

THE LATIN INFLUENCE ON THE ENGLISH AND ROMANIAN LANGUAGE OF ECONOMICS

Introduction

Etymologically, the vocabulary of both English, a Germanic language and Romanian, a Romance language, is not homogenous. Both languages benefitted from a significant flow of borrowings from Latin. The impact of Latin on both languages is explained by the fact that it had been the language of government, law, religion and learning for centuries and thus the influx of borrowed words was considerable in both languages, however significantly higher in English. While Romanian inherited its core vocabulary, grammatical structure and certain word-formation patterns from Latin, English inherited a significant portion of its vocabulary.

Some of these Latin borrowings are very common words such as *alias* (frequently used both in Romanian and English, meaning *also known as*), abbreviations - *etc.* < et cetera (meaning *and the others*) whereas some of them are highly specialized, such as *affidavit* (meaning that the person is still under oath) particularly used in legal English.

According to Romanian linguists, more than 20% of the Romanian lexicon is inherited from Latin [1], most of them preserving their Latin form and denoting important elements, others being derived from Latin roots. Others [2] conducted statistical research and managed to accurately pinpoint the number of Latin borrowings, counting 2188 entries.

English also inherited or borrowed (via other languages such as French, Italian, Spanish) a significant number of Latin elements. It is impossible to accurately estimate the number of words borrowed directly or indirectly from Latin since the percentage varies significantly from almost 30% according to McKay (2013) up to 50% (Durkin 2014) or even more. Most of these borrowings are used in various fields such as culture, literature, philosophy, history, anatomy, science, Christianity, etc.

The corpus of the present paper is made up of two business terms dictionaries (i.e. Collin, P.H., Jolliffe, A., *Dictionary of Accounting* 1992 and *Oxford Business Dictionary*, 2007) that include an impressive number of words that originate in Latin or preserving their Latin form. Some of these terms are widely

used in legal language, some of them in the language of economics but since it is very difficult to make a clear-cut delimitation of the core vocabulary specific to each type of discourse, most of them are used in both.

In an attempt to provide a classification of the Latin borrowings, a selection was made from the two above-mentioned dictionaries. Both dictionaries provide the Romanian equivalent or translation and explanation for each source language term. The present study provides for each English borrowing taken into consideration its Latin root, its meaning in English and also the Romanian equivalent or a suitable translation, for instance: *lessee* = one who rents something from another person, < Lat. *laxus, laxare*, persoană care închiriază ceva. The etymological information is given by ****Dicționar explicativ al limbii române* (1998) and ****Online Etymology Dictionary*.

The influence of Latin on both English and Romanian today's economic vocabulary is obvious, both languages having hundreds of words that originate in Latin. It is important to mention the role that Latin played in enriching the vocabulary of both languages through certain word-formation patterns. Thus new words (nouns, adjectives) were created by the use of prefixes and suffixes of Latin origin such as *bi-* e.g. *biannual, binary, decim-* < Lat. *decimus*, e.g. *decimal, decigram, -tor: creditor, debtor*.

We can identify a category of words that preserved their Latin form totally, i.e. phonetically, graphically, morphologically and semantically, both in English and Romanian. The economic lexicon of both languages includes numerous common words of Latin origin such as *auditor, to approximate, client, duplicate, triplicate, a priori, commerce, conflict, curriculum vitae, dividend, per capita, per annum, pro boon, pro-forma* etc.

Another category is made up of words that preserved their Latin form partially and underwent certain changes due to their evolution and adaptation in their structure and spelling, having the same root but with similar or identical form in both languages. Several examples in point are the following:

English Term	< Latin term	Romanian Term
<i>beneficiary</i>	<i>beneficiarius</i>	<i>beneficiar</i>
<i>company</i>	<i>companion</i>	<i>companie</i>
<i>conflict</i>	<i>conflictus</i>	<i>conflict</i>
<i>consensus = agreement</i>	<i>consensus</i>	<i>consens</i>
<i>dividend</i>	<i>dividentum</i>	<i>dividend</i>
<i>fundament = foundation, base</i>	<i>fundamentum</i>	<i>fundament</i>
<i>honorarium = fee paid for a service</i>	<i>honorarium</i>	<i>onorariu</i>
<i>intrinsic = interior, internal</i>	<i>intrinsecus</i>	<i>intrinsec, esența unui lucru</i>

