

Book Review

**Tvrtko Prčić, Jasmina Dražić, Mira Milić, Milan Ajdžanović,
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SRPSKI REČNIK NOVIJIH ANGLICIZAMA

[A SERBIAN DICTIONARY OF RECENT ANGLICISMS]

Novi Sad: Faculty of Philosophy, 2021

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Srpski rečnik novijih anglicizama (*A Serbian Dictionary of Recent Anglicisms, SRNA*) is a specialized dictionary that appeared in 2021, twenty years after *Du yu speak anglosrpski? Rečnik novijih anglicizama* (Vasić, Prčić, Nejgebauer 2001), at that time a rather avant-garde but now a classic and very influential book, relevant not only for lexicography and lexicology, but also for the emerging field of contact linguistics in Serbia. The team of authors, led by Tvrtko Prčić, the leading Serbian authority in the field of English-Serbian language contacts (Prčić 2019), consists of a good mix of scholars who are experts on English (Mira Milić, Sonja Filipović, Olga Panić Kavgić) and on Serbian (Jasmina Dražić, Milan Ajdžanović, Strahinja Stepanov). Though the Dictionary has immediately attracted attention both in book reviews (Ahmetpahić-Peljto 2021, Šafer 2022) and scholarly articles (Bugarski, Vasić, Prčić et al. 2022), this review in English is intended to present it to wider and international audiences as well.

The authors compiled a representative corpus of Serbian internet sources, as a reliable insight into the use of contemporary, spontaneous written language, deemed to be closest to the spoken one, which itself is considered the register and medium with the most prominent influx of anglicisms. Thematic areas included in the corpus are society, culture, science, information technologies, popular culture, free time and sport, each of them further divided into specific subareas.

Unlike its predecessor, with a relatively modest number of some 1000 dictionary entries, SRNA has as many as 4500, which is a clear indication of a great influx of anglicisms into Serbian in the past 20 years. With nearly 650 pages, and a 40-page introductory section, SRNA makes an impressive specialized dictionary. It is available both in the printed and free electronic form, which can increase its availability and use.

The theoretical framework of SRNA, firmly based in the postulates of modern contact linguistics, is briefly presented in the Introduction. The term anglicism is defined precisely, to include both words and affixes, introduced from English into Serbian, which got at least

Submitted March 30, 2023; Accepted April 4, 2023

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partly integrated into its system, by being adapted at the level of pronunciation, orthography, form and meaning. The authors clearly differentiate them from English words and affixes that are only occasionally interpolated into Serbian and therefore are not sufficiently integrated in its system. The authors use the term *englishism* to refer to them, drawing a clear distinction between them and *anglicisms*, and excluding them from SRNA. Moreover, SRNA includes only *anglicisms* that belong to everyday general non-terminological vocabulary in Serbian.

The lexicographical treatment of dictionary entries (explained in detail in the Introduction and presented throughout the Dictionary in a graphically attractive way) is extremely meticulous, and is reflected in a complex yet user-friendly microstructure of the Dictionary. It gives abundant data about the form, function and meaning of a particular *anglicism*, and its interrelationships with other words. The description of each entry includes the orthographic form, the grammatical form (main forms of inflected nouns, verbs and adjectives and the formal label in Serbian), the suggested pronunciation, the unacceptable form of a particular *anglicism* in Serbian (written, morphological or pronunciation), the written form of the English original, illustrative example(s) in Serbian in the authentic language context, and the common collocations and derivations in Serbian. The meanings of the entries are given in great detail and include a definition, the current or newly suggested translation of the *anglicism*, which serves as a near synonym, and, if necessary, the situational use of the *anglicism*. For polysemic entries, the meanings are numerically ordered. A particularly user-friendly feature is a small set of guidelines, spreading at the bottom of each left and right page, explaining abbreviations and symbols in the Dictionary, so the users do not have to search at the extensive Guidelines at the beginning of the book.

SRNA is aimed at a broad range of users, of different age groups and education profiles, who can consult it in order to understand recent *anglicisms* that are constantly encountered in Serbian printed and electronic media, but also to check if they are using the *anglicisms* correctly in terms of orthography, pronunciation and meaning. However, it also has a great research and pedagogic potential (Mišić Ilić 2022). English as well as Serbian language professionals (teachers, translators, proof-readers, linguists) will find the Dictionary useful in its theoretical aspect related to specific definitions of the relevant contact linguistic notions as well as clearly stated lexicographical postulates and methodology. Last, but not least, it can be very useful for students of English and Serbian, especially at the university level, both from the practical perspective and as a model for research in the fields of contact linguistics, lexicography, lexicology and language teaching.

The influx and use of *anglicisms* in other languages, including Serbian, cannot be avoided or prevented by force, but the tidal wave can be controlled by channelling *anglicisms* into the normative framework of the recipient language. SRNA is therefore a valuable reference book for all those who care about the correct and regulated use of *anglicisms* in Serbian, especially for language and media professionals who can systematically influence the formation of public language culture.

Acknowledgement: *Prepared as a part of the project Scientific publications in teaching English Linguistics and Anglo-American Literature and Culture, conducted at the University of Niš – Faculty of Philosophy (No. 300/1-14-1-01).*

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