

## ANALYSING MACEDONIAN TRANSLATIONAL EQUIVALENTS OF “IN-HOUSE SECURITY”<sup>1</sup>

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### Abstract

The paper deals with the analysis of the Macedonian translations of the English term *in-house security* given by the students from the Faculty of Security in Skopje. The students were distributed a questionnaire containing, inter alia, a sentence with the term *in-house security*. The sentence was translated into Macedonian, except for the term *in-house security* whose translational equivalent was to be inserted by the students themselves. This task was given to two groups of students, namely, 40 students who have attended lectures in English language, and 40 students who have attended lectures in both English Language and System of Private Security. The goal of the paper was to determine the students' familiarity with the notion of *in-house security* and its Macedonian translational equivalents, taking into consideration its relevance to the students' field of study.

Keywords: in-house security, English, Macedonian, translation, meaning

### INTRODUCTION: IN-HOUSE SECURITY AND ITS DISTINCTIVENESS FROM CONTRACT SECURITY

Private security has been experiencing an unprecedented growth and development within the last few decades. The bearers of this process of

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<sup>1</sup> original scientific paper

intensive growth and development are legal persons that provide private security services as in-house or contract security. According to the data of CoESS, in 2013, in Europe only, there were 41,300 private security companies that employed over 2 million employees (2,017,313), most of them being employed in the large contract security entities (CoESS, 2013: 251-252). However, many large multinational and transnational companies also have their own private security service, or, what is commonly known as in-house (proprietary) security. In Republic of Macedonia, in 2015 there were 250 contract security legal persons with issued valid licenses and 131 in-house (proprietary) security legal persons with issued valid licenses. However, only part of them are active in the private security market in Republic of Macedonia nowadays. The number of employed in the contract security legal persons is 3,300 and additional 3,500 are employed in in-house security (Комора на Република Македонија за приватно обезбедување, 2016: 13-14). The very number of employed in in-house private security speaks of the importance of this security itself.

Proprietary security (in-house security) is defined as private security provided by a specially established service within a permanent legal person for its own needs and with its own funds (Спасески, Аслимоски, Герасимоски, 2017: 298). By this notion we understand any organization, or department of that organization, that provides full time security officers solely for itself (ASIS International, 2004: 11; Storm, K. et al. 2010: 16). As such, this security implies that particular company has its own security department, which is different from the contract security where private security services are leased or rented to another company (Dempsey, 2011: 34).

According to the Macedonian Law on Private Security the concept *in-house security* is termed *privatno obezbeduvanje za sopstveni potrebi* which means *private security for own needs*, and is defined as “the protection of property and persons in a legal person that is carried out by security officers employed by the legal person that has obtained an in-house security license” (Чл. 7, Закон за приватно обезбедување, 2012).

The Macedonian legislation on private security stipulates that *in-house security* can be exercised as physical security, or more specifically, as bodyguard and monitoring security. This is what is commonly called guard service that can only be realized with protection by authorized guards and with physical supervision over installed technical systems and devices, as well as telecommunication transmission of alarm signals to a security and surveillance center. So, the point of contact between the two basic types of private security is

only in the part of what is called physical security. The legislator intended to make a substantial difference between in-house and contract legal persons (also popularly known in Republic of Macedonia as private security agencies). Namely, if the legal person that has its own security also performs monitoring-patrol security instead of only monitoring security, by the scope of the powers, it would actually function as a legal person that provides security services, because with regards to the nature of the activity it would go beyond what is its area of activity. Providing in-house security means continuous presence on the secured property, without engaging additional patrols (Бакрески и др., 2014: 28-29).

Although different in status, proprietary (in-house) security and contract security are not mutually exclusive. On the contrary, they can be complementary, especially when it comes to securing major public events, such as sports, cultural, political etc. However, this depends on the peculiarities of the legislation concerning private security. In U.S.A., for instance, most of the companies that operate both in economic, as well as in non-economic sectors (healthcare, education, public transportation services and so on) can have both proprietary and in-house security if they need at the same time (Dempsey, 2011). Since both proprietary and contract security have their own advantages and disadvantages, the company or individual usually measures them and decides which one of them or both of them it will use (Fischer, Halibozek & Green, 2008: 51-54; Hess, 2009: 25; Holden, 2008).

