

ANGLICISMS IN THE AREA OF FOOD AND DRINKS AMONG SPANISH SPEAKERS. WHY ARE ANGLICISMS USED TO REFER TO FOOD AND DRINKS RELATED TERMS IN SPANISH?

Carmen LUJÁN-GARCÍA
Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria
carmen.lujan@ulpgc.es

1. Introduction

In present-day societies, the media plays an essential role in the spread and free circulation of new trends and terms that the different languages exchange among them. The social media, along with the digital press, have become means that are accessed by almost every citizen in the Western countries. Consequently, information, which is mostly in English, is constantly flowing through these means. The exposure of the global population towards English is undeniable.

A considerable amount of literature has reported on the use of Anglicisms in a number of domains in Spanish daily life: sports (Rodríguez González 2012; Rodríguez-Medina 2021), fashion and beauty (Balteiro & Campos 2012; Luján-García 2017a), teenagers' language (Luján-García 2017b), sex (Crespo-Fernández & Luján-García 2018), to list just a few of them. The growing influence of English has extended to areas such as the field of food and drinks among Spanish speakers. In the last decade, we have witnessed not only a remarkable influence of fast food culture coming from Anglo-American countries, but as a reaction to this tendency, an increasing concern about the quality of the food that we eat has also emerged among certain areas of Spanish society. As a result of this concern, a number of food TV shows and contests present multiple recipes and participants often compete for demonstrating which meal is healthier, more creative or more delicious.

Some articles (Fundeu BBVA 2019; García Núñez 2019), published mostly in social media, have dealt with the presence of Anglicisms in this domain, but these publications are merely focused on offering some lists of English lexical items and possible Spanish equivalents. Therefore, the justification for this paper lies in the fact that no deep academic analysis has documented in detail the presence of English loanwords including examples in context in the particular area of food and drinks in Spanish.

2. Objectives

This paper intends to reveal the increasingly degree of influence of the English language and Anglo-American culture on Spanish linguistic domains of food and drinks.

Some more specific goals are as follows:

➤ To examine, from qualitative and quantitative approaches, a number of Anglicisms that seem to be increasingly used in the area of food and drinks among Spanish speakers.

➤ To find out which Anglicisms are included in three reference Spanish dictionaries.

➤ To distinguish different sub areas within the semantic fields of food and drinks in Spanish.

➤ To discuss the functions of these food/drinks related Anglicisms in Spanish.



Figure 1: Picture of a salad

3. Method

Given the relevance that the social media and digital press have in current societies and the impact of the language on those media and vice-versa (Luján-García 2021), the recently created search tool of Anglicisms “Observatorio Lázaro” (Álvarez Mellado 2020) has been employed to build the sample used in this study. This tool extracts Anglicisms from seven different types of Spanish digital press—La Vanguardia, El País, 20 minutos, EFE, El Confidencial, ABC and El Diario. The process of extraction of English lexical items took place throughout the last semester of 2020 (from June to December) and the first trimester of 2021 (January, February, March) and it provided a collection of 94 food/drinks related Anglicisms.

With the aim of sorting out the extracted sample, a semantic distinction among different sub-areas within the researched field has been carried out. The following dictionaries have been used as reference works to check the inclusion and definitions of some of the examined terms: *Diccionario de la Lengua Española (DLE)*, *Diccionario Panhispánico de Dudas (DPD)* and *Gran Diccionario de Anglicismos (GDA)*.

Considering the categorization by Pulcini, Furiassi and Rodríguez González (2012: 6), in this article the focus will be mostly on non-adapted Anglicisms or, in other words, “a non-adapted loanword or Anglicism is a word or multi-word unit borrowed from the English language without or with minor formal and semantic integration, so that it remains recognizably English in the RL”.

4. Results

This section will present a breakdown of the sample by distinguishing the following sub-areas: drinks, food, places, practices and techniques and objects.

Drinks: (13 terms) *Canned wine, cider, cocktail, craft cider, gin tonic/ gin tonics/ gin and tonic, ginger ale, iceball, smoothie, sour ale, sour-fruited, wine, wine ambassador, wine lover.*

The first sub-area offers a total of thirteen English terms and expressions that are used to refer to different types of drinks as well as other drinks related words. The term *gin tonic/ gin and tonics* presents an inconsistent form, but the most frequently used is *gin tonic*, omitting the conjunction and.

It is noteworthy the case of the term *wine*, which is used only once in Lazaro, and refers to an association or cooperative of several wineries. Example 1 presents this use of term wine.

(1). Esta última iniciativa es una wine formada por 13 bodegas de 7 municipios del Alt Penedès y el Garraf que acaba de estrenar página web (lavanguardia, 27/07/2020).

