

Anglicisms in German

How many prominent Anglicisms are actually Pseudo-Anglicisms?

A survey among 100 people

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*Hauptseminar Intracultural and Intercultural Pragmatics:
Language Variation According To Communicative Situation*

Summer Semester 2006

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Abstract: This pragmatic analysis of language is about Anglicisms in German. It is aiming at finding out how many anglicisms and pseudo-anglicisms are currently in use in spoken language. Therefore, 100 Germans were asked to name 10 anglicisms each. The collected data was then listed and a “Top 10” ranking was introduced. The words in the “Top 10” are closely examined in the text under the aspects of affiliation either to the group of proper anglicisms or pseudo-anglicisms.

The survey's results allow only limited conclusion due to the fact that the number of interviewed people is too small for gaining empiric results. Yet, the results show how much our thinking depends on our environment.

1. Introduction: Anglicisms in German everyday life

For many Germans it is impossible not to be confronted with English words. While listening to the radio, watching TV or surfing on the internet, we come across many terms that are not of German origin. Sometimes words are borrowed from English because there is no corresponding German word. Sometimes new words are created on the basis of an originally English word. In some cases during that process, changes take place which would make certain loanwords exceptions of what one could call "proper" loanwords.

The question is: What justifies the classification of one word as a "proper" Anglicism and what makes an Anglicism a Pseudo-Anglicism? Furthermore, how many Pseudo-Anglicisms are actually in use?

Loanwords are often widely known and used, since their borrowing serves a certain purpose, for example to provide a name for a new invention. One can realize that there is always a reason for borrowing and that it never happens illogically.

It can be held true that the transfer of linguistic features, words or terms from one language group to another language group is most frequent if mutual, direct contact is established. Furthermore, the prestige a certain nation language community has at a certain time in history is even more influential on borrowing/loaning of words.

"Idiomatic expressions and phrases, sometimes translated word-for-word, can be borrowed, usually from a language that has "prestige" at the time. Often, a borrowed idiom is used as a euphemism for a less polite term in the original language. In English, this has usually been Latinisms from the Latin language and Gallicisms from [the] French [language]."¹

In their introduction to their *Wörterbuch überflüssiger Anglizismen* Pogarell and Schröder point out that loan transfer is closely knit with political, cultural, economic and military dominance at a certain point in time².

¹ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Loanword>

² Pogarell & Schröder 1999: 20

That explains the increasing number of French words in the English language after the French had invaded Britain; the ruling class now spoke French, and those who did not belong to it imitated the language of the higher class. French was then considered to be of high aesthetic value.

2. On terminology (of transfer linguistics)

In order to create a terminological basis for further examination and to avoid complications regarding terminology, the expressions mentioned in the introductory part of Broder Carstensen's *Anglizismen-Wörterbuch*³ (1993) will be applied in this paper. He himself took the terminology of Betz (1944) to extend and improve it in order to make it clearer or to find better-fitting termini⁴. Note here that Betz's definitions originate from the year 1944 and are concerned with Old High German. As Carstensen points out, several problems emerged as the old terminology of Betz was applied to modern language. Furthermore, the aim of Carstensen's *Anglizismen-Wörterbuch* is to accumulate terms from the post-war-era on. Even though a clear separation cannot be introduced as some older words were still productive after World War II, this premise was introduced due to the fact that, according to Carstensen, after 1945 important changes in the development of the German language took place. After World War II, the influence of the English language in (West) Germany increased due to the (military) presence of the USA.

As the topic of this paper is Anglicisms in German, most examples originate from the juxtaposition of English vs. German language unless stated otherwise. Carstensen (1993) gives an overview on different means and ways of language transfer.

Furthermore, in point 2.4 the working reference deviates from Carstensen. In this case, Grzega's *Bezeichnungswandel* (2004) was used as it provides a more consistent and concise terminology.

