

ANGLICISMS IN THE MACEDONIAN POLITICAL DISCOURSE: A SERIOUS THREAT OR A WELCOME ADDITION

Silvana Neshkovska

Faculty of Education, "St. Kliment Ohridski" University, Bitola, Republic of North Macedonia

Abstract: The widespread presence of Anglicisms in the Macedonian language is undisputable. Anglicisms are particularly conspicuous in political discourse as politicians seem to have pronounced tendency to insert English borrowings in their public statements, speeches, discussion and debates quite frequently. While politicians thus clearly attempt to reinforce the persuasiveness of the political messages they impart to the masses, the question that arises is whether the general public endorses or condemns such a linguistic strategy.

The aim of this paper is to shed some light on Macedonian native speakers' perceptions and understanding of a list of Anglicisms that have become an integral part of Macedonian political discourse. For the purposes of this research, a tailor-made questionnaire was conducted among Macedonian speakers of different ages and educational levels. The aim was twofold – to inspect the influence of age and education on the informants' understanding of Anglicisms, and to ascertain whether they perceive Anglicisms as a serious threat to the purity of their mother tongue or as a welcome addition that enriches it and increases its expressive potential.

The insights gained from this research point in the direction of a tacit agreement between political authorities and general public about the usefulness of Anglicisms in Macedonian political discourse, but they also indicate that the (lack of) understanding and (non) acceptance of Anglicisms used in political discourse, to a great extent, are conditioned by the profile of Macedonian native speakers, i.e. their age and education, in particular.

Keywords: Anglicisms, Macedonian, political discourse, social factors

About the author: Dr. Silvana Neshkovska is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Education – Bitola, University St. Kliment Ohridski – Bitola. She teaches a number of courses in English linguistics such as Syntax, Pragmatics, Contrastive Analysis and Phonetics and Phonology as well as Translation, at the Department of Macedonian and Other Foreign Languages. Her main research interests lie in the field of pragmatics, contrastive analysis, English language teaching and translation. She has published a number of research papers in various domestic and foreign scientific journals (e.g. *Lodz Papers of Pragmatics*; *Acta Neophilologica*; *Respectus Philologicus*; *Linguistics, Culture and Identity in Foreign Language Education*; *Teacher International Journal (IJET)*, *Studies in Linguistics, Culture, and FLT*; *International Journal of Language and Linguistics (IJLL)*, *International Journal of Applied Language Studies and Culture*, *Thesis International Research Journal*, etc.).

e-mail: silvana.neshkovska@uklo.edu.mk

ORCID iD: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4417-7783>

Copyright © 2024 Silvana Neshkovska

Article history: Received: 15 November 2023; Reviewed: 8 March 2024; Revised: 15 March 2024; Accepted: 20 March 2024; Published: 15 April 2024



This open access article is published and distributed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.

Citation (APA): Neshkovska, S. (2024). Anglicisms in the Macedonian political discourse: A serious threat or a welcome addition. *Studies in Linguistics, Culture, and FLT*, 12(1), 169-189. <http://doi.org/10.46687/ECMV6463>.

Introduction

The trend of borrowing linguistic material from English is not a new phenomenon. In fact, this trend did not start with and is not exclusive to the English language. In the past, in different historical periods, other languages such as Latin, French, and German exerted their influence on and imported some of their features in a number of languages they came in contact with (Karadakovska, 2021). However, the social, political, cultural and economic conditions at the beginning of the 20th century became conducive for the English language to take supremacy and to become the greatest “donor” of linguistic material at all times. Put differently, with the unmatched global prevalence of English, the English terms have become omnipresent in both professional and colloquial speech (Gerwens, 2017, p. 2) and indispensable to various fields such as technology, fashion, sports, music, show business, tourism, and science (Đurčević, 2021).

Although the linguistic material borrowed from English is mainly in the form of lexical items, still it is worth noting that the term Anglicism is actually an “umbrella” term that covers “any linguistic element adopted, adapted or calqued from English (either directly or via an intermediary tongue), or inspired or boosted by English models, used in intralingual communication in a language other than English” (Núñez Nogueroles, 2018, p. 220). Put differently, in addition to lexical items other linguistic traits (phonological, morphological, syntactic, orthographic, and semantic) are being infiltrated in the system of other languages (Thomson, 2001, in Ćorić, 2020; Capuz, 1997).

The use of Anglicisms in other languages is mainly attributed to the process of borrowing, still to depict this phenomenon simply as borrowing is not exactly accurate as that depiction suggests that the linguistic elements that have been borrowed, at some point, would be returned to the “donor” language (Aitchison, 2001). Even though this is not how Anglicisms function, the term “borrowing” has been retained and used in the literature quite extensively and persistently that the linguists seem to have agreed that after such a prolonged usage, it would make little sense to attempt to replace it with a more appropriate term.

Prestige or “being in”, the geographical closeness of languages, bilingualism and the cultural, economic and political predominance of a language (in this case, English) are among the main triggers that make the process of borrowing possible (Karadakovska, 2021). Nevertheless, this process is not always considered as necessary or fully-justified. Prčić (2005/ 2011) considers “justification of use” as a crucial criterion in trying to classify Anglicisms into distinct categories and, consequently, he distinguishes among: fully justified (if they bring a totally new meaning into the recipient language), justified (if they introduce a new semantic contrast), conditionally justified (if they offer a shorter means to express new or existing content), unjustified (if it is easy to produce a translation) or fully unjustified (if there is a word with the same meaning in the recipient language).

