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FALSE FRIENDS IN TERMINOLOGY: CROATIAN LOST IN TRANSLATION

Every terminology system strives to be as systematic as possible and able to eliminate system errors. In the context of error identification, it is more than obvious that linguistic errors, apart from other system errors, occur quite frequently. This paper is focused on the linguistic and translation phenomenon of false friends, especially as a potentially threatening cause of misunderstanding between two terminological systems. The European Union has also addressed this problem to some extent, primarily because of the huge amount of documents translated on a daily basis. This paper analyses 25 corpus-based pairs of Croatian-English false friends and gives recommendations on how to avoid terminological false friends in translation.

1. False friends as a linguistic and translation phenomenon

The linguistic and translation phenomenon of false friends has been known for more than 90 years. The term false friends was introduced into linguistic terminology by Maxime Koessler and Jules Derocquigny in 1928 when they published their famous book of advice for translators *Les faux amis ou les trahisons du vocabulaire anglais*. Koessler and Derocquigny provided detailed explanations in French for 1228 English entries on 390 pages along with advice on how to translate them correctly. In this paper the author defines false friends as a

commonly used, widespread term[1] for a linguistic phenomenon signifying a pair of lexemes from two different languages the same or similar in form but different in meaning.[2]

The phenomenon of false friends may be known for more than 90 years, but today it is still very much alive and highly pertinent. A closer look at this phenomenon will most certainly lead us to the problem of translation errors. Translation errors occur in translation process as a set of imperfections in a target text. Moreover, Gyde Hansen believes that "a translation error arises from the existence of a relationship between two texts … when something has gone wrong during the transfer and movement from the source text to the target text" (Hansen 2010: 385). Hansen additionally explains that translation errors can be caused by an assumption of symmetry between the languages and/or cultures that may appear in some cases, but not always (Hansen 2010: 385). Laimutė Kasparė broadens the concept of translation errors claiming that "false friends lead to false associations, wrong use, distortion of text, imprecision, misunderstanding, disregard for the right stylistic colouring and other numerous translation problems" (Kasparė 2012: 68).

As a result, it can definitely be argued that false friends are a representative example of translation errors, which may occur in both literary and technical or scientific translation. At this point, however, it is important to highlight yet another observation made by Hansen: "In some communication situations, errors are expected and regarded as acceptable and even "fun". This is, for example, the case in Danish tourist brochures translated into poor German. In spite of the errors, the brochures retain a high degree of usability. In other communicative situations, like translations of legal texts or business contracts, errors are not acceptable." (Hansen 2010: 386). This is a classic example of a widely held opinion according to which certain errors in some types of translated texts, due to the *nature* of such texts, will not amount to a "serious faux pas". On the contrary, the translation errors in some other types of translated texts, such as the abovementioned legal,

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[1] For a more detailed explanation and argumentation why the term *false friends* should be used as a standard term see Lewis 2016a: 23–32.

[2] This definition (Lewis 2016a: 1) can be regarded as simple and common; similar definitions can be found throughout relevant literature. For example, David Crystal defines false friends as "a term in comparative linguistics describing words in different languages which resemble each other in form, but which express different meanings; also called **false cognates**, and often known by the French equivalent expression **faux amis**" (Crystal 2008: 185).

business, science or technology texts, will be considered impermissible.

Christoph Gutknecht underlines another important linguistic aspect of the notion of false friends – interference or negative transfer. Interference is "the phenomenon that we experience when linguistic structures that we have already learnt interfere with our learning new structures" (Gutknecht 2003: 698). Within the scope of false friends, interference evidently occurs at the semantic level.[3] Be that as it may, there is one more methodological issue regarding interference that should be raised: "Although false friends have been recognised in linguistics as one of the most expressed forms of interlingual interference, yet no false friend component seems to be incorporated in foreign language courses (textbook and other teaching materials), with the result that a significant number of errors can be blamed on methodology." (Kasparė 2012: 72). In other words, there are many dictionaries of false friends[4], either electronic or paper, but it is virtually impossible to find a unit in a foreign language textbook or workbook introducing or covering the phenomenon. Nonetheless, false friends pose a real problem both for usage and comprehension. To put it in a nutshell, we can fully agree with the opinion that false friends concern a number of linguistic and interdisciplinary fields such as translation studies, language teaching, pragmatics of cross-linguistic understanding and misunderstanding, to name but a few. Moreover, as Chamizo Domínguez and Nerlich insightfully suggest, the new methods of analysing false friends lead the researchers to the philosophy of language, sociology of language, and psychology of language (Chamizo Domínguez and Nerlich 2002: 1847–1848).[5]

2. False friends and legal terminology

False friends in terminology translation can be as misleading as in any other type of translation. However, the outcome of translating from one terminology system to another and disregarding false friends will definitely cause insurmountable

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[3]   Chamizo-Domínguez and Hatzopulu (2018) offer a more detailed account of this particular issue.

