

# The process of Zero correlation of Bilingual Pseudo internationalisms in English and Albanian Language

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## Abstract

One of the most common problems of the translators nowadays is the problem of mismatching and that is words that look as if they exist in the other language but they do not. In this paper we have covered the morphological aspect of bilingual pseudo internationalisms (the correspondence between the roots and word's elements) in English and Albanian and in this way we have come across with the problem of zero correlation. Our analysis is a contrastive analysis of one language, (in this case Albanian language), through the prism of another language (English language). The focus of our comparison is the question of diversity (words that look as if they exist in the other language but they do not).

By using the *subjective technique* we have compared the surface structures of the bilingual pseudo internationalisms that in fact are "false friends" in Albanian and English language (suffixes and prefixes of international origin) by using monolingual and bilingual dictionaries, dictionaries of foreign words, and reverse dictionaries of the Albanian language. While, with the help of the *objective technique* we have worked with the corpus, one-way, bidirectional translation, and group test of Gjorgevic (1982). Our corpus is consisted of translated Ismail Kadare's books from Albanian into English language exclusively from native English speaking users.

With the method of contrastive analysis at morphological level (Ivir, 1968:149-159) we have identified words that are part of the Albanian language, but not of the English language, even though they look like they could be part of it.

**Keywords:** bilingual pseudo internationalisms, international suffixes, international prefix, zero correspondence.

## 1. Defining "pseudo internationalisms"

According to Lado (Lado, 1965) words that have the same form but different meaning should be named as "false friends" or deceptive cognates. This term, as it is used here, it refers only to similarity in form and difference in meaning; it does not refer to the same origin of the words. In the common linguistic terminology "false friends" refer to words belonging to two different languages which because of the same form look as if they are connected according to their meaning, but they are absolutely not. The terms which are being used by the French-English and German-English dictionaries about pairs of words similar according to their form, but different according to their meaning are being stated are as follows: 'faux amis du traducteur' (false friends to the translator), or German "irreführende Fremdwörter", (deceitful words). The term "ложных друзей" is also used by Akulenko in his dictionary of false friends in Russian and English language. (Akulenko, 1969).

According to Akulenko (1971) words belonging to two different synchronized languages, form the aspect of logical -subject relation, could be set in equivalent and nonequivalent relations. Since the words discussed in our research are in non equivalent relations, words that look as if they belong to two different languages or maybe in the past they did, Akulenko names them as "false pairs". In the translation and lexicographic activity, also while teaching foreign words, (Akulenko, 1971) states that a huge difficulty in these processes are bilingual homonyms or in other words pseudo internationalisms. He also states that it is wrong to name this whole category as "bilingual homonyms", or "false friends" (deceptive cognates) since the term cognate in the languages is traditionally connected to common origin, while the discussed group is purely synchronically determined. Akulenko (1971) suggests that the following terms should be used, internationalism which includes the term cognate, and pseudo internationalism which includes the terms false friends or bilingual homonyms. We are going to use the term pseudo internationalism as the most appropriate one since these words look as if they exist in the other language but they do not or maybe in the past they did but during the time they disappeared.

Bilingual pseudo internationalisms in English and Albanian language in most of the cases present direct, indirect borrowing from third languages (most of the cases classical languages, Latin and Greek) which were borrowed with different meaning or which developed a different meaning through time. Another reason for their appearance is the wrong translation. According to Akulenko (Akulenko, 1969) pseudo internationalisms appear as a result of the influence of languages, in a limited number of cases could appear as a result of random coincidences or matches, and in genetic languages are related to words with the same origin that come out from the general prototype of the language base. Their number and role of each of the possible sources in their formation are shown to be different for each of the pairs of languages depending on the genetic and historical

relations of the languages.