The other criteria that Prčić (2005/ 2011) relies on in classifying Anglicisms are as follows: type (obvious, hidden and raw), formation (trans-shaped, translated or mixed) and status (completely naturalized, partially naturalized or unnaturalized). According to Prčić (2005/2011), prototypically “the best” Anglicism, from the language-systemic, lexicological and lexicographical point of view would be the one that is obvious, trans-shaped, (fully) justified and fully integrated. In a similar vein, Onysko and Winter-Froemel (2011) propose a pragmatic classification of Anglicisms grounded in Levinson’s (2000) pragmatic theory and distinguish between: catachrestic Anglicisms which bear the implicature of informativeness (I-implicatures) and which are equal to the ones called *necessary* or *fully justified* by other researchers, and non-catachrestic which bear the implicatures of manner (M-implicatures) and which are identical with the ones called *luxury* or *not justified* in previous studies, on the other hand.

Irrespective of whether the entrance of Anglicisms has been triggered by prestige, the prevalence of English, or other reasons, and irrespective of whether their use is fully justified or not, research has shown that what gives Anglicisms special relevance in the recipient language is their potential to fulfill a number of pragmatic functions. More specifically, studies have shown that they can be used to express affect, irony, positive or negative associations, euphemism, to achieve clarity, precision, economy of expression, variation of expression, to create a foreign atmosphere, and to showcase prestige (Rodríguez González, 1996). In journalistic discourse, for instance, they are used in headlines to catch readers’ attention, to “advertise” the respective articles and to allow journalists to express themselves more variedly and nuancedly (Gerwens, 2017, p. 49). On the other hand, in political discourse, Anglicisms are employed when politicians wish to underline prestige; to appeal to the public and to attach an additional connotation of modernity, open-mindedness, internationalism and Western lifestyle to themselves (Kusevska, 2021).

Literature abounds with studies that prioritize investigating people’s attitude towards Anglicisms in their respective languages (e.g. Gani, 2007; Đurčević, 2021; Drljača Margić, 2014, etc.). Some of these studies demark a sharp discrepancy between the authorities’ inclination to oppose the infiltration of Anglicisms and to preserve the linguistic purity of their language, on the one hand, and the predominantly positive attitude and acceptance of Anglicisms by the masses, on the other hand (Gerwens, 2017). Đurčević (2021) underscores that, due to their brevity, simplicity, and international usage, Montenegrin speakers perceive Anglicisms predominantly as modern, informal, and suitable for different professional domains, as a result of which Montenegrin words are perceived as less modern and popular, i.e. as obsolete. Drljača Margić (2014) in her study discovers that Croatian university students depict Anglicisms as modern and popular, and associate them with informal and private language

use, whereas they find their Croatian equivalents to be more suitable for more formal contexts. Đorđević (2016) explores the attitudes of agricultural experts toward Anglicisms and their equivalents in Serbian and finds out that Anglicisms are preferred because of their internationality and simplicity both in terms of their form and meaning. Mišić Ilić (2014) too, looks into the interpretation and the perception of certain Anglicisms by native speakers of Serbian. In her study, Mišić Ilić points out that “the influence of English on Serbian has never been characterized by militant purism and segregationist biased tones against foreign words” and that Anglicisms have been accepted “as a normal, necessary and unstoppable modern phenomenon” (2014, p. 339). Still, she reiterates the “constant warnings and pleas for knowledgeable, adequate use, streamlined by the strong and sophisticated promotion of the general language culture” (2021, p. 339). In a similar vein, Gani (2007, p. 40) acknowledges that “the Italians’ zeal for lacing their language with English words is well-known and on-going”. Gerwens (2017, p. 2) tackles general public’s acceptance and propagation of English loanwords in German and highlights that the creative adaptation of English terms and phrases in German indicates that Germans, to a great extent, are actively and dynamically utilizing English to respond to their local circumstances and the globalized world. Yang (1990, p. 49) conducted a preliminary survey with German university students and discovered that the English loanwords were most often perceived as “customary”, “modern”, and “businesslike” (in Gerwens, 2017, pp. 30-31).

Another important aspect related to Anglicisms worth considering is the influence of the social factors such as age, gender, education, profession, etc., on the use of Anglicisms in the recipient language. González Cruz (2003) in her study focusses only on the use of not justified Anglicisms, by well-educated inhabitants of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, and concluded that the sociolinguistic variables, sex and age, have a significant bearing on the linguistic behavior of the informants regarding the knowledge and use of unnecessary English vocabulary (in Núñez Nogueroles, 2017, p. 9). Also, Đurčević’s (2021) study tackles the interplay between education and the use and understanding of Anglicisms and outlines the finding that Anglicisms have been frequently described as negative by some informants, most probably, due to their foreign origin, i.e. their generally lower frequency of use as well as due to individual informants’ lower English proficiency, i.e. their insufficient familiarity with the meanings of some Anglicisms, which eventually points to some sort of educational insufficiency.

