BRIDGE-URI, ROUTER-E ȘI SWITCH-URI. ON ROMANIAN COMPUTER LANGUAGE

Hortensia Pârlog
University of Timișoara

ABSTRACT. *The influence of English upon Romanian, which is not a new phenomenon, has become extensive in recent years. Words of English origin can be found, in greater or smaller numbers, in absolutely all Romanian newspapers and magazines, in advertisements, they can be heard on TV, can be seen as shop names or used in graffiti. The paper analyses terms that have been borrowed from English in the Romanian computer language. The data discussed have been collected from three issues, belonging to three different years, selected at random, of a Romanian computer magazine. One can easily notice that the rate of Anglicisms does not decrease with time, that some terms are totally unadapted and felt to be 'foreignisms', while others display various degrees of morphological adaptation.*

1. INTRODUCTION

The technological achievements in the field of computers or of the Internet have led to an extensive borrowing of English technical terms into Romanian. They are, in decreasing order of their frequency, nouns, adjectives and verbs. While the phenomenon is understandable, as the new words most often fill in lexical gaps, its results are sometimes difficult to digest; a sentence like *V-ar plăcea să drag'n'drop un print-job dintr-un spool în altul* ("would you like to drag'n'drop a print-job from one spool to another"), found in a Romanian specialized computer magazine (*Chip, Computer Magazin*, 5/1999: 98), may baffle the layman.

The data discussed in the paper were collected from three issues, belonging to three different years, selected at random, of the above mentioned computer magazine (5/1999, 6/2000, 6/2002). When reading them, one can easily notice that the number of Anglicisms used does not decrease with time. It seems that some readers find this rather annoying: in one of the issues (2000: 108), someone requires the inclusion of a glossary of IT terms in the magazine, which would facilitate its reading. The editors comply: explanations are given for some of the borrowed words, for acronyms or for translation loans, but they sometimes contain further (unknown) borrowed words: e.g. ***domeniu de coliziune*** *- parte a rețelei* <u>*LAN*</u> *mărginită de* <u>*bridge-uri, router-e*</u> *sau* <u>*switch-uri*</u>. ("domain of collision - a part of a LAN network bordered by bridges, routers or switches.").

2. UNMARKED WORDS

Many of the borrowed words are unmarked, their formal structure not undergoing any orthographical or morphological change, e.g.: *Printre uneltele și opțiunile noi se numără preemptive multitasking* ("among the new tools and options one can find preemptive multitasking") (2002: 68); *a fost folosit și fog enabled* ("fog enabled was also used") (2000: 42).

The unmarked words are usually attributes in post-position; these are frequently governed by a preposition (most often *de*; however, other prepositions are also possible), for example:

– *arhitectura blade* ("the blade architecture") (2002: 18); *soluții dial-up* ("dial-up solutions") (2002: 10); *soluții hardware* ("hardware solutions") (2002: 28); *asemănătoare sistemelor desktop* ("similar to the desktop systems") (2002: 18); *folosirea drag & drop la authoring* ("the use of drag & drop for authoring") (2002: 85); *tehnologia point-to-point* ("the point-to-point technology") (2000: 14); *apelați la metoda trial-and-error* ("use the trial-and-error method") (2002: 109);

– *posibilitățile* <u>*de*</u> *authoring* ("the possibilities of authoring") (2002: 84); *procesul* <u>*de*</u> *back-up* ("the back-up process") (2002: 86); *protecție contra erorilor* <u>*de*</u> *buffer* ("protection against buffer errors") (2002: 52); *o listă* <u>*de*</u> *"to do"* ("a list of to do's") (1999: 66); *modalitatea* <u>*de*</u> *multitasking* ("the method/possibility of multitasking") (2002: 68);

– *un târg* <u>*pentru*</u> *end-user* ("a fair for the end-user") (2002: 24).

The borrowed words may have other syntactic functions as well, being preceded by various other prepositions. Thus they may be:

– adverbials of manner: e.g. *securitatea sistemului este asigurată <u>prin</u> firewall* ("the security of the system is ensured by firewall") (2002: 22); *o folosiți <u>ca</u> webcam* ("you use it as webcam") (2002: 48);

– adverbials of place: *Chipset-ul KT333 vine întotdeauna cu ATA133 direct <u>în</u> southbridge* ("the chipset KT333 always comes with ATA133 directly in the southbridge") (2002: 50);

– adverbials of relation: *O ultimă considerație <u>referitoare la</u> test-bed* ("a last thought concerning the test-bed") (2002: 39);

– prepositionals objects: *Posibilitatea specificării unui nivel de importanță <u>pentru</u> fiecare thread* ("the possibility of specifying a level of importance for each thread") (2002: 86).

