes to the same noun)

German-**Europäischer Agrarfonds** (a phrase of an adjective and a compound noun with components an adjective and a noun)

French - **Fonds européen agricole pour le développement rural (Feader)** – (a phrase of two adjectives as attributes to a noun, followed by a prepositional phrase of an adjective and a noun)

Bulgarian - **Европейски земеделски фонд** – (a phrase of a noun and two relative adjectives as concordant attributes with the noun)

7. English – **Common agricultural policy**- (a phrase of two adjectives as attributes to a noun)

German –**Allgemeine Agrarpolitik**- (a phrase of an adjective and a compound noun with components an adjective and a noun)

French – **Politique agricole commune** - absolutely equal as Bulgarian: (a phrase of two adjectives as attributes to a noun)

Bulgarian - **Обща селскостопанска политика** – (a noun and two adjectives as concordant attributes with the noun)

8. English - **European Economic Recovery Plan** – change of words position, (an adjective + an adjective + an adjective + a noun)

German - **Europäische Konjunkturprogramm** (a phrase of an adjective and a compound noun)

French - **Plan européen pour la relance économique** (a noun + an adjective + a preposition + a noun + an adjective)

Bulgarian - Европейски план за икономическо развитие – classic phrases: (nouns with a prepositional connection for discordant attribute (план за развитие), each of which has a concordant attribute (европейски план; икономическо развитие) (an adjective + a noun + a preposition + an adjective + a noun)

Translation of formal names of European documents is almost literally; there is a full coincidence.

1. English - **Member States** –change of words position (a phrase of two nouns)

German - **Mitgliedstaaten** - (a compound noun with components two nouns)

French - **Etats membres** (two nouns as the second one is an attribute)

Bulgarian - **Държави членки** - two nouns, as the second one is an apposition; it is written separately, not as a compound word.

2. English - **Commission of the European Communities**

German - **Kommission der europäischen Gemeinschaften**

French - **Commission des communautés européennes**

Bulgarian - **Комисия на европейските общности**

The parallelism in the four languages is full. The separate parts of the phrases are translated by equal parts of the speech.

3. English - **Local development strategies**

German – **Regionale Entwicklungsstrategien**

French - **Stratégies de développement local**

Bulgarian - **Стратегии за местно развитие** (a noun + a preposition + an adjective + a noun)

In complex phrases - three word forms and more commonly are used abbreviations - for brief writing in the directives, especially as they are related to basic concepts with high frequency. Problem situations often are happened, especially when the text is not only informing, but said the conditions, for example when applying for European projects.

Here are some of excerpting abbreviations:

1. English - **EAFRD – (European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development)**

German - **ELER-(Europäische Landwirtschaftsfond für die Entwicklung des ländlichen Raums)**

French - **Feader – (Fonds européen agricole pour le développement rural)** – the abbreviation is with small letters in French, in contrast to Bulgarian

Bulgarian - **ЕЗФРСР (Европейски земеделски фонд за развитие на селските райони)**

2. English – **EAGA – (European agricultural guarantee fond)**

German –**EGFL-(Europäische Garantiefond für Förderung der Landwirtschaft)**

French - **FEAGA – (Fonds européen agricole de garantie)**

Bulgarian – **ЕФГЗ - (Европейски фонд за гарантиране на земеделието)**

3. English – **EU – (European Union)**

German – **EU – (Europäische Union)**

French – **UE - (Union européenne)**

Bulgarian –**ЕС - (Европейски съюз)**

4. English – **EC – (European Community)**

German – **EG – (Europäische Gemeinschaft)**

French – **(CE) Communauté Européenne**

Bulgarian – **(ЕО) - Европейска общност**

In this exposé of the report the authors consider it is appropriately to comment on inaccuracies encountered in translation that takes information away from the context and the exact meaning of the paragraph of the directive. Of course, this happens in the Bulgarian text as an adopting language. For instance:

1. English – **European Economic Recovery Plan**

German - **Europäische Konjunkturprogramm** – Literally translated in Bulgarian it means: „European marketeering program”. The word „conjuncture” means „situation, position, and circumstances” and is used instead of „въстановяване” in the Bulgarian translation.

French - **Plan européen pour la relance économique** – Literally translated means "an European plan for economic recovery." The French term "relance" means "revival, renewal". In reverse translation from Bulgarian to French it would happen talking at cross purposes: "Recovery" is translated differently: here with (relance), and in other contexts, such as: "conditions for reimbursement"- is translated with "reimbursement "- (literally - refund).

Bulgarian - **Европейски план за икономическо възстановяване**

2. English - **Rural development:** Exchange of parts of speech. The word for “region” is missing. Literally means –”rural development” not “development of rural regions” as in Bulgarian translation.

