Lexicographic codification of English-based synonyms in Serbian

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1. Introduction

Even though most authors accept the fact that a certain level of contrast is inherent to synonymy, it seems that the range of differential features between synonyms varies according to various authors. Most likely for this reason, there are as many dictionaries of synonyms as there are different theoretical approaches to synonymy. The fact that the proposed lexicographic model deals with English-based synonyms in Serbian, puts additional culturally specific lexicographic requirements in terms of adaptation of the borrowed elements according to the Serbian standard by specifying semantic contents of anglicisms in order to justify their synonymous status in the Serbian lexicon. Thus the lexicographic model proposed in section 4 of this paper is based on the corpus-based theoretical approach to synonymy as well as comparative analysis of several dictionaries of synonyms in English, Croatian, Russian, and Serbian. The corpus is compiled from print media and a selection of literary texts by three Serbian authors.

2. Definition of anglicisms and synonymy

The fact that lexical entries of the lexicographic model to be presented below are English-based synonyms in Serbian puts a reasonable requirement to define the key concepts of anglicism and synonymy, especially in the context of English-Serbian language contact.

The concept of an anglicism is broadly defined as any lexical item in Serbian borrowed from English (Filipović 1986: 192). However, this analysis calls for a more detailed definition of an anglicism, which, according to Prćić (2005: 145), includes not only lexical units but also syntactic ones. Firstly,

anglicisms are lexical units (words and affixes) borrowed from English, as exemplified by *set* 'set', or naturalized (mostly Latin) lexical units in Serbian with higher frequency of usage and/or semantic modification under the influence of English, such as *edukacija* 'education'. Secondly, they are translated lexical and syntactic units (words, phrases, and collocations) in Serbian, which comply with the lexical standard of English, as in *dolaziti iz* 'come from'.

By contrast, synonym and synonymy turn out to be the concepts which do not have a universally accepted definition in literature. Even though authors are predominantly concerned with lexical synonymy, the definition of synonymy given in this paper assumes the category of grammatical synonymy as well. In order to be treated as synonyms, two or more lexical or grammatical units must share identical core meaning but not necessarily the same peripheral one. Different information, if any, is explained by the difference in expressive elements of meaning (connotation, register, dialect, jargon), as well as differences in collocatinal restrictions, selectional differences, frequency, syntactic patterns, and others (Murphy 2003: 168). In the light of the fact that the range of these differences and their intensity is variable, synonymy is usually presented as a graded semantic category including absolute, propositional, and near-synonymy (Cruse 2004: 154), absolute, partial, and near-synonymy (Lyons 1995: 60), or complete (full) synonymy, near (partial) synonymy, and no-synonymy (Shiyab 2007). Even though the first two scales start from absolute synonymy which assumes sameness of all meanings of synonyms and their full semantic equivalence, as well as their interchangeability in all contexts, the fact is that this is generally believed to be rare even within the same language, let alone texts across languages. However, just as there is absolute synonymy as reference point on one end of the scale, there is a category of no-synonymy to serve as a reference point on the other. Thus the actual range of synonymy is reduced to two categories, i.e. propositional or partial synonymy and near-synonymy. The former, implying identity of descriptive meaning is usually found in theories on semantics, whereas the latter, according to which meanings are more or less similar, may be treated as dictionary category of synonymy. Complying with the above analysis, synonyms in this paper are at least two lexical units predominantly of the same grammatical class, which share the same descriptive meaning, or at least two grammatical units with the same meaning in their deep structure, which are thus mutually comparable and interchangeable in certain contexts.

