

# Anglicisms in hungarian language of computer science

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**Anglicisms in hungarian language of computer science**

Završni rad

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, English is described as “lingua franca” of computing. According to Weber's analysis, English is the most influential language in the world. It is not only due to a number of primary and secondary speakers. Other factors proved to be very important, too. For example, in how many fields is English used in all over the world? What is the economic power of countries that use English language? Considering the answers to these questions, it is not strange that English is the medium for 80 % of information in the world's computer jargon. In my paper, I will focus on the impact of English on Hungarian language, especially computer science. Unlike many other languages, Hungarian language had almost no contact with English for a long period of time. In the first part of my paper, I will give an overview of the history of borrowing between English and Hungarian and their relationship until today. In the second part I deal with the way anglicisms adopt in Hungarian language based on three levels of adaptation; phonological, morphological and semantic. And the last part introduces online survey and discusses the results of the survey.

## 2. HISTORY OF LANGUAGE CONTACT

### 2.1. Historical overview

Up to present day, Hungarian linguists have studied languages that had the most influence on Hungarian native lexicon; Slavic, French, Latin and Greek language. Influence of English was insignificant until the beginning of the nineteenth century when it entered almost every domain of Hungarian language. The reason these two languages had little contact until recently was the difference in politics and religion. Hungary, as a part of Catholic Habsburg Empire, had little in common with distant protestant England. Nevertheless, words like *druida* (druid) and *parlament* (parliament) in seventeenth century entered vocabulary through English. In the second half of the eighteenth century English spread in areas of philosophy, fashion, cooking, medicine, sciences, warfare, etc. The Age of Reform starts the first “boom” of borrowing words from English. The words previously used only by certain layers in society

spread to vocabulary of common people. Words in areas of sport, philosophy, religion, lifestyle, politics, economics, science, literature, entertainment, were rapidly accepted. By the end of the First World War around 400 new words entered the vocabulary. Although many words entered through German which acted as mediating language, direct contact from spoken English increased during the years between World War One and World War Two. The biggest increase happened in areas of politics, legal and economic terms. After the Second World War, some English words disappeared from the language. They began to increase 15 years later.

Between 1948 and 1980s there was a second “boom” of linguistic borrowing. Social and political changes greatly influenced the lexicon. There was a strong tendency for purging English elements for political reasons. New adopted words were mostly internationalisms in fields of clothing and textile industry, tourism, transport, information techniques, cybernetics and other sciences, architecture, agriculture, warfare, economics, sociology and psychology, arts, medicine, entertainment, and youth culture. During 1980s Hungary became less isolated, people travelled abroad, tourism increased, communication with the West was easier through scholarships, satellite TV channels, commercials, videocassettes and so on.

These developments led to another “boom“ in the adoption of English in almost all areas of life. After 1989 western companies are opened, there are music shops, restaurants, pubs, chain stores, banks, and tourist offices. Anglicisms are pouring into the country and rapidly assimilate Hungarian.(Görlach, 277).

## 2.2. Purist periods

In the beginning of the 20th century, terminology of sport became so affected that a movement to pure the language started by Hungarian sports writers and Budapest Radio. During twenty-five years they managed to put in the background more than hundred words. English words still exist, but they are not used as they were before. This was the first, but not the biggest purism movement in Hungary. In second part of twentieth century English did not have notable influence. The development of Hungarian consciousness in this period raised a question of use or throwing out a great number of Latin, German, French and Italian words from Hungarian lexicon. A real resistance against English started with the influence of Soviet Union. The reason was political; there was a ban on western literature. Russian was thought in schools and western languages were banished for twenty years. English started to be thought in school again in 1960s (Filipović, 1986).

