SEMANTIKA PRIRODNOG JEZIKA

I

METAJEZIK SEMANTIKE

ZBORNIK

Urednica:
JAGODA GRANIĆ

Hrvatsko društvo za primijenjenu lingvistiku – HDPL
Hrvatsko društvo za primijenjenu lingvistiku
Association croate de linguistique appliquée
Croatian Applied Linguistics Society

Hrvatska / Croatia
1987. \textit{Jezici, varijeteti i nastava jezika}
(urednici: Damir Kologjera, Gordana Mikulić / Zagreb)
1988. \textit{Deset godina obveznog stranog jezika na sveučilištu: rezultati i problemi}
(urednica: Milica Gačić / Zagreb)
1989. \textit{Fonološki i fonetski aspekti govorenog jezika}
(urednik: Damir Horga / Zagreb)
1990. \textit{Informatička tehnologija u primijenjenom lingvistiku}
(urednici: Marin Andrijašević, Yvonne Vrhovac / Zagreb)
1991. \textit{Prožimanje kultura i jezika}
(urednici: Marin Andrijašević, Yvonne Vrhovac / Zagreb)
1992. \textit{Strani jezik u dodiru s materinskim jezikom}
(urednici: Marin Andrijašević, Yvonne Vrhovac / Zagreb)
1993. \textit{Trenutak sadašnjosti u učenju jezika}
(urednici: Marin Andrijašević, Yvonne Vrhovac / Zagreb)
1994. \textit{Primijenjena lingvistika danas}
(urednica: Jelena Mihaljević Djigunović, Neda Pintarić / Zagreb)
1995. \textit{Prevodjenje: suvremena strujanja i tendencije}
(urednica: Jelena Mihaljević Djigunović, Neda Pintarić / Zagreb)
1996. \textit{Jezik i komunikacija}
(urednici: Marin Andrijašević, Lovorka Zergollem-Miletić / Zagreb)
1997. \textit{Tekst i diskurs}
(urednici: Marin Andrijašević, Lovorka Zergollem-Miletić / Zagreb)
1998. \textit{Jezična norma i varijeteti}
(urednici: Boris Pritchard, Lada Badurina, Diana Stolac / Zagreb-Rijeka)
1999. \textit{Teorija i mogućnosti primijene pragmalingvistike}
(urednici: Lada Badurina, Boris Pritchard, Nada Ivanetić, Diana Stolac / Zagreb-Rijeka)
2002. \textit{Primijenjena lingvistika u Hrvatskoj - izazovi na početku XXI. stoljeća}
(urednici: Diana Stolac, Nada Ivanetić, Boris Pritchard / Zagreb-Rijeka)
2003. \textit{Psiholingvistika i kognitivna znanost u hrvatskoj primijenjenoj lingvistici}
(urednici: Diana Stolac, Nada Ivanetić, Boris Pritchard / Zagreb-Rijeka)
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PRIJEVODNA KOMPETENCIJA I ODABIR LEKSIKA

Sažetak
Kvaliteta prijevođa uvjetovana je jezičnom kompetencijom prevoditelja. Odabir odgovarajuće gramatičke strukture i leksika, koji su vrlo značajne komponente prijevodne kompetencije, daju uvid u tekstualnu kompetenciju prevoditelja. Ovaj rad bavi se odabirem i analizom leksika u prijevodima studenata engleskog jezika kako bi se dobio profil tekstualne kompetencije studenata i utvrdio njegov utjecaj na interpretaciju izvornog teksta.

Ključne riječi:
jezična kompetencija, tekstualna kompetencija, prijevodna kompetencija, odabir leksika, izvorni tekst

Jadranka Ančić
Sveučilište u Zadru
(Hrvatska)

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ONOMASTICS IN SOCIO-ETHNIC RESEARCH

Abstract

Researching anthroponomy of medieval Split and its surroundings, the author has come to certain conclusions directly helping the research into different aspects of the development and the origin of the town, notably its social and ethnic relations. Starting from earlier contributions the author has deepened the research by gathering data regarding names and has reached conclusions about the ethnic origin of the aristocratic families and some secular and ecclesiastic functionaries.