According to the analysis of print media and literary texts, the differences between English-based and Serbian-based synonyms are predominantly due to additional implications (*isprintan* 'printed' implies the use of a computer,

versus neutral *odštampan* 'printed'), collocational restrictions (*lista klijenata* 'client list' versus *spisak zaposlenih* 'employee list'), frequency of usage (*kompjuter* 'computer' is more frequent than its translation equivalent *računar*), register (*grejs-period* 'grace period' in banking business versus *mirovanje otplate* in general lexicon), and style (*fajter* 'fighter', used metaphorically, versus its neutral translation equivalent *borac*). In addition to these, a smaller number of English-based synonyms in Serbian show major differences in denotation too (*koncept* 'concept' versus *koncept* 'rough draft'). Considered in terms of the above scalar categories, English-based synonyms with non-denotative differences fit the category of partial or propositional synonymy, whereas the ones with denotative differences are at the borderline between near-synonymy and no-synonymy. Propositional synonyms are usually terminologically motivated at the beginning, however, when they get widely accepted by the language community in Serbian, they often push beyond terminological limits by performing certain stylistic functions, as illustrated by the above example *fajter* 'fighter', which developed a metaphoric meaning of a person capable of an extreme fight such as in a boxing match. Such a tendency has also been pointed out by Roget (1958: xiv) who concludes that loan words "from being at first merely technical, are rendered, by more general use, familiar to the multitude, and having a well-defined acceptation, are eventually incorporated into the language, which they contribute to enlarge and to enrich". Thus anglicisms compete with the existing Serbian lexemes sharing the same denotative meaning in the general lexicon and so end up in multiplied synonymy in Serbian. In the light of the fact that it is generally believed that anglicisms have peculiarly expressive potential and that using them provides etiquette nowadays, Serbian-based synonyms are bound to be pushed aside and become obsolete in the end (Prćić 2005: 149). On the other hand, there are lexical units with denotative differences usually referred to as false friends, i.e. words similar in form but semantically divergent, which have different culture-bound semantic contents in English and Serbian, such as English *concept* and Serbian *koncept* 'rough draft' mentioned above. Even though sameness of form cannot be taken as a criterion of synonymy, it seems reasonable to include such units in a dictionary of English-based synonyms in Serbian, due to the fact that they are usually culture-specific words implying inherent danger of semantic shifts unless taken care of in advance.

3. Dictionaries of synonyms

Generally speaking, most dictionaries of synonyms do not include synonyms only. As a rule, antonyms and occasionally hyponyms are included too. In order to get an insight into lexicographic codification of synonyms, the following section presents a review of several dictionaries of synonyms in English, Russian, and Serbian.

3.1 English dictionaries of synonyms

This subsection is a review of three dictionaries: *Roget's International Thesaurus* (1958), *Webster's Dictionary of Synonyms* (1984), *Collins Internet-linked Dictionary of Synonyms & Antonyms* (2005), and *Oxford Learner's Thesaurus: A Dictionary of Synonyms* (2008).

  Roget's International Thesaurus includes synonyms and related words classified according to their signification into six main categories (Abstract Relationships, Space, Material World, Intellect, Volition and Sentiment, and Moral Powers), each of which is further divided into smaller subdivions until an appropriate heading gives clue for clusters of words gathered under it. Thus the lexical entry *mother* and its duly differentiated stylistic variants *mamma, mummy, mam, ma, mom, mommy, mummy, mumsy, motherkin, motherkins* are found in the division of Abstract Relationships, and its subdivision of Ancestry, which includes a number of other analogous words such as *dam*, *maternal ancestor*, *mater*, *the old woman*, *progenitress*, *progenitrix*, *matriarch, materfamilias, stepmother, foster-mother, mother-in-law*, (1958: 94). Judging from the differences in denotative meaning between the words gathered around the headword *ancestry*, it can be concluded that most of them can be treated as hyponyms or superordinates rather than synonyms. In addition, the discriminating details between members of a certain group are rather scarce. Thus, mother-words are discriminated by labels of style, whereas etymological series (*kingly, regal, royal*), and morphological variants (*historic(al), lexicologic(al)*) are entered without any discriminating details, even though some of them have different associations and implications.