Sometimes the borrowed (unmodified) words are placed between inverted commas, which suggests that they are regarded as foreignisms: e.g. *versiuni de "add-in card"* ("versions of 'add-in card'") (2002: 36); *segmentul aparatelor "point and shoot"* ("the segment of the 'point and shoot' machines") (2002: 30); *o listă de "to do"* ("a list of 'to do's'") (1999: 66). The majority, however, are used without inverted commas, as if they were part of everyday vocabulary.

3. DEGREES OF ADAPTATION

Quite a great number of borrowed words display various degrees of adaptation to the Romanian language, being marked, directly or indirectly, in some way.

3.1. NOUNS

Very often, while the borrowed word remains superficially unchanged, some of its grammatical categories are revealed by the word preceding and/or following it. There are also frequent cases when the English nouns are incorporated into a specific inflectional class, undergoing changes specific to that class.

3.1.1. *Context and grammatical gender, number, and case*

The English nouns may be determined by Romanian demonstrative adjectives, ordinal numerals with an adjectival value, indefinite articles, or they may be modified by adjectives, which are all suggestive of the gender of the borrowed item, because in Romanian their form varies according to gender, and, except for the ordinal numeral, also according to number and case. Sometimes a borrowed noun takes both a determiner (usually an article) and a modifier that indicate its gender and number.

These determiners and (pre-)modifiers often seem to agree in form with the borrowed noun that they accompany by taking into account its ending. In Romanian, most masculine and neutre nouns end in a consonant (which is sometimes palatalized); most inanimate nouns belong to the neutre gender, while most animate nouns are masculine. Since, in my corpus, many of the borrowed nouns end in a consonant or consonant letter and are inanimate, they are treated as belonging to the neutre gender; only when they denote human beings are they interpreted as masculine.

Here are several examples that illustrate this statement:

– demonstrative adjectives: *acest splashscreen* (2002: 93); *acest tool* (2002:110); *acest drive* (2002: 58); *acest mainboard* (2002:50); *cu ajutorul acestui tool* ("with the help of this tool") (2002: 78). *Acest,* "this", is the masculine/neutre form of the singular; *acestui* is its genitive case, singular;

– ordinal numerals: *al doilea cooler* (2002: 112); *al doilea patch* (2000: 10).

Al doilea, "the second", is the form for the masculine or neutre gender;

– indefinite articles: *un bracket cooler* (2002: 46); *să promoveze un brand* ("to promote a brand") (2002: 4); *un chipset cu performanțe mari* ("a chipset with great performances") (2002: 60); *există și un self-timer* ("there is also a self-timer") (2002: 56); *rezultatul unui authoring de slabă calitate* ("the result of a poor quality authoring") (2002: 76); *eficiența unui cooler* ("the efficiency of a cooler") (2002: 46); *prezența unui termal pad* ("the presence of a thermal pad") (2002: 43). *Un* is the indefinite article, singular, for the masculine/neutre, and *unui* is its form for the singular, genitive case;

– adjectives: *authoring-wizard simplu* ("a simple authoring-wizard") (2002: 85); *singurul jumper* ("the only jumper") (2000: 49); *copierea întregului kit* ("copying the whole kit") (2002: 86); *un software bundle bogat* ("a rich software bundle") (2002: 39); *un bonus secundar* ("a secondary bundle") (2002: 64); *un mic download* ("a small download") (2002: 102). Romanian adjectives are variable in form, having the categories of gender, number, and case; usually, in the singular number, masculine and neutre adjectives end in a consonant or in *u*, and the feminine ones in schwa or in *e*; they may take a definite article, which has the categories of gender, number and case, and is enclitic (-*l* for the masculine/neutre, singular, nominative and accusative, and -*lui* for the same gender and number, genitive and dative). In the examples above, *simplu* is the masculine/neutre, nominative/accusative form of the adjective, *singurul* has the masculine/neutre definite article, *întregului* is the masculine/neutre articulated form in the genitive case. In the

other three examples, the borrowed noun has both a determiner (an indefinite article) and a modifier (an adjective ending in a consonant). It is assumed that the form of the adjectives points to the appurtenance of the nouns they modify to the neutre gender; as already stated, this assumption is also supported by the fact that these nouns are inanimate.

