

REVIEW

by Prof. DSc Dimitar Vesselinov, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”,
habilitated in Professional Field 1.3. Pedagogy of Teaching in ...,
Doctor of Sciences in Professional Field 2.1. Philology

of a doctoral dissertation submitted for the award of the educational and scientific degree
“Doctor”
in Professional Field 2.1. Philology,
academic specialty “General and Comparative Linguistics”

Candidate: Lina Miloshevska (North Macedonia)

Dissertation title: “A Study of Anglicisms in Journalistic Corpora in North Macedonia Using Corpus Analysis Tools”

1. Significance of the Research Problem from Scholarly and Applied Perspectives

Lina Miloshevska’s dissertation is devoted to a topical linguodidactological problem in contemporary linguistics: the influence of English on the lexical composition of journalistic texts and, in particular, on the language of the media. The topic is situated at the intersection of empruntology, contact linguistics, corpus linguistics, and research on lexical innovation, and has both theoretical and clearly expressed applied significance. The findings are also relevant to language education, insofar as corpus-established data on the use, adaptation, and integration of Anglicisms can be used in the selection and presentation of contemporary language material and can contribute to the development of lexical and sociolinguistic competence.

Anglicisms have been the subject of previous empruntological research; therefore, the scholarly value of the dissertation does not derive solely from the choice of its object of study. What is essential here is the different way in which this object is investigated. The doctoral candidate identifies an insufficiently developed aspect of the problem: the absence of a larger-scale diachronic corpus study that not only records individual Anglicisms, but also quantitatively measures their frequency and distribution and traces changes in their use over an extended period. This allows the dissertation to move beyond predominantly descriptive, synchronic, or smaller-sample observations and to test broader claims about English influence by means of a purpose-built empirical corpus.

Of particular importance is the study’s effort to replace the frequently encountered intuitive or prescriptive assessments of the “growing influence of English” with verifiable data.

The study shows that the influence of English on media language can be measured quantitatively and that its dynamics can be analysed by combining frequency measures with qualitative analysis of semantic change, contextual use, and the degree of integration of borrowed items. Extending the analysis to graphic representation and lexical productivity further strengthens the empirical basis of the dissertation.

The scholarly and applied value of the empruntological findings lies in their potential use in lexicography, language policy, and language education. From the perspective of the pedagogy of language education, the empirically established trends can be used in the selection and presentation of contemporary language material and in the development of lexical and sociolinguistic competence. I particularly commend the author's effort to avoid the simplified presentation of Anglicisms as evidence of "language erosion" and instead to regard borrowing as a complex process of selection, adaptation, semantic specialisation, and integration.

2. Accuracy and Justification of the Dissertation's Aims and Tasks

The principal aim of the dissertation is clearly formulated: to establish the quantitative presence of Anglicisms in the journalistic corpora under investigation and to examine their diachronic development between 2000 and 2020. The aim is operationalised through a coherent system of research questions concerning quantitative impact, frequency and distribution, the emergence and disappearance of lexical items, degrees of conventionalisation, institutionalisation, and lexicalisation, patterns of semantic change, and broader diachronic trends.

The corresponding tasks include the construction of a specialised corpus from *Kapital* magazine; the processing and standardisation of the textual material; the generation of word lists; the identification, verification, and lemmatisation of Anglicisms; the determination of absolute and normalised frequency and distribution; the comparison of the two subcorpora; as well as the analysis of social integration, semantic change, contextual reformulation, graphic representation, and lexical productivity. These tasks are sufficiently specific to make the research procedure transparent and to connect the theoretical problem with measurable empirical indicators.

The aims, tasks, and research questions should form a coherent system. The internal logic of the dissertation is clear: from corpus construction and data preparation, through quantitative measurement, to qualitative linguistic and empruntological interpretation. Efforts have been made to specify operational tasks within the selected corpus and the adopted operational definition of an Anglicism.

3. Degree of Familiarity with the State of the Problem and Appropriateness of the Literature Used

The dissertation demonstrates familiarity with a certain part of the research on empruntological processes. The literature review is not confined to a single theoretical school. It brings together works in contact linguistics, studies of English as a source language for lexical borrowing, research on semantic change and social integration, studies of journalistic language, and corpus-linguistic approaches to language use and change.

The international theoretical and methodological framework includes established works as well as diachronic studies of differing character. This literature provides an appropriate comparative framework for investigating borrowing, diffusion, frequency, semantic development, and empruntological integration. Such balance is important in order to avoid the mechanical transfer of ready-made conclusions about the development of empruntological processes. The bibliography contains 178 scholarly and reference sources. The literature review could be expanded to include current research in corpus linguistics and linguodidactology.

4. Accuracy and Appropriateness of Citation

The dissertation systematically uses scholarly sources in the formulation of definitions, methodological decisions, previous findings, and comparative contexts. Representative authors are cited where their works are directly relevant to the argumentation. Sources used in the theoretical chapter are also applied in the methodological and interpretative parts of the dissertation. Overall, the citation practice is academically sound and corresponds to the nature of the study.