German - **Entwicklung des ländlichen Raums** – a word for word translation

French - **Développement rural** – Literally means „rural development”. The adjective means “rural” and does not include a meaning for „agricultural”, in contrast to other similar words. For example: *Agricole*.

Bulgarian - **Развитие на селските райони:**

3. English - **Paying agencies**

German – **Zahlstellen** – Literally it is translated:”Places, points of payment”. In reverse

translation from Bulgarian to German it would be translated: „Auszahlungsagenturen”

French - **Organismes payeurs** – a word for word translation: “paying organizations”

Check up: **Un organisme** – organ, organization

Une institution - institution

For a word “agencies” exists a word **agences** (French). Inaccuracy is mostly confirmed in reverse translation, it would be translated „agence payante”

Bulgarian – Разплащателни агенции

4. English – **Treaty establishing the European Community**

German -**Vertrag zur Gründung der Europäischen Gemeinschaft**- a word for word translation

French - **Traité instituant la Communauté européenne. instituer CE**, which means “institute, establish an institution”, modeled on the “constitute” - but this time the translators did not use the foreign word, at the risk of sounding more generally and indefinitely. When checking with reverse translation from Bulgarian, it is unlikely that the verb “create” would be translated with the French most used verb (créer) or (fonder)

Bulgarian - **Договор за създаване на Европейската общност**

English - **Transfer of a holding**-literally translated it means “transfer of a farm”.

German - **Eigentumstransfer**

French – **L’exploitation est transférée** – instead of a common French word – „biens, propriété (property,estate), it was used a “exploitation”, meaning (farm); **transférée** is also translated incorrectly and means “transfer, transfer of funds”, not with a common juridical term.

Bulgarian - **Прехвърляне на имот**

Here are some examples of literal translation of foreign words, written in Cyrillic alphabet directly, although they have their counterparts in Bulgarian:

1. English - **derogation**

German - **abweichend von**

French - **dérogation**

Bulgarian – it is translated “**дерогация**” – instead of „нарушение, неспазване, накръняване” literally, written in Cyrillic alphabet with Bulgarian suffix (-ция)

2. English - **Reference period**

German - **Bezugszeitraum**

French – **période de référence**

Bulgarian – **референтен период**, instead of “съответен период”; the translator has used a literal translation and written the phrase in Cyrillic alphabet with the help of Bulgarian suffix “-ен” to the adjective to be in concordance with the noun.

3. English – **indicative budget**

German - **Mittelausstattung**

French – **Budget indicatif**

Bulgarian – **индикативен бюджет**, instead of “показателен”. The word “indicative” has derived from Latin and is used in English, French and German languages in the same form and with the same meaning. In Bulgarian it is written in Cyrillic alphabet with the addition of the suffix “ен” to the adjective to be in concordance with the noun.

4. English – **beneficiary**

German - **Begünstigte**

French - **Bénéficiaire**

Bulgarian – **бенефициер**, instead of “ползвател, този който се облагодетелства”. The word has recently occurred in the speech of some politics and economists. It was formed with the addition of English suffix –er, showing the figure or a person who belongs to a profession, category, etc. In Bulgarian is sometimes occurred (бенефициер), (бенефициент).

5. English - **notify**

German - **notifizierungen**

French - **Notifier**

Bulgarian - **нотифицирам**, instead of “отбелязвам, записвам”, it comes from the verb notify-“записвам, отбелязвам” with the addition of suffix (-иp). Absolutely literal translation, written in Cyrillic alphabet.

Contrastive linguistic analysis of basic economic vocabulary in directives of the European Union allows us to draw the following conclusions:

1. Bulgarian language as a new official language of the European Union and one of the so-called “small languages” may not be neither working nor referential to 23 languages, official for the 27 member states of the European Union ... But on the other hand, it can serve as a reference for other nations who are not in the European Union, but use the Cyrillic alphabet and belong to the Slavic language group. The bearers of the literary Bulgarian language - politicians, statesmen, businessmen, and public figures have a need for unambiguous information with the original of the directives to be successful participants in the integration processes in the European Union and the globalization of the economic and social development. They themselves should be skilful at literary standard and lexical richness of their native language to deal with polysemy and synonymy according to the communicative goals of the text.

2. In the translation and commentary texts of directives and other key documents of the European Union is indispensable intervention of linguists to rationalize the most precise semantics of context in order to carry

out an accurate translation of the source language to the host language, such as Bulgarian.

3. Neologisms - economic terms should be included in the active scientific lexis only when there is not a counterpart in the Bulgarian language without the semantics of the international terminology to be embarrassed.

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42. <http://www.rickharrison.com/language/index.html>; IL = International Language, TLP = Theory of Language Planning.