In my corpus there are two instances when the gender of the borrowed noun is suggested by the gender of some other noun in the context:

Un chirurg, care arată mai mult a gamer ("a surgeon, who looks more like a gamer") (2000: 32); *Fabricantul (să-i zic vendor...)* ("the producer, I should call him a vendor") (2002: 4); both *chirurg* and *fabricant* are masculine, animate nouns, therefore *gamer* and *vendor* are regarded as masculine nouns as well.

3.1.2. *Inflected nouns used with the zero article*

3.1.2.1. A great number of borrowed nouns (with a zero inflection in the singular) are used with a Romanian plural, non-articulated ending in *-uri* or *-e* for the *neutre gender*; in most of the cases, the former is separated from the noun by a hyphen (however, there are also instances when no hyphen is employed), while the latter seems to be preferred for words ending in the letter *-r* and is usually attached directly to the noun, with no hyphen:

e.g. – *brand-uri internaționale* ("international brands") (2002: 24); *aceste chipset-uri sunt ieftine* ("these chipsets are cheap") (2002: 60); *lansează de multe ori update-uri, (patch-uri)* ("it often launches updates (patches)") (2002: 110); *utilizatorii de notebook-uri* ("the notebook users") (2002: 10); *pot fi integrate și switch-uri* ("switches may also be integrated") (2002: 18); *utilizați tool-uri precum Spam Killer* ("use tools such as Spam Killer") (2002: 80); *doar bărbații adevărați au fab-uri* ("only real men have fabs") (2002: 8);

  – *două sloturi pentru memorie* ("two memory slots") (2002: 55); *modemuri DSL* ("DSL modems") (2002: 28); *reverburi dense* ("dense reverb") (2002: 62);

  – *acest set de coolere* ("this set of coolers") (2002: 46); *peste 12.000 de drivere* ("over 12,000 drivers") (2002: 68); *primele playere* ("the first players") (2002: 69); *wafer-e de 300 mm* ("300 mm wafers") (2002: 32).

3.1.2.2. The plural non-articulated inflection for *masculine nouns* is *-i*: e.g., *o întâlnire cu partenerii săi din industrie* (*dealeri și vendori*) ("a meeting with his partners in the industry (dealers and vendors)") (2002: 20); *vândute la end useri* ("sold to end-users") (2002: 20); *mii de cracker-i* ("thousands of crackers") (2000:

89); *mai mulți user-i* ("several users") (2000: 57); *nu mai este nevoie de jumperi* ("there is no need for jumpers") (2000: 62); *numărul redus de pini* ("the reduced number of pins") (2000: 62). In the first four examples, the Anglicisms are treated as masculine, mainly because of their [+ animate] feature, but also by analogy with the rather great number of Romanian masculine nouns denoting professions that end in [r], which in the plural becomes palatalized (*șofer - șoferi*, "driver"; *bancher - bancheri*, "banker"; *frizer - frizeri*, "barber"; *muncitor - muncitori*, "worker"). In the last two examples, the inflection for the masculine gender is probably added by analogy with Romanian masculine, inanimate nouns like *amper - amperi*; *bulgăr - bulgări*, "ball, usually of snow"; *umăr - umeri*, "shoulder"; *par - pari* "pole"; *pin - pini*, "pine tree"; *an - ani*, "year"; *ban - bani*, "coin"; *sân - sâni*, "breast", etc.