  Webster's Dictionary of Synonyms defines a synonym "as one of two or more words in the English language which have the same or nearly the same essential meaning" (1984: 24a). The potential differences are in implications, connotations, and applications. Based on such differences, most etymological variants (*kingly, regal, royal*), and certain morphological pairs (*historic, historical*) are synonyms, which is not true of a morphological pair *lexicologic* and *lexicological*. However, this dictionary does not include language variants and stylistically marked lexemes. As an example, lexical entry *mother* with its

geographically/stylistically marked synonyms *mummy* (chiefly British and child's word) and *mum* (short for *mummy*) are not included, even though they are listed in other dictionaries of synonyms dealt with below. In addition to synonyms, this dictionary includes analogous words i.e. words closely related in meaning, or words which contain much the same but differently emphasized implications, as well as words that may be more general or more specific than the headword. Synonyms are matched with their corresponding antonyms, and analogous words are matched with contrasted words. It is worth pointing out that some of the analogous words from this dictionary turn out to be listed as synonyms in other dictionaries. To exemplify, analogous words *permit*, *allow*, and *let* included under the headword *enable* are treated as synonyms of the same headword in *Collins internet-linked dictionary of Synonyms and Antonyms* (2005: 226). Lexical entry includes a headword synonym, grammatical class, synonym/s, detailed definitions of meaning, usage examples, analogous words, antonyms, and contrasted words.

In contrast to these two dictionaries, *Collins Internet-linked Dictionary of Synonyms & Antonyms* includes alphabetically ordered synonyms with indication of their grammatical class, register, subject field, geographical region, and antonyms, but without definitions of meaning and examples of usage. Consequently, etymological triplet (*kingly, regal, royal*), and morphological variants (*historic, historical*) are included without any discriminating labels, along with stylistically marked lexemes of *mother* (*mum*, *ma*, *mom*) which do have labels of style and geographical region.

Oxford Learner's Thesaurus: A Dictionary of Synonyms is divided to alphabetically ordered topics (30), each of which is provided with synonymous and antonymous entries amounting to over 17,000 in total. Entries are ordered alphabetically by headword being the most frequent word in each synonym group, immediately followed by antonym. Definition of meaning is kept rather short, with essential grammatical information preceding the definition of meaning in the form of codes and labels and usage example following it. Some synonyms are also provided with extra information of encyclopedic type. Synonyms in this dictionary are lexical units which differ slightly in terms of nuance, register or collocation. Given that differential features here are different from those in the *Webster's dictionary of synonyms*, triple etymological series (*kingly, regal, royal*), and morphological variants (*historic, historical*) are not included. However, it does include stylistically marked lexemes, such as *mother*, *mum*, and *mummy*.

3.2 Dictionaries of synonyms in non-English languages

This subsection gives a review of dictionaries of synonyms in Russian *Новый объяснительный словарь синонимов русского языка* (Apresjan 2000), and Serbian – *Sinonimi i srodne reči srpskohrvatskoga jezika* (Lalević 2004), and *Rečnik sinonima* (Ćosić et al. 2008). In addition, this review will also include a draft of the Croatian dictionary of synonyms (Petrović 2005: 235), as well as a dictionary of recent anglicisms *Du yu speak anglosrpski? Rečnik novijih anglicizama* (Vasić, Prćić, and Nejgebauer 2001), due to the fact that it deals with translation equivalents in Serbian most of which are essentially synonymous with anglicisms.

Russian dictionary of synonyms *Новый объяснительный словарь синонимов русского языка* does not include terms, jargon, and archaic words. Synonyms are presented in the form of a hierarchical tree with several sets of synonyms grouped together according to a certain diagnostic feature (grammatical, communicative, pragamitc). As an example, the Russian lexeme *родственники* 'kinsmen' is listed as headword which branches further into two groups of synonyms, i.e. blood relations and relations by marriage, each of which includes its own set of synonyms. Definitions of meaning are given in the form of a model of propositional structure including letters and symbols. The fact worth focussing about this dictionary is a unique metalanguage with its own vocabulary and syntax, which is composed of "semantic primitives", i.e. words that cannot be defined or reduced to lower-level semantic units, and semantically more complex words, which can be reduced to primitives in a small number of steps. In contrast to the traditional lexicographic definition which relies on synonyms and related words, metalanguage of this dictionary practically excludes synonyms and hyponyms, with an aim to achieve "one-to-one correspondence between names and senses" (Apresjan 2000: 217).