<i>legislation</i> (legislate, legislator) = a set of laws made by the government	<i>legislationem</i>	<i>legislație</i> = totalitatea legilor unei țări sau ale unui domeniu juridic
<i>mandate</i> = an official order or written authorization to do something	<i>mandatum</i>	<i>mandatare, împuternicire</i>
<i>power</i>	<i>potere</i>	<i>putere</i>
<i>prospectus</i>	<i>prospectus</i>	<i>prospect</i>
<i>prudent</i>	<i>prudentem, prudens</i>	<i>prudent, atent, circumspect</i>
<i>commerce - trade</i>	<i>commercium</i>	<i>comerț</i>
<i>structure</i>	<i>structura</i>	<i>structură</i>
<i>term</i>	<i>termen</i>	<i>termen</i>
<i>testament (will)</i>	<i>testamentum</i>	<i>testament</i>
<i>villa</i>	<i>villa</i>	<i>vila</i>
<i>prospectus</i>	<i>prospectus</i>	<i>prospect, broșură</i>

Another category of borrowings includes words or phrases that have in English similar or identical Latin form but in Romanian they have multiple etymology, being inherited from Latin and some other languages such as French or German [3].

English Term	< Latin term	Romanian Term
<i>capital</i>	<i>capitalis</i>	<i>capital</i> < Fr. <i>capital</i>
<i>organization</i>	<i>organizationem</i>	<i>organizație</i> < German <i>organization</i> , French <i>organization</i>
<i>statistics</i> – branch of mathematics concerned with collection, analysis and interpretation of numerical facts	<i>statisticum</i>	<i>statistică</i> < Fr. <i>statistique</i>
<i>total</i>	<i>totalis</i>	<i>total</i> < Fr. <i>total</i>
e.g. < <i>exempli gratia</i> = for example	<i>exempli gratia</i>	<i>exemplu</i> < Fr. <i>exemple</i>

There are certain nouns in English, inherited from Latin, that have not been assimilated grammatically or have been assimilated only partially, most of them preserving their original plural form (i.e. following the Latin's rule for plural), for instance *datum – data, phenomenon – phenomena* while others have two plural forms such as: *formula – formulae* but also *formula, index – indices, indexes*. When both Latin-style and English-style plurals are available and accepted, the register must be taken into account. Thus Latin plurals are preferred in formal English (academic writing, scientific contexts, business correspondence, etc.) whereas English plurals are selected for general usage. For instance *indices* – the Latin plural of *index* is widely used in economic, mathematical and technical contexts whereas the English-style plural *indexes* is used in general writing.

In Romanian, most of these nouns underwent significant changes, some of them being inherited from other languages e.g. *dată – date* < Fr. *date* and do not pose such challenges.

Latin mottos or fixed phrases are frequently used in today's economic discourse for various reasons – to impress or even to capture the audience's attention, to reinforce ideas or just because they sound academic. Others explain that the extensive use of Latin terms or maxims is due to the "sense of heightened of dignity and authority"[4]. Some examples in point are the following:

Latin phrase or expression	Meaning in English	Meaning in Romanian
<i>A priori</i>	= from the earlier e.g. <i>A priori</i> dimensions were developed to assess the consumers' perceptions of prices.	= înaintea oricăror fapte e.g. În stabilirea dobânzii unui împrumut, banca are <i>a priori</i> în vedere deprecierea monetară prognozată.
<i>Caveat Emptor</i>	= let the buyer beware – the buyer is entirely responsible e.g. The market still operates on the <i>Caveat Emptor</i> principle.	= cumpărătorul este responsabil de achiziția făcută (nu poate pretinde despăgubiri dacă constată defecte). e.g. Regula <i>Caveat Emptor</i> încă se mai aplică în România și după aceasta se ghidează și marile companii.
<i>Ex officio</i>	= because of office or by virtue of office e.g. They pointed out	= din oficiu, reprezentant al unui department e.g. Autoritățile s-au sesizat <i>ex</i>