3.1.2.3. An interesting group of words is represented by some deverbal nouns, assimilated to the *feminine gender*; they are substantivized long infinitives, obtained by adding the suffix *-re* to an infinitive belonging to the first conjugation of the verbs, ending in *-a*, derived from an English verb. This is how the words *boot-are*, *scalare*, *scanare*, *mapare*, *rutare*, *setare* have been created from *to boot*, *to scale*, *to scan*, *to map*, *to root*, *to set*. In the plural, the final consonant of these nouns is palatalized and a phonetic alternation takes place: the stressed [a] becomes a stressed schwa: *bootări*, *scalări*, *scanări*, etc. (cf. Romanian *urare - urări*, *lucrare - lucrări*): e.g., *imediat după boot-are* ("right after booting") (2002: 109); *are o scalare bună* ("it has good scaling") (2000: 66); *posibilități de scanare* ("possibilities for scanning") (2000: 12); *una din cele 3 mapări de tastatură* ("one of the three keyboard mappings") (2000: 82); *câteva setări personalizate* ("some personalized settings") (2002: 93). Zafiu (2007a: 14, 2007b: 14), who studies peculiarities of Internet language, comments at large on the family of the word *blog* in Romanian; she has found that the derived noun *blogare* (< to blog + *a* + re) is used in parallel with *bloguire*, also feminine, obtained by adding the suffix *-re* to a verb belonging to the fourth conjugation, ending in *-i* (*a blogui < to blog + u + i*). Similarly, she signals the appearance of the noun *hackuire* (Zafiu, 2001: 7), derived in a similar way from the verb *a hackui* (< *to hack + u + i*); in my corpus, the word used is *hacking*, with the definite article typical of inanimate, neuter nouns: e.g., *Ar fi deci trei metode de a obține card-uri: backdoor-urile, schimburile și hacking-ul.* ("I guess there are three methods of obtaining cards: backdoors, changes, and hacking") (2000: 88).

3.1.3. *Nouns used with the definite article*

The borrowed nouns are often used with the singular or plural definite article, which in Romanian is enclitic, forming one unit with the noun, and which has the categories of gender, number and case. Thus, most frequently, the singular, nominative and accusative cases have the forms *-l, - le* for the masculine and the neutre genders (e.g., *muncitorul* - "the worker", *fratele* - the brother, *scaunul* - "the chair", *numele* "the name"), and *-a* for the feminine gender (*femeia* - "the woman", *casa* - "the house", *grădina* - "the garden"); the genitive and dative case forms are *-lui* for the masculine and the neutre (e.g., *muncitorului* - "the worker's/to the worker", *fratelui* - "the brother's/to the brother", *scaunului* - "of/to the chair", *numelui* - "of/to the name"), and *-(e)i* for the feminine (*femeii* - "the woman's/to the woman", *casei* - "of/to the house", *grădinii* - "of/to the garden"). The plural nominative and accusative forms are *-i* for the masculine, (*muncitorii* - "the workers", *fraţii* - "the brothers"), and *-le* for the feminine and the neutre (*femeile* - "the women", *casele* -"the houses", *grădinile* - "the gardens", *scaunele* - "the chairs", *numele* - "the names"); the genitive and dative case form is *-lor*, for all the genders (*muncitorilor*, *fraţilor*, *femeilor*, *grădinilor*, *scaunelor*, *numelor*). A marker of the genitive case is also the possessive article, which is considered a type of definite article (Avram 2001: 99), and which precedes the noun to which the definite article typical of the genitive case was attached. Its forms are: *al* (masculine, neutre, singular), *a* (feminine, singular), *ai* (masculine, plural), and *ale* (feminine, neutre, plural) and they agree in gender and number with the head noun of the genitive (e.g., *un prieten/un răspuns al fratelui meu*; *o carte a fratelui meu*: *prieten* is masculine, and *răspuns* is neutre, therefore the possessive article used is *al*; *carte* is feminine, therefore the possessive article used is *a*).

The definite article, singular or plural, most frequently attached to the [+inanimate] borrowed words (whether directly or after a hyphen) marks them as belonging to the neutre gender:

– singular number, nominative/accusative: *notebook-ul vine fără un sistem de operare* ("the notebook comes without an operating system") (2002: 55); *socket-ul şi heatsink-ul au atins o temperatură constantă* ("the socket and the heatsink have reached a constant temperature") (2002: 43); *slotul lipseşte* (the slot is absent) (2002: 48); *encoderul MPEG nu suportă...* ("the MPEG encoder cannot stand...") (2002: 78); *realizează airflow-ul necesar* ("it achieves the necessary airflow") (2002: 42); *sarcina de a fixa cooler-ul pe northbridge vă aparţine* ("the task of fixing the cooler on the northbridge is yours") (2002: 110); *folosesc slotul AGP* ("they use the AGP slot") (2002: 36);