An older dictionary of synonyms in the former Serbo-Croatian, *Sinonimi i srodne reči srpskohrvatskoga jezika* by Lalević does not provide a clear-cut definition of a synonym. However, it may be concluded from the Preface that apsolute synonyms are possible across languages or within languages in the form of language variants, whereas actual synonyms imply certain differences due to specific contents, functions, and usage. Apart from the standard entries, the dictionary includes etymological variants, such as Latin *tuberkuloza* versus Serbian *sušica*, *jektika*, *suhobolja*, *grudobolja* 'tuberculosis', morphological doublets, e.g. *pobednik*, *pobedilac*, *pobeditelj* 'conquerer', 'winner', jargon lexemes, *keva*, *mama* 'ma', 'mummy', obsolete lexical units, e.g. *dažd* 'rain', a multitude of Serbian and Croatian language variants, and a

number of proverbs included under the headword. This dictionary is not a clear-cut dictionary of synonyms as it also includes hyponyms. Besides the headword, lexical entry consists of synonym/s, translation equivalents in seven languages, grammatical class, explanations of meaning, and examples of usage. In spite of being a comprehensive lexicographic source, this dictionary is lacking a high level of scientic codification in terms of meta-language applied for defining differences between synonyms (Petrović 2005: 81).

Recently published dictionary of synonyms in Serbian, *Rečnik sinonima* by Ćosić and colleagues is not a clear-cut dictionary of synonyms either, as it also includes hyponyms, words with related meaning, and occasionally antonyms. The definition of a synonym is not provided, but it may be concluded that, apart from standard words, synonyms are also highly discriminated stylistically marked units (figurative, informal, jargon, poetic, etc.), as well as language variants. The typical lexical entry consists of a headword synonym not necessarily followed by a definition of meaning, synonym/s, cross-reference for hyponym, labels of style or language variant, and grammatical class. Comparing the two Serbian dictionaries of synonyms, it turns out that a lexical entry *majka* 'mother' is treated as being synonymous with the same lexemes, except that the former includes informal *keva* which happens to be missing in the latter, whereas the latter includes synonyms for four additional figurative meanings of mother which are missing in the former one.

In contrast to the above dictionaries, the model of Croatian dictionary of synonyms proposed by Petrović (2005: 223) does not include non-synonymous units. Synonyms in this dictionary have identical denotative and connotative meanings, whereas differences are due to: etymology (turcisms, italianisms, and russianisms borrowed via Turkish), temporal distribution (archaisms, neologisms, rarely used words, revived words, obsolete words), geographical distribution (dialectal, local, regional), style (conversational, expressive, jargon, literary, pejorative, vulgar, etc.), and register (19 in total). In spite of a highly discriminated range of labels, numerous unmarked members of a synonym set are entered without discriminating details, even though it may be understood that this is compensated by their order based on which they do differ from each other in the amount of sameness of meaning they share with a headword synonym (2005: 228). Headword synonym is followed by a single or multiplied sets of synonyms (depending on the number of different senses), each with its own definition of meaning and example of usage, and grammatical information at the end.

Even though not a dictionary of English-based synonyms in Serbian, judging from its title, *Du yu speak Angloserbian? A Dictionary of Recent*

Anglicisms (Vasić, Prćić, & Nejgebauer 2001) is essentially a dictionary of synonyms, and is worth mentioning in this review for several reasons. Firstly, it includes translation equivalents in Serbian for each headword anglicism – actual or potential ones. Secondly, it provides definition of meaning for a single/multiplied set of synonyms, as well as examples of usage. Thirdly, it includes a system of codification of English-Serbian synonyms in terms of collocational restrictions and style, which is based on media language. In addition, lexical entries are also differentiated according to register, although this detail is not given in the form of a label but as a constituent part of the definition of meaning. Fourthly, in contrast to all above dictionaries, this one includes false friends too, which are included as a borderline category of synonyms in this paper. Eventually, the model of standard adaptation of anglicisms commends itself as a reference source for any dictionary dealing with anglicisms in Serbian.

3.3 Differences in lexicographic codification of synonyms

Even though all dictionaries described above deal with synonyms, lexicographic codification appears to be different in each. Major points of difference are the following:
- Most of them are not clear-cut dictionaries of synonyms due to the fact that they also include antonyms, analogous words, contrasted words, and hyponyms;
- Synonymous entries in one dictionary are not necessarily the same in another, which is a result of a different theoretical approach to synonymy;
- Some dictionaries provide explanations/definitions of meaning, some include them partially, while others do not give them at all, and even when given, they follow different models;
- Some dictionaries include examples of usage, while others do not.