### 3. THE INTEGRATION OF ANGLICISMS

The rules of phonetics, morphology and syntax of Hungarian make it an unwelcoming borrower for English loan words. Hungarian has no diphthongs; therefore such vowels in English borrowings undergo some phonetic adaptation, for example: *file-fájl*. Because of the absence of the semi-vowel /w/, the corresponding sound is interpreted as /v/ (*szoftver* – *software*). Some words undergo the stage of transition from the borrowings to loan words, acquiring the sound and spelling of Hungarian words e.g. *manager*. Being an agglutinative language, Hungarian operates a great number of prefixes, suffixes and infixes, adding them to newly borrowed English verbs (*to chat* – *chatel*). After the process of assimilation, the verb behaves like any regular verb of the Hungarian language and acquires the additional features of Hungarian morphology: e.g. *bloggolas* (*blogging*). The borrowed nouns obtain the case endings, required by the Hungarian rules: *Veszek egy CDt*. The borrowings which possess the morphological features of the Hungarian language are called “Hunglish”. Literal translations of words and whole phrases are often used in computer terminology formation: *computer mouse* – *egér*, *graphic card*- *grafikus kartya*, *tűzfal*- *firewall* and so on.

#### 3.1. Phonological adaptation

When original phonetic form and word stress of a loanword cannot be easily pronounced in Hungarian, anglicisms go through phonological adaptation. There are numerous differences in phonological system of Hungarian and English. As Hungarian belongs to Finno- Ugric language group there are many phonemes that cannot be replaced. While English has stressed and unstressed syllables which are pronounced as weakened or reduced vowels and consonants, Hungarian stressed and unstressed vowels are clearly articulated. In this way, English words adapt accordingly and are pronounced in this way. In Hungarian, primary stress is always on first syllable, while in English stress can be anywhere in the word. Another important feature in analyzing phonological adaptation is whether English words come through written or spoken media. As more words passed into Hungarian through written media, pronunciation will be based on original orthography of loanword. (Filipović,1986) The English loanwords influenced very important characteristic of Hungarian - avoidance of clusters. Initial clusters have been adapted to their nearest Hungarian equivalent. Final clusters, for example in word link are also accepted. In order to pronounce those kind of words easier, sometimes final “ i ” is added. Loanwords also

influenced vowel harmony rule according to which non- compound word consists either all back or all front vowels. English loanwords are accepted without any distribution of vowels.

There are few general phenomena in adaptation of almost all English loanwords:

1. All English words receive Hungarian stress- primary stress rests on the first syllable.
2. In Hungarian, all stressed and unstressed syllables are clearly articulated.
3. The postvocalic r is pronounced in Hungarian
4. English voiceless plosives are doubled in intervolic or final position in Hungarian
5. English diphthongs become monophthongs in Hungarian, e.g. ....or clusters of vowel + j, e.g. *bojler, ofszajd*
6. Some English long vowels became short in Hungarian. E.g. *sztori, gorl*, but there are examples when the English vowels lengthened in Hungarian. The latter is the case only when the short vowel of an English unstressed syllable is fully pronounced. E.g. *dollár*.
7. If there is no counterpart of English sound in Hungarian, it is replaced by a new one.  
Dental fricative has been replaced by Hungarian dental plosive t *thermos – termosz*.  
English bilabial semi vowel /w/ has been substituted by Hungarian voiced labio- dental fricative /v/ e.g. *szoftver* (Filipović, 1986)

If we compare English and Hungarian phonemes, we can distinguish three groups of phonological adaptation:

In the first group, English phonemes have identical or almost identical counterparts in the Hungarian.

Example: *processzor – processzor*

*seria - szériá*

*server - szerver*

In second group, English phonemes differ in some characteristics from their Hungarian counterparts, but are still similar enough to be taken as equivalents.

Example: voiceless velar k has been replaced by the Hungarian geminate :

*hacker/'hæk.ər/ – hekker*

*menu- menü*

*file - fájl*

*interface-interfesz*

*email – emil*

In third group are English phonemes which have no counterparts in the Hungarian language: /w/  
- /v/

Example: *software* – *szoftvare*

### 3.2. Morphological adaptation

Vowel harmony rules in Hungarian require that front or back assonance in the vowels of a stem are maintained throughout the entire word, thus for the most part, except for recent loanwords, Hungarian words have either only back vowels in them or only front vowels.

