

RECENT COMPOUNDS IN CURRENT ROMANIAN

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Abstract

There is an increasing number of recent compounds in current Romanian, most of them are now part of its vocabulary. Based on the lexis of recent compounds in current Romanian, this article explores them according to their structure (non-hyphenated compounds, hyphenated compounds and abbreviations), from the standpoint of onomasiology, orthography, orthoepy and morphology. The terms have elements pertaining to the specialized vocabulary of several fields: medicine, computer science, sports, telephony. The mass media and socio-cultural relations have played a decisive role in promoting these lexical creations.

Keywords: *recent compounds, vocabulary, structure, onomasiology, orthography*

Résumé

Le poids des composés récents est en augmentation continue en roumain actuel, la plupart en faisant déjà partie de la masse du vocabulaire. A partir du lexique des composés récents en roumain actuel, cet article les a explorés en fonction de leur structure (composés soudés, non-soudés et abréviations) < du point de vue onomasiologique, orthographique, orthopédique et morphologique. Ces termes comprennent des éléments du lexique spécialisé de certains domaines: médecine, informatique, sport, téléphonie. La presse et les relations socioculturelles ont joué un rôle décisif dans la promotion de ces créations lexicales.

Mots-clés: *composés récents, lexique, structure, onomasiologie, orthographie*

In common language, but especially in specialized languages compound words play an increasingly important role. The terminology of recent compounds concerns both specialists and linguists.

One can notice the presence of numerous recent compounds in DCR¹, the main source of our research. In Romanian linguistics, the compounds in current Romanian are researched and highlighted by many linguists, including Florica Dimitrescu², Adriana Stoichițoiu Ichim³, Rodica Zafiu⁴.

Our research is based on a corpus of about 170 recent compounds in the Romanian language, words used approximately during the last two decades. The analysis aims at different theoretical issues: onomasiology, orthography, orthoepy and morphology.

¹ Dimitrescu, Florica, Ciolan, Alexandru, Lupu, Coman, *Dicționar de cuvinte recente*, ediția a III-a., București, Editura Logos, 2013.

² Idem, *Dinamica lexicului românesc-ieri și azi*, Cluj-Napoca, București, Editura Clusium, Editura Logos, 1995.

³ Stoichițoiu Ichim, Adriana, *Vocabularul limbii române actuale. Dinamică, influență, creativitate*, București, Editura Universității din București, ed.I, 2001;2006.

⁴ Zafiu, Rodica, *Diversitate stilistică în româna actuală*, București, Editura Universității din București, 2001.

I. From a lexical standpoint, most recent compounds are neologisms, part of the vocabulary. Neologisms, most of them from English, imposed themselves in Romanian with their basic meaning: *buy-back* “repurchase under a contract”; *Davis-cupman* “tennis player participating in the Davis Cup”; *dog-sitter* “a person who looks after dogs while their owners are away”; *dog-sitting* “looking after dogs while their owners are away”; *guest-star* “invited famous actor (in a broadcast, film)”; *hot line* “a toll-free telephone number, available to provide various information or to request assistance”; *i Pod* “a line of media players from Apple Inc.”; *low-cost* “cheap, low-priced”; *master plan* “a general plan, a programme established to achieve a goal”; *must-have* “a compulsory, essential possession”; *play-off* “a system of competitions, in order to settle a tie”; *pop-art* “a firm of graphic creation consisting mainly in bringing together everyday objects (debris)”. All these definitions of recent compounds are recorded in DCR₃. The number of neologisms is constantly increasing in the current vocabulary.

According to their structure, compounds can be:

II. 1. Non-hyphenated, one-word compounds consisting of two or more elements: *aburomobil*, *accelerometru*, *acluofobie*, *acvafobie*, *aerobioscop*, *aerotaxi*, *afterparty*, *agrobusiness*, *agroenciclopedie*, *alcoolmobil*, *aquagym*, *aqualand*, *aromografie*, *câinofil,-ă*, *asasinometru*, *astroclimat*, *vendomat*, *audiobook*, *autocart (ing)*, *autotrailer*, *lifestyle*, *manelofil*;

2. Hyphenated compounds consisting of two or more elements: *after-house*, *acord-cadru*, *acord-surpriză*, *aeroport-gigant*, *afirmății-șoc*, *baby- boom*, *baby- sitter*, *baby- sitting*, *baby-talk*, *back-office*, *beach-bar*, *big-store*, *blow-job*, *blue-chip*, *blu-ray*, *box-palet*, *brain- hunting*, *bungee-jumping*, *buy-back*, *call-center*, *candidatură-surpriză*, *candidaturi-record*, *come-back*, *conferință-fulger*, *copy-paste*, *cotă-record*, *cover-girl*, *cvasi-imposibil*, *Davis-cupman*, *declarație-șoc*, *dog-sitting*, *e-learning*, *emisiune-pilot*, *euro-iluzii*, *firme-pirat*, *full-time*, *Gică-contra*, *glam-rock*, *guest-star*, *hair-stylist*, *hair-style*, *happy-end*, *hi-fi*, *hip-hop*, *hot-line*, *love-story*, *low-cost*, *make-up*, *martor-cheie*, *master-plan*, *must-have*, *old-boys*, *part-time*, *pelerine-alegător*, *play-off*, *pop-art*, *push-up*, *radar-gigant*, *sex-simbol*, *societăți- fantomă*, *ședințe-maraton*, *șiș-chebab*, *știre-bombă*, *tiki-taka*, *tranzacție-record*, *yo-yo*, *zi-test*.