5. Theoretical Model of the Study

The dissertation is situated at the intersection of empruntology, contact linguistics, corpus linguistics, and research on lexical innovation. Within this framework, Anglicisms are not regarded simply as foreign words transferred from one language to another, but as lexical items whose behaviour can be investigated across several interrelated dimensions: frequency and distribution, semantic development, social integration, contextual reformulation, graphic adaptation, and lexical productivity.

The model is based on the general premise that lexical borrowing is a major outcome of language contact and that patterns of borrowing are sensitive to communicative domain, prestige, modernisation, and media dissemination. The diachronic component adds another dimension: a given item may increase or decrease in frequency, become conventionalised,

undergo semantic specialisation, change its graphic representation, or participate in new word-formation patterns. Corpus linguistics provides the empirical link between these empruntological concepts and observable language use.

Frequency and distribution provide information about the extent and stability of usage, while the analysis of concordances and contexts makes it possible to interpret semantic and discourse changes. The stages of conventionalisation, institutionalisation, and lexicalisation provide an additional framework for discussing degrees of social acceptance and integration.

6. Alignment of the Chosen Methodology and Research Methods with the Stated Aim and Tasks

The empirical basis comprises two purpose-built subcorpora from Kapital magazine for 2000 and 2020, with a combined size of 2,288,999 tokens and 1,907 texts, to which additional data have been added. On the basis of the corpus material, a manually verified list of 4,436 lemmas classified as Anglicisms was compiled in accordance with the adopted operational criteria.

The methodological procedure is presented in sufficient detail to allow replication. The corpus material was collected, converted into machine-readable UTF-8-encoded text, cleaned, and standardised, after which word lists were generated and potential Anglicisms were manually identified and verified. The resulting data include absolute and normalised frequency, range, and distribution, followed by qualitative classification and contextual analysis.

Manual verification of potential Anglicisms is particularly important. Automated extraction alone would not be sufficient for a corpus of this type. The doctoral candidate therefore formulates inclusion and exclusion criteria and uses lexicographic sources in borderline cases. Non-English items, calques, abbreviations, acronyms, proper names, structural borrowings, and established internationalisms are excluded from the core dataset. This decision creates a more homogeneous object of analysis, although it inevitably narrows the range of what is counted as English influence.

The use of normalised frequencies is methodologically necessary because the two subcorpora differ substantially in size. It allows comparison without the absolute number of tokens in each corpus determining the result. The combination of quantitative corpus procedures with qualitative semantic and contextual analysis is also appropriate.

7. The Doctoral Candidate's Independent Contribution to the Collection and Analysis of Empirical Data

The dissertation demonstrates a substantial personal contribution both to data collection and to data analysis. The empirical resource was not taken ready-made from an existing general corpus. The doctoral candidate constructed the two specialised subcorpora from the annual content of the same media source for two different years, prepared the texts for computational processing, formulated the operational criteria for the target lexical items, and carried out the manual identification and verification of Anglicisms. Corpus tools generate frequency lists and concordance data, but the identification of relevant items, lemmatisation, decisions on inclusion and exclusion, interpretation of semantic development, classification according to degrees of social integration, analysis of contextual reformulation, and interpretation of graphic and word-formation trends require consistent empruntological and linguistic judgement.

8. Description and Evaluation of the Contributions

8.1. Nature and Reliability of the Material on Which the Contributions Are Based

The contributions are based on a substantial, clearly delimited, and internally comparable corpus of authentic journalistic language. The use of the complete annual content of *Kapital* for the selected years strengthens the internal representativeness of each temporal sample, while the use of the same publication allows better control over genre and editorial profile. The corpus is sufficiently large to reveal recurring lexical patterns rather than isolated examples, and the combination of automated processing with manual verification increases the reliability of the resulting dataset.

The corpus represents a specific type of business-oriented journalistic discourse. Within these defined limits, however, the material is appropriate and sufficiently reliable for the conclusions drawn.

8.2. The Doctoral Candidate's Contributions and Their Classification

The principal empirical contribution is the construction and analysis of a purpose-built diachronic corpus that provides systematic quantitative and qualitative data on Anglicisms in journalistic discourse. The corpus and the manually verified inventory of Anglicisms constitute a research resource that may be used in future studies.

The methodological contribution lies in the consistent combination of corpus construction, manual identification and verification, lemmatisation, frequency and distribution analysis, and qualitative interpretation within a single diachronic design. The descriptive-analytical contribution consists in the new findings concerning the development of Anglicisms

between 2000 and 2020. The data show an increase in their relative frequency. The study also identifies a predominant tendency towards semantic narrowing and specialisation.

The analysis of lexical productivity further supports the conclusion that some Anglicisms function not merely as imported lexical items but as productive elements. The applied and linguodidactological contribution lies in the potential relevance of the findings to empruntological lexicography.