Example: *nyomtató* (printer) – contains only back vowels.

#### 3.2.1. Nouns

In Hungarian there are no gender specific nouns or proper grammatical gender. To form a plural, we add suffixes *-ok, -ek, -ők* according to vowel harmony rules (e.g. *modul- modulok*)  
Accusative cases receive suffix – *t, -at, -ot, -et, öt* (e.g *web – webet*).

#### 3.2.2. Verbs

In English we generally do not modify the word when we change the class of a word :  
*to chat.v- chat.n*  
*to program.v- program.n*

In Hungarian, there is always an ending involved in order to change a class:

Example: *chat.n – chatel.v*  
*program.n – programozik.v*

#### 3.2.3. Adjectives

Example: *web-es*

*Internet-es*



### 3.3.Semantic adaptation

Anglicisms can either consist of words adapted from English which have one meaning, or can be anglicisms whose meaning is adopted from English source, which have more than one meaning.(Filipović, 1996). According to Filipović, there are three semantic processes, which happen after an anglicism which takes over one of several meanings, is adopted into a receiving language:

1. Restriction of meaning in number
2. Expansion of meaning in number
3. Expansion of meaning in a semantic field e.g. *ablak* – window  
– computer window

## 4. SURVEY

### 4.1. Method

In order to get an insight in the way Hungarian use anglicisms and Hungarian words in their vocabulary regarding computing technology, I conducted a survey of seventeen questions for native speakers of Hungarian. After forming questions in English, with the help of my colleagues and professor, I translated them into Hungarian. Questions are divided into three sections- personal information, questions regarding anglicisms in computing technology and the last part was reserved for so- called opened type questions, where informants could express their opinion on the subject. I used free, unlimited survey program online called Kwik survey to make survey clear, accessible and more interesting for informants. There are several ways for distributing the survey. I chose a link which I then distributed by emails to my colleagues in Hungary.

### 4.2.The results of the survey

The link for the survey was emailed to prospective respondents. I was delighted that they took time to write comments as well. Exactly five responses were from male respondents and ten from female respondents. Regarding age, the youngest respondent was seventeen and the oldest

twenty-nine. There were altogether fifteen respondents. All participants were Hungarian native speakers and therefore, I did not have to exclude any responses.

#### 4. Hogyan értékelné az angol tudását?

*In your opinion, what is your level of English?*

Alapszinten használom.

*Basic knowledge of English.*

Könnyen kommunikálhatok mindennapi szituációkban.

*I can easily communicate in everyday situations.*

Magas szinten használom, és bármilyen témájú beszélgetésben résztvehetek.

*I can communicate on any given subject.*

In Q4, respondents were asked about their level of English. The result shows that majority- 60% can communicate on any given subject in English. Other, 40 % , are able to use English in everyday situations. There was no respondents with basic knowledge of English. This can be explained by the fact that all respondents were young people, and few of them are students of English language.

#### 5. Használja-e az angol eredetű szavakat mindennapi kommunikációban?

*Do you use anglicisms in everyday communication?*

Igen (Yes)

Nem (No)

In Q5, of 87% respondents said that they use anglicisms in everyday communication, while 13% said they do not use it every day.

#### 6. Milyen szituációkban használja leginkább az angol eredetű szavakat?

*In which situations do you use anglicisms the most?*

Élelmiszer (food)

Egészség (health)

Technológia (technology)

Szállítás ( industry)

Divat (fashion )

Zene ( music )

Q6 examines in which situations informants use anglicisms the most. Results show that 64 % use anglicisms the most in area of technology, 21% in area of music, 7 % in food, 7% in fashion and 0% in health and industry.