Key words:
names, socio-ethnic research, Split

A CONTRASTIVE ANALYSIS OF ENGLISH AND CROATIAN PHRASES

Abstract

The aim of this paper is to compare and contrast English and Croatian phrases. The paper includes a contrastive analysis of corresponding phrases in the two languages. In addition, the phrases are categorized into specific semantic fields, and into categories based on their literal or metaphorical meaning. This analysis endeavors to show some of the similarities and differences between English and Croatian phrases.

Key words:
contrastive analysis, English and Croatian, phrases
1. Introduction

Language can be viewed as a basic tool for communication. However, it also plays a significant social role. It is an important vehicle for maintaining relationships with other people and for connecting people on an emotional level. Some theorists, such as Edward Sapir, go so far as to state that language can affect a society's world-view. On the other hand, the society one lives in can affect the way a language develops. By studying language, therefore, one can reveal certain aspects of this reciprocal relationship between language and society.

One of the most interesting approaches to studying a language, especially a second language, is in the field of phraseology. This area of language study can be defined as the manner in which words and phrases are organized into longer elements. Proficiency in a language can be measured by the appropriate use of expressions and phrases. By analyzing phrases one can come to a better understanding of a language, as well as the culture in which the language is found.

2. Definitions

As mentioned above, phraseology deals with the manner of organization of words and phrases into longer elements. A phrase can be defined as: "a characteristic manner or style of expression: diction; (or) a brief expression esp. catchword" (Mish, 1983: 886).

J. R. Natttinger and J. S. DeCarrico describe lexical phrases as 'chunks' of language of varying length (1992: 1). They distinguish lexical phrases from collocations (which are strings of specific lexical items, such as rancid butter, but which have not been assigned particular pragmatic functions by pragmatic competence) and ordinary syntactic strings (which are generated by syntactic competence and which underlie all grammatical structures of a language). A fourth type of phrasal combination which they mention are idioms which they define as "complex bits of frozen syntax, whose meanings cannot be derived from the meaning of their constituents, that is, whose meanings are more than simply the sum of their individual parts" (1992: 33). They do not include idioms or collocations in their study because they claim that they do not have a particular function, nor do they include syntactic strings which has been the center of most linguistic investigations. Lexical phrases, according to Natttinger and DeCarrico, are defined as: "a) strings of specific (non-productive) lexical items, which allow no paradigmatic or syntagmatic substitution ... (which) can be both canonical (conforming to a syntactic string) and non-canonical, e.g., what on earth, by and large, and b) generalized (productive) frames, consisting of strings of category symbols (or otherwise generally specified syntactic/semantic features) and specific lexical items, which have been assigned a pragmatic function, e.g., a year ago, would you pass the salt" (1992: 36). Lexical phrases, in short, can be generalized lexical items that have a pragmatic function and allow a certain degree of substitution, or they can be lexical items that do not allow substitution.

Cowie, Mackin and McCaig hold a different point of view. Although they agree with the basic definition given above, they disagree on the point that idioms have no pragmatic function. They state that idioms, "are restricted to particular groups of users or particular occasions of use, or indicate the speaker's attitude to the persons or events denoted, or are used to perform special functions (for example, greetings or warnings)" (1993: 37). They claim that a definition of idioms must, "recognize that the meaning of a combination may be related to those of it's components in a variety of ways, and must take account also of the possibility of internal variation, or substitution of part for part" (1993: 12). Under this qualification they include: 1) pure idioms, which form the end-point of a process by which word-combinations first establish themselves through constant re-use, then undergo figurative extension and finally, petrify or congeal e.g. kick the bucket; 2) figurative idioms - this category is considered idiomatic in the sense that variation is seldom found and pronoun substitution unlikely e.g. catch fire, close ranks; and 3) restricted collocations - where one word has a figurative sense not found outside the limited context, while the other element appears in a familiar literal sense e.g. a blind alley. They do not include open collocations as well, because they claim all it's elements (verb and object, or adjective and noun) are freely recombinnable.