2.1 Loan Translation

A loan translation is an element-by-element translation from an English combination of lexemes. Carstensen suggests substituting the term *translation* by *next lexical correspondence*. Examples for loan translation would be the German term *Flutlicht*

³ Carstensen 1993: 12-193; with special focus on pp. 25-66

⁴ Carstensen 1993: 53

from English *floodlight* as well as *Kabelfernsehen* from *cable television*, *Blumenkind* from *flowerchild* or *Halbzeit* from *half-time*.

Carstensen (1993) points out that due to the increasingly important role of modern mass communication, neologisms occur ever more as internationalisms rather than neologisms of one language. Especially in English, this tendency can be observed. As an example he indicates the use of *Star Wars* for the American Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), which was discussed by worldwide media in the early 1980s. Only a few days after the mentioning of *Star Wars*, the corresponding German term *Sternenkrieg/Krieg der Sterne* was found in German media.

2.2 Loan Rendition

This term is applied to translations into German where only one part of an English term is translated literally and another is adopted more freely. The German word for *big bang* (the phenomenon that is thought to be responsible for the creation of our galactic system) is *Urknall*. According to Carstensen, the German variation of the idiom gives more factual information about the event than its English predecessor *big bang*⁵.

Loan Renditions are found with expressions where more information is added or some information is reduced in another language in order to make the term fully understandable and yet slightly different to its original version.

A case where information is reduced can be found in the transfer of English *VTOL*⁶ *aircraft* to German *Senkrechtstarter*. The German term only implies the ability of the aircraft to take off vertically, whereas the English one also adds the feature of being able to land in that manner.

2.3 Loan Meaning

Loan meaning describes the transfer of meaning from an English term onto a word that is already existent in German. *Realisieren* in German was used with the same meaning as its English counterpart *to realize* i.e. 'to understand, to recognize, to become conscious'.

The same holds true for the German term *Maus* depicting a computer device used for pointing and navigating on a screen. *Maus* derived from the English word *mouse*.

⁵ Carstensen 1993: 56

⁶ = Vertical Take-Off and Landing

The German word *Maus* thus gained another possible meaning apart from the biological creature; it can now be used for the computer utensil.

2.4 Loan Creation

Loan creations are terms which are formed independently from the foreign word showing the necessity of substituting a foreign word with a native word, e.g. *brandy* from *Cognac*⁷.

2.5 Reborrowing

Carstensen (1993), in accordance with Steinbach (1984), describes Reborrowing as the borrowing of a lexeme from the model language to the replica language under the precondition of a preceding reversed loan process.

Steinbach (1984) exemplifies this act by the (German) word *Hamburger*. The German word *Hamburger* for English *beef-steak* was introduced in America, where it gained increasing popularity and eventually found its way back to Germany primarily by the fast-food chain McDonalds⁸. Now the English term (along with its English pronunciation) is evident in German as well.

Another example for an act of reborrowing is the Russian word "bistro" (бистро), borrowed (by many languages) from the French word "bistro," which itself comes from the Russian "bystro" (быстро), meaning "quickly," a frequent demand towards restaurant owners by Russian soldiers in France after the Napoleonic Wars.

2.6 Special forms:

2.6.1 Internationalisms/Latinisms

As discussed above, the omnipresence of mass media and its manifestations lead to an increasing intercultural exchange of terms. Expressions like *urban* or *global* among with their language-dependent possible variations can be considered internationalisms and are existent in many languages like English, German, Spanish or French⁹. Using Latin as a common source language, these languages share and mutually encourage the use of internationalisms. They make international communication easier and are vitally used in technical language¹⁰.

⁷ Grzega 2004: 140

⁸ Carstensen 1993: 58

⁹ e.g.: g. *Globalisierung*

¹⁰ Pogarell & Schröder 1999: 19

However, Carstensen (1993) points out that the use of German internationalisms increases due to the influence of their English correspondences.

2.6.2 Pseudo-Loans

An English term may be used in German without having a corresponding equivalent in the source language in respect to form or function. Carstensen (1993) describes three forms of exceptional linguistic characteristics¹¹ in of pseudo-loans: morphologic features, semantic features and lexical features.

2.6.2.1 Morphologic peculiarities of German pseudo-loans

Four different sub-classifications of morphologic peculiarities can be distinguished.

1. Abbreviations of single words: English *professional* was incorporated in German as *Professioneller* where it was shortened to *Profi*; the English word *pullover* was adopted in g. *Pullover*. It was then shortened to g. *Pulli*.
2. Abbreviations of composita: English *cocktailparty* was changed to German *Cocktail*.¹²
3. Abbreviation of more-than-one-word-lexemes: *last but not least* is used in German as *last not least*; also: *gin and tonic* as *Gin-Tonic*.
4. Other morphologically altered forms: German *Happy-End* derived from English *happy ending*.¹³

2.6.2.2 Semantic features of German pseudo-loans

By “semantically altered pseudo-loans”¹⁴ Carstensen describes all the English words which are taken into another language and are then provided with a different meaning not existent in its original English form. Examples are the German word *Slip* for a certain piece of underwear, which in English is called *briefs* (British English) or *pants, underpants, panties* (American English). The word **slip* for underwear is not known in English.

Another example is the German term *Gangway* describing the ramp leading from an airport to an airplane. However, there is an English term *gangway*, but this word is only used with ships, i.e. the ramp leading from ship to harbour. Nevertheless, this term can not be used for planes. The correct English term is *ramp* or *steps*.

¹¹ ger.: „Eigenwege“

¹² Carstensen 1993: 63

¹³ Carstensen 1993: 63

¹⁴ Carstensen 1980: 77

However, he also points out that many anglicisms with their full range of meaning are used in German as well, especially in technical or scientific language. This is due to the fact that English is the world's most prominent language in these fields.

2.6.2.3 Lexical features of German pseudo-loans

Lexically altered English loans in German are lexemes altered by means of word-creation which are native to the source language (i.e. English) but not to the target language (i.e. German).

However, Carstensen (1993) points out that the German term *Scheinentlehung* for *pseudo-loan* can lead to difficulties in understanding as there is indeed an underlying loan process recognizable but the combination of loan elements does not follow an English pattern. For Example, there are German words (borrowed from English) *Stuntman* and *Salesman*, yet the German combination of *Dress* and *-man* is not existent in English.

2.7 Types of word forms treated in Carstensen (1993)¹⁵

The *Anglizismen-Wörterbuch* gives a good overview on the different types of possible word forms existent in German-English language transfer. The following table is used as a starting point for the examination of collected data:

1. compounds: Cocktailkleid, Krisenmanager, Spitzenmanager
2. mixed compounds: Fernseh-feature, Folk-Gruppe, Haarspray.
3. pre- and suffixes: partylike, porschelike, Un-Person (unperson).
4. "combinemes": Afro-Frisur, Öko-Laden.
5. derivations: zapper, puncher, computerei, griller, insiderin, managerin
6. prepositional verbs: abchecken, durchchecken, auspowern
7. phraseologies: im selben Boot sitzen

¹⁵ The table is an abstract of Carstensen (1993) pp. 66-73

3. Analysis of survey

3.1 On collecting the data:

In order to get a proper corpus that allows any meaningful conclusion, 100 Germans were asked to name 10 Anglicisms. As most interviewees knew what their task was, this assignment posed no problems to most of them. If further explanations were needed, any examples of Anglicisms had to be avoided as well as any direct hints to which words would fit for the task. If this had been done, people would have had a certain semantic field in their minds which would have “directed” their answers in the given direction (see 3.2).

The most useful and therefore basic definition the interviewees received was: “An originally English term that is now used in German”.