4. Lexicographic codification of English-based synonyms in Serbian

According to the macrostructure, the lexicographic model proposed here includes alphabetically ordered lexical entries, in the form of single-worded or phrasal entries and a certain number of collocations. Even though most dictionaries dealt with above include antonyms and hyponyms, the model proposed below includes only synonyms, which is justified by the fact that a dictionary is normally a practical realisation of a theoretical approach to a certain problem and that the problem dealt with is synonymy and not antonymy or hyponymy. If judged from a broad perspective, the proposed

lexicographic model might be treated as a dictionary of anglicisms, however, the selection of lexical entries is governed by their potential for developing synonymous relations with the Serbian words. This means that certain anglicisms which fill in lexical gaps in Serbian are left out. Besides, the fact that the focus is on synonymous anglicisms implies a more diversified range of differential features than in an ordinary dictionary of anglicisms, which is based not only on media language but also on literary texts.

Focusing on the microstructure of this lexicographic model, a lexical entry consists of the following elements: headword anglicism, synonym pair/set for one or more senses of an entry, definition of meaning, example/s of usage for each listed sense, and grammatical information. These elements, which are exemplified below by the lexical entry *bekgraund* 'background' (Figure 1), are dealt with separately in the following text.

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bekgraund, a *m* [eng. *background*].
= **1. bekgraund** ☹ (pomod)**, MILJE** (retko): *poreklo, obrazovanje i iskustvo koji zajedno oblikuju nečiji karakter i ponašanje* (Vasić, Prćić i Nejgebauer 2001: 39), - Poslovi koje je obavljao ostavljali su Martiju dovoljno prostora i kreativnih mogućnosti da kroz svoje „službene" obaveze ostvari i ponešto od svog porodičnog nacističkog bekgraunda, antiruskog i antipravoslavnog resantimana, kao i „superhikovsku" sklonost da se bude na strani moćnih i bogatih. (ŠT);
= **2. bekgraund** ☹ (pomod), **POZADINA**: *okruženje ili pozadina nekog događaja* (Vasić, Prćić i Nejgebauer 2001: 39), - Sve što je druženje, što je manifestacija određenog životnog stila, postaje bekgraund. (ŠT);
= **3. bekground** ☹ (pomod)**, ISKUSTVO** (retko): *znanje, veština stečena dužim radom, praksa*, - Mesić bi se, s backgroundom dvaju predsedničkih mandata, pojavljivao kao politički važna figura koja pomaže Hrvatskoj svojim iskustvom i kontaktima u svetu.(ŠT);
= **4. bekground** ☹ (pomod), **pečat** (fig): *karakterističan trag, tipično obeležje nečega* - Možda i ne verujem u postojanje Svevišnjeg, jer ga nikad ne viđam, ne javlja mi se, ali sve u mom životu ima taj hrišćanski background. (ŠT).
= **5. bekgraund** ☺ (fig), **ZNAČAJ**: *kvalitet nečega što je vredno ili potrebno u određenoj situaciji* – u Shakespearovim dramama on klozetu dodaje spiritۅelni background ... (Pekić 2006: 153).

Figure 1. Lexicographic codification of *bekground* 'background' as an English-based synonym in Serbian

4.1 Headword anglicism

Headword is clearly marked using a different typographic convention from the remaining part of a lexical entry. In the light of the fact that it is an anglicism, it is expected to be adapted according to a culture-specific rules complying with the lexical standard of Serbian. This includes orthographic and semantic adaptation according to the model proposed by Vasić, Prćić, and Nejgebauer (2001). Hence the headword is a duly transshaped anglicism immediately followed by its original spelling in English. In case of polyse-

mous headwords, each sense is presented separately with its own synonym/s, as shown by the lexical entry above (see Figure 1) which has five different senses in Serbian, the last three of which have not been registered in the existing Serbian dictionaries (cf. Klajn & Šipka 2006: 197; Vasić, Prćić, and Nejgebauer 2001: 39).

