

# PSEUDO-ANGLICISMS IN CZECH

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## ***STRUCTURE OF PRESENTATION***



- Anglicisms and pseudo-Anglicism in the literature
- Types of pseudo-Anglicisms in the literature
- Pseudo-Anglicism - between borrowing and neology
- Working definition and potential types of pseudo-Anglicisms
- The sample of Czech pseudo-Anglicisms
- A rundown of pseudo-Anglicism types in the sample
- Conclusion



# ANGLICISMS AND PSEUDO-ANGLICISMS IN THE LITERATURE

## Anglicism

**McArthur** (1992) **ANGLICISM** [17c: with or without an initial capital]. (1) An expression from English used in another language, such as *le fair play* in French.

A word or phrase borrowed from English into a foreign language (Oxford Dictionaries)

An English word or phrase that is used in another language: (Cambridge English Dictionary)

**Onysko** (2007, 10, 11): "As far as the international impact of English is concerned, the term *anglicism* is often used as a generic name to describe the occurrence of English language elements in other languages" / "while all borrowings [from English] qualify as anglicisms, not all anglicisms are in fact the result of a borrowing process"

**Filipović** (1995): anglicism – a linguistic borrowing (direct and indirect), based on an English word, a model or a source of an anglicism, and subject to (primary and secondary) adaptation on four levels: orthographic, phonological (transphonemization), morphological (transmorphemization), and semantic

**Görlach** (2005, xxvi): In this dictionary a word or phrase qualifies for inclusion if it is from English (including items mediated through English) and retains an indication of this provenance *in its form* - i.e. in its spelling, pronunciation, the relationship of its spelling and pronunciation, or its inflexion - in at least one of the sixteen languages sampled. Pseudo-English items are accepted and marked by an asterisk. > **Pulcini** (2006, 313): *Anglicism* is a term used to label a word which is English in form (spelling and/or pronunciation) but is accepted in the vocabulary of the borrowing language, thus excluding other forms of borrowing such as calques and adaptations (Görlach 1994; 2003).



# ANGLICISMS AND PSEUDO-ANGLICISMS IN THE LITERATURE

## Pseudo-Anglicism

**Duckworth** (1977, 54): [pseudo-anglicisms are] "German neologisms [Neubildungen] derived from English language material."

**Onysko** (2007, 52): The term "pseudo Anglicism" describes the phenomenon that occurs when the RL [receptor language] uses lexical elements of the SL [source language] to create a neologism in the RL that is unknown in the SL.

**Humbley** (in Furiassi, Gottlieb, 2015, 35, 36): **false loans/false Anglicisms** – linguistic borrowings which diverge from their foreign language model (elliptic *dancing* from *dancing hall*) x **allogenisms** [a subclass of false loans] – linguistic creations made in one language using material from another language; "... allogenisms make up a lexical class of neology based on non-native elements and as such constitute a significant manifestation of linguistic influence."

**Furiassi** (2010: 34), a pseudo-Anglicism - "a word or idiom that is recognizably English in its form (spelling, pronunciation, morphology, or at least one of the three), but is accepted as an item in the vocabulary of the receptor language even though it does not exist or is used with a conspicuously different meaning in English".

**Knospe** (in Furiassi, Gottlieb, 2015, 102): „pseudo-Anglicisms are at least partly conscious reshaping of imported English material, ..."



## TYPES OF PSEUDO-ANGLICISMS IN THE LITERATURE

**Onysko** (2007, 53-54; quoting Glahn, 2002, Plümer, 2000, Yang, 1990) refers to three types of pAs:

**lexical** – new coinages in RL (e.g. *Dressman* – male model)

**morphological** – involving shortening, clipping or ellipses (e.g. *Pulli* from *pullover*, actually suffixed clipping; *last not least* from *last but not least* – ellipses)

**semantic** – semantic extension or new sense in RL

He rejects morphological and semantic pAs claiming they are regular borrowings based on English models while only lexical pAs such as *Dressman*, “do not directly relate to English models”.