[4]   The detailed lists of dictionaries of false friends can be found in Lipczuk and Bunčić 2006, Lewis 2016a and Dubichinskiy 2017. One of the first typologies of false friends dictionaries was given in Veisbergs 1996.

[5]   In the cited paper, the authors give specific examples of false friends and their relation to metaphor and metonymy, homonymy and polysemy, euphemisms and idioms, etc.

problems. Various terminologies have encountered the abovementioned problem, and have given it thorough and significant consideration. For instance, literature offers studies on false friends *inter alia* in music terminology[6,7], terminology of phytonymy[8], medical terminology[9,10], veterinary terminology[11], nuclear energy terminology[12], military terminology[13], to name but a few recent contributions.

Perhaps it is not an overstatement to underscore legal terminology[14] as one of the areas of expertise very intensely focused on false friends. Needless to say, the importance of accurate and precise translation is a non-negotiable precondition for government legislation, courtroom activities or "simple, everyday" legislation. This requirement applies equally to all sorts of legal texts, such as laws, regulations, conventions, directives, contracts, etc. In a multilingual environment of the European Union, this prerequisite is even more stringent due to the fact that the EU citizens are entitled to address the EU or be addressed by the EU in their mother tongue, and to understand that address. It is very difficult to attain the presumed harmonization of terminology at the EU level owing to various systems of legal terminologies throughout Europe. Each of these systems reflects their respective country's culture, history, economic and political traditions.

Maja Bratanić and Maja Lončar suggest that "multilingual terminology harmonization … implies the establishment of equivalences across languages, and the regulation of synonymy and term variation within a single language" (Bratanić and Lončar 2015: 207). In their further elaboration of this notion, the authors identify the main linguistic and extra-linguistic features behind this phenomenon. When discussing the pragmatic reasons, Bratanić and Lončar recognize that the problem could partially be attributed to numerous translators of various degrees of expertise and experience, dynamic nature of the body of the EU law intended for translation (it grows on a daily basis, while other parts are amended

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6 Granado and Miller 2018.
7 Kiš Žuvela and Bošnjak Botica 2017.
8 Waniakowa 2019.
9 Shirinyan and Shustova 2018.
10 Zamanova 2018.
11 Klječanin Franić, Lewis, Magoga and Konjević 2019.
12 Pegov and Teneněva 2018.
13 Kočote and Smirnova 2016.
14 Oštrec 2013, Mrčela and Lewis 2016. The theoretical issues surrounding the multinational legal terminology in traditional ("paper") dictionaries were closely analysed in Sandrini 2014.

or repealed), fluid accession dates, etc. As regards the linguistic sources of disharmonization, it is evident that "EU legislation is currently drafted primarily in English and then translated into the other official languages. (…) Despite the presumption that all equally authentic texts of EU legislation have the same meaning, this proves to be an illusion in reality" (Bratanić and Lončar 2015: 212).

Some additional obstacles a particular language and its terminology have to overcome in the process of their respective country's accession to the EU can be summarised as follows: 1. some legislative acts directly replicate the EU regulations and directives; 2. standard language becomes bureaucratic, heavy, vague and complicated; 3. texts carry just a formal equivalence to the source text and language (Grietēna 2011: 127–128). Many "new" and "small" member states and their languages can easily relate to the abovementioned statements and admit that they experienced at least some of the problems in the pre-accession period or even later, during their first years of membership.[15] Nevertheless, Chapter 4 below will illustrate that legal terminology should be translated with utmost caution as it represents a rather fertile ground for false friends.

3. False friends in the EU – recognised but undesirable

Although the EU is a multilingual union – comprising 24 official languages spoken in 28 countries – it does not come as a surprise that one of these languages has a sort of a *lingua franca* status. That language is indisputably English. English may have become a "common language" in the Union, but that fact alone has ramifications for English as a language. Jeremy Gardner highlights that English used in the European institutions has become an "in-house jargon" and "people outside the European institutions cannot understand it" (Gardner 2016: 2). He opposes those who think "that international English has taken on its

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[15]   The harmonization of legal terminology and false friends in legal terminology may not be the only issue that the EU will have to tackle. The proclaimed language equality and multilingual diversity can also be subject to discussion. For instance, in March 2019 Croatian MEPs Dubravka Šuica and Ruža Tomašić protested against the decision that the full translation service for the Croatian language (together with Irish and Maltese) in the European Parliament will be postponed until further notice due to a lack of qualified translators/interpreters.

own momentum and, to a certain extent, has its own rules. Native speaker usage, therefore, is no longer necessarily a model that needs to be followed" (Gardner 2016: 2). Gardner does not explicitly refer to false friends, but the explanation of the word *eventually* strongly suggests that he has the concept of false friends in mind:

Eventual/eventually

Explanation
Eventual means 'occurring at some unspecified time in the future', eventually means 'in the end'. However, in EU texts, these words are often used with a meaning akin to 'possible' and 'possibly'. Thus, the sentence 'eventually, the beneficiary provided documentary evidence', which the author intended to mean something like 'if any documentary evidence were necessary/available, the beneficiary provided it', actually means that it took the beneficiary a long time to do so. In the examples below, 'eventual' is used to mean 'possible', whereas its actual meaning would be 'in the long term'.