HORTENSIA PÂRLOG

- singular number, genitive/dative: *integrarea tool-ului de authoring* ("the integration of the authoring tool") (2002: 78); *integrarea serverului cu address book-ul* ("the integration of the server and the address book") (2002: 88); *unelte dedicate authoring-ului* ("tools dedicated to the authoring") (2002: 75); *pin-ul corect al motherboard-ului* ("the correct pin of the motherboard") (2002: 110); *creşterea de viteză a busului* ("the increase of the bus speed") (2002: 34);

- plural number, nominative/accusative: *tool-urile Microsoft sunt cam depăşite* ("the Microsoft tools are a bit dated") (2002: 109); *puteţi vizualiza track-urile prezente* ("you can visualize the existing tracks") (2002: 70); *folosind template-urile existente* ("using the existing templates") (2002: 70); *coolerele au fost încălzite* ("the coolers were warm") (2002: 42); *driverele prezintă un comportament aparte* ("the drivers have special behaviour") (2002: 110);

- plural number, genitive: *posibilitatea stabilirii breakpoint-urilor şi a watch-urilor* ("the possibility of establishing breakpoints and watches") (2002: 90); *northbridge-ul chipset-urilor* ("the northbridge of the chipsets") (2002: 34); *care este situaţia display-urilor* ("what is the situation of the displays") (2002: 12); *este specializată şi în domeniul notebook-urilor şi palmtop-urilor* ("it is also specialized in the field of notebooks and palmtops") (2002: 19).

The other genders are less well represented; however, examples of nouns used with the Romanian masculine or feminine definite article, singular or plural, can still be found:

- masculine, singular, nominative: *end-user-ul a putut vedea o mulţime de produse* ("the end-user could see a lot of products") (2002: 23);

- masculine, plural, nominative/accusative: *jumperii au fost poziţionaţi corect* ("the jumpers were placed correctly") (2002: 106); *providerii de Internet* ("the Internet providers") (2000: 98); *vom acoperi toată ţara cu parteneri direcţi, distribuitori şi reseller-ii lor* ("we shall cover the whole country with direct partners, distributors and their resellers") (2000: 30);

- masculine, plural, genitive/dative: *tentativele de fraudare din partea hacker-ilor* ("the hackers' attempts at cheating") (2002: 22); *majoritatea site-urilor warez (a cracker-ilor, a falsificatorilor de software)* ("the majority of the warez sites (of crakers and software counterfeiters)") (2000: 36); *cu ajutorul jumperilor* ("with the help of the jumpers") (2002: 64); *poate aduce satisfacţii mari şi overclocker-ilor* ("it may bring great satisfaction to the overclockers as well") (2002: 54);

Journal of English Studies,
vol. 5-6 (2005-2008), 269-282

276

– feminine, singular, nominative/accusative: *maparea caracterelor şi a diacriticelor este controlată* ("the mapping of letters and diacritics is controlled") (2000: 82); *remaparea acesteia este ...* ("its remapping is") (1999: 79); *acest driver permite scalarea şi preview-ul imaginii* ("this driver allows image scaling and preview") (2000: 16); *pentru formatarea unui disc ZIP* ("for formatting a ZIP disk") (1999: 120); *fără reboot-area sistemului* ("without rebooting the system") (2000: 16);

– feminine, plural, nominative/accusative: *setările hardware* ("hardware settings") (2002: 108); *le recomand mapările în stil Microsoft* ("I recommend the Microsoft kind of mappings") (2000: 82).

3.2. ADJECTIVES

3.2.1. While most of the Romanian adjectives are variable, having the categories of gender, number and case, many of the English adjectives borrowed into Romanian remain invariable.

