Loanwords in the environmental terminology: A linguistic investigation of university environmental textbooks

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Abstract

The entry of foreign words into the Albanian environmental terminology has become quite intensive over the past two decades due to the increase in environmental awareness and the establishment of the environmental infrastructure. Borrowing from another language, as a linguistic and historical phenomenon, apparently occurs in all fields of study including environment. There are a few systematic works on lexical borrowings or loanwords into Albanian; thus the purpose of this paper is to shed light on the entry and use of English loanwords in the Albanian environmental terminology through a close investigation of the university textbooks on and about the environment. With that aim in mind, the authors have made both a quantitative and qualitative analysis of corpus-based data extracted from two university textbooks in Albanian used in undergraduate programmes at the AUT. The main purpose is to study the one-way flow of loan words into the Albanian language from the morphological, semantic and phonetic perspectives. The study revealed that on an average page the number of words traceable into other languages was quite significant. Most terms were purely fixed technical words (*atmosphere*, *reaction*, *temperature*, *helium*, *hydrogen*, *ozone*), introduced as internationalisms. Moreover, a number of loan words have made their way smoothly into Albanian, but others are used heavily at the expense of their Albanian counterparts (Eng. *variable*—Alb. "variable," "ndryshore"; Eng. *precipitation*—Alb. "precipitim," "rreshje"). In addition, the analysis revealed a number of inconsistencies in terminology used across textbooks which may lead to ambiguity, confusion and failure to understand texts.

Key words: *environmental terminology, borrowing, loanwords, corpus-based data, terminology inconsistencies*