Examples
'They both opposed an *eventual* imposition of anti-dumping measures as they considered that it could lead to a cessation of imports of the product concerned from the PRC'[107]. 'The results thus obtained will be taken into consideration by the Commission with regard to an *eventual* new request for derogation'[108].

Alternatives
Possible, any, the possibility of. It may sometimes be better to rework the sentence (e.g. eventual claims should be sent to the paying office = if you wish to make a claim, please write to the paying office).

Figure 1. Entry *Eventual/eventually* in Gardner 2016

Interestingly enough, Gardner does not refrain from saying that even the European Commission makes mistakes by using inappropriate English terminology, and recommends that other EU institutions[16] should not adopt such practice: "If the Commission uses the verb 'transpose', for example, we must all use the same term, even if we know it to be incorrect. This is a dangerous path to take, especially as the Commission itself recognises the need to improve the quality of its English… If, for example, we find ourselves having to quote a passage that contains an incorrect or in-house term, we must explain it if we want to be sure that our readers will understand." (Gardner 2016: 4). His list of potentially misleading terms includes 130 entries.

Gardner's manual is one of the most recent publications addressing the terminology issues in the EU, but the problem itself was detected and systematically tackled ten years ago. The EU launched a clear writing campaign in 2009.[17] The

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[16]   His manual was primarily intended for use by the European Court of Auditors, but other institutions can surely benefit from its use as well.
[17]   A Clear Writing for Europe Conference was held on 5 December 2019 in Brussels to mark the 10-year anniversary of the effort made on account of clearer and more understandable written communication with

first goal of the campaign was to give some detailed practical tips to help EU staff avoid common pitfalls and draft more clearly. One of the problems regarding clear writing was, *inter alia*, false friends in translation. Before providing a more detailed account of the campaign and its current outcomes, another valuable and helpful publication is worth mentioning.

In 2013 Graham Cansdale authored a booklet of advice for translation from Slovak into English. At the time Slovakia had been an EU member for nine years, but the translation problems evidently persisted. In the introduction the author indicates that the guidelines for writing clear English are basically designed for people drafting in English but the advice they give is also relevant when translating into English. In addition, Cansdale explains: "This is because languages differ when it comes to what is considered good style. Good modern English style focuses on making the message clear for the reader. In general, this means keeping sentences short and logical and avoiding unnecessarily complicated grammar and vocabulary." (Cansdale 2013: 3). When discussing clear and concise translation, he suggests that it would be recommendable to use verbs instead of nouns, to use pronouns and get personal, to use gender-neutral language, to avoid abbreviations and acronyms, to limit the use of passive voice, etc. One of the chapters in Cansdale's booklet includes ten most frequent Slovak-English false friends with explanations and meanings in both languages. Cansdale provides different meanings of the following pairs of false friends: *evidencia – evidence*, *kemping – camping*, *komplexný – complex*, *koncepcia – conception/ concept*, *kontrola – control*, *kontrolovať – to control*, *moderátor – moderator*, *objekt – object*, *revanšovať sa – revenge*, and *urgencia – urgency*. Even at a glance, it is highly likely that many of these Slovak-English pairs of false friends are potentially false friends in other European languages as well.

As aforesaid, efforts to write clearly formally date back to 2009, but the first attempts to raise awareness about the problem can be found as early as in 1997. That year the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities issued a booklet titled *How to Write Clearly*, containing the first list of false friends. It is worth noting that at the time French was the source language while English was the target language. The introductory text of the chapter *False friends and other*

the public and with national administrations. The conference was organized by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Translation.

pitfalls reads as follows: "It is understandable that we get our languages mixed up in a multilingual environment like the European Commission. Interference between French and English is particularly common. But "Frenglish" expressions which might be permissible in-house are meaningless to outside readers. They are alienating and they create FOG[18]." (HWC 1997: 12).