4.2 Synonym pair/set

According to the common lexicographic practice, synonymy is codified by the mathematical symbol for equality (=), which precedes each semantic field of an anglicism registered in Serbian, except for false friends in which case the symbol for inequality (≠) is introduced. Serbian-based synonyms are both translation equivalents and anlicisms which fill in lexical gaps in Serbian. With reference to translation equivalents it might be worthwhile to mention that most of them are the existing lexical units in Serbian, except a few terminological phrases coined for new concepts, which were not included in the dictionaries even though they do crop up occasionally in variable syntactic forms as stylistic replacements for anglicisms. Members of a synonym set are ordered according to the amount of sameness of meaning they share with an anglicism. As already mentioned in section 2, English-based synonyms usually share the same meaning with the Serbian-based ones, but not necessarily the same elements related to additional implications, collocational restrictions, frequency of usage, register, or style. If a synonym is a neutral or unmarked unit, it is codified typographically using small capitals, as illustrated by MILJE, POZADINA, ISKUSTVO, PEČAT in Figure 1. On the other hand, additional implications are spelled out accordingly, whereas the marked units are indicated by labels, as follows. Different information due to collocational range is codified by the label *kolok* 'collocation', while frequency of usage is referred to as *retko* 'rare', which is to signify that the existing Serbian-based synonym has lost its former frequency of usage with a tendency to become obsolete. The number of labels of terminological markedness depends on the number of thematic fields covered by English-based synonyms in Serbian. In contrast with terminological labels, stylistic labels are expected to be highly diversified due to abundance of stylistic functions of anglicisms, especially in literary texts. However, the most frequent ones are: *fig* 'figurative', *form* 'formal', *neform* 'informal', and *pomod* 'trendy'. A major inconvenience in terms of proper labeling of synonymous units in Serbian is the lack of an electronic corpus, as well as insufficient corpus of literary texts. Thus the former will have to be based upon personal judgment

of the author, while the latter requires additional analysis of recent literary works in Serbian.

Another issue to be dealt with is justifiability of anglicisms, due to the fact that some are unwelcome in the general lexicon of Serbian. This is mostly true of terminologically marked anglicisms, many of which push beyond these limits with a tendency to become trendy means of expression and push aside the already existing Serbian equivalents in the general lexicon. As terminologically and stylistically marked anglicisms are generally justified in Serbian except those labelled as trendy, one of the aims of this lexicographic model is to incorporate them in the Serbian lexicon as marked lexemes, so as to prevent them from competing with the existing unmarked Serbian units. Following the lexicographic model of Vasić, Prćić, and Nejgebauer (2001: 10), a smiley ☺ is used to indicate justified terminologically or stylistically marked anglicisms, whereas opposite emoticon ☹ refers to unjustified stylistic usages registered in print media. Lastly, unjustified false friends are codified both by the sign ≠, and an emoticon ☹.

This stage of lexicographic codification is the most sensitive one as it involves reaching judgment related to justifiability of the borrowed elements in terms of linguistic and non-linguistic criteria, as well as their culture-specific lexicographic codification in Serbian. Given that English borrowings are global reality nowadays, they must be given due attention in such a manner that they function as supplements rather than substitutes for Serbian words.

4.3 Definition of meaning

Definition of meaning is always a specific challenge for a lexicographer as it is the question of reconciliation of two mutually exclusive principles, i.e. giving sufficient linguistic and encyclopedic information on one hand and being kept as short as possible on the other. Owing to the fact that a definition cannot include all possible meanings of a lexical unit, it can only be understood as a starting point for understanding and usage of all its potential meanings (Bratanić 1991: 48, as per Petrović 2005: 230). Recent dictionaries have progressed in fulfilling this criterion by keeping the definition free of any encyclopedic information but including them, if necessary, in the form of graphs and extra information. The usual type of the definition applied in Serbian dictionaries fits the model which Atkins and Rundell (2008: 436) refer to as "genus-and-differentia" defining model, according to which a word is described in terms of its superordinate or 'genus' expression and its additional features or 'differentiae', which distinguish the particular meaning from other category members. When dealing with a dictionary of synonyms, it is necessary to define the meaning of a neutral member within a set while

other members of the set will only be given extra labels as marked lexemes. Most of these definitions might be found in recently published dictionaries in Serbian.

