

# The Proliferation of the English *-ing* in the Czech Vocabulary

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## Abstract

The paper deals with English loanwords in Czech, especially those ending in the suffix *-ing*, such as *briefing*, *leasing*, *windsurfing* etc. Its aim is to compare their lexicographical description with the data from the Czech National Corpus. These anglicisms are studied from the orthographic, morphological, derivational and partly semantic aspects. The spelling of this specific group of loanwords (showing three degrees of adaptation) appears to depend on their frequency, style (terminology vs. common usage) or their relation to a particular profession or aspect of life and culture in the English-speaking countries. The influence of consonants and vowels on their phonetic and morphemic environment needs to be examined as an important factor. The relation to previous borrowings with the same stem is also important for the future adaptation of the loanword (cf. *inženýring*). This approach will lead to a more refined differentiation in the treatment of anglicisms in future Czech dictionaries that will take into account the tendencies of language development.

## 0 Topic

This paper deals with loanwords in Czech, especially those borrowed from English which end in the suffix *-ing*, such as *briefing*, *leasing*, *windsurfing* etc. The aim is to compare their lexicographical description with data from a Czech language corpus called Syn2000. Anglicisms with the suffix *-ing* are English nouns or sometimes adjectives derived from verbs like *to meet* - *meeting*, *to hold* - *holding* (*holding company*), etc.

SYN2000, a representative 100 million word corpus of the Czech language, which was built at Faculty of Arts, Charles University, in Prague, includes 60 per cent of newspaper texts, 15 per cent of fiction, poetry, drama and non-fiction literature, and 25 per cent of various academic texts. As most of the texts were published after 1990, this gives us ample opportunity to study loanwords with the suffix *-ing* borrowed from English into Czech after the Velvet Revolution in 1989.

## 1 Description of Anglicisms in Czech and in other languages

**1.1** Loanwords in any language can be studied from two different aspects. The most common, diachronic, approach is to study their origin, i. e. the language or languages from which a specific word was borrowed, a diachronic attitude. The synchronic attitude, on the other hand, as defined by the founding member of the Prague Linguistic Circle Vilém Mathesius, will focus on vacillations in orthography, pronunciation and morphology. In his paper 'Loanwords from a Synchronic Point of View' [Mathesius 1947] he gives several characteristic features of loanwords in contrast to words of Czech origin: 1) differences in the repertory of phonemes, or in their structural usage (e.g., the distribution of phonemes *g* and *f* is quite different in Czech words and loanwords), differences in the position of stress (the loanwords quite often have the stress on a syllable other than the first one, while the stress in Czech words is typically placed on the

first syllable), 2) fluctuation in the phonemic structure or its phonetic realisation, variation in the quantity of vowels and the number of syllables, 3) difficult morphemic classification, morphological and morphemic vacillation, 4) differences in the relation of pronunciation and orthography, sometimes orthography influences pronunciation (in contemporary colloquial Czech *puzzle* is sometimes pronounced [puzle] under the influence of the spelling, or even [pucle] under the influence of the pronunciation of the same anglicism in German).

**1.2** Since 1993 the inflow of loanwords borrowed from English after 1989 has become the subject of a number of studies and articles both in newspapers and linguistic journals - see also [DANEŠ ET AL. 1997]. A large part of the early borrowings from English were terms related to computers and programming, while later loans are often concentrated in other semantic areas, esp. economics and sport. However, the problem of anglicisms in Czech is much older than that. According to [KUČERA 1995] one of the first anglicisms in Czech was the word *bill* or *billa* 'law proposal' borrowed at the beginning of the 19th century. English words began to find their way into Czech in large numbers during the first half of the 20th century. As Czech society was more German- and especially French-oriented until then, the knowledge of English pronunciation was rather limited and the English spelling influenced the Czech pronunciation, cf. English *hockey* [hoki] x Czech *hokej*, English *football* [futbo:l] x Czech *fotbal*, English *basketball* [ba:skitbo:l] x Czech *basketbal*. The process of borrowing from English slowed down during the communist era, i. e. between 1948 and 1989. Some of the anglicisms of that time were borrowed through the mediation of Russian, e. g. the word *dispatching*, in Czech *dispečeink*, which has never had other than a fully-adapted spelling in Czech, as the assimilation was finished in Russian. Since 1989 the general knowledge of English pronunciation has improved but the knowledge of spelling has become worse.