7. Keressen magyar megfelelőket a következő szavakhoz: link, szoftvare, chat, szkennner, folder.

*Write hungarian equivalents for following words: link, szoftvare, chat, szkennner, folder*

In Q7 respondents were asked if they can find Hungarian equivalents of following words: link, szoftvare, chat, szkennner and folder. Overall, majority was able to offer a replacement.

For the word *link* there was 13 answers and 7 different words : *kapcsolat* (x3), *hivatkozás* (x5), *internetes elérési cím* (x1), *lánc* (x1) *webcím* (x1), *csatolmány* (x1), *weblap cím* (x1).

For the word *szoftver*, there was 10 answers and 4 different words : *program* (x 5), *szoftver* (x2), *számítógépes program* (x2), *alkalmazás* (x1).

For the word *chat* there was 14 answers and 6 different solutions: *beszélgetés* (x6), *csevegés* (x 4), *csevegő* (x1), *kommunikáció* (x1) , *párbeszédpanel* (x1), *beszélgeto program* (x1).

Szkennner was *lapolvasó* (x4) , *szkennelő* (x1), *szkennner* (x1), *atvilagito* (x1), *másoló* (x1), *beolvasó* (x1)

Folder was *mappa* (x12), *könyvtár* ( x1), *irattároló* (x1). The word *mappa* actually comes from German *die Mapped*.

8. Miért használja az angol eredetű szavakat leginkább?

*Why do you use anglicisms most often ?*

A könnyebb kommunikáció érdekében (jobban érthetőek)

*( Because of the easier communication – anglicisms are more accepted)*

Megszokásból.

*(Because of the habbit)*

Eddig nem ismertem a magyar nyelvű megfelelőit.

*( I do not know hungarian equivalent.)*

58% of respondents said they use anglicisms because of the habit, 36% of respondents use it because it is easier to communicate and only 7% said they use it because they do not know Hungarian equivalent.

9. Milyen gyakran használja az alábbi szavakat?

*How often do you use following words ?*

1 - I do not use.

2 - I use it sometimes.

3 - I never use it.

Weboldal

Webhely

Honlap

Billentyűzet

Keyboard

Tasztatúra

Mappa

Folder

Winchester

Merevlemez

Printer

Nyomtató

Fájl

File

Floppy

hajlékony lemez

tálca

## Taskbar

Results show that overall, Hungarian words are used more often than English. *Honlap* is more popular than *weboldal* and *webhely* although they are synonyms for webpage. *Billenytűzet*, *mappa*, *nyomtató*, *fájl* and *tálca* are more used than *keyboard*, *folder*, *printer* and *taskbar*.

For hard disk, Hungarians use more often word *vincseszter* than *merevlemez*. In 1973 IBM produced a hard disk called IBM 3340 Winchester because it was planned to have a capacity of 2x 30 MB. This model got the name after the famous raffle Winchester 30 – 30 and for Hungarian today, it stands for hard disk in general.

10. Melyik szavakat az alábbiak közül NEM érti?

*Which of these words you do not understand?*

asztal

video player

letöltés

programtermék

firewall

copy

background

beillesztés

tűzfal

video lejátszó

szoftver

paste

háttérkép

desktop

másolás

link

This question was formed in order to check if respondents understand English and Hungarian version of the same word. Most respondents understood both versions. 78% could not understand the word *programtermek*, a Hungarian word for software. This word is example of adaptation failure. One respondent did not understand word *paste* and *desktop* which is not unusual because hungarian words *beillesztés* and *asztal* are more accepted.

