

## Morphological Integration of (Neologic) Verbs from English - Contrastive Comparison of the German and French Language Systems

**Abstract:** English is currently the most widely spoken language in the world and exerts great lexical influence on other language systems (cf. Eisenberg 2018: 46). Numerous expressions originating in English are borrowed into other languages and morphologically adapted to the rules of their own language system in the meanwhile. In both German and French, this process can be realised in such a way that an English root of a lexical item is taken over without any modification and the implementation into the respective language system is then made possible by the addition of indigenous inflectional suffixes. The German lexicon in particular is enriched with English lexical material and integrates a large number of embedded English roots this way (Fleischer/Barz 2012: 102). English also has a relatively large influence on the French language system, which is significantly more hostile to the borrowing of exogenous expressions (cf. Neusius 2021: 409). The preservation of a vocabulary that is as indigenous as possible is striven for much more strongly here than is the case in German, so that translations rather than morphological embedding are predominantly used for the integration of foreign-language units; only a few English stems find their way into French dictionaries.

Looking from a morphological perspective, especially verbs borrowed from English represent an interesting object of study between the two languages, so that the focus of this talk will be on the investigation of this word class. As an example, the integration of a total of 21 English-derived verbs will be examined, which became established after 1990 and emerged from the fields of technology and electronic interaction (e.g. *to add, to download, to like, to scroll, to post*) (cf. OWID-Neologismenwörterbuch).

With regard to the integration into the German language system, it can be observed that the verbal roots of the English expressions studied have been adopted and indigenous inflectional affixes have been added (e.g. *add-en, download-en, lik-en*). Today, 19 of the 21 verbs are recognised as standard language (cf. Duden-Online). The integration process is not without idiosyncracies: For the past tense as well as for the past participle, fluctuations of norms can be detected in a large German-language corpus (DeReKo). These often result in German-English hybrid forms (e.g. *leakte/leakete; gechattet/gechatted, gelikt/geliket/geliked; geupgradet/upgegradet*).

While in German the implemented verb stems of almost all the verbs examined are classified as standard language, in French dictionaries only a small proportion of such verbs are found where the English root has been adopted (e.g. *retweet-er, scroll-er*) (cf. LeRobert-Online). In the majority of cases, purely French equivalents are created in order to cover the meaning of the English expression linguistically in their own system (e.g. *télécharger* for engl. *to download*); consequently, from the prescriptive side, only 6 of the 21 English verb stems are integrated morphologically. In contrast, the situation appears different in natural language use: In the examination of a French-language web corpus (SketchEngine), affixed forms of all 21 English verb stems are also found for French. The prescriptive rejection of non-standard language forms does not lead to uncertainties in inflection: In the French study corpus, no variation of norms can be identified within the respective inflection paradigms.

This talk will focus on the possibilities of linguistic realisation in terms of morphologically integrated English word stems (normative vs. natural inflection). It will also compare the standard and usage-based language acceptance of the corresponding verb forms in a contrastively.

### **Literature:**

Eisenberg, P. (2018) (Ed.)

*Das Fremdwort im Deutschen*, Berlin/Boston: De Gruyter.

Fleischer, W./Barz, I. (2012) (Eds.)

*Wortbildung der deutschen Gegenwartssprache*, 4th ed., Berlin/Boston: De Gruyter.

Neusius, V. (2021)

*Sprachpflagediskurse in Deutschland und Frankreich: Öffentlichkeit – Geschichte – Ideologie*, Berlin/Boston: De Gruyter.

### **Dictionaries:**

Duden-Online

URL: <https://www.duden.de/> (zuletzt abgerufen am 30.01.2023)

LeRobert-Online

URL: <https://dictionnaire.lerobert.com/> (zuletzt abgerufen am 30.01.2023)

OWID-Neologismenwörterbuch

URL: <https://www.owid.de/docs/neo/start.jsp> (zuletzt abgerufen am 30.01.2023)

### **Search Engines:**

DeReKo (Deutsches Referenzkorpus des Leibniz-Instituts für Deutsche Sprache)

URL: <https://www.ids-mannheim.de/digspra/kl/projekte/korpora/> (zuletzt abgerufen am 30.01.2023).

SketchEngine

Kilgarriff, A./Baisa, V./Bušta, J./Jakubíček, M./Kovář, V./Michelfeit, J./Rychlý, P./Suchomel, V. (2014): "The Sketch Engine: ten years on.", in: *Lexicography. Journal of Asialex*, 1, S. 7 - 36.