Taking into consideration the fact that in-house security is a relatively new phenomenon, one should logically expect that Macedonian speakers studying private security have high degree of familiarity with the semantic features of *in-house security* and its translational equivalents in Macedonian. This is of particular importance for the students from the Faculty in Security in Skopje, whose future profession may directly be linked to this specific sector. Good lexical skills may significantly affect their professional success and advancement in their careers, eliminating the possibility for lexical misunderstandings and communication errors.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research was based on a questionnaire that was distributed to 80 students, divided into two groups: Group A and Group B. Group A comprised 40 students from the Faculty of Security in Skopje, who have attended classes in English language, while Group B comprised 40 students from the Faculty of Security in Skopje, who have attended classes both in English language and

System of Private Security, as two separate subjects taught at the Faculty. The questionnaire consisted of sentences and whole paragraphs in English containing various private security terms, but for the purpose of this paper and due to the limitations in terms of its length, we decided to analyze only the students' answers related to the term *in-house security*. The students were given the English sentence containing this term, and its Macedonian translation where they were asked to fill in the sentence gap only with the translational equivalent of *in-house security*. Our hypothesis was that the students from Group B would show better knowledge of the meaning of *in-house security* and would provide more accurate translational equivalent than the Group A students, since they have attended the classes in both subjects.

The students were given the following English paragraph:

*“This is not a safe suburb. My sister opened a garment factory here a couple of years ago, but has been robbed three times so far. She had employed a number of security guards to watch for all suspicious activities inside and outside the factory building, but she soon realized that **IN-HOUSE SECURITY** didn't help. It was neither efficient nor economical. Now she's looking into options for **CONTRACT SECURITY**. That basically means she's going to hire a private security agency that will provide a 24/7 security services customized to her specific needs. The agency will provide **SECURITY OFFICERS** and will install surveillance cameras and a sophisticated alarm system.”*

Then, they were asked to provide the Macedonian equivalents, filling in the gap below:

*“Населбава е небезбедна. Сестра ми отвори фабрика за конфекција пред неколку години, но до сега беше ограбена трипати. Вработи неколку чувари да внимаваат на сите сомнителни дејства во и надвор од фабричката зграда, но наскоро сфати дека \_\_\_\_\_ не ѝ помогна. Не беше ниту ефикасно ниту економично...”*

The collected data was then statistically processed and analyzed and the results are presented in the section the follows.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Although we focused only on one term, the collected data revealed high level of heterogeneity among the students' answers.

The answers of both groups are presented in the table below:

Translational equivalent	Group A	Group B
<i>vnatrešno obezbeđivanje</i>	8 (20%)	9 (22.5%)
<i>domašno obezbeđivanje</i>	7 (17.5%)	15 (37.5%)
<i>kukjna bezbednost</i>	3 (7.5%)	-
<i>obezbeđivanje</i>	3 (7.5%)	1 (2.5%)
<i>privatno obezbeđivanje</i>	3 (7.5%)	1 (2.5%)
<i>bez odgovor</i>	2 (5%)	4 (10%)
<i>domašna bezbednost</i>	2 (5%)	-
<i>obezbeđivanje vo kukjata</i>	2 (5%)	-
<i>domašen sigurnosen sistem</i>	1 (2.5%)	-
<i>domašno osiguruvanje</i>	1 (2.5%)	-
<i>kukja za obezbeđivanje</i>	1 (2.5%)	-
<i>kukjno obezbeđivanje</i>	1 (2.5%)	1 (2.5%)
<i>lično obezbeđivanje</i>	1 (2.5%)	-
<i>obezbeđivanje na zgradata</i>	1 (2.5%)	-
<i>obezbeđivanje za/na kukjata</i>	1 (2.5%)	-
<i>sopstveno obezbeđivanje</i>	1 (2.5%)	-
<i>vnatrešna bezbednost</i>	1 (2.5%)	1 (2.5%)
<i>vnatrešna domašna bezbednost</i>	1 (2.5%)	-
<i>čuvarska služba</i>	-	1 (2.5%)
<i>delovno obezbeđivanje</i>	-	1 (2.5%)
<i>nadvorešno obezbeđivanje</i>	-	1 (2.5%)
<i>obezbeđivanje na prostorot</i>	-	1 (2.5%)
<i>obezbeđivanje za sopstveni potrebi</i>	-	1 (2.5%)
<i>sopstvena bezbednost</i>	-	1 (2.5%)
<i>vnatrešna sigurnost vo domot</i>	-	1 (2.5%)
<i>vo kukja sigurnost</i>	-	1 (2.5%)