A series of compounds, borrowed from English, entered the Romanian language in the non-hyphenated form *backing vocalist*, *bar mitzvah*, *big box*, *black hole*, *black list*, *body building*, *body painting*, *body piercing*, *boom swinger*, *breaking news*, *hair styling*, *handmade*, *haute couture*, *home cinema*, *in vitro*, *i Pad*, *i Phone*, *i Pod*, *jet ski*, *kung fu*, *latin lover*, *raw vegan*.

3. Abbreviations the graphic form of which varies depending on the number of letters. Thus, there are two-letter abbreviations: *anti-UE* = from *anti+U*[niunea] *E*[uropeană], *anti-UV* = from Engl. *anti-UV*-protection from UV radiation-, *anti-TB*, *BD-ist* = -comics maker-, *CA* = Consiliul de Administrație/ ‘Board of Directors’, *DJ*, *H₃N₁* – Avian flu virus-, *IQ* = Engl. *Intelligence Quotient*, *IT* = Engl. Information technology, *OK*, *pH*, three-letter abbreviations: *AAC* = Engl. *Advanced Audio Coding*, *ABS* = Engl. *Anti-lock Braking System*, *AFU* = *Aide au Freinage d’Urgence* – Mechanical brake assist, *AGA* = *Adunarea Generală a Acționarilor*/ ‘General Meeting of Shareholders’, *AH₁N₁*, *anti-PSD*, *ASR* = *Anti-Slip Regulation*, *BCA* = *Beton celular autoclavizat*/ ‘Autoclaved aerated concrete’, *BIG* = *B*[ăcănie], *I*[industriale], *G*[ospodina]/ ‘Groceries, Industrial Products, Household’, *BMI* = abbreviation in English for the Romanian Indicele Masei Corporale (from *B*[ody] *M*[ass] *I*[ndex]), *BMX* = Engl. *B*[icycle] *M*[oto] *C*[ross], *BRM* = *Bursa*

Română de Mărfuri/ ‘Romanian Commodities Exchange’, *BTS* = Boală cu Transmitere Sexuală/ ‘Sexually transmitted disease’, *BTT* = B[irou de] T[urism pentru] T[ineret]/ ‘Youth Tourist Office’, *ISU* = Inspectoratul pentru situații de Urgență/ ‘Inspectorate for Emergency Situations’, hyphenated abbreviations: *CD-R* = Engl. *Compact Disc Recordable*, *DAE* = Dobândă anuală efectivă/ ‘Effective interest rate’, *DNA* = Direcția Națională Anticorupție/ ‘National Anticorruption Directorate’, *EBD* = Engl. E[lectronic] B[rake] T[echnology], *EDS* = Germ. *Elektronische Differenzial-sperre* –Electronic differential lock-, *GPS* = Engl. *Global Positioning System* –, *LAN* = L[ocal] A[rea] N[etwork], *LSD* = Germ. L[yserg] S[äure] D[iethylamid], *MMS* = Engl. *Multi Messaging Service*, *MVP* = Engl. *Most Valuable Player*, *OMG* = Organism modificat genetic/ ‘Genetically modified organism’, *pdf*, *PIN* = Engl. P[ersonal] I[dentification] N[umber], *PVC*, *RAM* = Engl. R[andom] A[cces] M[emory], *RAR*, *RON*, *SPP*, *SRI*, *TAB* = Transportor Amfibiu Blindat/ ‘Amphibious Armoured Transporter’, four-letter abbreviations: *ADSL*, *AIDS* = Engl. A[quired] I[mune] D[eficiency] S[yndrome] – the English name for the Romanian Sida, *BCCC* = *Birou de Conducere, Coordonare și Control*/ ‘Direction, Coordination and Control Office’, *BCCO* = *Brigada de Combatere a Criminalității Organizate*/ ‘Brigade for Combating organized Crime’, hyphenated abbreviations – *CD-RW* Engl. *Compact Disc Rewritable*.

Abbreviations are used in different areas of current communication, mainly as part of specialized languages. We have mentioned abbreviations extensively used by a public undifferentiated by professional activities, as well as abbreviations which are accessible only to specialists in particular fields. Abbreviations represent a problem of specialized languages, i.e. of medicine, computer science, cars, music or sports.