Those who were given the task were mostly students. A major part of the survey was conducted at the University of Bayreuth. It was done partially in class, as part of a presentation and by interviewing passers-by on campus. Additionally, unrelated foreign persons were questioned in the streets of the cities of Bayreuth and Coburg. The third group partook in the study via email, when 20 participants received the task to write down 10 anglicisms.

It was done intentionally to do the survey in an university surrounding, in the streets and via email in order to get as big a cross-section of people as possible.

Nevertheless, one premise was introduced to limit the different results:

All of the partakers of the study were between 20 and 30 years old. This limitation had to be introduced in order to receive comparable results. The disadvantage of this restriction was that a certain age group is more likely to give answers from a certain field of words and will most likely avoid terms that one would expect from an older person.

When the survey was completed, 1,000 terms, idioms and expressions had to be brought in order. This was done via the help of Microsoft Excel. Once lined up, the terms were sorted by alphabetical order. Now it was clear which words were named most often. Those words were given a separate list.

3.2 Problems with gaining data: Predictability of answers

One problem when collecting the data was that there are a certain number of interviewees who are in some way related to each other (friends, neighbors, workmates). Nevertheless, this had to be accepted due to the fact that questioning unknown people on the street was awkward in respect to the reaction of the spectators. Most people did not want to be disturbed or walked on when they heard about the task they were asked to fulfill.

Yet, among an extended circle of friends, it can be supposed that all members of that circle share a basic common set of words. As some free time is spent together among colleagues, hobbies and fields of interests tend to overlap and therefore lead to similar results.

Another factor that makes results predictable to a certain extent is one's professional life and according to it, the lifestyle one pursues. So it is not surprising when the results of a group of partaking computer programmers showed that 35 out of 40 terms were terms that are related to the semantic field of "computer".

3.3 Word-by-word analysis of the "Top 10" of Anglicisms¹⁶:

The words that were sorted by frequency will now be examined via the help of Carstensen's *Anglizismen-Wörterbuch*¹⁷ and Görlach's *Dictionary of European Anglicisms*¹⁸. In cases where there is no corresponding match in the two dictionaries, Pogarell & Schröder's *Wörterbuch überflüssiger Anglizismen* is taken into consideration.

The aim is to examine the entries and find words which can be labeled *Pseudo-Anglicisms*. The basis of the analysis will be table #1¹⁹. Yet, in the following section, the words will be discussed in the opposite direction, i.e. from least frequent to most frequent.

Band: The English word *band* describes a group of people playing mostly modern music. The usage of the term was first limited to Jazz-ensembles. Later it was used for any group of musicians (including instrumentalists as well as vocalists) that is smaller than a Big-Band. The word was incorporated in the German language around the time of World War II and was not subject to any transfer in meaning.

¹⁶ As some of the anglicisms were named equally often, the "Top 10" includes a total of 23 entries

¹⁷ Carstensen 1993

¹⁸ Görlach 2001

¹⁹ Appendix p. 19

dissen: The origin of this German slang term can be found within popular culture. The English verb *to disrespect* is commonly in use in its abbreviated form *to diss (someone)* in hip-hop culture. As the phenomenon of hip-hop reached Europe, the tendency to imitate and incorporate terms as well as behavioral patterns was widespread among youth. Thus, the German lexical derivation (*jemanden*) *dissen* found its way into the German language²⁰. It is listed by Pogarell & Schröder among the superfluous Anglicisms because there is a German corresponding form: “beschimpfen, schneiden, jmd. auf die Füße treten”²¹. Due to the fact that the German suffix *-en* indicates the grammatical infinitive, *dissen* a true Anglicism.

Fast-Food: Fast-Food describes a type of food that can be served quickly and easily, especially in a snack bar or restaurant. Furthermore the term can not only depict a type of meal but also a place where to eat corresponding food. Important to note here is the lexical change from English *fast food* to German *Fast-Food*. As both variations in meaning, i.e. “a place where to eat” and “a type of food”, are existent in both German and English, the act of borrowing does not offend grammatical laws. Thus, German *Fast-Food* is no Pseudo-Anglicism.

Link: Görlach defines *link* as follows: “a connecting part; one in a series, [...] a means of contact by radio or telephone between two points”²². This entry, along with the fact that *link* had no entry in Carstensen’s work shows the very recent development of the word. It can be suggested that the word is mostly used as an abbreviated form of the English technical term *hyper link*, which is an internet feature that enables users to get from one website to another by clicking on highlighted text fragments. Throughout the last decade, the internet gained increasing importance all over the world. English technical terms that have no corresponding match in many languages found their way into everyday use. The fact that English (*hyper*) *link* is in use carrying the same meaning as German *Link*, makes the German word a clearly identifiable loan word. The German correspondence *Querverbindung (im Internet)* is very rarely in use.

²⁰ http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dissen_%28Slang%29

²¹ Pogarell & Schröder 1999: 62

²² Görlach 2001: 186

Live: Carstensen lists various possible meanings of the term *live*:

- It describes a radio or television broadcast that is broadcast at the actual time of occurrence.
- It can be used to put emphasis on the fact that a piece of music was played to an audience without having been altered or remixed.
- It can be used as an adjective

Live is a very productive loan word in German, even though the terms usually are compound forms of German and English. Possible forms include: Live-Konzert, Live-Sendung Live- Auftritt etc. Additionally, *live* can be used as an adverb in German, e.g. "Live dabei sein": *"to be there live". In this case, Carstensen points out that this usage cannot be found in an English dictionary. In fact, the English corresponding term would be "to be there *in person*".

Star: Star depicts a person who is famous, successful and/or popular. Mostly used for persons who are involved in entertaining arts, it can also describe an individual from the area of politics or sports. The decisive feature of a star is his or her degree of popularity, which is often created by mainstream media. In German various compound forms are possible: *Star-Koch*, *Star-Politiker*, *Schwimm-Star* etc.

It is a long-used term in German. First mentioned in 1873, it was formerly used for describing well-known vaudeville actors.

Trend: A trend is a general direction and tendency, especially of events, fashion or opinion²³, but also used with politics and economics. Originally reduced to the fields of politics and economics, it has nowadays become frequently used in German popular culture. Most commonly used German derivate forms are *Trendsetter* (a person responsible for the creation of a *Trend*) and *trendy* (an adjective describing something very popular and fashionable). Yet, in its original form it remains an ordinary loanword with no pseudo-characteristics.

Manager: Three basically different variations in the meaning of *Manager* are listed by Carstensen (1994):

1. A person who represents the economic or job-related interests of single persons or groups in show business and single persons or teams in professional sport.

²³ Görlach 2001: 330

2. A person in the political sector who organizes and executes affairs and handles them carefully to achieve a desired constellation.
3. A person who controls an economic enterprise with extensive power of disposition and authority to decide.

It is important to note that with all three different types of meaning, Carstensen found out that a direct coherence between the German word *Manager* and the English word *manager* can be found: All of the entries are indicated “aus engl. Manager”²⁴. Therefore they can be considered as proper loan words.

Show: This term depicts a public performance with mostly complex optically emphasized features. It is very often used for TV broadcasts, musical or theater performances, as well as for music concerts of all kinds. Furthermore it can represent an exceptional behavior by a single person. As the English word *show* serves as a direct precursor for the German term, no criterion for a Pseudo-Anglicism can be assigned to it. Görlach emphasizes the universality of the word *show*. Especially within Germanic languages, genetically related words like *Schau* (German) or *showen* (Dutch) have helped its integration²⁵.

T-Shirt: *T-shirt* stands for a short-sleeved, casual piece of clothing for the upper part of the body. Its name derives from its T-shaped cut. First mentioned in a 1920s writing of F. Scott Fitzgerald, it found its way into German in the late 1960s, when (especially American) fashion was extensively adopted by European citizens. Nowadays it is widely used in many European languages²⁶.

CD: *CD* stands for *compact disc* and was introduced in the early 1980s in its abbreviated form. The format itself was invented by the companies Philips and Sony in 1982. Its name derived from the fact that the new disc was smaller (12 centimeters), i.e. more *compact*, than its predecessor, the vinyl record disc (30 centimeters for long player albums, 18 centimeters for singles)²⁷.

The acronym *CD* stands for *compact disc*. The two Latinisms *compact* and *disc* can be considered internationalisms and have corresponding terms in German (*kompakt*

²⁴ Carstensen 1994: 873-4

²⁵ Görlach 2001: 282

²⁶ c.f. Görlach 2001

²⁷ <http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schallplatte>

and *Diskette*). Therefore, the integration in German was not problematic. No change in meaning occurred when it was integrated into German.

Computer: Görlach defines *computer* as “an electronic device for storing and processing data”²⁸. *Computer* is a very productive word in current German: It is used as a prefix as well as a suffix: e.g. *Computerspiel*, *computerunterstützt*, *Heimcomputer*. The suggested German corresponding word *Rechner* is rarely used in everyday language and therefore has a low level of productivity: e.g. **Rechner-Spiel* is no valid German term.

Attention has to be drawn to the fact that the term *PC* was mentioned five times during the course of this survey and thus did not reach the top 10 list. If the term *PC* had been used synonymously for *Computer*, it would have reached 4th place with a total of 15 entries altogether.

Fuck: Three different variations of meaning of this term are possible in English: Firstly, a slang term often used derogatively describing sexual intercourse. Secondly, it can be used synonymously for messing/fooling around. Thirdly, it is used as a curse. When used as an interjection, it is a harsh expression of anger and annoyance²⁹.

The range of meaning in German, however, can be reduced to the fields of cursing, often as an interjection. Thus, the term is a true Anglicism. Furthermore it is confirmed that no record of *fuck* describing sexual intercourse can be found in German.

shoppen: In German this term is often used to describe the act of strolling through a city without actually buying things of need. Derivated from the English term *to go shopping*, it was “Germanicized” by substituting the English suffix *-ing* by the German infinitive suffix *-en*. However, it could be as well considered a German neologism.

Another idiom emerged in German combining English and German language features: *Shopping gehen*. This expression is in part a direct loan translation of *to go shopping* and is therefore no pseudo-loan.

²⁸ Görlach 2001: 69

²⁹ Görlach 2001: 127

Beamer: Unfortunately, an entry of *beamer* can be found neither in Görlach (2001) nor in Carstensen (1993) so *beamer* has to be analyzed via the help of the internet: The German version of *Wikipedia* names the term on the list of pseudo-anglicisms. *Beamer* in English is a vernacular term for a car or motorcycle produced by the German company BMW³⁰. In German it stands for a video projector or digital projector used for image projection on screens. The creation of this German pseudo-loan can be traced back to the fact that light *beams* produce a picture on a wall or screen.

The use of *Beamer* for a projector is in fact limited to German-speaking countries. The reason for a term like *beamer* making its way into German is due to the fact that German shows tendencies to incorporate English-sounding words, especially in technology and media language.

Okay³¹: *Okay* can be used as an adverb, adjective or interjection, meaning “all right”, “satisfactory” or “in good condition”³². Görlach states that *okay* is in fact one of the most widespread anglicisms worldwide and was incorporated in many European languages. It is a typical English loanword in German.

Jeans: This term spread from the 1950s onward all over the world. It depicts a type of trousers made of denim, usually worn casually. *Jeans* was able to prevail all attempts to replace it with native words. In German, the loan creation *Nietenhose* is not used extensively today. Therefore, the term has a low level of productivity, e.g. *Jeans-Stoff* is used instead of **Nietenhosen-Stoff*.