## 2. The aim of this research

English and Albanian language are both very open towards foreign lexical elements thus the number of words with international origin is very huge. Both of the languages have borrowed a lot of words from the same sources which according to their form and meaning indicate common origin. These words according to their form and meaning indicate common origin but still there are a lot of differences because of some reasons:

- two languages can borrow a new word and after that the words live and develop in each of the languages differently;
- two languages can borrow the same word in different periods of time in different stages of its development thus taking forms and meanings;
- the same word could be borrowed from another source thus in both of the languages to act differently in comparison features of the language that borrowed it;
- some of the words that are borrowed in one of the languages becomes obsolete and disappear while in the other language they are still part of their lexical fund.

The differences in meaning and form of the pseudo internationalisms are very important in the process of translation as well as in the process of teaching of the foreign language. With the help of the method of contrastive analysis we will try to find words that exist in Albanian language and they look as if they exist in the other language, English, but they do not.

The aim of this research is to cover the morphological aspect of pseudo internationalisms in English and Albanian language, to find out the forms that look as if they exist in both languages English and Albanian but they do not, words which are formulated with the international suffixes 'owner of the action' as: -ist, -ant, -ent, -ik, -ator, -itor and the prefix de-.

## 4. The Problem of Comparability- similarity or difference between pseudo internationalisms in English and Albanian

In the contrastive analysis of internationalisms and pseudo internationalisms in English and Albanian language a question occurs and that is the question of identical, similar and different between two or more languages. What we are interested is finding out forms that seem to be similar or different in both of the languages. The similarities and differences could be found in three ways: in the form, meaning and distribution of the elements in two or more languages or in possible combinations of these criteria for observation of these bilingual phenomena. To the similarities and differences between the languages another term has been known as contrast with which the term difference gets a new dimension. Regarding the application of the results from the contrastive analysis three types of relations have been found out when two or more languages have been contrasted:

- convergent;
- divergent and
- zero relations.

These relations appear in the situation when there is an observation of the relation of bilingual phenomena between two languages. In other words, bilingual pseudo internationalisms in English and Albanian language represent different segmentation of the reality that this bilingual phenomenon through the process of contrast have occurred. Zero relations of two languages are those cases in which in the language A exists a pseudo internationalism for a certain conceptual content, but in the language B the corresponding pseudo internationalism is absent as a result of nonexistence of such term and vice versa. The zero relations could be found in grammatical and lexical level in Albanian and English language.

Based on convergent, divergent and zero relations (Carroll, 1968) between the language A and B it is defined the term difference and introduced the term of contrast between these two languages. Namely, the convergent and divergent relations between bilingual pseudo internationalism represent a contrast while the zero relations represent the term different between words of two languages (Rivers, 1968). If we want to define the notions of being identical, similar, contrasted and different we should first solve out the question of comparability and only then we could separate two extreme cases of identical matching. The third option is the present, the case of partial matching. The absolute matching could be taken as complete or total correspondence, the partial matching with partial correspondence and finally the absolute mismatch in cases where there is no correspondence. The last case is the case or the phenomenon being discussed in this paper known as zero correspondence or in other words empty correlation.

## **5. Morphological differences of bilingual pseudo internationalisms**

### **5.1. The word and the vocabulary**

In this research the words will be compared in order to find certain regularities and differences between them which will be useful in the process of translation from Albanian to English language. Because this research deals with words, firstly we should define the term word and in relation to it the features of pseudo internationalisms. According to Bloomfield (Bloomfield, 1933) the word is the smallest free form. Marchard himself combines Bloomfield's definition with the criteria of inseparability. According to him the word denotes an independent, indivisible meaningful form of speech which could be used in isolation (Marchard, 1960).

### **5.2. The process of word formation of the bilingual pseudo internationalisms**

According to their composition, pseudo internationalisms belong to the process of word formation on foreign base. In English, French or German language, to mention three most important European languages, most scientific and technical words are formulated on morphological basis of Latin and Greek language. Pseudo internationalisms are words which are composed of morphemes which could be of international or national character (Akulenko, 1971). The root morpheme of pseudo internationalisms should be mandatory of international character. The prefixes must be of international character too, while the suffixes could be of international or national character. By adding international or national suffix to the root of the pseudo internationalisms new pseudo internationalisms are being formed. This process of formation is named as word formation by suffixation. New pseudo internationalism could be formed by adding international prefix and that process is named as word formation by prefixation.