8.3. Extent of the Doctoral Candidate's Personal Participation in the Contributions

The doctoral candidate's personal participation is evident throughout the research process. Corpus construction, text preparation, the operationalisation of the category "Anglicism", manual verification, compilation of the lemma list, quantitative comparison, and qualitative interpretation together form an integrated research procedure carried out for the purposes of the dissertation.

8.4. Correspondence of the Dissertation Abstract to the Dissertation

The dissertation abstract accurately reflects the structure, aims, theoretical foundation, methodology, principal findings, limitations, publications, and scholarly contributions of the dissertation. It presents the quantitative results and the main qualitative trends without materially altering their scope. The limitations are also explicitly stated. I therefore consider the abstract an adequate and reliable representation of the dissertation and its contributions.

9. Impact of the Dissertation in the Wider Academic Community

9.1. Publications Related to the Dissertation

Two publications directly related to the dissertation are presented. The first, "Extraction of Anglicisms from a Corpus of Macedonian Magazine Texts", was published in 2025 in the scholarly journal *English Studies at NBU*, Vol. 11, No. 1, pp. 141–159. The second, "What Makes Anglicisms Survive? A Corpus-Based Study of Patterns of Conventionalization, Institutionalization and Lexicalization", was published in the proceedings of the 19th National Philological Readings for Students and Doctoral Candidates in Honour of the Holy Brothers Cyril and Methodius at South-West University "Neofit Rilski".

The two publications are directly related to the dissertation and present two central components of the research. The doctoral candidate also presented findings at four academic forums in 2024 and 2025, including international conferences in Sofia, Belgrade, and Blagoevgrad.

9.2. Use and Citation by Other Authors; Reviews in the Scholarly Press

The materials presented do not contain a separate report on citations of the dissertation-related publications or on reviews in the scholarly press. I therefore have no basis for a specific quantitative assessment under this criterion. It should also be taken into account that both publications date from 2025 and are relatively recent.

10. Opinions, Recommendations, and Critical Remarks

As a member of the Scientific Jury, as of the date of submission of this review, I have received no reports concerning improper use of scholarly publications by Lina Miloshevska.

I would highlight several issues that define the limits within which the results should be interpreted and that may serve as directions for future research.

First, the corpus is compiled from a single media source. The results are representative primarily of this type of journalistic discourse and should not be generalised automatically. Future expansion to general-interest news media, online media, and social networks would make it possible to test the broader validity of the observed trends.

Second, the diachronic comparison is based on two points in time: 2000 and 2020. This design clearly shows the differences between two widely separated periods, but it does not allow the intermediate stages, the rate, or possible fluctuations in the processes of borrowing and integration to be traced. Additional temporal samples would make it possible to reconstruct the observed difference as a more detailed trajectory of empruntological change.

Third, the study deliberately restricts itself to single-word lexical Anglicisms and excludes calques, phraseological and structural borrowings, abbreviations, acronyms, and pseudo-Anglicisms. This is methodologically defensible and provides a more homogeneous dataset, but at the same time it means that the measured proportion does not represent the full extent of English empruntological influence. I would be more cautious than the author regarding the assumption that inclusion of the excluded categories would necessarily strengthen the observed trends. This is a plausible hypothesis, but it requires independent empirical verification.

In addition, I would recommend that the text be cleared of certain terminological inaccuracies in accordance with the position of the Institute for Bulgarian Language at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

Finally, classifying degrees of conventionalisation, institutionalisation, and lexicalisation on the basis of corpus and lexicographic indicators is productive, but future

supplementation with sociolinguistic or psycholinguistic data would make it possible to refine the effectiveness of the study.

11. Conclusion

Lina Miloshevska's dissertation, "A Study of Anglicisms in Journalistic Corpora in North Macedonia Using Corpus Analysis Tools", constitutes an independent, coherent, methodologically well-founded, and linguodidactologically oriented scholarly study of a topical problem in general and comparative linguistics, empruntology, contact linguistics, and corpus linguistics. The work demonstrates familiarity with the relevant theoretical and empirical literature, a formulated research design, sound citation practice, and the ability to conduct traditional corpus-based research.

The dissertation provides data on the frequency, distribution, semantic development, social integration, graphic adaptation, and lexical productivity of Anglicisms in journalistic discourse between 2000 and 2020.

The critical remarks made concern the scope of the study and the empruntological interpretation of the trends in journalistic discourse. The dissertation abstract adequately presents the content and contributions of the dissertation, and the publications presented are directly related to the dissertation.

On the basis of the foregoing, I give a positive assessment of the dissertation and propose that the distinguished Scientific Jury award Lina Miloshevska the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in Professional Field 2.1. Philology, academic specialty "General and Comparative Linguistics".

Date: 18.08.2026

Reviewer:

Prof. DSc Dimitar Vesselinov

Signature:

