A GUIDE TO BASIC ROMANIAN AGRICULTURAL TERMS AND THEIR ENGLISH EQUIVALENTS

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Abstract. *In the context of globalization, a need arises nowadays for specialists in various technical and scientific fields all around the world to properly communicate with each other. For the last decades, the common language of science has been english. In order to convey the correct information, scientists need to properly translate technical terms from their native language into english. This is not always an easy task, since there is never a perfect equivalence of terms. Therefore, non-native speakers often encounter problems when using another language instead of their native one. There are similarities based on the same common latin word root for some terms in various languages, but there are also many terms which cannot be translated by using the same word or words in english as in romanian. Agriculture is currently one of the hottest subjects in terms of economic importance, specifically ecological or sustainable agriculture. Its importance has risen exponentially in the last decade, as industrialised countries are turning towards a more natural way of life. We encounter agriculture in almost every economical and even social branch. For instance, the highlight in tourism today is agritourism and food industry also relies increasingly on agricultural produce. The present paper provides a basic glossary of romanian terms employed in agriculture and their english equivalents. It targets not only researchers and academic staff, but also students on all levels - bachelor, master and doctoral studies, since they are bound to come into contact with specific english vocabulary either in their bibliographical studies, or through scholarships and internships. Moreover, the paper aims to shed some light upon the reasons behind the difficulties in translation and indicate reliable sources which will help researchers and students in their further contact with esp (english for special purposes).*

Keywords: *agricultural terms; equivalency; translation; English for Special Purposes*

INTRODUCTION

In the context of globalization, it is necessary for specialists in various technical and scientific fields around the world to accurately communicate with peers and share knowledge in their specific fields. In the past, the common language used around the world varied for different scientific fields. For a time, especially in arts and humanities, it was French. Philosophy and psychology flirted with German, since the leading philosophers and psychologists were German and Austrian. Currently, there are still a number of terms from these fields which are used as such in several other languages, for lack of a proper equivalent (e.g. "Angst"). As global politics has evolved and America has become a world power following in the footsteps of Great Britain, English has gained more ground in economic, social, cultural and scientific fields. Consequently, the common language of science has been English for the last few decades. In order to convey accurate information, scientists need to properly translate technical terms from their native language into English. This is not always an easy task, since there is never a perfect equivalence of terms. Therefore, non-native speakers often encounter problems when using another language instead of their native one. There are similarities based on the same common Latin word root for some terms in various languages, but there are also many terms which cannot be translated by using the same word or words in English as in Romanian.

Equivalence, as approached in the *Routledge Encyclopedia of Translational Studies*, is presented from the point of view of opponents as well as proponents of equivalence-based theories of translation. From the point of view of the pro-equivalence linguists, it is essentially defined as a relationship between a source text (ST) and a target text (TT) or between parts of STs and TTs (ROUTLEDGE 2011: 96). Koller explains that "equivalence is commonly established on the basis that the ST and TT words supposedly refer to the same thing in the real world, i.e. on the basis of their *referential* or *denotative equivalence*; the St and TT words triggering the same or similar associations in the minds of native speakers of the two languages, i.e. their *connotative equivalence*" (ROUTLEDGE 2011: 97). According to Pym, translation is regarded as a transaction, equivalence being seen in terms "equality of exchange value" thus becoming and "a negotiable entity, with translators doing the negotiation" (ROUTLEDGE 2011: 97). This actually means that, when the general knowledge of the foreign language user fails, the translator will have to find the English word conferring the correct meaning of the ST word in the given specific context.

It is essential for learners studying at technical universities to properly understand corresponding English counterparts of technical terms, which they encounter on a regular basis. For this reason, they rely on their English teacher to assist them in this endeavour. This brings us to the relevance of English for Specific Purposes, commonly known as ESP. Hutchinson and WATERS (2000) show that after World War II, when America became an economical world power, English became the international language of communication in virtually every field. Therefore, people all around the globe, whether employed in commerce or science, had to learn how to communicate in English. But the comprehension of general English vocabulary was not sufficient. According to Hutchinson and Waters, "the view gained ground that the English needed by a particular group of learners could be identified by analysing the linguistic characteristics of their specialist area of work and study. 'Tell me what you need English for and I will tell you the English that you need' became the guiding principle of ESP." (2000: 8). As COROAMĂ (2016:16) underlines, "teaching is powerfully influenced by environmental specificity". The fact of the matter is that ESP has to be learner-centred, meaning that law students need to acquire legal English terminology, whereas learners studying Agricultural Sciences are required to master specialised English vocabulary.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

One of the hottest subjects in terms of economic importance today is agriculture, specifically ecological or sustainable agriculture. Its importance has grown pervasively in the last decades, as more and more industrialised countries turn towards a more natural way of life. We encounter agriculture in almost every economic and social area. The highlight in tourism is currently agritourism. Food industry also relies more and more on agricultural products. More and more people turn toward their roots, and Romania has always been an agriculture oriented country. Young people are turning to a more natural way of life, which involves farming. But young people are also interested in protecting their environment, practicing agriculture in a responsible and long-lasting way. In order to accomplish this goal, they need to learn about it from up-to-date international literature, meaning they need to understand English terminology relevant to their field.

The present paper provides a basic glossary of Romanian terms employed in agriculture, aiming to supply their English equivalents. The study employed a corpus linguistics approach, as well as research methods provided by translation theory linguistics. It targets not only researchers and academic staff, but also students from all study levels (Bachelor, Master and Doctoral studies), who are bound to come into contact with specific English vocabulary in

their bibliographical research or by means of international scholarships and internships. In order to find accurate English equivalents for the Romanian elements in our corpus of terms, we used a specialised Romanian-English dictionary, as well as an English dictionary which helped in cases where disambiguation was necessary. In order to accomplish our task, we joined a team consisting of researchers in the field of foreign languages (ESP) and agriculture, which makes our approach interdisciplinary.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The first term we selected is one of the major key words connecting several areas of studies within our university: 'agricultură'. It can be regarded as an easy term, since there is perfect equivalence between the Romanian term 'agricultură' and the English 'agriculture', but the latter also has the synonym 'farming', which puts Romanians at a loss for perfect equivalence. We then proceeded to scrutinizing derivatives and compounds, listed in an alphabetical order: 'Agricultor' which is translated as 'agriculturist', as well as 'farmer'. Some of the compounds we found posed no difficulties when translated, a perfect equivalence occurring between the Romanian and the English concepts, such as: 'agricultură de subzistență' – 'subsistence agriculture', and other compounds. However, there was one compund which deviated from this general rule, namely 'agricultură durabilă', which is translated as 'sustainable agriculture'. A word to word translation would be 'lasting agriculture', an expression which cannot be employed in English. The proper English term in this context is 'sustainble.' The next word in our list is 'afânare', which translates as 'soil loosening'. While the Romanian term only refers to soil, the English 'loosening' may be applied to other contexts as well, so the addition of 'soil' is deemed necessary.

Furthermore, we selected 'animale domestice' – 'domestic animals'; 'aprovizionare' – 'supply'; 'arabil' – 'tillable' and 'arătură' – 'ploughing'. In these cases, we find a perfect equivalency between the Romanian and English terms. The next term, 'asolament' – 'crop rotation' deviates from the rule, with the need to break down the term and use a N+N compound in English, which basically stands for the short definition of the phrase; 'cereale' – 'cereals'; 'cerere vs ofertă' - 'demand vs. supply' (where the Romanian 'ofertă' – 'offer' is substituted by 'supply,' the proper term used in the English context); 'climă' – 'climate'; 'combaterea buruienilor/daunătorilor' – 'weed/pest control' (where again we encounter an adjustment of the Romanian 'combatere' meaning 'fighting' with the conventionally used 'control'); 'combină' – 'cropper, harvester' (with two equivalent English concepts); 'comerț mondial' – 'international commerce' (here the Romanian 'mondial' meaning 'global', 'worldwide' is replaced with English 'international'). The following, 'condiții de mediu' – 'environmental conditions'; 'conservarea solului' – 'soil preservation'; 'consum' – 'consumption'; 'cultivare extensivă vs. alternativă' – 'extensive vs. alternative cultivation' again did not lead to any difficulties, a perfect equivalence occuring between the native and the English terms, whereas 'cultură' – 'crop' brought a differentiation, i.e. the Romanian 'cultură' rendered by two different English words, namely 'culture' and 'crop', only the latter of which is employed in agricultural English. The same goes for 'cultură agricolă' – 'agricultural crop'; 'cultură de primăvară, vară, toamnă sau iarnă' – 'spring, summer, autumn or winter crop'; 'cultură principală, premergătoare, postmergătoare, succesivă, în amestec' – 'main crop, preceding crop, succeeding crop, successive crop, mixed crop'. In the case of 'domeniu alimentar' – 'food field', one must again take the field into account. A perfect equivalent for the Romanian 'domeniu' would be the English 'domain.' However, this term does not apply to the scientific field of agriculture, but to that of informatics. That is why the more appropriate 'field' is used in this context. The list then continues with 'echipament' – 'equipment';

'economie agrară' – 'agrarian economy'; 'element nutritiv – 'nutritional element' or 'nutrient'; 'exploatare' – 'exploitation'; 'factori ecologici' – 'ecological factors' presenting a perfect or almost perfect equivalency. 'Fâneață,' which is derived from 'fân' meaning 'hay,' is translated 'hayland', which is a N+N compound formed from 'hay' and 'land'. 'Fermă' – 'farm'; 'fermier' – 'farmer'; 'fertilitate' – 'fertility'; 'fertilizator' – 'fertiliser' display perfect equivalence in both languages, while in the group 'fungicid, ierbicid, pesticid' – 'fungicide, herbicide or weed killer, pesticide,' the Romanian 'ierbicid' corresponds in English to both the perfect equivalent 'herbicide' as well as a compound 'weed killer,' again an actual definition of the term. 'Grapă' – 'harrow' poses no translational issues, while for 'grupe de culturi' for the English 'crop groups' the proper variant for the agricultural context is selected.

The following terms: 'hrană' – 'food'; 'industrie' –'industry'; 'însămânțare' – 'seeding'; 'irigare' – 'irrigation'; 'îngrășământ (bălegar)' – 'dung, manure, fertiliser'; 'îngrășăminte organice naturale - mraniță, compost, îngrășăminte verzi, turba – 'organic natural manure - garden mould, compost, green manure, peat'; 'legume – vegetables'; 'livadă' – 'orchard'; 'lot' – 'plot'; 'lucrările solului' – 'soil works'; 'marfă' –'merchandise'; 'mediu natural' – 'environment'; 'microzonare' – 'microzonation' display perfect equivalence in both languages, as well as 'monocultură' which requires an English compound including the term 'culture' instead of the conventional 'crop.' However, the operation of employing monocultures, 'monocropping,' which has no Romanian counterpart, falls back on the agricultural use of 'crop'. In the case of 'necesar de hrană' – 'food necessity', there is an almost perfect equivalence, while for 'nivelator' the English 'levelling machine' requires two words: aside from the derivative 'levelling' which refers back to the Romanian 'nivelator' derived from 'nivel,' the English counterpart sports the addition 'machine,' which again resortrs to the definition of the term for lack of a term equivalent. 'Nutriție' – 'nutrition'; 'parcelă' – 'lot'; 'pământ' – 'earth, land' as well as 'păstrare, depozitare' – 'preservation, depositing' pose no difficulties. In the case of 'pășune' – 'grassland', we encounter the same composition principle as in the case of 'fâneață' – 'hayland'. The word plant and its derivatives, 'plantat' –'planting'; 'plantație' – 'plantation'; 'plantă' – 'plant' correspond to perfect English equivalents. However, when analysing its compounds, a few differences may be registered: 'plantă legumicolă', which is another phrase for the word 'legumă', is translated by the English 'vegetable', a perfect semantic equivalent, but not a formal equivalent. 'Plantă leguminoasă' – 'leguminous plant', on the other hand, displays perfect equivalency in the two languages. In the case of 'plantă furajeră', although in Romanian the term is made up of a compound, the English equivalent is 'fodder.' In 'plantă medicinală, aromatică' –'medicinal plant, aromatic plant or herb' one observes a perfect equivalence, just like in 'plug' – 'plough'; 'pom fructifer' – 'fruit tree' (with the variant 'bearer'). With 'potențial cultivabil' ('cultivabil' meaning 'that which can be cultivated'), we encounter another deviation. In the case of its English counterpart, 'tillable potential', the use of 'tillable' is preferred, which in Romanian is translated as 'arabil'. Our glossary includes terms like 'producție' – 'production'; 'recoltare' – harvesting'; 'recoltă' – 'harvest'; 'sămânță' – 'seed'; 'semănat' – 'seeding', 'sowing'; 'sistem agricol' – 'agricultural system'; 'soi' – 'variety'; 'sol fertil' – 'fertile soil'; 'sol nefertil' – 'barren soil', which display perfect or almost perfect equivalence. In the case of 'solă' – 'crop in rotation', 'field in rotation', there is a differentiation in English, depending on whether one refers to the crops used in rotation or the land on which the crop rotation is implemented. In the case of 'specialist' – 'specialist', we encounter the only instance were not only the same word as in Romanian is employed in English, but they also have the same form. In the case of 'suprafață înțelenită' –'virgin soil, fallow ground', however, the word 'surface', which would be the equivalent of the Romanian 'suprafață,' is replaced in both variants by 'soil' respectively

'ground,' in addition to 'fallow' – 'înțelenită' being replaced by 'virgin' in the first variant. The rest of the selected terms, 'tăvălug' – 'roller'; 'teren' – 'land'; 'teren arabil' – 'tillable land'; 'udare' – 'watering'; 'utilizare durabilă' – 'sustainable use'; 'zarzavaturi' – 'vegetables'; 'zonare' – 'zonation', basically display equivalence in English and Romanian, apart from 'utilizare durabilă' – 'sustainable use', where the same explanation as in the case of 'agricultură durabilă' – 'sustainable agriculture' applies.

Table 1 provides an overall display of the studied glossary:

Table 1

Romanian term	**English equivalent**
agricultor	agriculturist
agricultură	agriculture
agricultură de subzistență	subsistence agriculture
agricultură durabilă	sustainable agriculture
agricultură ecologică, biologică	ecologic biologic agriculture
agricultură extensivă	extensive agriculture
agricultură extensivă de subzistență	extensive subsistence agriculture
agricultură intensivă	intensive agriculture
agricultură intensivă de subzistență	intensive subsitence agriculture
agricultură specializată	specialized agriculture
agricultură tradițională	traditional agriculture
afânare	soil loosening
animale domestice	domestic animals
aprovizionare	supply
arabil	tillable
arătură	ploughing
asolament	crop rotation
cereale	cereals
cerere vs ofertă	demand vs. supply
climă	climate
combaterea buruienilor, daunătorilor	weed, pest control
combină	cropper, harvester
comerț mondial	international commerce
condiții de mediu	environmental conditions
conservarea solului	soil preservation
consum	consumption
cultivare extensivă vs. alternativă	extensive vs. alternative cultivation
cultură	crop
cultură agricolă	agricultural crop
cultură de primăvară, vară, toamnă sau iarnă	spring, summer, autumn or winter crop
cultură principală, premergătoare, postmergătoare, succesivă, în amestec	main crop, preceding crop, succeeding crop, successive crop, mixed crop
domeniu alimentar	food field
echipament	equipment
economie agrară	agrarian economy
element nutritiv	nutritive or nutritional element, nutrient
exploatare	exploitation
factori ecologici	ecologic factors
fâneață	hayland
fermă	farm
fermier	farmer
fertilitate	fertility
fertilizator	fertiliser
fungicid, ierbicid, pesticid	fungicide, herbicide or weed killer, pesticide
grapă	harrow
grupe de culturi	crop groups
hrană	food

industrie	industry
însămânțare	seeding
irigare	irrigation
îngrașământ (bălegar)	dung, manure, fertiliser
îngrășăminte organice natural, mraniță, compost, îngrășăminte verzi, turbă	organic natural manure - garden mould, compost, green manure, peat
legume	vegetables
livadă	orchard
lot	plot
lucrările solului	soil works
marfă	merchandise
mediu natural	environment
microzonare	microzonation
monocultură	monoculture, monocropping
necesar de hrană	food necessity
nivelator	levelling machine
nutriție	nutrition
parcelă	lot
pământ	earth, land
păstrare, depozitare	preservation, depositing
pășune	grassland
plantat	planting
plantație	plantation
plantă	plant
plantă legumicolă, leguminoasă, furajeră, medicinală, aromatică	vegetable, leguminous plant, fodder, medicinal plant, aromatic plant or herb
plug	plough
pom fructifer	fruit tree, bearer
potențial cultivabil	tillable potential
producție	production
recoltare	harvesting
Recoltă	harvest
sămânță	seed
semănat	seeding, sowing
sistem agricol	agricultural system
soi	variety
sol fertil	fertile soil
sol nefertil	barren soil
solă	crop in rotation, field in rotation
specialist	specialist
suprafață înțelenită	virgin soil, fallow ground
tăvălug	roller
teren	land
teren arabil	tillable land
udare	watering
utilizare durabilă	sustainable use
zarzavaturi	vegetables
zonare	zonation

Thus, of the 92 agricultural keywords selected for our glossary, 75 terms (81.5%) display perfect or almost perfect equivalents in English. Of the remaining 17 terms, 4 (4.34%) require a different English word or phrase (e.g. 'agricultură durabilă' vs. 'sustainable agriculture'), which conveyed the same meaning as the Romanian one in the agricultural context; 3 concepts (3.26%) represented by one word in Romanian were made up of two word compounds in English (e.g. 'afânare' vs. 'soil loosening'); in 3 cases (3.26%), from two possible translations, the one proper for the agricultural context was selected (e.g. 'cultură' vs.

'crop') and in one case – 'monoculture' – the distinction between 'culture' and 'crop' is not made, even though the translation of the operation of employing monocultures – 'monocropping' – which has no Romanian counterpart, falls back on the agricultural use of 'crop'. In 2 cases (2.17%), the Romanian term is represented by a derivative, while the English counterpart is a compound (e.g. 'pășune' vs. 'grassland') and in 4 cases (4.34%), the Romanian term is made up of two words, while for their English counterpart only one word was used (e.g. 'plantă furajeră' vs. 'fodder')

CONCLUSIONS

Nowadays, the common language of science is English. In order to convey accurate corresponding terminology, scientists need to properly translate technical terms from their native language into English. Problems may arise, since cases of perfect equivalence of terms seldom occur. This is why technical universities catering to future engineers include in their curricula not only general English, but also English for Special Purposes (ESP). Glossaries also help students and researchers comprehend specialty terms in relevant literature they are bound to access. Corpus linguistics analysis hopefully assists learners' endeavour by providing a Romanian-English glossary of basic agricultural terms, while introducing some dictionaries which may be of further assistance.

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