When used as modifiers, their position in the noun phrase is, however, in keeping with the Romanian non-emphatic word order, i.e. they are placed after the Romanian or the adapted English head noun: e.g., *versiune full* ("full version") (2002: 39); *sistemul green* ("the green system") (1999: 14); *imagini live* ("live images") (1999: 59); *staţii diskless* ("diskless stations") (1999: 97); *hârtie normală, glossy* ("normal, glossy paper") (1999: 104); *format slim* ("slim format") (2002: 32), *drivere IDE rewritable externe şi interne* ("external and internal rewritable IDE drivers") (1999: 10); *hub-urile stackable* ("the stackable hubs") (1999: 107). Many adjectives are derived from participles: e.g., *hârtie coated* ("coated paper") (1999: 104); *o reţea shared* ("a shared network") (1999: 104, 110); *izolarea aşa-numiţilor pacienţi locked-in* ("the isolation of the so-called locked-in patients") (1999: 42); *fontul fixed* ("the fixed font") (2000: 83); *filtre incoming şi outgoing* ("incoming and outgoing filtres") (2000: 57). This order is sometimes applied even when the English head noun has not suffered any change: *funcţionalitatea unui <u>hub</u> standalone* ("the functional character of a standalone hub") (1999: 107).

In a number of cases, a whole noun phrase (adjective + noun) is borrowed and used as post-modifier of a Romanian noun: e.g., *modul de lucru half duplex* ("the half duplex working mode") (1999: 106); *modul full duplex* ("the full duplex mode") (1999: 106); *temperatura în full load* ("the temperature in full load") (2002: 43).

The borrowed adjectives may function as predicatives in the sentence: e.g. *board-ul este jumperless* ("the board is jumperless") (1999: 12); *utilizatori ... care*

sunt price-sensitive ("users ... who are price-sensitive") (1999: 17); *faptul că este free* ("the fact that it is free") (1999: 38). In one instance, an adjective is mistakenly used as if it were an adverb: *instalarea se face remote* (*"the installation is done remote") (2002: 86).

3.2.2. Several of the borrowed adjectives are used with endings typical of Romanian, in order to agree in gender and number with the noun they modify.

The following examples illustrate instances when the adjectives are derived from a Romanian participle. The Romanian language has one participle only, usually built with the suffix *-t*, which always has a past time value, and whose forms vary according to gender, number and case: e.g. *versiunea downclockată* ("the downclocked version") (2002: 58); *nu au texturi mapate pe ele* ("they do not have mapped textures on them") (2000: 66); *îl găseşti acolo gata hack-uit* ("you find it there all hacked") (2000: 57). *Downclockată* (which would presuppose the existence of the verb *a downclocka*) is singular, feminine, because *versiune* is a singular, feminine noun; *mapate* (derived from *a mapa*) is plural, neutre, because *texturi* has a plural, neutre inflection; *hack-uit (< a hackui)* is singular, neuter or masculine, because it refers back to the unstressed, masculine/neuter personal pronoun in the accusative, *îl*.

One also comes across adjectives borrowed from English, whose affixes are translated into Romanian. Thus the suffix *-ble* becomes *-bil* in Romanian (a suffix that is frequent in borrowings and combines with verbal roots), while the negative prefix *un-* becomes the Romanian *ne-*. For example, *Vă vin în ajutor CD-urile boot-abile* ("Bootable CDs come to your rescue") (1999: 96); *playback scalabil* ("scalable playback") (2000: 20); *camera devine brusc inhabitabilă* ("the camera suddenly becomes inhabitable") (1999: 45); *celălalt tip de volum este nebootabil* ("the other type of volume is unbootable") (1999: 96). Notice the various endings of the adjectives, dictated by the gender and number of the noun they modify (*boot-abile* - plural, neutre; *scalabil, nebootabil* - singular, neutre; *inhabitabilă* - singular, feminine). In one case, the adjective is a compound one, built with what might be regarded as a prefixoid, *auto-*, a word forming element that exists in Romanian as well: e.g., *aplicaţie DOS autoboot-abilă* ("autobootable DOS application") (2000: 10); however, since I am not sure what the source language term is, this could equally well be a translation of the prefix *self-* (*self-bootable*).

The adjectives are sometimes quantified with the help of Romanian adverbs or of syntactic structures that are the equivalent of an absolute superlative: e.g., *o distribuţie <u>cât se poate de</u> SOHO friendly* ("a most SOHO friendly distribution") (1999: 38); *camera oferă un suport <u>extrem de</u> flash* ("the camera offers a very/an extremely flash support") (1999: 17).