It is important to note here that the English term is used in plural form, the German one on the contrary is used as a singular form e.g. in “meine Jeans *its* schmutzig” instead of “meine Jeans *sind* schmutzig”. Nevertheless, Grzega points out that *Jeans* is used as a plural word in Austrian German and that a new singular form, i.e. *Jean*, was developed³³.

³⁰ http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liste_der_Scheinanglizismen

³¹ Among the answers of the survey were all possible dictions of *okay*: O.K.; okay; Okay. To make the results comparable, they were compiled under *okay*.

³² Görlach 2001: 217

³³ Grzega 2001: 17

Internet: The internet, which started to grow on a big scale in the early 1990s, is defined as an international computer network linking computers from educational institutions, government agencies, industry and private persons.

Internet can be considered an internationalism: The Latin prefix *inter* meaning “between”, “from one to another” or “together”, was very early incorporated in various European languages. However, Carstensen stresses the fact that the widespread Anglicism *international* was responsible for a rise in frequency of new German word creations like *Inter-City* and *Inter-Rail*³⁴. *Internet* can clearly be identified as an ordinary Anglicism.

Laptop: Just like many other terms of technologic language, this Anglicism is extensively in use and can be found in almost every European language³⁵. It can be defined as a portable computer combining keyboard, hard disk, CD/ disc drives and screen. The origin of the term *laptop* can either be found in the analogous term *lap-dog* (German: Schoßhündchen), or is more likely to be patterned after *desktop*.³⁶

Party: *Party* can best be described as a social gathering of (mostly invited) guests, which involves food, drinks and music. It is a very productive word in German, as creations like *Party-Service*, *Party-Löwe* or *Cocktail-Party* are existent in German. The word itself could prevail against the French word *fête*, which evolved into German *Fete*. *Party* is a real Anglicism that is commonly in use in German and has a bigger field of application than the German word *Feier*.

Email: Messages distributed by electronic means are called *Email*. It is a compound term of abbreviated *electronic* and *mail*. With the start of the internet “revolution” in the 1990s words like *Email*, *Internet*, *Laptop* etc. have become commonly accepted and are extensively in use in German.

In English, the correct diction is *e-mail*; nevertheless, other forms of spelling have evolved: *E-mail*, *email*. The same holds true for German where variations like *Email*, *E-mail*, *email* or *e-mail* are possible.

Altogether, 18 of the participants of this study said or wrote down one variation of *Email*, which accounts for 18% in total.

³⁴ Carstensen 1994: 708

³⁵ Görlach 2001: 185

³⁶ Surprisingly, *Notebook*, which is used synonymously, was not mentioned once during the course of the study

Handy: Handy is a German term for mobile telephones. Carstensen (1994) lacks an entry in his Anglicism dictionary due to the fact that at the time of the creation of the book mobile phones were not as omnipresent as they are today. Görlach calls the term “strikingly adequate (a *handy* carried in your *hands* being always *handy*) [but] it has not spread to European countries outside Germany” (Görlach 2001: 145). Görlach also states that *Handy* is the common term in German and that it is much more frequent than its equivalent *Mobiltelefon*.

If the term is not traced back to the adjective *handy*, the term may have also originated from the term '*hand held transceiver*' or Motorola's *Handie-Talkie*, a World War II portable military radio³⁷.

As **handy* is no English term for mobile phone, the German term *Handy* thus has to be listed among Pseudo-Anglicisms. Note here that the term was altogether mentioned 20 times in the conducted poll. That means 20% of the questioned partakers actually thought German *Handy* was a “real” Anglicism.

cool: The term was first adopted as a specialist term for a certain type of Jazz music, which was played in a restrained tone, in the 1950s. Then it was re-adopted as a youth term in western languages signifying unexcited behavior and calmness. Its tertiary type of meaning (i.e. excellent, marvelous) was attached later and can also be allocated to youth language.

