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Görlach, M (ed.) (2001): A Dictionary of European Anglicisms. Oxford, Oxford University Press. 351 p. \$170.

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Among the many dictionaries and lexica of neologisms and foreign words, *A Dictionary of European Anglicisms* (DEA) edited by Manfred Görlach holds a significant place, being the first and the only one of its type. The dictionary records English borrowings in 16 European languages, among them Italian, French, Spanish and German.¹ As Rodriguez points out in the introduction to his *Nuevo diccionario de anglicismos*², as yet there are still no fixed, prescriptive criteria for compiling a dictionary of anglicisms in any specific language, or at least it is impossible to identify a set of universally shared and accepted rules. The reverse is true of other types of dictionaries –such as monolingual or bilingual dictionaries of the general language, where the reader usually has very specific expectations. Therefore, Görlach's endeavour of cataloguing anglicisms in 16 languages appears all the more exceptional.

Among the European languages, German is traditionally one of the most receptive towards borrowings from the English language, which now undoubtedly make up the largest part of all new words that have entered the language from the second half of the 20th century onwards, especially in the field of microeconomics and finance (management, information technology, new media), but also in general and colloquial German. The monumental dictionary of anglicisms by Carstensen and Busse (*Anglizismen-Wörterbuch*, 1993) is one of the main sources for English borrowings in German, and one of the reference works from which Görlach himself has drawn for his DEA. However, the most up-to-date lexicographic reference work both on foreign words and on anglicisms is the *Duden Fremdwörterbuch* (2001).

While the anglicisms list of the *Verein Deutsche Sprache*³ or the *Wörterbuch der überflüssigen Anglizismen*⁴ both reflect the radical purism of the authors and the institutions that have produced them, the DEA's selection does not imply a prescriptive or censorious attitude. The choice of the author to compile a dictionary in as many as 16 languages already excludes a "nationalistic" perspective. Its purpose is rather descriptive, in that it aims at reflecting, as objectively and accurately as possible, the globally widespread phenomenon

of borrowings from Anglo-American in European languages, tracing its route through the centuries up to the years 1995-1996.

A first, sketchy recognition of the dictionary entries immediately brings up the problem of up-to-dateness. In general, neologisms and foreign borrowings can be regarded as a reflection, an indicator of the dynamic quality of a language, of the constant change in its enrichment and transformation processes. Within this continuum, it is often difficult to draw a line between mere nonce-formations, unsuccessful borrowings and well-established, definitive borrowings. This is why a dictionary of anglicisms –and, in general, a dictionary of new words, usually becomes “obsolete” just a few months from the final editing. Inevitably, the book version of a lexicographic work, especially a dictionary of foreign words, cannot but be, at best, a snapshot, a blurred picture of the situation at the moment of writing, not as it currently is. In the case of the DEA, the final draft was completed in 1996. Therefore, despite its publication date (2001), the dictionary actually reflects the situation as it was five years before. As a result, the dictionary does not provide a reliable picture of the phenomenon of anglicisms at the beginning of the 21st century, although it can certainly be taken as a starting point for future updates. However, the dating of each entry is quite accurate: for the oldest borrowings the dictionary gives the century when the word was first recorded in written documents –for instance, the word *manager* entered German as early as the first decade of the XX century (“beg20c”), whereas for the most recent borrowings – from the Fifties onward –, the decade, and in some cases even the exact year, is specified –e.g. 1970s for *check* and *cash flow*.

As far as the integration of English borrowings is concerned, the DEA is again very accurate in describing the degree of “acceptance” of the foreign word through an elaborate set of graphic symbols, ranging from the absence of a foreign form –i.e. when the word is known to the German speaker only in the integrated, adapted form (loan-translation or calque), as in *Krach* for *crash*–, to loan word, restricted use, complete acceptance, down to the final stage of integration, when the speaker no longer recognizes the foreign origin of the word, which can only be inferred through an etymologic analysis. Even the descriptive indications pertaining to usage, style, frequency, field of use, and register are rich and accurate, providing the reader with additional information on the socio-cultural status of a word. The DEA therefore meets one of the fundamental requirements for a dictionary of foreign words, in that it contains a great deal of information on the degree of integration and the usage of the anglicisms entered as headwords. The next step now is to find out whether this information is presented to the reader in a clear manner, which is another key rule for a lexicographic reference work.

For a lexical dictionary, clarity and readability are a precondition for usability, as Haensch (1997: 243) underlines in his study of Spanish lexicography. In the case of the DEA, the need to reduce both the size of the dictionary and the number of pages, and therefore to pack, in a limited space, the definitions, the basic grammatical, phonetic and orthographic information, as well as other essential indications such as the degree of integration of each anglicism, its spread pattern and usage, has led the editor to elaborate a complex set of abbreviations and logical-mathematical symbols. Although the symbols are

clearly explained in the introductory pages of the work (see especially pp. XXI-XXV), the reader needs to spend a certain amount of time delving into the study of these symbols and abbreviations before actually being able to use the dictionary.

Another obstacle to the readability of the dictionary are the definitions themselves, which have not been written especially for the DEA, but are borrowed, with slight reformulations, from the Concise Oxford Dictionary of the English language (COD, see introduction p. XXI). This choice presents two main problems: the first problem is again related with the question of readability. For each entry, the COD definition is quoted according to the numbering of the COD itself: therefore, if only one or two of the original meanings of an English word, such as *clearing*, have entered the German language, the first definition given by the DEA could, for instance, bear the number 3, which corresponds to the third meaning listed by the COD for the word *clearing* ('a transaction involving money'). In fact, this mechanical transposition of the numbers of the COD definitions -2d, 3a, etc., not only contributes to further complicate the already tangled symbol map, but it is not motivated by any apparent reason. The second problem with the definitions is that they were drawn, with little or no adaptation, from a monolingual dictionary of the source language. Now, it is well known that, in moving from one language to the other, foreign words often change their meaning, albeit slightly. Therefore, it would be advisable for the editorial staff of a new dictionary of foreign words to completely rewrite the definitions, taking into account the semantic changes that have occurred in the shift from English to German.