	that the quality of the work of <i>ex officio</i> lawyers is unsatisfactory.	<i>officio</i> (din oficiu).
<i>Bona fide</i>	= in good faith e.g. The more unrelated the donee is to the donor, the more likely the gift would be considered " <i>bona fide</i> " and not a "transaction." (http://newscorp.com)	=de bună credință sau de încredere e.g. cumpărător <i>bona fide</i> de valori
<i>Bona vacantia</i>	= vacant, ownerless goods e.g. A person can make a claim on a <i>Bona vacantia</i> estate.	= bunuri care în aparență nu au proprietar e.g. Trebuie adoptate norme în ceea ce privește problema bunurilor vacante (<i>bona vacantia</i>).
<i>Pendente Lite</i>	= awaiting the litigation e.g. Usually the <i>Pendente Lite</i> request is initiated by a special motion.	= în timpul unui proces e.g. Instanța judecătorească poate soluționa excepția de arbitraj, după sesizare arbitrajului, <i>pendente lite</i> . (http://documents.tips/documents/arbitraj.html)
<i>Status quo</i>	<i>Status quo</i> – the state in which e.g. It is possible that the status quo with Syria to be maintained over the next decade.	<i>Statu-quo</i> – stare care a existat mai înainte, care se menține și la momentul de față; situație de fapt. e.g. Fuziunea nu va avea loc dacă actualul statu quo nu se schimbă.

However the number of Latin words and phrases preserved as such in English is greater than in Romanian. A possible explanation being that Latin was the lingua franca of Europe for centuries as a result of the Roman Conquest of

England. Due to the lasting influence of the Roman legal system, Latin was not only the language of scholars but also the language of Christianity and since back then the church dealt with most of the family-related legal matters and drew up the legal documents, the majority of them were written in Latin. Consequently, Latin borrowings were integrated into the English language which underwent a process of lexical emancipation.

The Romanian language was also influenced by the language of the Roman Empire and it borrowed words, especially those associated with trade and commerce. However, beginning with the 6th century it was heavily influenced by the Slavic languages that left noteworthy traces in the Romanian language which underwent significant phonetic, phonologic and morphologic changes[5]. In the 10th century the Cyrillic alphabet was introduced and it had been used for the next four centuries, England the Latin alphabet had been used. The table below provides several examples selected for this study: whereas in

Latin phrase or expression	Meaning in English	Romanian explanation
<i>Guardian ad litem</i>	= is a person appointed by the Court to investigate, prosecute or defend the interests of a minor <i>e.g.</i> The court may appoint a <i>guardian ad litem</i> to represent the interests of a minor or dependent child when the court believes the appointment of a guardian ad litem is necessary to protect the best interests of the child in any proceeding under this chapter. (Washington State Legislature) http://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=26.12.175	= persoană care acționează în numele unui minor inculpat într-un proces
<i>Verba chartarum fortius accipiuntur contra proferentum</i>	– the terms of a contract shall be interpreted against the person who wrote it <i>e.g.</i> Originally the doctrine was labeled as <i>Verba chartarum fortius accipiuntur contra proferentum</i> and later was revised and changed its status.	= termenii unui contract se aplică persoanei care îl reclamă
<i>Donatio mortis causa</i>	= gift on the occasion of death <i>e.g.</i> Individuals claiming someone made a gift of property to them under the legal	= dar în urma decesului sau transferarea

	doctrine of <i>donatio mortis causa</i> , which means the gift takes effect when the giver subsequently dies, must satisfy stringent conditions before the gift will be recognized by the courts. (http://www.icaew.com)	unei proprietăți atunci când moartea este iminentă
<i>Volenti non fit injuria</i>	= to one who is willing, no harm is done	= asumarea riscului
<i>Consensus ad idem</i>	= an agreement, a meeting of the minds where all parties have understood and accepted the contractual commitments	= acceptarea aceluiași lucru, o acceptare totală a unui contract de către ambele părți
<i>Ex gratia</i>	= by favour The ex-gratia payment announced on 7 November 2000 is being made to the various British groups who had been held prisoner by the Japanese during the Second World War. (www.info.gov.hk/bor/en/docs/d1292.doc)	= plată făcută sub forma de cadou fără alte obligații, de favoare

Moreover there are Latin words that enjoy greater collocability in English than in Romanian, for example *ad hoc*, Latin term inherited in both languages, which means *for this* or *for the purpose at hand*, (pentru aceasta, în acest scop, in Romanian). It collocates in English with an impressive number of nouns such as: *ad hoc research* (= research designed for a specific purpose and specific client), *ad hoc analysis*, *ad hoc mail survey*, *ad hoc survey* (= a survey without any plan for repetition), *ad-hoc network* (=a network built spontaneously), *ad-hoc duties* (= required in job advertisements), *ad-hoc advertising*, etc. There is also the concept of *adhococracy* (= management characterized by flexibility, adaptability, creativity and lack of formal structure), the Romanian variant being *management ad hoc*.

Conclusions

Broadly speaking the Latin borrowings identified in the language of economics can be classified into are five categories: words that preserved their Latin form (phonetically, graphically, morphologically and semantically) both in English and Romanian; words of Latin origin that have partially preserved their

form, similar but not identical form in English and Romanian; words of Latin origin that preserved their form in English but with multiple etymology in Romanian (Latin and French, Latin and German, etc.); Latin expressions inherited both in English and Romanian and Latin expressions inherited only in English.

We cannot say that the glory of Latin subsided; on the contrary its considerable influence upon both English and Romanian is undeniable thus contributing to the vocabulary enrichment of both languages. The resilience of Latin can be explained by the fact that Latin words have always been learned and used by educated people. Thus Latin has become a characteristic of the international scientific language, being particularly employed in formal, scientific or technical writing. Since it denotes internationally-accepted concepts it has developed into an internationally-recognized scientific vocabulary. This does not mean that Latin is used almost exclusively by the scientific community. Nowadays people tend to resort to Latin words, abbreviations, fixed phrases and expression as part of everyday usage.

NOTE:

- [1]. Hristea, 1981: 12.
- [2]. Todoran, 1984: 137.
- [3]. Hristea, 1981: 56.
- [4]. Tiersma, 1999.
- [5]. Mihăilă, 2002: 110.

CORPUS:

- Collin, P.H., Jolliffe, A. (1992). *Dictionary of Accounting*, translated by Irina Nistor, 2000, Editura Universal Dalsi, București.
- ***, (2007). *Oxford Business Dicționar englez-român*, translated by Mădălina Vlad, Editura BIC ALL, București.

REFERENCES:

- ****Dicționar explicativ al limbii române*, (1998). Academia Română, Institutul de Lingvistică "Iorgu Iordan", Editura Univers Enciclopedic, București.
- Durkin, P. (2014). *Borrowed Words: A History of Loanwords in English*, <http://www.oxfordscholarship.com/>
- *** *Latin Phrases and Expressions*, retrieved 20 September 2016, <http://www.businessballs.com/latin-terms-phrases.htm>
- ****Online Etymology Dictionary*, retrieved 20 September 2016, <http://www.etymonline.com>
- Hristea, T. 1981, (coord.) *Sinteze de limbă română*, EDP, București.

- McKayB., & K, (2013). *Latin Words and Phrases Every Man Should Know*, (www.artofmanliness.com)
- Mihăilă, G. (2002). *Contribuții la etimologia limbii române*, Editura Univers Enciclopedic, București.
- Tiersma, P., (1999). *Legal Language*, University of Chicago Press, retrieved 20 September 2016, <http://www.languageandlaw.org/LEGALLANG/LEGALLANG.HTM>,
- Todoran, R., (1987). *Contribuții de dialectologie română*, Editura Științifică și Enciclopedică, București.

<http://law.academic.ru>
<http://www.thefreedictionary.com>
<http://www.businessdictionary.com>
<http://www.investopedia.com>
<http://www.merriam-webster.com>
<http://newscorp.com>
Washington Stare Legislature,
<http://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=26.12.175>
<http://documents.tips/documents/arbitraj.htm>
<http://newscorp.com>
<http://www.icaew.com>
<http://marketinsider.ro/dictionar-financiar-bancar/>

Abstract: *The world we live in is characterized by continuous change due to globalization, with new concepts developing in science and technology, new economic conditions and challenges that have a great impact upon our lives. In this world, where new words are constantly invented, coined and borrowed by other languages, is Latin a dead language still used in English and Romanian? The present paper has emerged out of the belief that Latin's cultural and linguistic importance is undeniable and numerous Latin words and phrases are still widely used both in English and Romanian, especially in scientific, legal and economic discourse.*

Key words: *Latin borrowings, Latin etymology, economic discourse.*