**1.3** During the 1990s anglicisms in various other European languages have been studied and analyzed either in monographs [Görlach 1994], such as "Anglizismen in Ostdeutschland vor und nach der 'Wende'" by Wan-ho Lee (1996), "Tendencje rozwojowe współczesnych zapożyczeń angielskich w języku polskim" by E. Mańczak-Wohlefeld (1995), or in dictionaries, e. g. for German - B. Caresten - U. Brusse "Anglizismen-Wörterbuch" (1993-1996), for Danish - K. Sorensen "A Dictionary of Anglicisms in Danish" (1997), for Norwegian - A-L. Graedler and S. Johansson "Anglismeordboka. Engelske lanord i norsk" (1997), for Serbo-Croatian - R. Filipoviæ "Anglicizmi u Hrvatskom ili Srpskom Jeziku" (1990), for Russian - T. V. Maximova "Slovar anglicizmov" (1998). Recently a large-scale project headed by M. Görlach, identifying anglicisms in twenty European languages including Czech, resulted in the publication of "Dictionary of European Anglicisms. A Usage Dictionary of Anglicisms in Selected European Languages" was also published last year (1999, Oxford University Press).

## **2 Anglicisms with the suffix *-ing* in contemporary Czech: Dictionaries vs. corpus**

When working with the corpus data, great caution has to be exercised in the assessment of the collected material. To get the right idea about the use of anglicisms in Czech, it is necessary to exclude all English quotations, proper names, and English titles of firms, films, etc.



## 2.1 Pronunciation and orthography

**2.11** English pronunciation has left only one 'trace' in the inventory of Czech consonants - the velar *n*. It is a positional variant of *n* pronounced in such cases as *banka* [baŋka] or nowadays *briefing* [bri:fiŋk], among speakers with knowledge of English also [bri:fiŋ]. As was emphasized by Mathesius and others, the voiced phoneme *g* in Czech appears only in onomatopoeic words (e. g. *grrr*) or loanwords (e. g. *guma* 'rubber'); in speech it is only a positional variant of the unvoiced *k*, as in *kdo* [gdo] 'who'. The same suffix *-ing* is therefore pronounced according to the Czech norm with [-k] in nominative and accusative singular. In other declension forms where the vowels *-u/-ù* (i. e. *briefingu*, *briefingù*), *-e* (i. e. *briefingem*), or *-y* (i. e. *briefingy*) follow the suffix, the pronunciation differs, but usually it is [-g-]. It must be pointed out that if *t* or *d* precede the suffix *-ing*, the groups *ti* and *di* preserve its foreign pronunciation (according to the Czech norm consonants *t* and *d* are palatalised in front of *i*, as in the Czech word *matinka* "mummy" [mat,inka], but are not palatalized in anglicisms like *meeting/mítink* [mi:tink]).

**2.12** There are three possibilities of Czech spelling in words of this kind, depending on the degree of adaptation in the Czech language: 0 - non-adapted English spelling (cf. *jogging*), 1 - partly-adapted English spelling (only the stem is usually adapted, not the suffix *-ing*, cf. *hepening* x English *happening*), 2 - fully-adapted spelling (the stem as well as the suffix, cf. *kempink* x English *camping*). The Table in the appendix gives a sample of the orthographic variants of the words under study as listed in various general monolingual dictionaries and orthographic - mostly prescriptive - dictionaries of Czech. They give two variants at the most - English and a fully-adapted Czech one. The order of these variants shows which one is considered to be more correct by the compilers.

Nevertheless, the data from the SYN2000 Corpus show that in some cases the original English orthography is used in Czech texts more frequently than the adapted one. The reason is that there are only slight differences between the English and Czech pronunciation in the stem part which remains the same, the only part adapted is the *-ing* suffix. In several cases the doubled graphemes were simplified, cf. *dubbing* > *dabing*, *fitting* > *fiting* > *fitink*, *lobbying* > *lobbing/lobing*, *modelling* > *modeling*, *pudding* > *puding* > *pudink*. One partly-adapted lexeme is written only in one way - *dabing*, although the Czech dictionaries give two possibilities - *dabing/dabink*. It seems that the pronunciation, and ultimately also the orthography, depends on the preceding voiced or unvoiced consonant - in this case *b* is voiced and therefore the suffix *-ing* remains voiced as well. On the other hand, in lexemes with the preceding voiceless consonants *p, t, k, s, tch* > *t*; è the fully-adapted orthography prevails, cf. *marketink*, *mítink*, *presink*, *strečink*. Exceptions like *pudink* or *trénink* are older borrowings into Czech.

To sum up this part of the paper, as regards the spelling of *-ing* anglicisms in Czech texts there are three things to be considered: 1) at the first stage of adaptation only the English vowels [i:] (spelled *ie, ee* or *ea*, e. g. *briefing* > *br brífink*), and [a] (spelled *u*, e. g. *dumping* > *damping*) and consonants [k] (spelled *c* or *ck*, e. g. *factoring* > *faktoring*) and [±] (spelled *ch* or *tch*, e. g. *forechecking* > *forčekink*, *stretching* > *strečink*) are written according to the Czech orthographic system, 2) one particular lexeme - *forfeiting* - appears to have become established in Czech with wrong spelling = *forfáiting*, 3) the lexemes *inženýring* and *sponzoring* with partly-adapted orthography are a special case, the noun *inženýr* (*engineer* > *inženýr*) was adapted long before the corresponding anglicism with the suffix *-ing*, and the spelling of the noun *sponzoring* has been influenced by the prescribed orthography of the noun *sponzor* in contemporary dictionaries.