In the Macedonian language, the number of studies that deal with this issue is rather limited. Lazarevska (2020, p. 115) discusses whether the presence of Anglicisms in Macedonian is justified or not and underlines that borrowing from English as a global language has not circumvented Macedonian even in cases when there are terms with the same meaning as the imported ones in our

standard language. As a result of this, according to Lazarevska (2020, p. 115), some Macedonian terms fall into disuse and are being replaced by English terms written in Cyrillic letters. Hence, her recommendation for the young people in particular is that they respect and use their mother tongue properly, following Koneski's¹ premise (1982) that the enrichment of the vocabulary should mainly be done on the basis of the Macedonian dialects and that borrowing from foreign languages should be resorted to only when absolutely necessary (Lazarevska, 2020: 119). Karadakovska (2021), relying on definitions of borrowings proposed by relevant linguists, showcases the different types of adaptation that borrowed words undergo in Macedonian by using examples of borrowed words not just from English, but from French and German. More specifically, Karadakovska (2021) exemplifies the existence of complete, partial and zero adaptation, depending on the morphological, phonetic and semantic parameters proposed by Filipovic (1965). Kirova et al. (2014) also draw attention to the necessity of preserving the Macedonian language which, according to them, is "invaded" by Anglicisms not only when there is an actual linguistic gap in the language, but also when existing Macedonian words are replaced with English for no obvious reason. She underlines that the importation of Anglicisms in Macedonian is not due to regular social interaction of the speakers of the two language communities, but a result of intensive exposure to computer technology, traditional media (newspapers, magazines and brochures), electronic media, radio and television, and notes that their presence is most obvious in the media, economy and politics. Janusheva (2020) investigates the influence of the English language on Macedonian in the area of scientific research and analyses the presence of Anglicisms in MA theses written in Macedonian and defended in Macedonian state universities. Her research shows that the English language has a significant impact on the Macedonian language on different language levels which, in turn, unfortunately points to a serious lack of knowledge of Macedonian on the part of the MA candidates.

Given that, to the best of our knowledge, no similar study exists in Macedonian that tackles the issue of Anglicisms from the perspective of people's perception and understanding of Anglicisms as well as the influence of different social factors on the use of Anglicisms, the study at hand is intended to fill in a small but significant scientific gap in that respect. Consequently, the paper aims to investigate Macedonian native speakers' perceptions and understanding of Anglicisms used in Macedonian political discourse in particular, as previous studies have shown that the realm of politics, alongside with journalism, are among the most open and receptive ones when it comes to admitting Anglicisms in its discourse.

1. The Macedonian renowned scholar, Blaze Koneski (1921-1993), "left an indelible mark on the Macedonian language through the codification and affirmation of the Macedonian literary language" (Damjanovska-Spasenovska, 2021).

Research Methodology

As stated previously, this paper aims at investigating Macedonian native speakers' perceptions and understanding of Anglicisms used by Macedonian politicians in their public statements and speeches. For the purposes of this study a questionnaire composed of 45 questions was tailor-made. The first three questions in the questionnaire were a combination of close and open-ended questions and were designed to elicit the informants' position regarding Macedonian politicians' use of Anglicisms. More specifically, they were intended to inspect whether people have a favorable or unfavorable attitude towards politicians' use of Anglicisms. The third question was aimed at eliciting the informants' position regarding the pragmatic functions of the English borrowings in the Macedonian political discourse.

The rest of the questions in the questionnaire, 42 in total, are of the closed type and they serve the purpose of disclosing the informants' understanding of the meaning of Anglicisms. In fact, the informants were provided with 42 utterances extracted from a small corpus of political statements made by the last three Macedonian Prime Ministers². Each utterance contains an Anglicism, and is followed by three ready-made options, i.e. potential Macedonian equivalents, from which the respondents were supposed to select the one whose meaning was equivalent with the meaning of the Anglicism in that specific utterance. In case the informants were unfamiliar with the meaning of some of the Anglicisms included in the questionnaire, they were also provided with the "I don't know" option. All of the selected Anglicisms are in the form of *lexical borrowings*, or more precisely *direct loanwords* (cf. Pulcini et al., 2012), as a more comprehensive research which would include the other types of Anglicisms would be far beyond the scope of this paper. More precisely, the direct loanwords included in the questionnaire are mostly nouns, but there were also verbs and adjectives, too. Most of them have been adapted either phonologically or morphologically to be more compatible with the natural features of the Macedonian language. Prior to including the excerpted utterances with Anglicisms³ in the questionnaire, the *Official Digital Dictionary of the Macedonian Language*⁴ and *Digital Dictionary of the Macedonian Language*⁵ were consulted in order to confirm that the selected terms were indeed of English origin.

2. The last three Macedonian Prime Ministers are: Nikola Gruevski (2006-2016), Zoran Zaev (2017-2020) and Dimitar Kovachevski (2022-) (see Appendix 1 for the links to their statements)

3. See Appendix 2 for a detailed list of the selected Anglicisms

4. <https://makedonski.gov.mk/>

5. <http://drmj.eu/>

To ensure maximum validity and objectivity of the results obtained from this research, the questionnaire was conducted in the presence of the researcher and the informants were not allowed to use IT devices, to consult dictionaries or other people regarding the meaning of the selected Anglicisms. They were encouraged to rely solely on their knowledge, and in case they were unfamiliar with a specific Anglicism, to have an honest approach and choose the “I don’t know” option.

Given the fact that one of the main aims of this study was to inspect whether age and education play a significant role in people’s understanding of and their position towards Anglicisms, efforts were made to include different profiles of people in the study. Thus, in terms of age, the informants were divided into three groups: younger people aged 18 to 30 (Group A); middle aged individuals aged 31 to 55 (Group B), and older individuals aged 56 and above (Group C). As to education, the informants were organized in three groups as well – individuals who have completed primary education (PE); individuals with secondary education (SE) and individuals with higher education (HE).

In view of the two overarching aims of the study – to inspect the informants’ position towards Anglicisms and their understanding of Anglicisms in Macedonian political discourse, four hypotheses were laid out at the outset of the study:

H1. Macedonian native speakers have a favourable attitude towards the use of Anglicisms in Macedonian political discourse.

H2. According to Macedonian native speakers, Anglicisms in Macedonian political discourse have mainly positive pragmatic functions.