One last obstacle to the dictionary's readability is the fact that there is only one search key, i.e. English. The reader can find an anglicism, including loan translations, only by starting from the English word, but not the other way round. He cannot start, for example, from the German *Konzern* to arrive at the original English word *concern* – or, to draw a parallel between German and Italian, to go back from *consulting* to *consulenza*. The absence of cross-references, therefore, does not allow the in-depth study of one major aspect of the integration of foreign words, the adaptation -first phonetic and then graphic, of the borrowed word to the rules of the receiving language, which is still a strong tendency in German.

In the introduction to the DEA, Görlach explains the working method of the lexicographic team he coordinated, as well as the procedures according to which data was gathered to compile the dictionary entries. The team started out by filing journalistic texts, magazines and dictionaries. The files were subsequently submitted to "informers" and linguistic experts selected for each language, who expressed their opinion on the words' frequency and usage. It is interesting to note how Görlach insists on the impossibility, for practical reasons and lack of time, to compile a corpus of electronic texts for each individual language, to use as an information data bank. However, the editor expresses his hope that an advancement in technology will soon allow to produce a second updated edition of the dictionary based on electronic corpora. Although rigorous, the DEA's method is in fact long outdated, as the procedures of quantitative analysis have turned out to be an essential tool for today's lexicographers. The fact that doubts have been raised on the

representativeness of individual corpora used to compile monolingual dictionaries does not mean that the insight of one speaker or a group of speakers into the usage and relative frequency of a word is more reliable than the results obtained with a large electronic reference corpus.

To rely on the introspective method alone or on other, albeit monumental, reference works, such as the *Anglizismen-Wörterbuch* by Carstensen and Busse, can certainly be enough to produce a fairly exhaustive lexicographic work, although it is plain to see that corpus linguistics could do much to expand and perfect it, for example by including a list of the most frequent collocations for each lexeme, or even usage examples drawn from authentic language. The corpus (or corpora) to be used for such purposes do not necessarily have to be created ad hoc, but they may be already existing general or specialist corpora. This corpus-based lexicographic project could also be connected to a larger lexicological research aimed at a day-by-day monitoring of the anglicisms that flow into the various European languages.

The second issue that emerges when reading the DEA has to do once again with the choice of lemmas and the criteria for selecting the anglicisms. The dictionary contains words that can be ascribed to different registers, styles, and degrees of formality, from slang expressions, colloquialisms and “fashionable” words to terms belonging to specialized languages –computer science, economy and finance, science and technology, etc.. This mixture of general, colloquial, and specialized language is a feature common to several dictionaries of new and foreign words –see *Duden Fremdwörterbuch*, 2001 edition, or Carstensen and Busse’s dictionary. The DEA’s format, a single, slender volume, would suggest that it is a dictionary of general language rather than a specialized technical lexicon. This is confirmed by a comparison between the Italian anglicisms recorded in the DEA and the electronic version of the Italian Zingarelli (2000 edition), one of the most popular dictionaries of general Italian. Both dictionaries list about the same number of anglicisms (2000). However, as far as specialized language is concerned, Görlach’s introduction (see p. xix) does not seem to provide an adequate explanation of the selection criteria for technical terms: he only talks about “words not known to the general public” (slang, or terms belonging to the field of economics and computer science) which have purposefully been left out.

Finally, it is interesting to find out how Görlach’s dictionary deals with the issue of direct loans, or loan words, from English - i.e the case where not only the meaning, but also the form is transmitted from one language to another – as part of the derivational and compositional processes of the German language. First of all it should be remembered that in German, as well as in the majority of European languages, lexical borrowings, first and foremost from English, currently represent a major source of lexical enrichment, also through the mediation of the receiving language -by combining the foreign root with native elements. In this respect, morphologic normalization can be a dilemma when there are several orthographic variants of the same word. Another important factor to consider is the German orthographic reform of 1996. The reform includes new writing rules for foreign words, which aim at further “germanizing” the already existing loan words. Therefore, the

main orthographic discrepancies that can be observed between the *Duden Fremdwörterbuch* (2001, written according to the new writing rules) and the DEA are due to the univertation introduced by the orthographic reform in the case of compound terms like *cash flow* or *merchant bank* (now written in one word: *Cashflow*, *Merchantbank*), whose standard writing is still given by Görlach's dictionary as identical to the English word.

To sum up, the DEA can certainly be taken as a model, a reference point, both in positive and negative terms, for future reference works conceived with similar aims and with similar scope and importance. Despite some major scientific and methodological drawbacks, it is impossible to overlook a work of such importance, not only for lexicographic theory and practice, but also for lexicology, in particular the study of neologisms and anglicisms, two increasingly relevant research fields.

Notes

1. **Germanic languages:** Icelandic, Norwegian, Dutch, German. **Slavonic languages:** Russian, Polish, Bulgarian, Croatian. **Romance languages:** French, Spanish, Italian and Romanian. **Other languages:** Finnish, Hungarian, Albanian, Greek.
2. 1997, Madrid, Gredos.
3. Web site: <http://www.vds-ev.de>
4. Edited by R. Pogarell and M. Schröder. Last updated edition: 2004, IFB Verlag.

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Funcionalismo y Lingüística: la Gramática Funcional de S.C.Dik is the only introduction