III. From an onomasiological perspective

1. Compounds used in the legal field: *acord-cadru*, *declarație-șoc*, *martor-cheie*; in the economic field: *cotă-record*, *tranzacție-record*; in the socio-political field: *acord-surpriză*, *afirmații-șoc*, *candidatură-surpriză*, *conferință-fulger*, *emisiune-pilot*, *firmă-pirat*, *societăți-fantomă*, *ședințe-maraton*, *știre-bombă*; in the technical field: *aerport-gigant*, *radar-gigant*⁵.

We can observe the high level of expressivity of these recent compounds, which is not coincidental, but mainly used by journalists, since it has a definite and effective impact on the general public.

2. Elements of specialized vocabulary: in medicine: *AH₁N₁*, *AIDS*, *H₅N₁*; in computer science: *AAC*, *blu-ray*, *CD-R*, *CD-RW*, *i Pad*, *i Phone*, *IT*, *LAN*, *mp3*, *RAM*; -auto: *ABS*, *AFU*, *EBS*, *EDS*; in telephony: *ADSL*; in music: *backing vocalist*, *hi-fi*; in astronomy: *black hole*; in sports: *BMX*, *bungee-jumping*, *Davis-cupman*, *kung fu*, *MVP*, *play-off*; in the financial field: *blue-chip*, *buy-back*; in education: *e-learning*; in gastronomy: *foie gras*.

IV. Orthography, orthoepy

From an orthographic perspective, most recent compounds are written in one word. For instance: *acluofobie*, *acvafobie*, *aerotaxi*, *afterparty*, *agrobusiness*, *agroenciclopedie*, *alcoolmobil*, *aquagym*, *câinofil,-ă*, *asasinometru*, *contramiting*, *lifestyle*, *manelofil* etc.

A number of Romanian compounds and borrowings (most of them from English) are hyphenated, for instance: *baby-boom*, *baby-sitter*, *baby-sitting*, *baby-talk*,

⁵ Cf. Vlad Dragoș Topală, 2011, p. 63-68.

back-office, beach-bar, big-store, blow-job, blue-chip, blu-ray, box-palet, brain-hunting, bungee-jumping, buy-back, call-center, candidaturi-record, come-back, copy-paste, cover-girl, cvasi-imposibil, Davis-cupman, dog-sitting, e-learning, euro-iluzii, etc.

In terms of pronunciation, the analyzed compounds are read according to the English rules: *after-hours* [áftər-áúərs]⁶, *agrobusiness* [agrobíznis], *audiobook* [audiobúk]⁷, *baby-boom* [béibi-bum], *baby-talk* [béibi-tok], *backing vocalist* [békiŋ-vocalist]⁸, *call center* [kól sentər]⁹, *i Pad* [áipəd]¹⁰, *i Phone* [áifəun]¹¹, *i Pod* [áipod]¹².

V. From a morphological perspective, all analyzed abbreviations function as nouns. Most abbreviations are neuter: *BIG, BMX, CA, IQ, IT, OMG, PIN, RAM*, followed by the masculine gender: *BD-ist*. Acronyms are written without a full stop, following the model of other languages¹³.

Compound terms are both nouns and adjectives.

The spelling of compounds is essential. While analyzing compounds, we have noticed that most of them are written in one word or with a hyphen.

Onomasiologically, recent compounds in Romanian have a foreign terminology (English, French). The avalanche of Anglicisms that have invaded our language in recent decades and whose number continues to grow at an accelerated rate, is of topical interest in terms of the Romanian vocabulary. They are spelt and pronounced in Romanian identically or similarly to the original language.

Abbreviations, in general, are becoming increasingly used as speakers feel the need for a quick expression. The causes of abbreviations are: the convenience of speakers, linguistic economy, mimetism, the search for expressivity and originality. Graphically, acronyms are not followed by a full stop.

Acronyms justify their existence by their denominative function and the linguistic economy they achieve. Due to these characteristics, they are frequently found in specialized languages and journalistic style.

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⁶ Dănilă, Dănilă, *Dicționar ilustrat de cuvinte și sensuri recente în limba română*, p. 21.

⁷ Idem, *ibidem*, p. 35.

⁸ Idem, *ibidem*, p. 40.

⁹ Idem, *ibidem*, p. 60, cf. [kolsentăr], Vintilă-Rădulescu, *Dicționar normativ al limbii române (DIN)*, p. 137.

¹⁰ Dănilă, Dănilă, *Dicționar ilustrat de cuvinte și sensuri recente în limba română*, p. 161.

¹¹ Idem, *ibidem*, p. 161.

¹² Idem, *ibidem*, p. 161.

¹³Cf. Silvia Pitiriciu, 2004, p. 236.

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