4.4 Examples of usage

According to Atkins and Rundell (2008: 453), the function of examples is to prove the existence of words, to serve as complements to definitions, as well as to illustrate contextual features such as syntax, collocation, and register. Generally speaking a good example should be natural and typical, informative, and intelligible. In order to fulfill the criterion of naturalness and typicality, an example is expected to be recurrent in the corpus. Informativeness of an example is secured by the right balance of content so that it is sufficient for understanding of a word's meaning. Lastly, intelligibility of an example is satisfied by avoiding difficult lexis and structures. Examples of usage in the existing dictionaries of anglicisms are quoted from media language. However, due to the unabated effect of English on Serbian for a longer period, it is not uncommon that anglicisms penetrate literary language too. As commented by Deretić (2004: 1164) the writers of the new generation want "not only to offer a true picture of contemporary life but also to find this picture in the vernacular forms, which most frequently depart pointedly from the standardized literary language, but still contribute to creation of comprehensive poetic symbols." Consequently, some examples might be extracted from literary works too, especially recently published ones. Even though such an attitude does not comply with the current lexicographic requirements (Petrović 2005: 220), the preliminary analysis of the novels of three Serbian authors proves that literary texts provide a rich source of examples of active usage of English-based synonyms in Serbian. The above lexical entry *bekgraund* 'background' (Figure 1) illustrates this point since its fifth stylistically marked sense is registered in a literary source. As already commented for definitions in subsection 4.3, examples should also be kept as short as possible, which means that irrelevant parts of sentences, i.e. non-central clauses are left out. References are given in the form of abbreviations for print media, *ŠT*, and full information including the author's name, year and relevant page for literature.

The following issue to be defined is the number of examples for each registered sense of an anglicism in Serbian. This would ideally imply that each sense should be illustrated by one example. However, in the light of the fact that lexical entries are loan words, it is believed that it is only through multiple examples that the user will be able to reach complete understanding

of their semantics, syntax and collocation. Accordingly, the maximum number of examples is not expected to exceed three.

4.5 Grammatical information

According to the common lexicographic practice this information is given immediately after the headword. However, according to Petrović (2005: 233), this information should be moved to the end in order not to burden a synonym with grammar, as what matters here is predominantly its semantics. Even though Petrović's argument for moving grammatical information to the end of an entry seems reasonable, its usual position at the beginning is justified for the proposed lexicographic model of English-based synonyms in Serbian, due to the fact that it is intended to be a supplement for several recently published dictionaries which follow the same principle. Thus, grammatical information is presented after the headword anglicism, more exactly immediately after its English spelling. Another issue to be dealt with is the quality of grammatical information. As a rule, this is just grammatical class of the headword synonym. However, since Serbian is an inflectional language, there might be room for specification of non-inflectional borrowings as well as endings for specific oblique cases, according to the model of Vasić, Prćić, and Nejgebauer (2001).

5. Conclusions

The main purpose of a dictionary of English-based synonyms in Serbian is to prevent potential semantic shifts or pushing aside the existing domestic or naturalized words in Serbian. Given that lexical entries are anglicisms which develop synonymous relations with Serbian words, it is necessary to start from a clear-cut definition of an anglicism and synonym. Compiling a dictionary of such synonyms is generally dependant on the theoretical approach to synonymy. As a definition of synonymy in this paper starts from a hypothesis that synonymy is a sense relation, it implies both linguistic and non-linguistic components of meaning that develop synonymous relations with lexical units in Serbian. For this reason, it is proposed that lexicographic codification of English-based synonyms in Serbian should be based not only on media language, but also on literary language. The fact that lexical entries are English-based synonyms in Serbian puts additional culture-specific lexicographic requirements in terms of formal and semantic adaptation of the borrowed elements according to the Serbian standard. Accordingly, apart from being duly adapted formally, an English-based synonym in Serbian will also be differentiated semantically from its Serbian-based syn-

onym/s, in order to function as a supplement rather than substitute for the existing Serbian words.

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