11. Melyik szavakat az alábbiak közül használja ?

( *Which of these words do you use ?* )

asztal

video player

letöltés

programtermek

firewall

copy

background

beillesztés

tűzfal

video lejátszó

szoftver

paste

háttérkép

desktop

másolás

link

12. Fel tudná-e sorolni az öt leggyakoribb angol eredetű szót ebből a cikkből?

*A Microsoft új operációs rendszerét a felhasználói visszajelzések alapján, több ezer kisebb-nagyobb fejlesztést végrehajtva tervezték meg. A Windows 7 egyszerűsíti a számítógép használatát és a számítógép kapcsolatát a világgal. Az Otthoni csoport szolgáltatással egyszerűen megoszthatók a zenék, a dokumentumok, a nyomtatók és bármi más az olyan otthoni számítógépekkel, amelyeken a Windows 7 rendszer fut. A*

*Windows Search megkíméli a mappákban és almappákban való körülményes keresgéléstől. A tálcá jobb előnézetei segítségével nagyszerűen áttekinthető, hogy mi van éppen megnyitva, a Jump List menükben pedig a legutóbbi fájlok a jobb gomb egyetlen kattintásával érhetők el. A Windows 7 támogatja a számítógéphardverek legutóbbi fejlesztéseit, például a 64 bites technológiát és a többmagos processzorokat, emellett a korszerűsített memóriafelhasználás hozzájárul a hardver teljesítményének legjobb kihasználásához.*

These are the results:

technológia, windows, fájl, processzor, harver  
hardver, processzor, felhasználó, operációs rendszer, mappa  
operációs, dokumentumok, search, list, hardver  
Microsoft, Windows, hardver, bit, technológia  
menü hardver memória processzor fájl  
dokumentum, search, hardver, bit, processzor  
Windows, Microsoft, bit, hardver, search  
operációs, menü, fájl, processzor, hardver  
dokumentum, fájlok,  
Microsoft, Windows, fájl, bite, hardver  
computer, file, print,taskbar, klick  
fájl, hardver, bit, processzor, hardver  
windows, dokumentum, search, hardverek, processzorok  
microsoft, operációs, dokumentumok, windows search, jump list, menü, hardverek, bites,  
technológia, processzor, memória

One of the respondents added a comment to it :

“We use operációs, dokumentum, menü, technológia and memória more often and I guess they were originally English words but they are used in other contexts as well. Microsoft, windows search, jump list, hardver, bites and processzor are only used in relation with computers so we use them rarely in everyday speech. But in computer sciences, I think all the words I've found are equally used. ”

13. Segítette-e a cikk megértését az idegen eredetű szavak használata?

*Did anglicisms in this article helped you in text understanding ?*

Igen (*Yes*)

Nem (*No*)

In Q 13 , 88 % of respondents said that anglicisms helped them to understand this article, while 13% said that anglicisms did not help in understanding of this text.

14. Voltak-e olyan szavak, amelyeket nem értett ?

*Was there any words that you did not understand ?*

Igen (*Yes*)

Nem (*No*)

In Q 14, only one person could not understand one or more words from the text.

15. Az operációs rendszere magyar vagy angol nyelven használ inkább?

*Do you rather use Hungarian or English version of operating system?*

From the results we can see that more respondents (64%) rather use operating system in Hungarian language and only 36 % use English operating system.

16. Mi a véleménye az angol eredetű szavak használatáról anyanyelvében?

*What is your opinion about use of anglicisms in your native language?*

Nem zavar. (*I do not mind.*)

Nagyon zavar. (*They irritate me.*)

Nem fontos számomra. (*I do not care.*)

Más: \_\_\_\_\_ (*Other*)

Other:

*If the Hungarian language doesn't have a usable, understandable equivalent for the English word I use the English one, but not if there exists a Hungarian translation.*



*Nem hiszem, hogy jót tesz az angol szavak beillesztése anyanyelvünknek. De egyszerűbb a már letező szót használni, mint újat kitalálni helyette.*

*I do not believe that it is good to include English words in our native language. Nevertheless it is easier to use already existing words than to invent new ones.*

*Nem zavar, kivéve ha indokolatlanul történik és bevett magyar szó is van rá. Például a lájtos, a filinges, a hőmleszt, a lájkolni és a fuck (amely szó helyett számos más ízléses káromkodás is akad a magyarban) kifejezetten zavarnak.*

17. Az angol eredetű szavak használata a magyarban szerinte pozitív vagy negatív nyelvi jelenség? Miért?

*In your opinion, use of anglicisms in your native language is more positive or more negative characteristic of language? Why?*

To question why, some respondents said anglicisms are more positive characteristic of our language. Here are few explanations:

“átjárhatóság miatt”

“A szókincs bővülése hozzájárul a nyelv bővüléséhez. A magyarban így is nagyon sok jövevény szó van már németből, szláv nyelvekből és törökből.”