Table 1. Distribution of Macedonian translational equivalents of *in-house security*

As we have observed in the introductory section, in the Macedonian Law on Private Security the concept of *in-house security* is lexicalized as

*privatno obezbeduvanje za sopstveni potrebi*. Although the Macedonian equivalent is relatively long, descriptive and cannot be memorized immediately by the students and the Macedonian speakers in general, we consider the lexical solution offered by the Law on Private Security an accurate translation of the English term *in-house security*. Bearing in mind its length and its relatively short history of use, we were not really surprised by the fact that none of the students from the “English-only” group provided the official lexical solution given in the Law on Private Security. In fact, there was one student (2.5%) who answered with *sopstveno obezbeduvanje*, which is the nearest synonym of the officially accepted Macedonian term, and is literally translated in English as *own security*. On the other hand, it is quite disappointing that only one student (2.5%) from the group of students who have also attended System of Private Security classes gave the answer *obezbeduvanje za sopstveni potrebi* which is more or less identical with the term used in the above-mentioned Law.

However, considering the data obtained from the students regarding *in-house security*, we realized that we had to be very careful when interpreting the real meaning of the answers, both from semantic and contents point of view, due to the fact that in some cases we were not able to discern precisely what the students meant by giving the specific answers. Bearing this in mind, we decided that we could expand the range of acceptable answers by including some options that, in a broader sense, may be considered as synonyms for *in-house security*.

Consequently, we grouped the students’ answers into three categories: 1) acceptable translational equivalents, 2) translational equivalents unacceptable in the given context, but acceptable in other contexts, and 3) unacceptable translational equivalents, which resulted in the following:

acceptable translational equivalents	<i>obezbeduvanje za sopstveni potrebi, vnatrešno obezbeduvanje, sopstveno obezbeduvanje, kukjno obezbeduvanje</i>
translational equivalents unacceptable in the given context, but acceptable in other contexts	<i>čuvarska služba, domašno obezbeduvanje</i>
unacceptable translational equivalents	<i>kukjna bezbednost, obezbeduvanje, privatno obezbeduvanje, domašna bezbednost, domašen sigurnosen sistem, domašno osiguruvanje, kukja za obezbeduvanje, lično obezbeduvanje,</i>

	<i>obezbeduvanje na zgradata, vnatrešna bezbednost, vnatrešna domašna bezbednost, delovno obezbeduvanje, nadvorešno obezbeduvanje, obezbeduvanje na prostorot, sopstvena bezbednost, vnatrešna sigurnost vo domot, vo kukja sigurnost, obezbeduvanje vo kukjata, obezbevudvanje za/na kukjata,</i>
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Table 2. Classification of the answers given by both groups

Based on this classification, we obtained the following results:

	acceptable translational equivalents	Translational equivalents unacceptable in the given context, but acceptable in other contexts	unacceptable translational equivalents	no answer
Group A	10 (25.%)	7 (17.5%)	21 (52.5%)	2 (5%)
Group B	11 (27.5%)	16 (40%)	9 (22.5%)	4 (10%)

Table 3. Distribution of the different types of answers in both groups

Thus expanded, the category of acceptable translational equivalents also included the term *vnatrešno obezbeduvanje* which literally means *internal/interior security*, in this context within an organization or a company.

As far as the other answers are concerned, it is interesting to note that a number of students from both groups answered with the term *kukjno obezbeduvanje* or some of its variants: *obezbeduvanje vo kukjata, obezbevudvanje za/na kukjata*. One possible reason for the choice of this lexical solution might be the root noun *house* in the original English term, which is literally translated into Macedonian as *kukja*. The noun *kukja* in Macedonian basically denotes a building where people live, but in its broader sense it may also refer to a company, institution or firm such as *teatarska kukja, izdavacka kukja* etc. Consequently, the adjectival form *kukjen* primarily refers to a quality that is related to a ho'use as a building/place for living. However, in some collocations the adjective *kukjen* may also be used with reference to something

that is related to a company, firm or institution. The most striking example of this kind is the term *kukjen red*, which corresponds to the English term *house rules* denoting rules “observed by or within a particular group, residence, establishment, etc.”<sup>2</sup> Within the context of business, house rules refer to “companywide rules that every employee is required to follow, and violation of which may result in a severe reprimand or dismissal”<sup>3</sup>. This may be another possible reason for students’ choosing *kukjno obezbeduvanje* as a possible translational equivalent, although this collocation is not commonly used by Macedonian speakers. We decided to add this answer as acceptable, only with regards to the extended meaning of the adjective *kukjen*, assuming that the students’ might have used this translational equivalent by the analogy elaborated on above. However, further research will be necessary in order to confirm or reject this assumption.

