

CHANGES OF LEXICON ON LITHUANIAN ADMINISTRATIVE LANGUAGE

Summary

Language undergoes constant changes driven by social circumstances and other languages. These changes are most evident at the lexical level. The article addresses the lexical changes of the administrative language, one of the varieties of the standard language, which took place at the outset of the 21st century. They are compared with the situation of the late 20th century. This period was selected for the study, as it marks the turning point in the development of the administrative Lithuanian language. After Lithuania's accession to the European Union in 2004, the documents prepared in Lithuania had to comply with the legal norms established in the documents of the EU institutions, which were usually translated from English. Therefore, the EU legislative *acquis* was translated into Lithuanian, and Lithuanian documents had to be made compatible with it.

The most prominent change that occurred in the vocabulary of the administrative language is the growing number of international words determined by both globalisation and the direct influence of the languages from which the EU documents are translated. New meanings of international words are especially on the rise.

The number of new Lithuanian words is also growing in the administrative language, but this growth is much less significant compared to the general usage, because the neologisms coined in the administrative language are only neutral, but their formation is consistent with the general trends. Compounds are more common (e.g., *bendrakūra*, *teisékūra*); there are also specific hybrid prefixed derivatives (e.g., *paprojektis*, *paprogramė*) as well as purely Lithuanian derivatives

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(e.g., *neteisėkūra*, *paprogramė*, *poveiklė*). New meanings of Lithuanian words result from the emerging need of the administrative language to name the objects specific to this particular sphere of language usage (e.g., documents – *gairės*, *iniciatyva*, *nuomone*); they are also driven by the influence of other languages; this pertains to translated, metaphorical meanings (e.g., colours – *žalia*, *mėlyna*, *sidabrine*). The lexical changes taking place in the administrative language are related to the specificities of this particular language variety. Statistical studies show that the vocabulary of administrative style is not as varied as the vocabulary of other styles. For this reason, lexical renewal does not occur at a very rapid pace in this field of language usage, but the changes are essential, as they allow us to decide on the direction in which the development of the overall standard language vocabulary is going to proceed.

KEYWORDS: administrative language, vocabulary, lexical development, neologism, loanword, international word, word meaning.

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