“mert bővül a szókincse a magyar nyelvnek”

Respondents who answered negative gave following explanation :

“Valójában nehéz eldönteni. Ahol a technológia vagy az adott tudományterület igényli a nemzetközileg érthető szakszavak használatát, ott van értelme. A köznyelvben viszont sokszor inkább a túlhasználat jellemző és ez kevésbé szabatos fogalmazást és szegényes nyelvhasználatot eredményez.”

“Because if we get used to the English words in our mothertongue we tend not to use our traditional Hungarian vocabulary. This process has already started, as many young Hungarians use nice, like, cool instead of szép, tetszik, laza.”

“ elveszik az eredeti jelentése”

“ mert háttérbe szorulnak a magyar kifejezések”

“Az idegenszavak használata hozzájárul a nyelv kihalásához es ez nem jó”

There were some who could not decide if anglicisms are more positive or negative for Hungarian language :

“Semleges, mert szerintem a fontos az, hogy a kommunikáció megvalósuljon. Nem fontos, hogy milyen szavakkal”

“Szerintem előnye és hátránya egyaránt van. Használata mértékkel előnyös lehet, de a túlzott használat "károsíthatja" a magyar nyelvet.”

“Mert hiába van magyar megfelelőjük ezeknek a szavaknak, mégis az angol szavak elnyomják őket.”

These comments are a mix of opinions. It shows that not everyone has the same attitude towards anglicisms in Hungarian. Some comments were slightly negative, some were positive opinions and other respondents remained neutral or indecisive on the subject. Some were opposing the fact that more and more young people use anglicisms instead Hungarian words. One respondent was worried that foreign words can even cause the language death. However, some were also expressing positiveness to have anglicisms in their native language because they make it richer. In fact, many of the respondents seem to accept the fact that languages change and influence each other, and that borrowing occurs for a variety of reasons.

## 5. CONCLUSION

Until the 20th century Hungarians had very limited contact with the English-speaking world. The limited access can be explained by the dominance of the Soviet Union in the country. Since the fall of the Soviet Union, English has taken a significant place in the Hungarian language, not only through school education but in everyday life as well. The adoption of the free market economy has opened the path for globalization. These phenomena have been accompanied by IT development, mobile communication and mass access to the Internet. The globalized culture has influenced the Hungarian society by the means of the Internet, printed media and music. Hungarians began to feel that active participation in the globalised world is impossible without good knowledge of English. At the same time the transition to a market economy has created a need to fill in the gaps in the vocabulary, which lacked the adequate items in some domains. The recent situation shows that the number of English borrowings is constantly increasing. One will inevitably come across a large number of words rooted in English while reading newspapers or watching TV in Hungary. The most important areas of vocabulary where English borrowings are dominant are the ones which are connected with rapid changes such as technology, economy and derivative sciences (management, marketing, finance), politics (in the terms of Hungary's newly acquired EU membership status), culture and the academic sphere (music, media, life-long learning). There are several types of the borrowing of English words in the contemporary Hungarian language. One of the main ways of adoption is adoption without any change. The reason for this type of borrowing is in the absence of the proper equivalent for an English term in Hungarian. In most cases this phenomena is observed when up-to-date technologies should be implemented without any delay or when there is a conscious decision not to change the company or brand names. English loan words as the reflection of the globalised world in their everyday lives. Unlike the older generations, who have to learn new vocabulary, the young adults see the phenomena of the borrowings' presence in Hungarian as an integrated component. The English language use in different spheres such as school and workplaces creates a new slang which rests upon the English vocabulary.

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