**Gottlieb** (Furiassi, Gottlieb, 2015, 62, 66) uses all three types mentioned by Onysko:

1. **clippings** (these morphological items constitute the largest group of pseudo-Anglicisms in Italian);
2. **recombination** of English morphemes (lexical pAs);
3. **neo-semanticization** of English lexemes (including semantic fossils and semantic neologisms) and their combinations (mixed categories)

**Gottlieb** (2009: 79) five types of pseudo-Anglicisms: 1. **archaism** (a form maintained in the RL (receiving language) after turning obsolete in English); 2. **semantic change** (found when a borrowing acquires a sense in the RL unknown in English); 3. **contamination** (when “hypercorrecting” English expressions); 4. **morphological change** (when, for instance, English words are shortened); 5. **jocular derivation** (when mock-English RL elements are mixed with English morphemes).

**Filipović** (1995, 138): “Pseudoanglicisms or secondary anglicism can be formed through: a) composition, b) derivation, c) ellipsis.”



## PSEUDO-ANGLICISM - BETWEEN BORROWING AND NEOLOGY

Alternative types of relationship between Anglicism and pseudo-Anglicism

- (a) Anglicism and pseudo-Anglicism are the **endpoints of a continuum**  
Gottlieb (Furiassi, Gottlieb, 2015, 16): “we find a cline from recognized pseudo-Anglicisms, e.g. *longjohn* for ‘carrier bicycle’ and *volley* for ‘volleyball’, to “standard” Anglicisms, including covert borrowings, e.g. *klumnist* inspired by ‘columnist’, as well as overt ones, e.g. *paper* used instead of the established Danish *artikel*.”
- (b) Pseudo-Anglicisms are a **subgroup of Anglicisms** (they contain borrowed English material); e.g. Görlach (2005) in *A Dictionary of European Anglicisms* (“Pseudo-English items are accepted and marked by an asterisk”).  
Czech linguistics does not distinguish the category of pseudo-Anglicisms at all, and subsumes what are elsewhere called pseudo-Anglicisms under Anglicisms.
- (c) Gottlieb (ibid., 93, 94): Are **all Anglicisms pseudo-English?**  
“By functioning in a non-Anglophone context and by being used by nonnative speakers of English, all Anglicisms are ... hybrid phenomena.”





## WORKING DEFINITION AND POTENTIAL TYPES OF PSEUDO- ANGLICISMS

Starting points:

1. Anglicisms and pseudo-Anglicisms form a continuum;
2. Anglicism is a borrowing, a loanword [transfer];
3. pseudo-Anglicism is a loanword and a neologism [transfer + neology].

Differential definition

### Anglicism

as a **loanword** is marked by:

*formal adaptation* (degrees: quotative guest-word, foreign word, integrated loanword)

*inflectional adaptation* (to perform syntactic functions)

*semantic narrowing* (but not shift)

*word-class inheritance* (no transposition)

Special subtypes: *lexical calques* (UK, Spojené království), *hybrid lexical calques* (eco-přátelský, AppleNovinky.cz), *semantic calques* (mouse > myš)

## WORKING DEFINITION AND POTENTIAL TYPES OF PSEUDO-ANGLICISMS

### Pseudo-Anglicism

as a **loan-word** exhibits:

*formal adaptation* (typically quotative guest-word or foreign word)  
*inflectional adaptation* ("transinflection")

as a **neologism** undergoes:

*lexical word-formation* - typically combined with  
*word-class transposition* (noun > verb, verb > noun. etc., but also subcategory  
 transposition: noun [object] > noun [agent], *web* > *webař*)

Types of **word-formation processes** envisaged:

*derivation* (incl. evaluative morphology), *compounding* (subtypes: stem-compounding, hybrid compounding), *shortening* (clipping, ellipsis, abbreviation, mixed type: suffixed clipping, e.g. German *Pulli*, blending), *semantic divergence* (semantic shift, semantic stagnation, i.e. archaisms), *formal modification* (*soráč*)

