

# GERMAN LEXICAL VARIATIONS AND THEIR MACEDONIAN FUNCTIONAL EQUIVALENTS

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## Abstract

Subject of this paper are the lexical variations considered in terms of time (from diachronic aspect), region (from diatopic aspect), socio-cultural layers in the community (from diastratic aspect) and use of language (from diaphasic aspekt). Because they are wide fields, for each field is chosen one representative sub-category to be subject of further analyse, such as: archaisms, dialect words, bawdy expressions and Latin phrases. The analyse is made on German examples, followed by their appropriate Macedonian functional equivalents.

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**Keywords:** Lexical variation, equivalence, functional equivalence

## Introduction

Each language endures some variations, which are influenced by external circumstances. Here in particular we think of time, regional terms, socio-cultural terms and conditions of use. So variations in languages can be considered in terms of time (from diachronic aspect), region (from diatopic aspect), socio-cultural layers in the community (from diastratic aspect), as well as in terms of use of language (from diaphasic aspekt) (Gerzymisch-Arbogast, 1994, pp. 24-34). Not only do they arise in everyday communication situations, but lexical variations often appear in written texts, too.

At the beginning of this paper we will consider some of the most significant definitions of the term „equivalence“ as a crucial term in this study, as well as in the most other comparative studies. Then we will make a review of the four relevant categories of the lexical variations, as above mentioned: from diachronic, diatopic aspect, diastratic and diaphasic aspekt. Because they are wide fields we will choose for each field one representative sub-category that will be subject of further analyse. For all the German

examples will be given appropriate Macedonian functional equivalents, in parallel.

### **Definition of the terms “equivalence” and “functional equivalence”**

The essence of transferring language messages from one language into another lies in the realization of translation equivalency. The term “equivalence” has been for a long time the main topic of translation discussions. Wills who, according to Prunč (2003, pp.33) was the first to use the term equivalence in translation, states that hardly any another term in the translation theory has provoked so many thoughts, has caused so many contradictory statements of opinion and has caused so many defining attempts as the term of translation equivalence between source language text and target language text has caused.

Roman Jakobson (1959, pp. 233), one of the most prestigious representatives of structural linguistics, agrees with Wills and states that the equivalence in difference is one of the main linguistic problems.

In the comparative sciences of languages, the term “equivalence” was borrowed from the technical disciplines implying that all the languages contain symmetrical relations between the elements and there can be an exchange of elements among the languages by simple system of rules. Later comes the notion that there are no language pairs that contain perfectly symmetrical lexical and grammar structures and that the reversibility as the most important feature of equivalency is not sustained in translation as it is in exact sciences. Snell-Hornby (1986, pp. 13) even considers the term equivalence as inappropriate for a measure for evaluation of the translation, since it was borrowed from exact sciences and it is very static and one-dimensional, and the languages contain no symmetry at all. Thus, as a more appropriate one, the term “functional equivalence” has been introduced. The functional equivalence is related to the Nida’s model, according to which the most important thing to do is to reach message equivalency, hidden within the depth structure (meaning) of the original, regardless the size of the changes that will have to be made within the surface structure of the language (Mihajlovski 2006, pp. 38).

The most important representatives of the Leipzig school (Kade, Jäger and Neubert), when defining equivalency, refer to the language system itself, where the extralinguistic reality can be examined as *tertium comparationis* (Prunč, 2003, pp. 56), and within the functionalist-oriented theory Reiß/Vermeer (1991, pp. 124) examine equivalency along with adequacy. While equivalency is regarded as equatability (Reiß, 1971, pp.12), adequacy is defined as relation of adequacy between lingual means of expression on one hand, and the conditions and goals of the speaker on the other hand, in interlingual contrastive observation (Albrecht, 2005, pp.34).

So, we can conclude that the term “equivalence” suggests that between the information with same values of two languages, there are translation relations being established, conditioned by naming data on reference frameworks.

The *functional equivalence*, sometimes called dynamic equivalence, enables translation to be functional and understandable in the target culture. According to Neufeld<sup>44</sup> is the functional equivalence „a translation method in which the translator attempts to reflect the thought of the writer in the source language rather than the words and forms. The translator will read a sentence or other unit of thought, try to understand it as well as possible, and then write that thought in the target language. The forms of the source language are not important, because they are not the same as the forms of the target language“.

### Diachronic lexical variations

The lexical varieties of diachronic aspect occur in a language under the influence of external circumstances, above all we mean here the time. They include modern words whose usage increases rapidly with the increasing globalization today and the archaisms. Archaisms are evidence of how the respective language users have lived and spoken in the past. Their appearance is in proportion to the age they belong to. To archaisms in German language belong the extinct words as well as words with French and Latin origin. They are especially present in the older literature and in folklore.