3.3. Verbs

3.3.1. The number of borrowed verbs is higher than in other fields of discourse. Most of them (*a accesa, a boot-a, a download-a, a flood-a, a log-a, a map-a, a porta, a randa, a reboot-a, a restarta, a ruta, a scala, a scana, a seta*) are integrated in the first conjugation, ending in *-a*, the most productive in Romanian, and get all the inflections that mark the tenses and moods of this conjugation; they occur not only in the active voice, but also in the passive or the reflexive or impersonal reflexive. For example:

– infinitive: *capacitatea de a ruta* ("the capacity to root") (1999: 17); *șansa de a seta alte adaptoare* ("the chance to set other adaptors") (2000: 76);

– present tense, indicative: *ăla îți log-ează tot* ("that one will log everything for you") (2000: 88); *cine reboot-ează după fiecare joc"* ("who reboots after each game?") (2000: 72); *un ISP din România rutează convorbirile de pe Internet* ("A Romanian ISP roots Internet talks") (2000: 110); *acestea scalează ca și până acum* ("they scale as before") (2000: 68). In all these examples, *-ează* is the third person, singular and plural, inflection.

– future tense, indicative: *va log-a orice încercare eronată* (third person, singular; "it will log any mistaken attempt") (2002: 86); *vor accesa anumite servicii* (third person, plural; "they will access certain services") (2002: 100);

– compound perfect, indicative: *am flood-at odată în nesimțire pe cineva* (first person; "I once flooded someone shamelessly") (2000: 100); *Apple a portat în Java versiunea 3 a lui Quick Time* (third person, singular; "Apple ported the third versions of Quick Time in Java") (1999: 16);

– imperative: *boot-ați în Safe Mode* ("boot in Safe Mode") (2002: 109);

– conjunctive mood: *să nu mai aștepte ca el să boot-eze* (third person, singular; "he shouldn't wait for it to boot") (1999: 84); *trebuie să restartați KDE* (second person, plural; "you must restart KDE") (2000: 82); *aveți posibilitatea să setați calculatorul ...* (second person, plural; "you may set the computer...") (2000: 76);

– passive voice: *aceste operațiuni sunt log-ate într-un fișier* (third person, plural; "these operations are logged in a file") (2002: 86); *de obicei nu se vede că sunt log-at* (first person, singular; "usually one can't see that I am logged") (2000: 90); *front side bus-ul poate fi setat din BIOS* (third person, singular; "the front side bus can be set in BIOS") (1999: 58);

– reflexive/impersonal reflexive: *vă log-ați ca root (fără parolă)* (second person, plural; "you log as root (without a password)") (2002: 109); *se*

reboot-ează de câteva ori (third person; "it reboots several times") (1999: 98); *dacă se scanează sau nu toate fișierele* (third person, plural; "if all files are scanned or not") (2002: 72).

One interesting case is that of a rather frequent verb, *a hackeri*, belonging to the fourth conjugation, in *-i*, formed in Romanian from the noun *hacker*: e.g. *caut exploit-uri să-l "hacker-esc"* ("I look for exploits to hack it") (2000: 88); a variant is *a hack-ui*, formed from *to hack*, with the suffix *-ui*: e.g. *îl găsești acolo gata hack-uit* ("you find it there all hacked") (2000: 90). In Internet messages, Zafiu has also found the verbs *a knockăi* (< knock), *a bipăi* (< bip), *a clicăi* (< click) (2001: 7) and *a gugăli* (< google) (2004: 14). Such verbs, particularly the last one, are felt to be jocular.

3.3.2. There is a tendency now towards avoiding the adaptation of English verbs to suit Romanian patterns. Instead, collocations are employed, and they seem to be gaining ground; their terms are a Romanian verb, such as *a da* ("to give"), *a face* ("to make") and synonyms, and an English (verbal) noun, e.g., <u>*a da*</u> *dump, click, enter*, <u>*a face*</u> *hacking, carding, dithering, download, overclock, review,* upgrade; <u>*a realiza*</u> *un overclock*, <u>*a efectua*</u> *debugging, design*, etc.: e.g., *dă un clic pe unul din icon-uri* ("click on one of the icons") (1999: 42); *o fi dat cineva dump* ("somebody may have dumped it") (2000: 90); *ușurința de a face upgrade* ("the easiness of upgrading") (1999: 48); *se pot face download-uri de fișiere* ("one can download files") (2000: 88); *acum fac numai hacking* ("I only hack now") (2000: 90); *poate face ușor overclocking* ("it can easily overclock") (1999: 56).