Upon careful observation of the various definitions given to phrases and idioms one can conclude that there are no clear-cut distinctions between the two terms. Both points of view recognize the importance of a fixed construction, yet they also allow a certain degree of variation. The major difference between lexical phrases and idioms appears to be the metaphorical or figurative meaning that is attached to idioms. This paper includes lexical phrases in the general sense as defined by Natttinger and DeCarrico, and idioms based on the definition given by Cowie, Mackin and McCaig.

**AIM**

The aim of this paper is to compare and contrast English and Croatian phrases. This comparison will focus on a contrastive analysis of corresponding phrases in English and Croatian. In addition, the phrases will be compared according to the semantic field that they belong to. Finally, there will be a comparison in terms of their literal or metaphorical meaning.

**CORPUS**

The corpus of this work includes a sample of 500 English and Croatian phrases. The English phrases were gathered from various dictionaries, magazines and newspapers, while the equivalent Croatian phrases were found in dictionaries which are listed in the bibliography.

**METHOD**

The corpus was subject to three levels of analysis. Firstly, English and Croatian phrases were categorized into groups based on the differences and similarities of the words themselves. The second analysis categorized the phrases according to their semantic fields. Lastly, the phrases were grouped according to whether they have a literal or metaphorical meaning.

3. Results

3.1. A contrastive analysis of phrases

A contrastive analysis of English and Croatian phrases included dividing the corpus of 500 phrases into three groups: 1) "completely identical" phrases, 2)
"Partially similar" phrases, and 3) "completely different" phrases. The comparison was based on the surface structure of the phrases, that is, on the individual words. For example, if a phrase in both languages uses the same words, it qualified as a completely identical phrase, e.g. to abdicate to the throne = odredit se prijestolju (note: definite and indefinite articles, dissimilarities in prepositions, and the different use of cases were not considered a disqualification for this category). A phrase was considered partially similar if there is a single word, or more than one word that is different e.g. I am afraid I’m late = zao mi je, malo sam zakusnio. Finally, a phrase was categorized as being completely different if all the words are dissimilar e.g. assault and battery = teška tjelesna ozljeda. It must be stressed that this classification was based on the individual words rather than on the semantic aspect of phrases. In general, all the phrases share the same semantic meaning.

The following tables are samples of each category:

### Table 1. Completely identical phrases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENGLISH PHRASES</th>
<th>CROATIAN PHRASES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>to abandon oneself</td>
<td>predati se</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>abidence by rules</td>
<td>držanje propisa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bad blood</td>
<td>zla krv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in black and white</td>
<td>crno na bijelom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>black sheep</td>
<td>crna ovca</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in the clouds</td>
<td>u oblacima</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to cry over split milk</td>
<td>plakati nad prošivenim mljelkom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>from day to day</td>
<td>iz dana u dan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to go to the devil</td>
<td>otići do davola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to come down to earth</td>
<td>spustiti se na zemlju</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to be eaten up with envy</td>
<td>izjediti se od zavisti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of two evils choose the lesser</td>
<td>od dva zla biraj manje</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to go through fire and water</td>
<td>proći kroz vatru i vodu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to have one foot in the grave</td>
<td>biti jednom nogom u grobu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>God willing</td>
<td>ako Bog da</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>golden mean</td>
<td>zlatna sredina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to turn in one’s grave</td>
<td>okrenuti se u grobu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to hang by a thread</td>
<td>visiti o niti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>house of cards</td>
<td>kuća od karata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a wolf in lamb’s skin</td>
<td>vuk u janjećoj koži</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to be one’s own man</td>
<td>biti svoj čovjek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>milk and honey</td>
<td>med i mljeko</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the naked truth</td>
<td>gola istina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the tree of knowledge</td>
<td>drvo spoznaje</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walls have ears</td>
<td>zidovi imaju uši</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 2. Partially similar phrases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENGLISH PHRASES</th>
<th>CROATIAN PHRASES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>to bring to justice</td>
<td>izvesti pred suž</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>better late than never</td>
<td>bolje ikada nego nikada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bag of bones</td>
<td>kost i koža</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bare majority</td>
<td>minimalna večina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>big shot</td>
<td>velika zvijerka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>birds of a feather flock together</td>
<td>svaka ptica svome jatu leti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to kill two birds with one stone</td>
<td>jednim udarcem ubiti dvije muhe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>born fool</td>
<td>potpun glupan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>brown bread</td>
<td>crni kruh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to come to light</td>
<td>doći na vidjelo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to cross one’s mind</td>
<td>pasti na pamet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to crack a joke</td>
<td>izvaliti šalu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in a delicate condition</td>
<td>u drugom stanju</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to bite the dust</td>
<td>zagrižti u ledinu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>over head and ears in love</td>
<td>zaljubljen preko ušiju</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to ease one’s mind</td>
<td>olakšati dušu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a friend in need is a friend indeed</td>
<td>pravi se prijatel pozna‰ je nevolji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gentleman’s agreement</td>
<td>prijateljski sporazum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a green Christmas</td>
<td>Bobić bez snijega</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out of harm’s way</td>
<td>izvan opasnosti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to reap the harvest of one’s hard work</td>
<td>biti nagrađen za svoj mukotorni rad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to skate on thin ice</td>
<td>stupiti na tanak led</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian summer</td>
<td>babije lieto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>against one’s better judgment</td>
<td>protiv svog uvjerenja</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to laugh one’s head off</td>
<td>umirati od smiješa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to save one’s neck</td>
<td>spasiti glavu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>he who pays the piper calls the tune</td>
<td>tko plaća, taj i zapovijeda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>you might have heard a pin fall</td>
<td>moglo se čuti muha kako leti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>storm in a teacup</td>
<td>tura u čaši vode</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as a fish out of water</td>
<td>kac riba na suhem</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 3. Completely different phrases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENGLISH PHRASES</th>
<th>CROATIAN PHRASES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>assault and battery</td>
<td>teška tjelesna ozljeda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it’s your baby</td>
<td>to je tvoja stvar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>take a back seat</td>
<td>učiniti se nevidljivim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to keep the ball rolling</td>
<td>podržavati razgovor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to bark up the wrong tree</td>
<td>biti na krivom tragu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to go berserk</td>
<td>podvijati</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chip off the old block</td>
<td>kakav otac takav sin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to burn the candle at both ends</td>
<td>raspiši svoje snage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>every cloud has a silver lining</td>
<td>u svakom zlu ima dobra</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.2. A semantic analysis of phrases

The corpus was subject to an analysis based on their semantic fields. This analysis was based on the literal meaning of the key words in a phrase. For example, the phrase to turn one's back upon is categorized under the heading: Man (body parts) because of the key word back which relates to the human body. The categorization was divided into the following groups: Man (physical activity, body parts, work/occupations, people, relations, household articles, tools, clothes, weapons, places, transportation, measurement, property); abstract notions; nature (trees, flowers, plants); animals/fish; elements; food; time; life/death/religion; colours; money; law; politics; numbers; and miscellaneous. Although "animals" and "fish" are part of nature, they were considered a separate category in this study. Even though, "money," "law," and "politics," are subcategories of "Man," they were considered separately, as well.

3.2.1. Results of the semantic analysis of completely identical phrases

The results of this analysis show that the majority of phrases fall under the semantic field labeled "man" (29%), followed by "abstract notions" (22%). The third most numerous group, accounting for fourteen percent (14%) of the phrases, is under the category of "elements," while the remaining phrases are dispersed in small numbers among the other fields. The findings are listed in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semantic field</th>
<th>Number of phrases</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Man</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abstract notions</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elements</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animals/Fish</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colours</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life/Death/Religion</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Politics</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Money</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4. Contrastive analysis of the corpus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Corpus of 500 phrases</th>
<th>Categories</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Completely identical</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partially similar</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completely different</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.2.2. Results of the semantic analysis of partially similar phrases