Taking into consideration the arguments presented so far, with these two terms included, the percentage of acceptable answers in Group A rose to 25%, while the one of Group B raised to 27.5%, which still reflects extremely low familiarity with this concept among the students.

The term *domašno obezbeduvanje* is another interesting lexical solution. It is rooted in the Macedonian noun *dom*, which is literally translated into English as “home” with the meaning of “the place where one lives permanently, especially as a member of a family or household”<sup>4</sup>. *Domašno obezbeduvanje* is actually the Macedonian equivalent of the English term *home security*. The adjectival form *domašen* can also be translated as *domestic*, usually with the meaning “relating to the running of a home or to family relations”<sup>5</sup>. Therefore, with this meaning of *domašen*, the expression *domašno obezbeduvanje* typically refers to securing one’s home, as a place for living, and it is not typically used within the context of a factory like in the sample sentence. However, it might be counted as acceptable answer in situations when security officers are hired for securing ones’ homes, and for this reason we included it in the group of contextually acceptable lexical solutions. We could only assume that some of the answers could mean *in-house security* in its wider meaning and some of them could refer only to home security devices that people install in order to protect their property. A further research that could be aimed at more

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<sup>2</sup> [https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/house\\_rule](https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/house_rule)

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/house-rules.html>

<sup>4</sup> <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/home>

<sup>5</sup> <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/domestic>

profound clarification of these meanings, possibly by conducting non-structured interviews, could reveal the real meaning of these answers.

On the other hand, *domašen*, translated as *domestic* may also denote a quality of something “existing or occurring inside a particular country; not foreign or international”<sup>6</sup>. In this sense, the English term *domestic security* may be translated as *domašna bezbednost*, which was given as an answer by 5% of the students from the “English-only” group. *Domestic security* is actually a synonym for *homeland security* and with this sense it can be translated into Macedonian as *domašna bezbednost*. However, in the specific context given to the students, *in-house security* is unrelated to the concept of domestic i.e. homeland security, which means that the term *domašna bezbednost* was considered unacceptable.

The context of the given paragraph was taken into consideration when excluding the term *čuvarska služba* from the list of acceptable answers as well. *Čuvarska služba* in Macedonian is derived from the noun *čubar*, which is the equivalent of the English noun *guard*, while *čuvarska služba* actually refers to a group of guards employed in a legal person. Logically, *čuvarska služba* may be accepted as accurate translation of in-house security only in cases when it is clear from the context that the in-house security is used in its narrow sense, referring only to the guards themselves. However, in the context given in the questionnaire, the in-house security encompasses not only the staff, but also the security equipment installed in the factory, which means that a broader Macedonian equivalent should be used instead.

There were also answers that we considered totally unacceptable, such as the term *vnatrešna bezbednost* or some alternative forms that contained the noun *bezbednost* instead of *obezbeduvanje*. This is an indicator that some students are still unable to distinguish between security as a state, and security as a type of activity, as two completely different notions.

Another example of unacceptable answer is the term *lično obezbeduvanje*, which is more closely related to the concept of bodyguard or securing persons, and is not normally used within the context of securing premises, like in the example in the translation task where the security clearly refers to a factory including the personnel.

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<sup>6</sup> *ibid*

## CONCLUSION

The research results confirmed our hypothesis that the students who have attended classes in both English Language and Introduction to Private Security are more familiar with the notion of *in-house security* and its possible translational equivalents in Macedonian.

However, the percentage of acceptable answers by both groups of students implies unsatisfactory level of their knowledge regarding the semantic specificities of in-house security which is reflected in the diversity of the lexical solutions they chose when completing the task. Evidently, this aspect needs to be addressed in a more comprehensive manner when elaborating on the concept of in-house security in both subjects.

In order to get an insight into the heterogeneity of the collected data it might be a good idea to carry out a further research that will focus on the reasons for the students' choice of the given answers, based on interviews as a research technique.

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