French	☹	☺
acquis communautaire	acquis	body of EU law
actuel	actual	current, topical
adéquat	adequate	suitable
assister à	assist at	attend, participate
capacité	capacity	ability, capability
compléter	complete	supplement
contrôler	control	supervise, check
disposer de	dispose of	have, keep
éventuel	eventual	any
important	important	large
matériel	material	supplies, equipment
opportunité	opportunity	advisability
pays candidats	candidates	applicant countries
pays tiers	third countries	non-member countries
perspectives	perspectives	prospects, outlook
prévu	foreseen	provided for, planned
stagiaire	stagiaire	trainee
Statut (des fonctionnaires)	Statute	Staff Regulations

Figure 2. The list of 18 French-English false friends in HWC 1997

Nowadays, there is another, more recent publication available under the same title – *How to Write Clearly* (2012) – but it is slightly different from its predecessor. Their content is more or less the same, but the examples of the 15 French-English false friends provided in the new edition have been changed. The new publication thus lists the following pairs of false friends: *actuel – actual, adéquat – adequate, assister à – assist at, attribuer – attribute to, completer – complete, délai – delay, élaborer – elaborate* (verb), *éventuel – eventual, prévu – foreseen*[19], *important – important, matériel – material, opportunité – opportunity,*

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[18] Apparently, FOG is not an abbreviation if judged by the motto printed on the cover page of the booklet: *FIGHT THE FOG!* The word FOG is written in capital letters throughout the text suggesting, quite convincingly, that this is a graphostylistic statement.

[19] It is impossible to understand why this pair of false friends has been established having in mind the elements defining false friends – two words, two different languages, the same or similar in form, but

perspectives – perspectives, *respecter – respect*, and *sensible – sensible* (HWC 2012: 11). The choice of examples demonstrates a very slight shift in false friends most commonly found in translated texts but, on the other hand, shows that some words remain a constant threat to translators. This almost insignificant increase of false friends pairs might indicate that there is a growing practice of drafting documents in English in the EU context by non-native speakers and addressing their needs.[20]

Four years ago the European Commission's Directorate-General for Translation Editing Unit published *Claire's Clear Writing Tips* (CCWT, 2016), highlighting fifteen very frequent false friends in English and other European languages. It is important to bear in mind that the first entry in this publication is in English. The following words are regarded as false friends: *actual*, *assist at*, *control*, *delay*, *dispose of*, *element*, *elaborate*, *eventual/eventually*, *expose*, *foresee*, *project*, *punctual/punctually*, *report*, *respect*, and *sensible* (CCWT 2016: 16–24). The structure suggested here is different from the structure proposed in the afore-mentioned publications and requires a more detailed analysis: "The English word 'actual' looks as if it means the same as the French 'actuel', Dutch 'actueel', German 'aktuell', Italian 'attuale' and Portuguese 'atual'. But it doesn't. The English translation of all these words is *current* or *topical*. The English word 'actual' means 'real' or 'true'.

Don't write this: *The ban on the import of live, captive birds was very actual in May.*

Instead, write this: *The ban on the import of live, captive birds was very topical in May.*

Be careful if you write this: *Car drivers should state their actual registration number.*

Why? Because you are implying that unscrupulous drivers might give a false number.

Instead, write this: *Car drivers should state their current registration number.*" (CCWT 2016: 16).

Firstly, the most recent publication provides more sentence examples, which is very informative and user-friendly. Secondly, it does not only indicate the French word but also Dutch, German, Italian and Portuguese words, thus showing a broader multilingual focus on the phenomenon of false friends. And thirdly, a certain warning is given to those who are not quite sure whether they have used a proper word in a proper context. All these additions greatly increase the informative aspect of the advice provided and allow the user to double-check the meaning of the translated sentence.

Interestingly enough, back in 1928 Koessler and Derocquigny found the English word *actual* misleading and explained how to translate it properly.
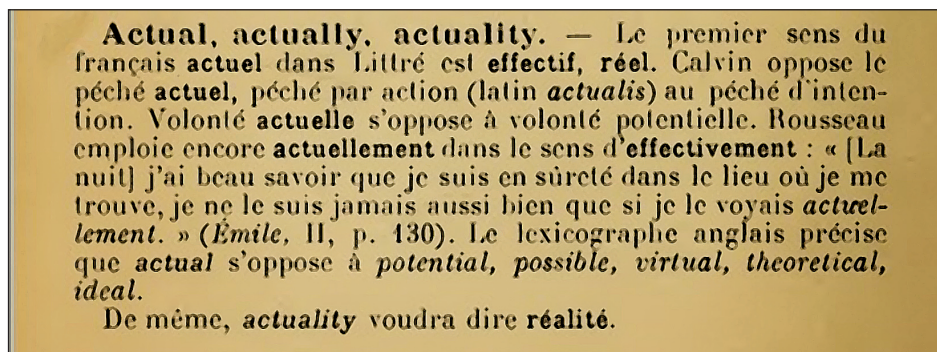

Figure 3. Entry *Actual, actually, actuality* in Koessler and Derocquigny 1928

This succinct analysis of the treatment of false friends in the EU publications shows that: 1. false friends have been recognized as a serious and explicit threat in the process of translation; 2. the efforts aimed at improving the quality of translation should comprise more detailed lists of false friends; 3. it is important to give sentence examples and additional contexts to demonstrate the appropriate usage; 4. clear writing frameworks, constantly evolving in the EU, should place more emphasis on false friends.