In this group the results proved to be similar to those in the previous analysis. The semantic field concerning "man" dominates and accounts for forty-one percent (41.4%) of English phrases and forty-two percent (42%) of Croatian phrases. The group under "abstract notions" was the second most numerous for both languages and numbered twenty-five percent (25.5%) and twenty-seven percent (27%) respectively. The other groups accounted for a minor percentage. The results are shown in the following table:

Table 6. Semantic analysis of partially similar phrases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semantic field</th>
<th>Number of phrases</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Croatian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Man</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abstract Notions</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animals/Fish</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elements</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Money</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colours</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life/Death/Religion</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Politics</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.2.3. Results of the semantic analysis of completely different phrases

This group shows that the category of "man" dominates in both languages. In English they account for forty-eight (48%) of all the phrases while in Croatian fifty-one percent (51.2%). However, the next category that is the most frequent in Croatian is the "abstract notions" category, which numbers twenty-six percent (26.45), whereas in English this category accounts for only eight percent (8%) of the total number of phrases. In English the second most frequent group is "elements" followed by a fairly even distribution of the rest of the categories (except "law" and "politics" which number less than one percent). The phrases under "time" are the third most frequent category numbering almost seven percent (6.8%) of the phrases. The results are shown below:

Table 7. Semantic analysis of completely different phrases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semantic field</th>
<th>Number of phrases</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Croatian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Man</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abstract notions</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elements</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animals/Fish</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life/Death/Religion</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Money</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colours</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Politics</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.3. Analysis of literal and metaphorical meanings of phrases

An interesting aspect of many phrases and idioms are the metaphorical meanings that are associated with them. The following analysis divided the corpus, based on their literal and/or metaphorical meaning, into three groups: 1) phrases that have literal meanings, 2) phrases that can be interpreted as having both a literal meaning and a metaphorical one, and 3) phrases that have a metaphorical meaning. Phrases that fell into the second group were of two types: firstly, those that have one or more words that can be taken literally, while the rest have a metaphorical meaning e.g. in the phrase "king's weather" the word "king" has a metaphorical meaning attached to it, while the word "weather" does not. Secondly, those phrases that can be taken as a whole to have a literal meaning, as well as a metaphorical one e.g. to show one's hand can have a literal meaning or a metaphorical one (revealing one's plans).

3.3.1. Literal and metaphorical meanings in completely identical phrases

In this group the results show that phrases with metaphorical meanings are the most frequent and account for forty-eight percent (48%) of the total number of phrases, while literal meanings number twenty-eight percent (28%). Phrases with literal/metaphorical meanings account for twenty-four percent (24%) of the total. The results are shown below.
4. Overall results of the statistical analysis of the corpus

The results of the statistical analysis show that a majority of English and Croatian phrases are different. The English language, as compared to the Croatian language, uses different words to express similar meanings. In the semantic analysis it can be concluded that in both languages the category of “man” and “abstract notions” are the most dominant regardless of what group the phrases belonged (identical, partially similar or completely different). The literal/metaphoric analysis shows that in the partially similar and completely different groups, literal meanings are more frequent in Croatian phrases, while metaphorical meanings are most frequent in English phrases. In this last group (completely different phrases) the difference between phrases in the two languages is most apparent, namely over half the English phrases have metaphorical meanings, whereas over half the Croatian phrases have literal meanings.