H3. The older Macedonian native speakers (56 years old and above) have more difficulties understanding the meaning of Anglicisms than their younger counterparts.

H4. Macedonian native speakers who have completed tertiary education (and consequently were exposed to English longer in the course of their education) have a better understanding of the Anglicisms than the individuals who have completed primary and secondary education.

Evidently, age and education are not the only relevant social factors that should be taken into consideration when it comes to investigating the use of Anglicisms in political discourse, still given the limited scope of the study we decided to focus on these two factors.

The software package SPSS was used for statistical analysis of the data. The maximum number of scores the informants could obtain in the questionnaire, provided they opted for the correct Macedonian equivalents for all of the selected Anglicisms was 42. The scores obtained were then analysed by means

of the Independent Samples T-test, which was used to compare the means of the independent groups according to the informants' level of education, in order to determine whether there was statistical evidence that the associated population means were significantly different. One Way Anova and LSD Post Hock test were also employed to establish the existence of significant differences regarding the understanding of Anglicisms among the informants who belonged to different age groups. Finally, Chi square test was utilized in determining the understanding of Anglicisms on the part of the targeted age and education groups.

The next section offers an analysis and discussion of the results obtained.

Results

In total, 105 informants gave their consent to participate in the study and to fill in the questionnaire. The age and the educational profile of the informants were, as mentioned before, quite versatile. Namely, 56 informants were allocated to Group A (18 to 30-year-olds group); 38 informants to the Group B (31 to 55-year-olds), and only 11 informants to Group C (56-year-olds and above). With respect to the informants' educational background, 1 informant finished only PE; 41 informants were SE graduates and 63 were HE graduates. Given the difficulty we encountered in finding informants with PE who would be willing to participate in the research, this group was excluded from further analysis and discussion in the research at hand.

A) Analysis of the results with respect to the first hypothesis

In order for us to check the validity of the first hypothesis (H1. *Macedonian native speakers have a favourable attitude towards the use of Anglicisms in Macedonian political discourse*), the informants were asked whether politicians should use Anglicisms in their political discourse. As depicted in Table 1, the results suggest that **the majority of the informants do indeed support the use of Anglicisms in political discourse, which proves our first hypothesis correct**. More precisely, 48.6% of the informants approve of the use of Anglicisms in political discourse but only occasionally, and 16.2% of them approve of it always; whereas 35.2% are adamant that such linguistic behaviour is not exemplary and is unacceptable in political discourse (see Table 1).

Table 1. *Macedonian native speakers' attitude towards the use of Anglicisms in political discourse (according to age)*

		Should politicians use Anglicisms in their political discourse?			Total
		Yes	No	Sometimes	
Age	Group A (18-30)	11 19.6%	10 17.8%	35 62.5%	56
	Group B (31-55)	6 15.7%	16 42.1%	16 57.9%	38
	Group C (56-)	0	11 100%	0	11
Total		17 16.2%	37 35.2%	51 48.6%	105

What deserves to be stressed in these findings is that the age factor seems to play a very important role in people's attitude towards the use of Anglicisms in political discourse. Namely, while the informants in Group A are clearly in favour of the use of Anglicisms (even though 62.5% mainly support occasional use of Anglicisms, and only 17.8% are against it), the informants in Group B seem to be slightly more reluctant, as their opinions with respect to this issue are divided, with 57.9% being in favour (again the majority of them supported occasional use of Anglicisms), and 42.1% being explicitly against it. Interestingly, the informants in Group C were unanimous that such linguistic behaviour on the part of Macedonian politicians is not permissible. Among the reasons underlined in their answers in support of this claim are the following: *“People cannot understand them“* (*Луѓето не можат да ги разберат*); *“They are representatives of the people so they should use language understandable to everyone. Not everybody knows English”* (*Тие се претставници на народот и треба да го говорат јазикот на народот кој е разбирлив за сите. Не сите го знаат англискиот јазик.*), etc.

Table 2. *Macedonian native speakers' attitude towards the use of Anglicisms in political discourse (according to education)*

		Should politicians use Anglicisms in their political discourse?			Total
		Yes	No	Sometimes	
Education	PE	0	1	0	1
	SE	5 12.1%	17 41.4%	19 43.3%	41
	HE	12 19%	19 30.1%	32 50.7%	63
Total		17	37	51	105

On the other hand, as far as the influence of the education factor on the informants' position towards Anglicisms is concerned, the majority of the informants in the HE group, generally speaking, have a more favourable attitude towards the use of Anglicisms in political discourse than their SE counterparts (see Table 2). Namely, 50.7% of them are in favour of occasional use of Anglicisms in political discourse, as opposed to 43.3% of the informants in the SE group who support occasional use of Anglicisms. Also, the percentage of those who are explicitly against it is higher in the SE group (41.4%) than in the HE group (30.1%). Lastly, the percentage of those who support the use of Anglicisms always is also higher in the HE group (19%) in comparison with the SE group (12%). The more pronounced positive inclination towards the use of Anglicisms on the part of the HE graduates could be attributed to many different reasons, among which surely is their considerably longer and more systematic exposure to the English language in the course of their education.

B) Analysis of the results with respect to the second hypothesis

In order to either prove or refute the validity of the second hypothesis (H2. *According to Macedonian native speakers the pragmatic functions of Anglicisms in Macedonian political discourse are mainly positive*) the informants could choose from a list of potential reasons as to why politicians resort to using Anglicisms, which included the following: a) *to sound more sophisticated, modern and wise*; b) *to attract the attention of the public*; c) *to make their discourse more versatile and interesting*; d) *to make their topic more contemporary and relevant*; e) *all of the previously mentioned reasons*. Clearly, all these reasons underline a variety of positive pragmatic functions of Anglicisms in political discourse. The informants, however, were also encouraged to list additional reasons not listed in the questionnaire, if they deemed them relevant.