Notes:

Difference btw semantic calque (transfer of meaning from source language) x semantic shift (semantic extension in recipient language)

The criterion of in/comprehensibility to native English speakers inapplicable to both Anglicisms and pseudo-Anglicism due to adaptation and neology



## THE SAMPLE OF CZECH PSEUDO-ANGLICISMS

Sources:

- SSJČ (words with the etymological label angl.)
- available lists of Anglicisms
- Neomat (database of Czech neologisms)
- the Czech corpus SYN2015 (alphabetical list of word forms)
- randomly found expressions in newspapers, on the web, etc.

Size of the sample: ca 300 items

Composition (types appearing in the sample)



# A RUNDOWN OF PSEUDO-ANGLICISM TYPES IN THE SAMPLE

## COMPOUNDING

**compounding proper:** *baby box* (baby hatch), *Opencard* (OysterCard), *Closedcard*, *CzechPOINT* (also word play, cf. check-point), *CzechRun*, *CzechTek*, *videospot* (video clip), *tramvaj/ tramway* (streetcar, tram), *dolaropesimista*, *English haircut* (imaginary haircut style), *finišman* (anchorman, last runner in a relay race), *happyend*

**hybrid compounding proper:** *Army den*, *After kapr párty*, *BabyKruček*, *myšojoystick*, *freehra*, *JobDnes* (newspaper column), *developerskofinanční*

**combining-form compounding:** *autokar* (coach), *autostop* (hitchhiking), *CineStar*, *motorest* (roadside café)

**hybrid combining-form compounding:** *eurolegrace*, *iDNES* (inewspaper), *gigacírkev*, *gastrokroužek*

**ellipsis and compounding:** *bigbeat* (from beat music)



# A RUNDOWN OF PSEUDO-ANGLICISM TYPES IN THE SAMPLE

## DERIVATION

from words / word stems:

**nouns** (agent noun): *tenista*, *abilympionik*, *aboridžinec / aboriginálec*, *androidista / androidář*, *medžikář*, *frontendista*, *backendista*, *webař*, *joggingista*, *databázista*, *in-housista*, *autostopař*, *cloudař*, *fanda / fanoušek*; (place name) *droniště*; (objects) *bojler* (water heater), *stopky* (stop-watch), (activity) *kitování / kajtování*, *adventurka*, (abstract noun) *internetovost*, *gentlemanství*

**diminutives:** *šopík* (small shop), *berdík* (birdie), *bejbísek*, *fejsbůček*, *fejsíček* (Facebook)

**adjectives:** *airhokejový*, *antimalwarový*, *antiphishingový*, *antispamový*, *backendový*, *cracknutý*, *fleškovitý*, *lúzrovský* (relating to a loser), *insiderský*, *insidový*, *krešovaný* (crash), *lowcostový*, *nordic walkingový*

**verbs:** *manažerovat*, *erasmovat*, *spoilerovat*, *fangirlovat*, *ajtákovat*, *dredovatět*



# A RUNDOWN OF PSEUDO-ANGLICISM TYPES IN THE SAMPLE

## DERIVATION

**from acronyms:** *larpista, larpový, Larpvíkend* (LARP = live action role-playing game)

**from initialisms using Czech pronunciation:** *ádéhád'ák* (ADHD), *bécéčko* (BC = base camp), *elpégéčko* (LPG), *MPVéčko*

**from initialisms using English pronunciation:** *ajdýčko* (ID), *elpíčko* (LP), *empík* (MP), *aico, ajsko, ajsíkjúovat* (ICQ), *bíbísízace* (BBC), *ITzace, ufoun, ufounství* (from UFO; UFO crew member; UFO mania)

**hybrid derivation:** *nízkobadžetový* (low-budget), *novobluegrassový*



# A RUNDOWN OF PSEUDO-ANGLICISM TYPES IN THE SAMPLE

## SHORTENING

### ellipsis

*station* [stejšn] (from station wagon US), *virál* (a viral video), *bermudy* (Bermuda shorts), *break* (from breakdance), *centr* (centering pass)

**clipping:** *box* (boxing)

combined processes:

**ellipsis and derivation:** *baseballka* (baseball cap/bat), *eventák* (event manager), *bigboš* (from *beat music*, ellipsis, derivation, formal modification), *crossáč* (cross-country race, runner), *douglaska* (Douglas fir), *nordikový* (Nordic walking)

**clipping and derivation:** *dredař, dredovec* (sb with dreads), *androš* (underground member)

**ellipsis and derivation and lexical calque:** *mrkváče* (carrot trousers, carrot = mrkev)



# A RUNDOWN OF PSEUDO-ANGLICISM TYPES IN THE SAMPLE

## SEMANTIC DIVERGENCE

### semantic shift

*trenér* (coach), *step* (tap-dancing), *body* (bodice), *night club* (extended meaning 'erotic club'), *Rifle* (ellipsis and generic shift from Rifle Jeans), *smokink* (ellipsis and shift, from smoking jacket), *dres* (soccer strip, outfit, Jersey), *hosteska* (from *hostess*, meaning stewardess), *sprejer* (graffiti artist, tagger), *smeč*, *smečovat* (from 'smash', in basketball 'slam dunk', in volleyball 'spike'), *pucle* (from 'puzzle', meaning 'jigsaw'), *mixér* (meaning *blender*). *kiks* (mistake, slip)

### archaism

*WC* (lavatory; from the dated expression 'water closet' for a flush toilet), *five o'clock (tea)* (afternoon tea)



# A RUNDOWN OF PSEUDO-ANGLICISM TYPES IN THE SAMPLE

## SPECIAL CASES:

**SPELLING PSEUDO-ANGLICISMS:** *Yatchmen* (Ječmeni, a rock band, ječmen = barley)

**SOUND PSEUDO-ANGLICISMS:** *studio Palm Off* (Divadlo pod Palmovkou)

**SYNTACTIC PSEUDO-ANGLICISMS** – Czech compounds with English word order: *Sazka Aréna*, *DIY režim*, *key account manažer*; unusual case (English word order and derivation by English suffix): *VODING Hranice* (voda [water] + ing; name of a water management engineering company based in the town of Hranice)

**FORMAL MODIFICATION:** *čupčák* (cupcake), *gentlas/džentlas*, *soráč* (sorry)

**WORD PLAY:** *cooltura*, *coolturní* (cool, kultura), *Funtazies*, *maršmeloun* (marshmallow, water melon)







*Hybrid compound  
with unintended  
meaning*



## CONCLUSION

- working definition and selection criteria generally easy to apply
- distinction between transinflection and neological word-formation is, however, difficult to make with an inflectional language such as Czech (which may influence the composition of the sample)
- the sample includes practically all expected types (and some special ones: sound, spelling pseudo-Anglicisms)
- the dominant group – morphological neologisms, the most frequent among them are affixal types (word-class transposition, evaluative morphology)
- compounds less frequent (preference for them generally smaller in Czech than in English), and so are various types of shortening and creative modification of form
- the incidence of neosemanticism (semantic shift) relatively low (cf. Gottlieb, 2015), archaisms found only in old loanwords – due to better knowledge of English (?)
- an interesting phenomenon is the frequent mixing of various processes
- a great many (most?) pseudo-Anglicisms are strongly marked pragmatically and stylistically (evaluative, emotional, ironic, etc., colloquial to substandard, slang)
- the high frequency of pseudo-Anglicisms not only an interesting phenomenon illustrating language contact and interference, but of potentially wider significance – the easy acceptance of English words and their immediate reworking independent of the English original adds more weight to Gottlieb's (2006) observation that “the danger remains that the world is reconceptualized in Anglo-American terms”

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