4. Croatian lost in translation – an overview

Croatia, the youngest EU member, joined the 27 other countries in 2013. At the same time the Croatian language became the 24th language of the EU. The acces-

sion period lasted for 13 years. Throughout that period the *acquis communautaire* had been translated into Croatian. As one of the language experts, I worked as a language editor and advisor to the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs Directorate for Translation during the abovementioned period. Although I encountered a great number of false friends in translations in the course of my work, only a few of them were derived from the EU primary legislation texts translated into Croatian. Other examples were detected in other open access translated texts (online portals, websites, newspaper articles, brochures…). The initial extraction of data for the corpus of Croatian-English false friends lasted for 10 years (2003–2013). The corpus currently amounts to approximately 900 examples and is not publicly available. This paper will provide a list of 25 examples illustrating how Croatian can get lost in translation, and eventually find its way out.[21]

4.1. *Trening* and *training*

The Croatian word *trening* and the English word *training* are equivalents in sport terminology meaning 'physical exercise, workout'. In Croatian educational terminology, it is not correct to use the word *trening* for 'instruction, tutoring' or 'workshop, course'. Such context prefers the words *nastava*, *obuka* or *radionica*, *tečaj*.[22]

4.2. *Komunikacija* and *communication*

According to Hudeček and Ćutuk (2017: 40–41), in Croatian public relations terminology the word *komunikacija* cannot be used for 'advertising materials' despite the equivalent meaning of the English word *communication*. The Croatian words *reklamni oglas* should be used instead. In other contexts, *komunikacija* and *communication* share the same meanings (e.g. 'exchanging of information or news' or 'means of connection between people or places').

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[21]   The preliminary results of identifying false friends between Croatian and English (as well as Croatian and other Slavic languages) can be found in Lewis 2015.

[22]   Hudeček, Matković and Ćutuk 2011 and language advice portal *jezicni-savjetnik.hr* (query *trening*).

4.3. *Karakter* and *character*

The English computer terminology[23] recognizes the term *character* as 'a printed or written letter or symbol'. This is not the case for the Croatian word *karakter*. Therefore, it is not correct to translate the expression *characters with spaces* as *karakteri s razmacima*. In Croatian, it is preferable to use the expression *znakovi s razmacima* instead. Croatian requires a different word to translate the English literary term *character* meaning 'a person in a novel, play, or movie', which is a literary term *lik*. Nevertheless, the English word *character* and the Croatian word *karakter* share the meaning of 'mental and moral qualities distinctive to an individual'.

4.4. *Novela* and *novel*

The relation between the English term *novel* and the Croatian term *novela* can be misleading as well. In literary terminology the English *novel* means 'an invented story in prose long enough to fill a complete book' (i.e. *roman* in Croatian), whereas the Croatian term *novela* means 'a short story'.

4.5. *Klasificiran* and *classified*

The English term *classified information* should not be translated into Croatian as *klasificirana informacija* but as *povjerljiva informacija* or *tajna informacija*. The adjectives *classified* and *klasificiran* share a common meaning of 'arranged in classes or categories'. When we want to translate *classified* as 'confidential, secret' properly, we should use *povjerljiv* or *tajni*. However, in the Croatian military and intelligence terminology the term *klasificiran* is used as an umbrella term for several categories of secrecy (i.e. *restricted*, *confidential*, *secret*, *top secret*). Therefore, its use is correct in this context.[24]

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[23] For a detailed comparative analysis of Croatian and English computer terminology see Halonja and Mihaljević 2012.
[24] The author would like to thank Dalibor Vrgoč for his kind explanation for the abovementioned meaning.

4.6. *Aplikacija* and *application*

In Croatian, the word *aplikacija* means 'the action of putting something on a surface' (e.g. *aplikacija masti na ranu – application of ointment to the wound*), and 'a program or piece of software used on computer or smartphone' (e.g. *kompjutorska aplikacija – computer application*), equivalent to the English word *application*. However, it does not mean 'a formal request to an authority for something'. Hence, in such context the English word *application* should be translated into Croatian as *prijava*, *zahtjev* or *molba* (e.g. *application for a European project – prijava na europski projekt*).[25]

4.7. *Bilijun* and *billion*

Financial and mathematical terms are oftentimes equivalent. The Croatian word *bilijun* means 'one thousand billions, trillion' (1 000 000 000 000), whereas the English word *billion* means 'one thousand millions' (1 000 000 000).[26] The proper translation of Croatian *bilijun* into English is *trillion*. We can safely argue that neglecting such difference would amount to significant costs, both semantically and financially.

4.8. *Kalij* and *calium* (*potassium*)

Chemical terminology may seem very strict and tightly defined, but it still provides many examples of false friends. It can be easily shown that word-formation rules can sometimes be misleading. The Croatian-English term pattern for chemical elements is obvious: *barij – barium*, *helij – helium*, *kadmij – cadmium*, *kalcij – calcium*, *magnezij – magnesium*, *osmij – osmium*, *vanadij – vanadium*, etc. Would it then be surprising and unexpected to find a false friend *calium* as an English equivalent of the Croatian term *kalij*? Well, it would not be unexpect-

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[25] See also Špiranec and Pedišić 2016, Lewis 2016b.

[26] Halonja and Mihaljević (2012: 95) argue that false friends can be found even in units of measurement, i.e. in examples such as binary prefixes *giga* – American English *billion*, Croatian *milijarda*; or *tera* – American English *trillion*, Croatian *bilijun*. The word *milliard* used to be more frequent in British English but nowadays has been replaced with *billion* too.

ed, but it would definitely be an utterly wrong translation. The proper English term would be *potassium*.

4.9. *Silikon* and *silicon*

The Croatian chemical term *silikon* and the English term *silicon* are false friends too. Croatian *silikon* means a 'polymer compound', whereas English *silicon* is a chemical element. The right translation of *silikon* into English is *silicone*, and *silicon* should be translated into Croatian as *silicij*.

4.10. *Karboniziran* and *carbonated*

The Croatian term *karboniziran* and English *carbonated* represent yet another pair of false friends in chemical terminology. The English expression *carbonated beverage* (i.e. beverage that contains dissolved carbon dioxide) should not be translated into Croatian as *karbonizirani napitak* because *karboniziran* means 'charred, burnt'. The expression *gazirani napitak* should be used instead.[27]

4.11. *Administracija* and *administration*

Pharmaceutical terminology also offers a few false friends, for instance the English phrase *administration of drug*, i.e. Croatian *administracija lijeka*. In Croatian, the word *administracija* means 'an administrative or executive authority' and 'office functions'. Therefore, it is not appropriate to translate *administration of drug* as *administracija lijeka* but as *primjena lijeka*.

4.12. *Kondukter* and *conductor*

The Croatian word *kondukter* has only one meaning – 'a person in charge of a train, streetcar, or other public conveyance, who collects fares and sells tickets'. The English word *conductor* belongs to music terminology and means 'a person who directs the performance of an orchestra or choir'. For that reason, it is prop-

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[27] Hudeček, Matković and Ćutuk 2011.

erly translated into Croatian as *dirigent*. Both English *conductor* and Croatian *kondukter* share a common meaning in public transport terminology, whereas the English word has another meaning – 'a substance that conducts electricity or heat'. In other words, if we want to translate the English phrase *electrical conductor* into Croatian, we would be wrong to translate it as *električni kondukter*. The right translation is *strujni vodič*.

4.13. *Divizija* and *division*

In military terminology both the Croatian term *divizija* and the English term *division* mean 'a military unit consisting of several regiments or brigades', and in mathematical terminology they both share a common meaning as well – 'the calculation of how many times one number goes into another'. However, the English word *division* can mean 'a separate part of a large organization'; e.g. *Microsoft's mobile division* would be incorrectly translated into Croatian as *Microsoftova mobilna divizija*. The proper translation is *Microsoftov mobilni odjel*.[28]

4.14. *Provizija* and *provision*

The Croatian term *provizija* is commonly used in economics or legal terminology, and means 'compensation received by an intermediary in a particular business'. The English equivalent would be *commission*, *percentage* or *brokerage*. On the other hand, the English term *provision* concerns 'the action of providing or supplying something for use' or 'an amount or thing supplied or provided', and should therefore be translated into Croatian as *opskrba*, *nabava*. Nevertheless, the plural form *provisions* should be translated as *hrana*, *namirnice* or *zalihe* ('rations, sustaining food'), whereas the Croatian equivalent of the common legal expression *final provisions* is *završne odredbe*.

4.15. *Afirmacija* and *affirmation*

The Croatian word *afirmacija* has two meanings whereas the English word *affirmation* has three. This pair of false friends shares the common meaning – 'state-

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28   See also Lewis 2016b.

ment or sign that something is true'. However, the Croatian word *afirmacija* also means 'recognition, reputation, acclaim'. On the other hand, the English word *affirmation* has two additional meanings: 'emotional support or encouragement', and legal meaning, 'promise to tell the truth without swearing on a Bible'. Hence, one has to be very careful when translating the phrase *social affirmation* into Croatian as it can relate to both *afirmacija u društvu* (social reputation of a person) and *društvena potvrda* (social statement that something is true).