Here we will try to find the nearest Macedonian functional equivalent of some German archaic words:

German archaic expressions	Macedonian functional equivalents
Abort	тоалет, клозет, ВЕ-ЦЕ
Bengel	калпазан, неранимајко, измамник
Diskette	дискета
Fete	забава, фешта,
Flegeljahre	пубертет, луди години
Gesichtserker	нос
Glatzenschneider	фризер, бербер
Grüne Minna	марица, полициско возило
Heumonat	јули, златец
Hupfdohle	танчерка
Kassettenrekorder	касетофон
Knorke	супер, фантастично, одлично, топ
Schutzmann	полицаец, милицаец
Muhme	тетка
Mär	приказна, сказна
Minne	љубов, благонаклонетост

<sup>44</sup> <http://www.participatorystudyseries.com/versioncomp.php>, 18.12.2015)

Notdurft	нужда, потреба од тоалет
Oheim	вујко
Reklame	реклама
Schelm	шегација
Taler	монета, железна пара,
Tornister	училишен ранец

### Diatopic lexical variations

The lexical varieties from diatopic aspect testify to the diversity in Usage depending on the regions. These include: Dialects / regiolects vs. standard language. The dialects / regiolects are often seen as deviations from the norms of the standard language and are mainly limited only to a particular space, so people from other regions can not understand them or their usage seems them unusual. Germany is very rich in dialects. Some of the dialects differ so much from the others that their speakers could only communicate with each other through interpreters.

From diatopic perspective we will now consider the Bayern dialect compared to their functional equivalents in Macedonian language.

Bayern expressions	Macedonian functional equivalents
Schmankerl	деликатес
pfeilgerade	директно
Pfinstag	четврток
bressant	итно, неодложно
deppert	глуп, прост
Brand	жед
Gickerl	петел
Tandler	трговец
Hauserin	домаќинка
Hemmert	кошула
Gescheitheit	интелигентност
Kampel	чешел
Standl	киоск, трафика
rappen	лепи
pumpern	тропа
Beize	меана, кафеана,
Bussl	бакнеж
Kukuruz	пченка
Milli	млеко
Gosche	уста
Schneid	храброст

### Diastratic lexical variations

The lexical varieties of diastratic aspect base on different socio-cultural realities of a language community. Such varieties can be registered in the language of young people, little children, women, hunter, the bawdy

language etc. We will make a review of lexical means of bawdy language that come not only in the oral but also in the written speech acts (primarily in the dialogues). Their use may reflect the individual background of the speaker in relation to education, profession and social origin.

Bawdy German expressions	Macedonian functional equivalents
Arschloch	гомнар, кретен
Hosenscheißer	серко
Affenarsch	кретен
Arschbratze	грдотија
Blödfisch	простак
Butterkuh	свиња
Großhirnkastrat	имбецил, идиот
Gesichtseintopf	грдотија, фаца
sich scheiße fühlen	се чувствува посрано
scheiß reden	тропа глупости
Penner	скитник
Wichser	дркација
Kuh	крава, коза,
Fotze	пичка
Lumpenhund	Неранимајко
Bastard	Копиле
Missgeburt	изрод, неранимајко

### Diaphasic lexical variations

From diaphasic point of view the differences in the communication due to the use of language, which depend on the respective communication situation. So, in this category we can count colloquial expressions, Latin phrases, words of foreign origin, terms of the technical languages, statements of the expressive (literary) language etc. The Latin phrases, especially the idioms and proverbs that come from large thinkers are in the most cultures more or less known and their usage testifies to the rich scientific background of the speakers.

We will list further some well-known Latin phrases and will try to find their appropriate functional equivalents in the Macedonian language.

Latin phrases	Macedonian functional equivalents
Alea iacta est.	Коцката е фрлена.
Veni vidi vici.	Дојдов, видов и победив.
Cui bono?	За чие добро?
Patria est, ubicumque est bene.	Татквината ти е таму, каде што се чувствуваш удобно.
Quid verba audiam, cum facta videam?	Зошто да слушам зборови, кога гледам дела?
Aetas volat.	Времето лета.
Ea est natura hominum.	Тоа е човечката природа.
Carpe Diem!	Зграпчи го денот!
Quid leges sine moribus?	Што значи законот ако нема морал?

In medias res.	Во центар на збиднувањата.
Aut regem aut fatuum nasci oportet.	Човек се раѓа или како крал или како идиот
Omnia mea mecum porto	Сè свое со себе си носам.
In vino veritas	Во виното е вистината.

## Conclusion

Finally, we can conclude that all the lexical variations, no matter if from diachronic, diatopic, diastratic and diaphasic aspect are quite present in languages and testify to the lifestyle and speaking-style of the language users.

They are a kind of deviations from the language norms and as such may cause problems with understanding or transferring in another language.

If such expressions need to be translated in another language, the main purpose for the translator is to establish functional equivalence. This means that the translation should sound natural and be in the spirit of the language of translation. It's also important the translator to manage to transfer the content, but also to keep the same stylistic level. In order to help the translators find a way to adapt the German lexical variations to the Macedonian culture, we listed such expressions by giving their appropriate functional equivalents.

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