

CHAPTER FIVE

Conclusion

5.1 Summary

This research found certain morphological patterns in loan blend processes, where the Spanish language borrows an English verb due to the absence of this lexical unit in the borrowing language lexicon and produces an anglicism as the result of this morphological process. Even though this phenomenon exists in other fields, it is the field of Informatics which takes the lead on borrowing lexical units from English. For this reason, Spanish computer language has had the highest impact as far as the number of anglicisms that have been included in this field. The vast majority of these loan blends can be divided into two major categories (see appendix 1): one in which the English verb is left intact as the free morpheme, followed by the suffix /-ear/, composed of an epenthetic vowel sound /e/ and the Spanish verbal ending with the highest frequency: /-ar/. The second category is composed of anglicisms in which the English root word has been modified in some way to adjust to the phonological requirements of the Spanish language, and then followed by the same /-ear/ suffix.

After looking at other similar researches in this field, this researcher was able to conclude that the reason these morphological changes take place in the Spanish language is due to the productivity level of these words. Besides highlighting that English forms tend to be shorter than Spanish forms, which is a major aspect of language economy and therefore its productivity, there were other features of these loan blends that also indicate productivity as the main reason for their use. The first one is the fact that the Spanish verbal ending /-ar/ has the highest frequency in that language, hence the reason why users of the language adopt the use of this verbal ending when

they face the need to borrow a lexical unit from English. Almost instinctively, following the internal grammar system present in human beings, and proposed by the generative grammar school of thought, the users of the language choose the lexical unit with the highest frequency. The second one is the use of the allomorphic verbal ending /-ear/, which includes an epenthetic /e/ that bridges the English root word and the /-ar/ suffix. This morphological process also follows a productive behavior, as users are usually normally introduced to these terms as nouns. The Spanish language derives verbs from nouns by adding the /-ear/ suffix to them, and therefore users that come to know anglicisms in computer language in the form of nouns, immediately transform them into verbs by following the same procedure. In these cases, a loan blend takes place by combining grammatical elements of both languages. Hence, English lexical units become Spanish verbal anglicisms, whether they are recognized by the RAE or not. All these new terms are vastly used in the field of computer language; for most of them, an alternative Spanish word is available. Nevertheless, users usually opt to use the loan blends derived from the English language due to their generally shorter form, as well as for their productive features. Overall, it is much easier and faster for the users of the Spanish language to borrow and blend an English word, than to calque it or to coin a new term to fill the lexical gaps found in this language, especially in the Informatics field. This is an extremely dynamic field where language cannot keep up with the speed of technology changes. For this reason, users cannot wait for natural language change to take place and instead, they change the language deliberately. It has been observed that this phenomenon occurs in all languages that come in contact with English, which nowadays are the majority of them, moreover in the field of Informatics.

5.2 Recommendations for Future Studies

This researcher recommends a future study to measure the token frequency of words to establish which form has the highest frequency and therefore determine their degree of productivity. This could be a good indicator for potential neologisms that institutions such as the RAE would likely look into when considering the inclusion of new anglicisms into the Spanish dictionary.

5.3 Limitations of the Study

This study has been limited to the study of morphological changes found in verbal forms in Spanish computer language. This phenomenon occurs in every language that has been in contact with English, as this language dominates the field of Informatics. Therefore, this study restricted itself to the study of these changes in one language; the Spanish language in this case. Also, these transformations can be observed not just in verbal forms but also in nouns and other (parts of language). However, this study focuses on verbal forms only, as a study that encompasses transformations in all parts of language would prove to be too lengthy for this research. Furthermore, this research is limited to the study of verbal formations found in the field of Informatics only, as this is an area rich in anglicisms. Anglicisms occur in other fields such as medicine, economics, etc, but this research is limited to the study of data obtained only from the context of computer language.

5.4 Conclusion

The analysis of the corpus yielded a list of phonetic features that were found in the adaptation processes used in loan blends. This study took in consideration the phonetic restraints of the Spanish language when borrowing an English word and identified the adjustments needed to make these English words conform to the phonetic requirements of the language.

In a morphological level, this study was able to identify the changes made to English verbs in order to blend with Spanish morphemes in the creation of anglicisms. The main findings in this field were the use of the /-ar/ verbal ending and the use of an epenthetic vowel sound /e/ in the construction of anglicized verbs in the infinitive mode.

Lastly, this study identified linguistic elements in the corpus that were linked to the concept of morphological productivity, such as word frequency, the preference for shorter forms that follow the principle of language economy, and the internalized language notion proposed by Chomskyan generative language theory, which justifies the use of pre-existing and prevalent language structures in word formation processes.