4.16. *Akord* and *accord*

The Croatian term *akord* belongs to the terminologies of music and economy. In musical terminology it is defined as 'three or more musical notes played at the same time' and its English equivalent is *chord*. The second meaning – 'work by the job, contract work' – is used in economic terminology. When we look into the meanings of the English word *accord*, we find that it means 'agreement, conformity' and 'pact, treaty, protocol'. Therefore, it is incorrect to translate the English expression *to strike an accord* into Croatian as *odsvirati akord*. The proper translation is *postići sporazum/nagodbu* or *potpisati sporazum/ugovor*.

4.17. *Barel* and *barrel*

In Croatian, the word *barel* is always regarded as an anglicism used in the terminology of oil industry meaning 'standard Anglo-Saxon measure for oil volume, 159 litres'. One of the meanings of the English word *barrel* is identical. Additionally, it also means 'large wooden, metal or plastic container with a flat top and bottom and curved sides that make it fatter in the middle', then 'long part of a gun that is shaped like a tube', and finally – 'belly and loins of a four-legged animal'. Consequently, when translating the foregoing meanings of the word *barrel* into Croatian, one should use the Croatian word *bačva* for the first meaning, *cijev pištolja* for the second, and *životinjski trbuh* for the third.

4.18. *Baterija* and *battery*

The common meaning of this pair of false friends is 'device that produces electricity to provide power for radios, cars, toys, etc.'. It is the only meaning that

baterija and *battery* share. In the terminology of physics *battery* is a 'device that produces electrical energy from chemical energy' and should be translated into Croatian as *akumulator*. The word *baterija* also has a meaning in the military terminology denoting 'artillery unit in the army'. It should be translated with the Croatian term *bitnica*. In this context there is another older Croatian military term – *baterija* – today widely regarded as obsolete. The legal term *battery* stands for 'crime of attacking and beating someone'. In Croatian, the equivalent legal term is *tjelesna ozljeda*. In baseball terminology *battery* refers to the 'pitcher and catcher of a team' but has no suitable equivalent in Croatian as baseball is not a very popular sport in Croatia. In the end, the Croatian word *baterija* means 'small battery-operated portable electric light', i.e. it should be translated into English as *flashlight* or *torch*.

4.19. *Emisija* and *emission*

Both *emisija* in Croatian and *emission* in English belong to the terminology of physics when defined as an 'act of sending out gas, heat, light, etc.'. Furthermore, in financial terminology, they share the common meaning 'issue, printing of currency'. When it comes to environmental protection terminology, they both mean 'release of gas or radiation into the atmosphere' but in most cases the English term is used in plural (*emissions*) whereas its Croatian equivalent can be used both in singular and in plural (e.g. *emisija štetnih plinova / emisije štetnih plinova*). The Croatian term *emisija* has an additional meaning 'radio or television programme' that should be translated into English as *broadcast*, *transmission* or *show*.

4.20. *Himna* and *hymn*

The Croatian word *himna* and the English *hymn* have their origin in the Latin word *hymnus*, from Greek *humnos*. The aforesaid words generally belong to musical terminology. The Croatian musical term *himna* is primarily used for a 'country's official song, played and sung on public occasions'. Its English equivalent should therefore be *(national) anthem*. The Croatian term *himna* and the English term *hymn* share the common meaning 'song of praise or glorification'

(e.g. Croatian *himna slobodi*, English *hymn to freedom*). In its obsolete musical meaning *himna* is also a 'religious song or poem of praise to God', the meaning it shares with the contemporary English term *hymn*. Nevertheless, the aforementioned word *hymn* should be properly translated into contemporary Croatian as *crkvena pjesma*, *hvalospjev* or *himan*.

4.21. *Inzult* and *insult*

In Croatian medical terminology the term *inzult* denotes 'sudden change in the blood supply to a part of the brain', and is used in jargon. The standard Croatian medical term for *inzult* is *moždani udar*. When translating it into English, one should use the English medical terms *stroke* or *seizure*. The English word *insult*, for that matter, has no medical meaning. It means 'offensive remark or action' and its Croatian equivalent is *uvreda* or *pogrda*.

4.22. *Obdukcija* and *obduction*

The Croatian word *obdukcija* is a medical term and means 'post-mortem examination of a dead body to discover the cause of death'. Although the English word *obduction* has confirmations for such meaning, nowadays it is largely regarded as obsolete. The standard English term that should be used for its translation in the aforementioned context is *autopsy*. Another obsolete meaning of the word *obduction* is 'act of drawing or laying something over, as a covering'. However, the only contemporary meaning of this word is the meaning used in geological terminology – 'sideways and upwards movement of the edge of a crustal plate over the margin of an adjacent plate'. Interestingly enough, that meaning is common for both the Croatian geological term *obdukcija* and the English geological term *obduction* (their antonyms are *subdukcija* and *subduction*).

4.23. *Propozicija* and *proposition*

The first meaning of the Croatian word *propozicija* and the English word *proposition* is their common meaning 'offer, suggestion'. The foregoing words also

denote a 'statement or problem that must be solved or proved to be true or not true'. In that sense the term is used in philosophy, logic and mathematics, synonymous with the Croatian term *premisa* or the English term *premise*. A specific legal meaning of the term *proposition* can be found in American English, where it means 'suggested change to state law that is voted on by people living in that state'. On the other hand, the Croatian word *propozicija* (predominantly in plural – *propozicije*) means 'competition rules'. It is usually used in legal terminology in the expression *propozicije natječaja*, and properly translated into English as *tender conditions / conditions of tender.*

4.24. *Volumen* and *volume*

Originally, the Latin word *volumen* meant a 'roll, scroll'. In the course of time, both the Croatian word *volumen* and the English word *volume* developed new meanings, nowadays partially shared. When comparing the common senses of this pair of false friends, they can be found in mathematical and physical terminology – 'amount of space that is contained within an object or solid shape', as well as in the meaning 'amount of space having length, height, and width'. In musical terminology *volumen* and *volume* also share a common meaning 'fullness of tone'. The specific meaning of the English term *volume* used in physics – 'degree of loudness or the intensity of a sound' – should be correctly translated into Croatian as *jačina (zvuka)*, and not *volumen (zvuka)*. Furthermore, the English sense of the word *volume* 'one in a set of related books' has to be translated by the Croatian equivalent *svezak* rather than *volume*, which is rare and unusual. Likewise, the English meaning 'one book, single book' cannot be translated into Croatian as *volumen* but only as *knjiga*. In the end, when *volume* means a 'roll or scroll of parchment, papyrus, etc.' its proper Croatian equivalent would be the word *svitak*.

4.25. *Revizija* and *revision*

Finally, we will conclude this analysis with the relation between the Croatian financial and legal term *revizija* and the English term *revision*. The first meaning of both Croatian *revizija* and English *revision* is 'inspection of work, control of

condition, check-up'. The second meaning of the English term *revision* is 'work of studying for an examination' and it translates properly into Croatian as *ponavljanje gradiva*. On the other hand, the Croatian term *revizija* ('an official examination of the financial records of a company, organization, or person'), when used as a financial term, should be translated into English as *audit*. For instance, *Državni ured za reviziju* is properly translated as the *State Audit Office*.

5. Conclusion

This paper has examined the main features of false friends as a linguistic and translation phenomenon. Most notably, false friends are commonly analysed in the context of translation errors and interference. Seemingly recognised and strictly monitored, false friends nevertheless continue to pose a real problem both for usage and comprehension. The theory correlates false friends with many linguistic and interdisciplinary fields such as translation studies, language teaching, and pragmatics of cross-linguistic understanding and misunderstanding. At the moment there is a profound lack of practical contributions that would shed more light on the issue of false friends. The EU institutions have paid closer attention to false friends and have issued publications as well as launched campaigns promoting clear writing. However, there is obviously a lot of space for further improvement and a more systematic approach, particularly regarding the number of examples provided.

Generally speaking, the illustrative use of English and French pairs of false friends largely prevails. Therefore, it would surely be helpful to develop multilingual European database of false friends with corpus-based sentences and examples of their proper translations. During the Croatia's accession period to the EU (2000–2013), the Croatian language was faced with the aforementioned challenges as well. Croatian translators and interpreters in the EU would probably welcome the possibility to access the false friends database containing proper Croatian equivalents juxtaposed to their false friends. The database of false friends, together with the future development of multilingualism in the EU as one of the permanent European objectives, would provide a tremendous boost to the translation activities within the EU. We can just hope that at least some of these objectives will be achieved in the very near future.

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Lažni prijatelji u terminologiji: hrvatski izgubljen u prijevodu

Sažetak

Svaki terminološki sustav nastoji biti što uređeniji i isključiti iz sebe pogreške. Kad je riječ o uočavanju pogrešaka u tome sustavu, zamjetno je da se među ostalim sustavnim pogreškama često pojavljuju i jezične. U ovome radu pozornost se posvećuje jezičnomu i prevoditeljskomu fenomenu lažnih prijatelja. Oni se razmatraju kao potencijalni uzrok nesporazuma između dvaju terminoloških sustava. Europska unija također se donekle usredotočila na spomenuti problem, ponajprije zbog velike količine dokumenata koji se svakodnevno prevode. U radu ćemo analizirati 25 parova hrvatsko-engleskih lažnih prijatelja koje smo izdvojili iz korpusa te ćemo predložiti kako izbjeći pojavu lažnih prijatelja pri prevođenju nazivlja.

Ključne riječi: lažni prijatelji, terminologija, prevođenje, hrvatski jezik, engleski jezik
Keywords: false friends, terminology, translation, Croatian, English