Like the survey shows, it is one of the cognitively most prominent Anglicisms in German. No change in meaning can be recognized. Thus, the #1 entry (23 nominations, almost 25%) is an authentic Anglicism.

4. Conclusion

If a supposedly English word evolves in the German language that is not existent in English unless a change in meaning is applied, it is a Pseudo-Anglicism. As the study shows, only two words which fulfill this criterion can be found on the top list. *Beamer*, which is used in German for describing a video projector, is a term which depicts a

³⁷ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Handy>

car or motorcycle of BMW. *Handy* is a common English adjective and can not be used as a term for *mobile-phone* or *cellular-phone*.

Among the 23 words on the list, only 2 entries have Pseudo-Anglicism character, which matches a percentage of 8.7%. If the single nominations in the Top 10 list with its 23 entries are considered, *Handy* (20) and *Beamer* (11 nominations) total a percentage of 12 % out of the total 259 nominations.

According to the findings in this survey, Pseudo-Anglicisms are not as widespread as the extensive use of terms like *Handy* in the German media would suggest. Most anglicisms used in German are actually proper loan words.

Nevertheless, no claim of empiric meaningfulness can be made after this study. To get comparable meaningful results, the scale of the study should have been much greater in respect to the number of interviewees. Furthermore, no age limit must be integrated in order to get a cross-section of society.

5. Is a pragmatic study on Anglicisms in fact a cognitive linguistic study?

If a categorization of the top 20 words into semantic fields is applied to the list, one realizes the great frequency of terms belonging to the field of *technical language* (e.g. *Computer, Laptop, email*). Another categorization class could be *lifestyle* (e.g. *T-Shirt, Star, Fastfood*). This can in part be seen due to the fact that these words are very frequently in use in modern society.

Yet, when the study was being conducted, it was observable that many words showed a direct dependency with the surrounding in which the people were asked: There was a high rate of technical terms when people were asked via email; when people were asked in the streets, many terms came to the minds of the interviewees which had to do with what these people just had been doing or where they actually were situated when being asked. *Jeans, shoppen, Fastfood* etc. were most often named by people standing in front of shops. As a result, a direct dependency of question environment with results can be established.

This survey could as well have served as a cognitive linguistics study: How much does the unconscious mind determine what we say, think or do?

Appendix

Table#1

Top 10	Words sorted by decreasing frequency
1	23 cool
2	20 Handy
3	18 Email
4	14 Party
	14 Laptop
5	13 Internet
6	12 Jeans
7	11 Okay
	11 Beamer
8	10 shoppen
	10 Fuck
	10 Computer
	10 CD
9	9 T-Shirt
	9 Show
	9 Manager
10	8 Trend
	8 Star
	8 Live
	8 Link
	8 Fastfood
	8 dissen
	8 Band

Table#2 (Words which have been mentioned 7-3 times)

7: Cop (s), Comedy, Ticket, SMS, Showmaster, Shit, Hit, Disco (thek), checken

6: Web, TV, Thrill(er), Team, Spray, simsens, Loser (baby), Kids, Job, Hiphop, Drink, downloaden, cruisen, Cocktail, cash, brainstorming

5: Top, Talkshow, Software, skaten, Skateboard, Service-(Wüste), Pop-Star, PC, MC, Freak, duty free, Burger, Baby, abchecken

4: Sticker, sexy, Sex, Screen, Out, Order(n), News, Multiple-choice, Model

3: Video, Trip, trendy, Teen, Tackling, surfen, Style, Strip, Spirit, Sneakers, Skates, Shot, Shootingstar, Recycling, Public-Viewing, patchen, Pain, Overhead, Nike Marketing, jump, In, Hockey, Hi(gh), Handicap, Halfpipe, Groupie, Free, Fight, Disc, Condom, chillen, chatten, Chat, Charts, Car, Cap, Callgirl, Box, blockbuster, audio.

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