## 2.2 Morphology

All one-word lexemes are masculine nouns declined according to Czech declension paradigm of the 'hrad' type, i. e. gen. *hradu*, *briefingu/brífinku* etc. What causes problems for Czech speakers is the locative plural form in which *g* must be changed to *z* and *k* to *c* in front of the ending *-ích*, according to the norm *-inzích* (from nom. singular *-ing*) or *-incích* (from nom. singular *-ink*), i.e., *briefinzích/brífincích*. There is also a non-standard, colloquial variant *-ingách*. According to the SYN2000 the standard variant *-inzích* is very rare (10 occurrences), the form *-incích* is much more frequent (338 occurrences) and the colloquial variant *-ingách* is represented in the SYN2000 by three forms: *meetingách*, *sleepingách*, *smokingách*.

## 2.3 Derivatives

The most typical derivatives of the *-ing* loans are adjectives with the suffix *-ový*. As might be expected the preceding *-ing-* is much more frequent than the adapted suffix *-ink-* (cf. 2.2, the suffix *-ing-* before vowels), *-ingový* has 60 lemmas in the SYN2000, while *-inkový* has 16 lemmas. Sometimes also prefixes like *anti-* (or Czech *proti-*), *multi-*, *re-* etc. are used. There were also several hybrid compounds, such as *celoholdingový*, *vnitroholdingový* or *rychlopudinkový*. The most frequent adjectives are given in the following list:

<u>-ing-ový-</u>		<u>-ink-ový</u>	
marketingový	1824	tréninkový	1108
dopingový	723	marketinkový	226
leasingový	586	dopinkový	106
antidumpingový	275	pudinkový	61
ratingový	247	kempinkový	35
holdingový	246	mítinkový	22
antidopingový	211	antidopinkový	12
dumpingový	157	šilinkový	8
dabingový	87	streèinkový	7
incomingový	57	franšízinkový	5

The adjectives with the suffix *-ink-* are derived from nouns borrowed mostly before 1989.

The English suffix *-ing-* is substituted in the Czech verbs by the Czech suffix *-ova-*, cf. *to dope* - Czech *dopovat*, English *to surf* - Czech *surfovat/serfovát* etc. Therefore Czech verbal nouns ending in *-ování* compete with verbal nouns borrowed from English having the suffix *-ing*, cf. *dopink/doping* - 986\* vs. *dopování* - 20\*, *lobbying/lobbing/lobing* - 86\* vs. *lobování* - 167\*.

## 2.4 Semantics

Lexemes with the suffix *-ing* can be found mainly in the following semantic groups: sport, hobby, economics, public affairs, art and way of life. The *-ing* anglicisms in Czech are in most cases monosemic. If the English noun is given as a separate lemma in NODE it is usually monosemic as well and the Czech borrowing has the same meaning. The only exception are the lemmas *dressing* and *feeling* in Czech used in one meaning only as opposed to four meanings

in English: *dresink* - 'sauce for salads', *feeling* - 'receptiveness for some kind of music (rock, country etc.)'. Those lexemes which are not treated as separate lemmas in the NODE are linked to one of the meanings of the English polysemic verb, cf. Czech *dabing* - 'providing a film with a soundtrack in a different language from the original' (two meanings in the NODE). One of the one-word lexemes in Czech was originally a compound consisting of an adjective derived by the suffix *-ing* and a noun: English *holding company* >Czech *holdingová společnost*, *holding*.

### 3 Conclusion

The English spelling of the anglicisms under examination is preserved only if the borrowings are used as technical terms. Once the new word gains frequency the adaptation process begins. Nevertheless, some lexemes, such as *dabing* or *tramping*, retain their relation to a specific profession or an aspect of the life and culture in the English-speaking countries. Moreover, the influence of consonants and vowels on their phonetic and morphemic environment should be studied with great care. The relationship between a new loanword and earlier borrowings with the same stem also plays an important role in the word's future adaptation (cf. *inženýring*). This approach might result in finer distinctions to be made in the treatment of anglicisms in future Czech dictionaries, reflecting the tendencies of language development. In the past some of the general hints on the orthography of borrowed words, such as the substitution of the English *j*- by the Czech *dž*-, such as *jam* >*džem*, proved misconceived, cf. *jazz* >*džez*. In contemporary Czech only the spelling *jazz* is used.

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