## **6. Mismatching between the Word's Elements of false pairs in Albanian and English Language (Zero correspondence)**

When comparing the word's elements of bilingual pseudo internationalisms from our corpus between English and Albanian language you could openly see that certain word's elements of bilingual pseudo internationalisms always have been translated with a certain correspondent. The learner knows that for the word that he or she wants to translate in English language exists a word with very similar form and he/she would not hesitate to pair those two word's elements without checking in the dictionary. As a result of that appears the process of mismatching between pseudo internationalisms. Another name for the this process of mismatching is the term 'false pairs' given by Ivir (Ivir, 1968) which he relates it to another phenomenon which also represents a source of other difficulties when translating and learning a foreign language. He considers as 'false pairs' words that have foreign origin in a language and their correspondents in the other language. The correspondents in the other language are either totally different words or words formulated from the same root but with a different morphological structure or words which do not exist in the other language. In this situation the translator creates a possible word that doesn't exist in English language. This process represents an example of generative creativity of the translator which intuitively governs the rules of English word formation but is still unaware of the limitations which operate in this process.

## **7. The process of zero correspondence in suffixes and prefixes: different elements in Albanian and English language**

The same as there are false words there are also false prefixes and suffixes and they are no less important because they represent a real potential source of difficulties for the translator from the source language Albanian into the target language, English. The mistakes in the false pairs suffixes and prefixes are rather systematic: the translator transfers the suffix and the prefix with foreign origin that exists in his mother tongue while translating the same form into the foreign language. The following section 7.1. with the help of the examples collected from our corpus present illustrate what is previously mentioned the false pairs of suffixes and prefixes, precisely from Albanian texts translated in English from native English speaking translators.

### **7. 1. False pairs of suffixes and prefixes**

The differences in the process formation of bilingual pseudo internationalisms in Albanian and English language with the help of suffixes and prefixes are of two types:

- a) the first type of suffixation and prefixation differences could be foreseen and indicated as correspondent patterns between Albanian and English because sometimes a lot of words could be classified as similar under the corresponding model;
- b) and the other type of suffixation and prefixation differences could not be foreseen because the English suffixations are different, in other words they do not exist, zero correspondence of suffixes and prefixes.

The first type of examples that follow are of the second type, false pairs of suffixes and prefixes with a zero element in English language.



translated directly thus they could be defined with a smaller or bigger preciseness or accuracy with different phrases.

The first examined suffix with international origin is the suffix “owner of the action” –ist. In the examples taken from the corpus of translated books from the well known Albanian writer Ismail Kadare into English only from native English speakers, we found out the following cases: the Albanian word ‘fantazist’ which as it is it doesn’t exist in English language thus; it is translated as ‘day dreamer’. The word ‘phantasy’ exists in English language and it means something else ‘using your imagination’.

Example 1) Alb.	Eng.
‘fantazist’	‘day dreamer’
– Ju dukem si fantazist? (K3:131)	Do I look as a day-dreamer? (D:144)

The second suffix discussed is the suffix with international origin –ik. The example shown is the Albanian word ‘sangvinik’ which is translated in English with a explicit descriptive phrase ‘a person with a sanguine disposition’ in order to deliver the semantic content of the owner.

Example 2) Alb.	Eng.
‘sangvinik’	‘a person of a sanguine disposition’
Sipas jush ai për ta është një farë sangviniku .... (K2:143)	According to you then, he is a person with a sanguine disposition.. (C:133)

The third and fourth examples shown here are bilingual pseudo internationalisms formulated with the suffixes with international origin -ant/-ent. In both of the example the words have been translated in the same way with a descriptive phrase. Pseudo internationalisms appear as a result of the wrong first glimpse of the translator when he or she sees the word and is familiar with the word, as being international, and doesn’t hesitate to go any further and directly translates it. The translator knows that there is a word in the other language with the same form and the mistake is born.