The analysis of the results proved this hypothesis valid as well. The majority of the informants dwelled on the positive pragmatic functions of Anglicisms in political discourse that were listed in the questionnaire. More precisely, 34.3% of them have selected the “*all of the listed reasons above*” option, 27.7% opted for “*to make sure they sound more sophisticated, modern and wise*”, and approximately the same percentage of informants (11-13%) selected the remaining three options (see Chart 1).

Pragmatic functions of anglicisms

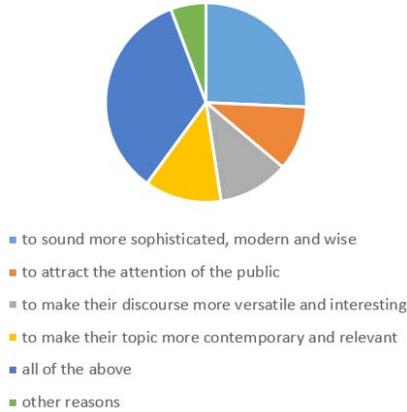


Chart 1. Pragmatic functions of Anglicisms in Macedonian political discourse

What deserves to be emphasised though, is that only 5.7% of the informants offered reasons which bring to the forefront certain negative pragmatic functions of Anglicisms. In other words, according to these informants, Macedonian politicians use Anglicisms “to make sure that people don’t understand them” (*За да бидат сигурни дека луѓето нема да ги раберат*); “to obscure the true meaning of their statements” (*За да го скријат вистинското значење на нивните искази*), etc.

C) Analysis of the results with respect to the third hypothesis

As explained in the research methodology section, the testing of the third hypothesis (H3. *The older Macedonian native speakers (56 years old and above) have more difficulties understanding the meaning of Anglicisms than their younger counterparts*), rested on the 42 utterances which contained an Anglicism each, excerpted from public statements and speeches made by the last three Macedonian Prime Ministers on different occasions. In order to inspect the informants’ understanding of the meaning of the selected Anglicisms they were instructed to make a choice of one of the three (potential) Macedonian equivalents accompanying each statement, in addition to the “I don’t know” option, which they were to choose in case they were unfamiliar with a specific Anglicism.

The results of the Chi-square test depicted below (Table 3) point to the fact that there are differences in the understanding of the Anglicisms among the three age groups of informants. In fact, statistically significant difference among the three age groups of informants emerged in 9 out of 42 Anglicisms (see Table 3 below).

Table 3. *Chi-square of the informants' knowledge of Anglicisms according to age*

	Value Pearson Chi- Square	df	Asymp. Sig. (2- tailed)
Ватц ап (what's up)	14.21	6	.027
Антагонизам (antagonism)	31.42	6	.000
Фотоволтаици (photovoltaics)	13.88	6	.031
Таргетирани (targeted)	14.53	6	.024
Мониторинг (monitoring)	13.00	6	.043
Квантен скок (quantum leap)	16.16	6	.013
Агонија (agony)	13.81	6	.032
Респектира (to respect)	9.10	6	.050
Имплементација (implementation)	18.57	6	.005

In order to determine the differences among the different age groups, initially each informant obtained a total score of his/her understanding of the selected Anglicisms. Then, the statistical method of data analysis ANOVA was employed to determine the differences in the understanding of Anglicisms among the three age groups of informants. The mean gained for Group A was 28.07; then 32.30 for Group B, and 26.20 for Group C (see Table 4).

Table 4. *Descriptive statistics of the total score of the informants according to age*

Age	Mean	N	Std. Deviation
Group A (18-30)	28.07	57	8.428
Group B (31-55)	32.32	38	5.933
Group C (56+)	26.20	10	8.574
Total	29.43	105	7.886

The fact that the value of the F test is 4.51 on the level of significance at Sig.=.013 leads to the conclusion that a statistically significant difference exists in the knowledge of the three age groups (see Table 5).

Table 5. ANOVA test of total scores of the informants according to age

Source	Type III Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Corrected model	526.184	2	263.092	4.517	.013
Age	52114.192	1	52114.192	894.660	.000
Error	526.184	2	263.092	4.517	.013
Total	5941.530	102	58.250		
Corrected total	97402.000	105			
	6467.714	104			

The LSD Post Hock test was used to determine among what age groups differences emerged in the understanding of the selected Anglicisms. The value of Sig between Group B and Group C was 0.009; whereas, between Group A and Group C was 0.009 (see Table 6 below). This points to the fact that Group C showed poorer understanding of Anglicisms in comparison to Group A and Group B, which is statistically significant. Moreover, this analysis indicates that there was no statistically significant difference between Group A and Group B. Hence, the general conclusion that could be reached in this respect is that the older informants (56+) displayed considerably poorer understanding of the meaning of the selected Anglicisms than their younger counterparts.

