

## **Anglicisms in Latvian and Norwegian in the post-war period (a contrastive aspect)**

Agnija Platace (University of Latvia, Riga)

The aim of the ongoing research is to compare and contrast two small languages – Latvian and Norwegian in terms of the usage of anglicisms in order to trace analogies and differences in their usage. The material for the analysis is going to cover the period of 1946 - 2005 with a selection of newspaper articles in Latvian and Norwegian as published every 15 years. The research started in 2005, and therefore 2005 was chosen as the final year. The material altogether contains 60 newspaper copies. The approximate year of borrowing and the source language of the selected data will be checked in etymological and national dictionaries. The research is expected to be completed in 2009.

The linguistic corpus is being compiled from items selected in articles on various topics as extracted from the largest Latvian and Norwegian national newspapers. One of the characteristic features of the newspaper style is to introduce foreign words that undoubtedly facilitate the enlargement of the general users' word stock. The analysis focuses on the frequency of anglicisms, their change and adaptation in Latvian and Norwegian with a reference to spheres that appear to use anglicisms to a greater extent than others. The research particularly concentrates on three types of loan words: non-assimilated, assimilated and hybrid words.

The corpus-based data will also be used to examine whether the English original pattern (non-assimilated loan words/ forms) prevails over the pattern of the respective languages (assimilated loan forms), and in which of the two languages it is observed most often. The discussion includes the phenomenon of the frequent usage of borrowings from English in several domains as observed particularly since the 1980s. The contrastive analysis carried out so far (research on two years with a time-span of 50 years: 1946 and 2005) provides the following preliminary results. Anglicisms extracted from the papers of 1946 belong mostly to the general vocabulary and some particular spheres like politics, sport, and food. Articles from 2005, in turn, provide a more developed borrowed vocabulary referring to the domains of entertainment, economics, finance, as well as the already mentioned spheres – sport and politics, and some new fields like IT and technologies.

When taking a closer look at the post-war period it can be noticed that the main source language for borrowing in Latvian has been Russian; it has also been a significant intermediary language for English loanwords. Due to dramatic changes after the collapse of the former Soviet Union, within the context of westernisation and globalisation, English is ranking high as a donor language now.

Norwegian, in turn, has had a different language situation during the same period, and has not been strongly or even dangerously influenced by another language. Nevertheless, the dominant role of the Anglo-American world has been increasing the number of words borrowed from English. It inevitably leaves a remarkable impact on the development of the language. The present study offers also a brief survey of the linguistic situation in Latvia and Norway, and considers the general factors that determine the borrowing processes.