4. SEMANTIC LOANS

A number of words in my corpus are semantic loans, i.e. an existing Romanian item, usually of Romance origin, French or Latin, takes over a meaning of the English equivalent. These will most probably stay in the language, because the words are already part of the vocabulary and require no adaptation.

Thus, *atașament* (< Fr. *attachement*, "strong affection for somebody; friendship, love") has acquired one of the meanings of the English *attachment*, whose origin is identical with that of the Romanian word: "a computer file that is sent with an e-mail" (e.g., *afișarea atașamentelor* ("the display of attachments"), (2002: 94)); *banc* (< Fr. *banc*, "a large mass of sand, gravel or mud on ocean or river beds, which sometimes surfaces; a large group of shells or fish; table or platform used in manual work") has acquired one of the meanings of the English *bank*: "a large collection, especially of information or ideas" (e.g., *patru bancuri de memorie* "four memory banks" (2000: 48); *bănci de sample-uri* "banks of samples" (2000:

100)); *convenție* (< Fr. *convention,* "agreement between two or more states, institutions or persons; contract") has come to also mean "a meeting of an organization" (e.g, *Vineri 26 martie a avut loc Sales Convention organizată de Xerox România. Această convenție a fost organizată pentru partenerii Xerox* ("The Sales Convention organized by Xerox Romania took place on Friday, 25 March. This convention was organized for the Xerox partners") (1999: 23)); *port* (< Fr. *port*, It. *porto,* "an area of water where ships stop"; also back-formation from *a purta*, "to carry", "to wear") has now added the meaning "a part of a computer a cable can be fit into so that connection to another place of equipment can be obtained" (e.g., *două porturi USB, un port serial* ("two USB ports, a serial port") (2000: 46)); under English influence, *portal* (< Germ. *Portal,* It. *portale*, "a monumental, richly decorated main entrance to a building") now also denotes an Internet site that has links to other places (e.g., *portalul Microsoft* (1999: 22)); Romanian *post*, of Slavic origin, if it means "fast, a period of time when one does not eat" and of French origin, if it means "job, function", has a new etymology when it means, in computer language, "posting, a message sent over the Internet to a newsgroup". Romanian has the noun *acces*, borrowed from French/Latin, so it could easily derive from it the verb *a accesa*, taking over the meaning of the English verb *to access*, (e.g., *vor accesa anumite servicii* ("they will access certain services") (2002: 100)); *a licenția* (< Fr. *licencier*), meaning "to fire somebody", is used, under English influence, with the meaning of "to authorize the use of" (e.g., *va trebui să plătiți pentru a licenția acest produs* ("you will have to pay in order to have this product licensed") (1999: 74)). Similarly, *to forward* is more and more frequently replaced by the Romanian *a redirecționa* ("to redirect"), a verb derived from the noun *direcție* (< Fr. *direction*, Lat. *directio*), and *to download* by *a descărca* ("to unload") (< Lat. *discarricare*). One can notice, therefore, that Anglicisms increase the cases of homonymy and polysemy in the Romanian language.

5. CONCLUSION

The number of technical terms borrowed from English into Romanian in the field of computers is extremely high. Their necessity can't be contested, since their use is justified referentially; as a consequence, many of them are present not only in the jargon of computer specialists, but also in the everyday language of any person that makes use of a computer. Their number may even know further increase with the constant development of technology. However, many of these borrowings will not stay in the language, and those that will will take some time before they "settle in", i.e. before they get fully integrated into the Romanian language.

REFERENCES

Avram, M. 2001. *Gramatica pentru toți.* București: Humanitas.

Zafiu, R. 2001a. "'A knocăi', 'a bipăi', 'a clicăi'…". *România Literară* 7: 7.

Zafiu, R. 2001b. "'A hackui/a hăcui'". *România literară* 25: 7.

Zafiu, R. 2004. "'A gugăli'". *România literară* 29: 14.

Zafiu, R. 2007a. "Blog". *România literară* 9: 14.

Zafiu, R. 2007b. "Bloguire". *România literară* 10: 14.

SOURCES

1999. *Chip. Computer Magazin* 5.

2000. *Chip. Computer Magazin* 6.

2002. *Chip. Computer & Comunications* 6.