Table 6. The results of the LSD Post Hock test

(I) Factor	(J) Factor	Mean Difference (I-J)	Std. Error	Sig.	95% Confidence Interval	
					Lower Bound	Utter Bound
1	2	(4.25)*	1.598	.009	(7.42)	(1.08)
	3	1,87	2.617	.467	(3.32)	7.06
2	1	(4.25)*	1.598	.009	1.08	7.42
	3	6.12*	2.713	.026	.74	11.50
3	1	(1.87)	2.617	.476	(7.06)	3.32
	2	(6.12)*	2.713	.026	(11.50)	(.74)

These results **confirm** our third hypothesis that **the older generation of informants (56-year-olds and above) has lower understanding of Anglicisms in comparison to younger informants.** To illustrate this point let us have a look at the word *антагонизам* (*antagonism*) which was used in the following utterance in the questionnaire “*I believe that the brave and principled decisions I make... open up a prosperous future, not enmity and antagonism*” (*Јас верувам дека храбрите и принципиелни одлуки кои ги носам... отвараат перспективна иднина а не непријателство и антагонизам*). While Group A encountered practically no problems in recognising and selecting the correct Macedonian equivalent – *омраза* (*hatred*), and Group B in this case did even

slightly better, Group C was almost completely unfamiliar with the meaning of this word (see Table 7)⁶.

Table 7. *Frequency of the answers of the informants' regarding the meaning of the word антагонизам (according to age)*

		<i>Антагонизам (Antagonism)</i>				Total
		војна (war)	омраза (hatred)	нестрпљивост (impatience)	не знам (I don't know)	
Age	18-30	1	43	5	8	57
	31-55	2	17	17	2	38
	56-	2	1	6	1	10
Total		5	61	28	11	105

D) Analysing the results with respect to the fourth hypothesis

To ascertain the validity of the fourth hypothesis (H4. *The respondents who have completed tertiary education (and consequently were longer exposed to English in the course of their education) have a better understanding of the Anglicisms*), initially we considered the answers of informants with SE and HE. As mentioned previously, due to lack of sufficient number of informants who have completed PE, this category was excluded from further analysis and discussion.

The Chi-square test of the analysed data points to the fact that there is a statistically significant difference in the answers of the informants with different levels of education. Namely, as depicted in Table 8 below, a statistically significant difference in the understanding of the meaning of Anglicisms on the part of the different education groups was noted in the case of 28 out of 42 Anglicisms, i.e. in 66% of the analysed Anglicisms.

6. The frequencies of the informants' answers as far as the rest of the Anglicisms are concerned are not presented here due to the space constraints.

Table 8. Chi-square of the informants' understanding of Anglicisms (according to education)

	Value Pearson Chi-Square	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)
билатерално (bilateral)	4.61	6	.594
вати ап (what's up)	14.21	6	.027
ветинг (vetting)	11.64	6	.070
политички актери (political actors)	9.58	6	.143
интеграција (integration)	110.25	6	.114
аспирација (aspiration)	1.87	6	.936
дигнитет (dignity)	8.31	6	.216
калкулира (calculate)	6.94	6	.326
антагонизам (antagonism)	31.42	6	.000
транспарентно (transparent)	14.50	6	.070
фотоволтаици (photovoltaics)	13.88	6	.031
кофинансирање (co-financing)	8.54	8	3.82
таргетирани (targeted)	14.53	6	.024
мониторинг (monitoring)	13.00	6	.043
устайнљив (sustainable)	11.26	6	.081
мечра (match)	15.22	8	.055
конеџии (connections)	6.25	6	.396
верификација (verification)	11.66	8	.070
проекција (projection)	4.88	6	.558
барјери (barriers)	5.51	6	.479
едуциран (educated)	4.07	6	.667
супституција (substitution)	1.61	6	.951
импакт (impact)	5.83	6	.442
бустинг (boosting)	12.04	6	.061
квантен скок (quantum leap)	16.16	6	.013
компромитација (compromise)	7.58	6	.270
клучна (crucial)	3.54	6	.738
фрустрирани (frustrated)	8.25	6	.220
релации (relations)	4.67	6	.586
депарменти (departments)	11.46	6	.075
перцепција (perception)	3.24	6	.777
агиња (agony)	13.81	6	.032
легислатива (legislation)	9.87	6	.130
хармонизирање (harmonization)	4.89	6	.557
емпатија (empathy)	6.93	6	.327
респектира (respect)	9.10	6	.050
репрезенти (represent)	2.09	6	.911
рефлектира (reflect)	8.06	6	.233
капитални (capital)	8.85	6	.182
имплементација (implementation)	18.57	6	.005
контрапродуктивна (counterproductive)	4.53	6	.604
континуирани (continuous)	6.14	6	.407

determining the differences in the results of the different education groups, the statistical method Independent Samples T-test was used. The mean in the case of the informants with SE was 25.90; whereas, in the case of the informants with HE, it was 31.81 (see Table 9 below).

Table 9. Descriptive statistics of the total score of the informants' understanding of Anglicisms (according to education)

Education	Mean	N	Std. Deviation
Secondary education (SE)	25.90	41	8.717
Higher education (HE)	31.81	63	6.440
Total	29.48	104	7.931

The value of the T-test is 3.969 on the level of significance Sig (2 tailed) from .000 (see Table 10 below), which indicates that there is a statistically significant difference when it comes to the understanding of the meaning of Anglicisms between the informants who have completed SE and those with HE. In fact, the mean indicates that the respondents who **have completed HE have a better understanding of the meaning of the selected Anglicisms.**

Table 10. *T test of the total scores of the informants' understanding of Anglicisms (according to education)*

Independent Samples Test

		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means						
		F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
									Lower	Upper
TS	Equal variances assumed	6.587	.012	(3.969)	102	.000	(4.900)	1.488	(8.859)	(2.955)
	Equal variances not assumed			(3.727)	67.936	.000	(4.900)	1.585	(9.070)	(2.744)

To illustrate this point, let us consider the word *impact* which was used in the following utterance in the questionnaire: “*This trend shows the **impact** of these measures*” (*Овој тренд покажува колку **импакт** имаат ваквите мерки*) (Table 11).