5. Conclusion

According to Saplir, the vocabulary of a language may be seen as, “a complex inventory of all the ideas, interests and occupations that take up the attention of the community” (Bonvillain, 2003: 46.) Once objects or forces in the physical environment become labelled, these objects or events become culturally significant and individually noticed and experienced. Furthermore, there is a dynamic relationship between language, culture, and human thinking. If languages use different words to express similar concepts certain conclusions can, perhaps, be made in regard to their view of reality or their culture in general. Both the English and Croatian languages are European languages and thus share basic grammatical characteristics and in many instances use similar/and or identical words to express objects or ideas. In this study it was found that twenty percent of the corpus fell into this category. In the category of partially similar phrases and completely different phrases, interesting questions can be raised. What accounts for the differences in colour terminology in the two languages in phrases such as brown bread = crni kruh; red wine = crveni vino; a green Christmas = Božić bez snijega; or dok je žuma zelena = as long as grass grows. Other interesting differences include the use of different animal words to express the same ideas: to kill two birds with one stone = jednim udarcem ubiti dvije mih; to buy a pig in a poke = kupiti mačku u ureći. Sometimes animal words are used in phrases in English and not in Croatian phrases: It’s raining cats and dogs = pljušti kao je kuhar let sljepe kćeri; to separate the sheep from the goats = odjedini ove od oneve. However, the Croatian language also uses animal words where the English language does not: u tom grmu leži zec = there’s the rub. These differences could be the result of cultural differences in which each language is enveloped. Different words in the following phrases, for example, show differences in religious cultures: unbelieving Jew = neverni Tom. In both languages many phrases share similar semantic fields, that is the vocabulary used most frequently by both languages fall under the category of “man”, suggesting man’s preoccupation with himself in both languages. The biggest
difference between the two languages seems to be the greater use of "abstract notions" in the Croatian language. Thus we have a phrase such as, *u srcakom zlu ima dobra*, or *nije zvako zlo za zlo* used in the Croatian language, whereas in English the equivalent phrase would be, *every cloud has a silver lining*. A word of caution is needed here because in this category some distinctions are complex and some items cannot be classified absolutely.

This study found that the majority of Croatian phrases have literal meanings, as opposed to the majority of English phrases, which have metaphorical meanings. According to Bonvillain, "Metaphors are based on unstated comparisons between entities or events that share certain features. The comparison implicitly highlight similarities while ignoring contrasts" (Bonvillain, 2003: 63.) Can we conclude that there is a tendency in the English language, and therefore it's culture (and perhaps worldview), to focus on similarities rather than differences? Does this mean that the use of literal meaning for most phrases in the Croatian language indicates a more complex or simple view of reality? Clearly, these conclusions are highly controversial, but they do raise important questions.

One of the limitations of this study is in its use of Croatian dictionaries. The majority of Croatian phrases were taken from Rudolf Filipović's *English-Croatian Dictionary*. This could have affected the results, especially in the comparison of literal and metaphorical meaning of phrases. Perhaps a solution could be found in further studies, namely by comparing phrases between dictionaries. For example, the equivalent English phrase to *cry one’s eyes out*, in K. Filipović, dictionary is *dobra se isplakati*; whereas, in Željko Bušić dictionary the following phrase is found, *plakati kao ljuta godina*. This comparison gives us a broader view of Croatian phrases, and in this case, can have many implications, most obviously the metaphorical meaning of the latter phrase.

Here is much work to be done in the field of phraseology, and especially in the area of contrastive analysis of phrases. This study attempts to show some of the differences and similarities between English and Croatian phrases. However, there are many questions that are raised, which can perhaps be used as an incentive for further research.

References


Anna Martinović
Sveučilište u Zadru
(Hrvatska)

KONTRASTIVNA ANALIZA ENGLESKIH I HRVATSKIH FRAZA

Sažetak

Cilj ovog rada jest usporediti engleske i hrvatske fraze. Rad uključuje kontrastivnu analizu analognih fraza u tim dvama jezicima. Fraze su kategorizirane u specifična semantička polja i u kategorije na osnovi njihova doslovnog ili metaforičkog značenja. Ova analiza pokušava pokazati neke sličnosti i razlike engleskih i hrvatskih fraza.

Ključne riječi:
kontrastivna analiza, engleski i hrvatski, fraza

Mihela Matešić
Filozofski fakultet
Sveučilište u Rijeci (Hrvatska)

SEMANTIKA UZVIKA (UVODNE NAZNAKE)

Sažetak

Na inventaru uzviša izdvojenom iz rječnika i gramatika hrvatskoga standardnog jezika analizirat će se značenjelažnačenja uzviša. Analiza semantičke uzviša nužno se dovodi u vezu s iskazom: samo je iz iskaza moguće ispitati značenja/emislove uzviša.

Ključne riječi:
uzviša, semantička, iskaz, hrvatski standardni jezik