Example 3) Alb.	Eng.
‘absolvent’	‘senior student qualified to sit for degree exams’/ fourth year University’
Dashuria në vitin e dytë të fakulltetit. Një operacion apendicit si <b>absolventë</b> me 1973. (K3:194)	Love at second year of the University. An apendicit operation in fourth year University 1973. (D:201)

Example 4) Alb.	Eng.
‘hospitant’	‘a real student sitting on a class’
Atë e vërrejta si të njohur por nuk mund ta paramendoja se ajo ishte bërë një <b>hospitante</b> e vërtetë. (K2:98)	I saw her but I could never imagine she became a <b>real student teacher sitting on a class</b> . (C:102)

The next cases shown with the examples 5 and 6 are bilingual pseudo internationalisms formulated with the suffix -ator and the prefix de-. The example 5, is the Albanian word ‘asimilator’ which is translated in English language with the help of the following descriptive phrase ‘nation or person trying to assimilate another nation or a person’ While, the other example is the Albanian word ‘demode’ formulated with the international suffix de- wich looks as if it exists in English language but it doesn’t and it is translated with the descriptive phrase ‘out of fashion’

Example 5) Alb.	Eng.
‘asimilator’	‘nation or person trying to assimilate another nation or a person’
Ai është një <b>asimilator</b> i vërtetë a nuk e kupton këtë (K4:64)	He wants to assimilate everything, haven’t you noticed that? (C:49)

Example 6) Alb.	Eng.
‘demode’	‘out of fashion’
Besian ktheu kokën pas, si për t’u bindur që ato rangalla që mbanin malësorët në duar, ishin vërtetë disa cadra te vjetra	Bessian turned his head, as to make sure that the things they had in their hands were very old and <b>out of fashion</b> umbrellas with broken

e **demode**, me tela të shqyera struts and rugged cloth. (D:65)  
dhe me pëlhura të shlyera. (K3:69).

The translated examples below show bilingual pseudo internationalism in Albanian language formulated with the help of suffixes ‘owner of the action’ and prefixes “absence of action” which are missing in the corresponding English equivalents, even though the lexicon of the English language maybe contained them in the past but not anymore. Professional translators (exclusively from the origin speakers of English language) have translated these cases of empty correlation with the help of a descriptive phrase. The lexical procedure being used in the previous examples is done by changing the foreign lexical element with an unrelated element of the mother tongue while translating. (Welna, 1976)

### Conclusion

We have tried to carry out a research on the interference of bilingual pseudo internationalisms at morphological levels in English and Albanian language. The group of bilingual pseudo internationalisms that exist in Albanian language but does not exist in English language is a very huge and interesting source of serious mistakes. In the process of translation from mother tongue (Albanian) towards foreign language (English) even those Albanian native translators who know the language very well create inexistant words according to the example of the words in their native language. In some cases it means creation of a whole new word and sometimes they are just a wrong merge of separate parts of words, usually of the suffix and prefix with the base. In the case of zero correspondence the interference is not limited thus it creates nonexistent words in English language according to the example of words with foreign origin in Albanian language, it also occurs when using (or lacks of use) word’s elements, suffixes and prefixes in the language B (English language) according to the rules of their own language. Creation of lexical units that do not exist are as a result of mechanical translation as well as the idea that every pseudo internationalism has only one lexical equivalent. All these definitions are deprived of any independent lexical value, thus they should receive their own place in the dictionaries in order to meet the needs of the users. In all the above examples, in order to explain the semantic content of the word a descriptive phrase has been used.

### 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.  
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D = Dee, I. R. (1990). Broken April, Chicago: Ivan R. D., Publisher.  
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