Table 11. *Frequency of the informants' understanding of the meaning of the word импакт (according to education)*

	Импакт (impact)				Total
	влијание (influence)	реакција (reaction)	одговор (response)	не знам (I don't know)	
SE	25	3	4	9	41
HE	45	7	8	3	63
	70	10	12	13	104

As Table 11 above shows, 60.9% of the respondents with SE are well familiar with the meaning of this specific Anglicism; whereas, 71.4% of the respondents with HE successfully choose the correct Macedonian equivalent which has got the same meaning as the Anglicism in question. Similar results were obtained regarding the word *агонија* (*agony*) used in: “*We cannot say that at the moment but we are trying not to turn it into an **agony** but a productively spent time*” (*Тоа не може да се каже во овој момент, но ние се обидуваме тоа да не е **агонија** туку продуктивно потрошено време*). More specifically, the word was correctly interpreted by 43.9% of the respondents with SE, and 57.1% of the respondents with HE.

Table 12. Frequency of the informants’ understanding of the meaning of the word *агонија* (according to education)

	Агонија (<i>agony</i>)				Total
	чекање (waiting)	измачување (<i>agony</i>)	залудно потрошено време (waste of time)	не знам (I don’t know)	
SE	4	18	12	7	41
HE	7	36	14	6	63
	11	54	26	14	104

As expected, the results show that the informants with HE do have a better understanding of Anglicisms in comparison to the informants who have completed only SE, most likely due to the longer exposure to the English language in the course of their studies. *These findings confirm the truthfulness of the fourth hypothesis.*

Conclusion

The study focused on the use of Anglicisms in Macedonian political discourse. The aim was to dissect Macedonian native speakers’ opinions regarding the presence of Anglicisms in Macedonian political discourse as well as their understanding of a number of Anglicisms, which have definitely found their way into our politicians’ speech.

The results of the questionnaire that was tailor-made and conducted just for the purposes of this study were subjected to statistical data analysis, and they confirmed the validity of the four hypotheses set at the beginning of the study. The findings reveal that Macedonians, particularly the ones aged from 18 to 55, and the ones who have graduated from university, have a more favourable attitude to Anglicisms in political discourse than the older Macedonian native speakers (56 years old and above), who are adamant that Macedonian politicians

in their public speeches and statements should only stick to the Macedonian standard language. Unsurprisingly, the elder Macedonian speakers showed poorer results in comparison to their younger counterparts, especially those with a university degree, when it comes to understanding the meaning of Anglicisms used by politicians. The majority of the Macedonian informants who took part in this study are convinced that politicians use Anglicisms in their discourse because the pragmatic functions they perform are mainly positive; unlike, an insignificantly low percentage of the informants who think that Anglicisms serve negative pragmatic functions in political discourse.

One downside of the study is that a limited number of native Macedonian speakers agreed to take part in it. Also, as secondary education has become compulsory in Macedonia in the past couple of decades, a major predicament was to find informants who have completed only primary education and to test their position towards Anglicisms. In fact, only some elderly people currently might have such an educational background, but these individuals were completely disinclined to participate in a study like this. The study revolved around a limited number of Anglicisms used in political discourse. Given that Macedonian political discourse abounds in Anglicisms, it is possible that a different selection of Anglicisms in this research could have yielded different results. Finally, despite the encouragement to use the “I don’t know” option in case they were unfamiliar with a specific instance of Anglicism in the questionnaire, the informants absolutely avoided choosing that option and preferred to “try their luck” with the option that looked most plausible to them.

Despite the above-stated shortcomings, this small scale study, which at no point pretends to make all-encompassing claims, surely gives a clear indication regarding Macedonian native speakers’ position and understanding of Anglicisms employed in political discourse. Most definitely, in the future, studies much larger in size, both in terms of number of participants and Anglicisms, should be carried out to obtain more objective results regarding the issue at hand. The study can also be expanded to include other types of discourse, not just political discourse, and other social factors such as gender and profession, for instance.

Overall, what is evident from the present study is that the tendency in the Macedonian language on the part of both the political authorities and the general population is not towards language purity and shunning English borrowings at all cost. Quite the contrary, these results show that the use of Anglicisms is perceived as a valuable addition to our mother tongue that boosts its expressive power, despite the warning of some Macedonian linguists that Koneski’s premise about highly cautious borrowing of linguistic material from foreign linguistic systems should be obeyed and followed.

References

- Aitchison, J. (2001). *Language Change*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Capuz, J. G. (1997). Towards a typological classification of linguistic borrowing (illustrated with Anglicisms in Romance languages). *Revista Alicantina de Estudios Ingleses* 10(10), 81–94. <https://doi.org/10.14198/raei.1997.10.08>.
- Ćorić, M. (2020). Anglicisms in Croatian political discourse. *Master's thesis*. University of Zadar. Retrieved July 19, 2023, from <https://repositorij.unizd.hr/islandora/object/unizd:5202>.
- Damjanoska-Spasenovska, E. (2021). Anglicisms are a threat to the Macedonian language. *Sloboden Pечат*. Retrieved July 15, 2023, from <https://www.slobodenpecat.mk/en/anglicizmite-zakana-za-makedonskiot-jazik/>.
- Đorđević, D. (2016). Stavovi poljoprivrednih stručnjaka prema anglicizmima/prevodnim ekvivalentima u naučnoj terminologiji na srpskom jeziku. *Anali Filološkog fakulteta*, 28(1), Univerzitet u Beogradu. <https://doi.org/10.18485/analiff.2016.28.1.11>.
- Drljača Margić, B. (2014). Contemporary English influence on Croatian: A university students' perspective. In A. Koll-Stobbe & S. Knospe (Eds.), *Language contact around the globe proceedings of the LCTG3 conference* (pp. 73-92), Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang.
- Đurčević, J. (2021). English in Montenegro: Examining the Perception of Anglicisms and their Equivalents in Montenegrin. *SEEJ*, 65(2), 369–383.
- Gani, M. (2007). Anglicizing Italian. *English Today*, 23(1), 40–41. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0266078407001071>.
- Gerwens, F. S. (2017). *Anglicisms – Nein Danke? Quantitative and qualitative analysis of the occurrence and usage of English loanwords in contemporary German(y)*. Honors Dissertation in Global Studies, Hofstra University. Retrieved 18 July, 2023, from https://www.hofstra.edu/pdf/academics/colleges/hclas/geog/geog_gerwens_thesis_final.pdf.
- Janusheva, V. (2020). Vlijanieto na angliskiot jazik vrz makedonskiot. In S. Velkovska (Ed.), *Edicija vo chest na Blagoja Korubin Jazikot nash deneshen* (pp. 167-178). Skopje: Institut za makedonski jazik “Krstе Misirkov“.
- Karadakovska, M. (2021). Theories of borrowing, loanword typology and loanword adaptation. *Palimpsest international journal for linguistic, literary and cultural research*, 6(11), 109–125, <https://doi.org/10.46763/PALIM21116>.
- Kirova, S., & Petkovska, B. (2014). Anglicismite kako direktni zaemki vo makedonskiot jazik. *Zbornik na trudovi: Nauka i globalizacija*, 1(8), Univerzitet vo Istochno Saraevo, Filozofski fakultet, Pale.
- Kusevska, M. (2021). *Topics in contrastive analysis: English and Macedonian*. Shtip: University of Goce Delchev. <https://www.doi.org/10.46763/9786082447568>.

- Lazarevska, M. (2020). Neither English nor Macedonian (Short analysis of the English borrowings in the Macedonian language and their /non/justification). *Palimpsest international journal for linguistic, literary and cultural research*, 5(9), 113–123. <https://doi.org/10.46763/palim209>.
- Mišić Ilić, B. (2014). Is there life in Serbia without Anglicisms? A pragmatic view. In T. Prčić, & M. Marković (Eds.), *Zbornik u čast Draginji Pervaz, Engleski jezik i anglofone književnosti u teoriji i praksi* (pp. 337-355). Novi Sad: Faculty of Philosophy.
- Núñez Nogueroles, E. E. (2017). An up-to-date review of the literature on Anglicisms in Spanish. *En Diálogo de la Lengua*, IX, 1–54.
- Núñez Nogueroles, E. E. (2018). A Comprehensive definition and typology of Anglicisms in present-day Spanish. *EPOS*, XXXIV, 211–237. <https://doi.org/10.5944/epos.34.2018.20886>.
- Onysko, A., & Winter-Froemel, E. (2011). Necessary loans – luxury loans? Exploring the pragmatic dimension of borrowing. *Journal of pragmatics*, 43(6), 1550–1567. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pragma.2010.12.004>.
- T. Prčić (2005). *Engleski u srpskom*. Novi Sad: Zmaj.
- T. Prčić (2011). *Engleski u srpskom* (2nd ed.). Novi Sad: Filozofski fakultet.
- Pulcini, V., Furiassi C., & González, F. R. (2012). The lexical influence of English on European languages. From words to phraseology. In C. Furiassi, V. Pulcini & F. Rodríguez González (Eds.), *The Anglicization of European Lexis* (pp. 1-24), John Benjamins Publishing Company. <https://doi.org/10.1075/z.174.03pul>.
- Rodríguez González, F. (1996). Functions of Anglicisms in Contemporary Spanish. *Cahiers de lexicologie*, 68(1996-1), 107–128.

Appendix 1

Politician	Link	Date
1.Statement of Nikola Gruevski	https://youtube.com/watch?v=4LftWZ7Ue68	20.12.2011
2.Nikola Gruevski: The unity of the state has been attacked	https://youtube.com/watch?v=ZKk7UT2Px0w	26.02.2017
3.An interview with PM Zaev at HRTV	https://youtube.com/watch?v=T4ctQJPKKIw	24.12.2019
4. Prime Minister Zaev – providing answers to the press	https://youtube.com/watch?v=dO7JUIrK-eM	26.11.2020
5. A statement for the press of PM Zaev regarding the Russian comedians	https://youtube.com/watch?v=h7A-4WRtxKU	10.07.2019
6. Press conference of PM Kovachevski	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QWUA1oZKcFI	26.12.2022

Appendix 2

сустейнабл (sustainable); билатерално (bilateral); вату ап (what's up); аспирација (aspiration); интеграција (integration); компромитација (compromise); дигнитет (dignity); антагонизам (antagonism); калкулира (calculate); таргетиран (targeted); верификација (verification); мечира (match); едуциран (educated); бариери (barriers); бустинг (boosting); супституција (substitution); круцијална (crucial), континуирани (continuous), контрапродуктивни (counterproductive), имплементација (implementation), капитални инвестиции (capital investments), рефлектира (reflect), репрезенти (represent), респектира (respect), хармонизира (harmonize), емпатија (empathy), легислатива (legislation), агонија (agony), перцепција (perception), департменти (departments), релацији (relation), фрустрирани (frustrated), квантен скок (quantum leap), конекции (connections), проекции (projection), мониторинг (monitoring), кофинансирање (co-financing), фотоволтаици (photovoltaics), транспарентно (transparent), политички актери (political actors), импакт (impact), ветинг (vetting), интеграција (integration), департменти (departments)