Food: (42 terms) *Brunch, burger gourmet, carrot cake, cheesecake, clean meat, cookies, cupcakes, diner, dinner, fast food, finger, food, foodie, fooding, ginger cheesecake, healthy food, hot dog, hot pot, junk food, lunch, mealkit, mood food, muffin, mug cake, novel food, omelette, overnight oats, pisco sour, plum cake, poke bowl, pulled pork, roast beef, snack, social food, spicy, steak, steak bites, steak tartar, street food, topping/s, veggie burger, wrap.*

This sub-area, food, compiles forty-two terms, which encompass main dishes, desserts, among others. Most of them are pure or non-adapted Anglicisms, with the exception of the hybrid expression *pisco sour*, which is composed of a Spanish word, *pisco* (little in English), and the English adjective *sour*.



Figure 2: Picture of a vegetarian pizza

Places: (8 terms) *Afterwork, beer garden, drive-thru, food deserts, food truck, grillroom, snack bar, steak house.*

This sub-area, places, includes terms related to places where you can buy, eat or drink something. It contains eight different terms, and they all are purely in English, with no adaptation to Spanish, the Recipient Language, RL.



Figure 3: Picture of wine drinking

Practices and techniques: (29 terms) *Afterworking, agrifoodtech, baig cooking, batch cooking, beer yoga, food delivery, food design, food lover, food retail, food service, foodpairing, food tech, frosting, grill, healthy, healthy test, light, open food (facts), picnic, plastic free, real food, real fooder, real fooding, showcooking, slow food, smart cooking, stay healthy, take away, zero waste.*

This sub-field encompasses terms that refer to different practices related to food and drinks, as well as some techniques that have a more or less direct relationship with food and drinks.

Objects: (2 terms) *Bowl, slowcooker.*

This last semantic field compiles two different objects or utensils used for eating or cooking.

In quantitative terms, some of the Anglicisms in this paper have been reported with considerable occurrences in the examined press. The most frequently used ones are presented in the following Table 1:

Table 1. The most frequently used Anglicisms in the examined digital press	
Anglicism	Number of occurrences in Lazaro Observatory
<i>Snack</i>	191
<i>Light</i>	76
<i>Fast food</i>	52
<i>Cookies</i>	49
<i>Take away</i>	36
<i>Gin tonic / Gin and tonic</i>	35
<i>Foodie</i>	27
<i>Grill</i>	27
<i>Food truck</i>	22
<i>Topping/s</i>	17
<i>Healthy</i>	15
<i>Batch cooking</i>	15

1.1. Inclusion of Anglicisms in three reference Spanish dictionaries

The following Table 2 compiles the number of terms of the sample that have been included in each of the examined dictionaries and the findings reveal that the highest percentage is for those terms that do not appear in any of the three dictionaries, even the GDA, whose lexicographic repertoire is composed of Anglicisms.

Table 2. Inclusion of Anglicisms in the examined dictionaries					
DLE	DPD	GDA	DLE+DPD+GDA	No dictionary	Total
1 (1%)	5 (5.3%)	27 (28.7%)	4 (4.2%)	57 (60.6%)	94

The only English borrowing that is included in DLE is ginger-ale. DPD reports on the following analysed words: snack bar, fast food, *cóctel* – adapted form from cocktail, junk food, and *rosbif* – from roast beef.

GDA documents the following examined terms: cookies, take away, foodie, smoothie, afterwork, brunch, carrot cake, cocktail, cupcake, diner, drive-thru, foodie, gin tonic, ginger ale, grill room, hot dog, junk food, picnic, plum cake, roast beef, slow food, snack, steak, steak tartar, take away, topping and veggie burger.

The four terms that appear in the three dictionaries are: grill, light, lunch and *bol*, which is the adapted form of English bowl. These three lexical items are quite spread and have consolidated their uses in Spanish.

These findings reveal the low inclusion of English borrowings in the different Spanish dictionaries. Obviously, the GDA, which is specialized in Anglicisms, is the one that compiles more English lexical items. A percentage of 60.6 of English lexical items of our sample does not appear in any of the reference dictionaries despite the uses of these terms in the Spanish press.

1.2. Functions of these Anglicisms in Spanish

After having observed the variety and amount of food and drinks related English terms that occur in Spanish press, the question of why these terms are used in English rather than Spanish arises. The use of these terms could be explained considering different linguistic functions: textual, expressive and referential (Rodríguez González 1996). In addition, such uses will be documented with textual examples excerpted from the analyzed press.

a. **Textual:** These are Anglicisms that promote the economy of language, clarity, conciseness, exotic/sophisticated air, emphasis and irony. Some examples of Anglicisms that fulfil this function are:

Cheesecake, an English term that refers to Spanish *tarta de queso*, which is not only longer than the English word, but also it has an exotic and foreign air that the Spanish equivalent does not contain.

(1). ¿Te gusta la cheesecake de fresas? En Cookpad puedes encontrar varias recetas de helados artesanales sin lactosa (20 minutos 04/06/2020).

Cupcake is the English equivalent term for “little piece of oven baked pie in a mould similar to the one used for muffins” (GDA)

(2). Y lo peor es que esta clase de relato triunfal de la discapacidad es muy goloso para instrumentalizar a los discapacitados, y decirte: “Mira, si el muchacho ha podido, ¿cómo no vas a poder tú montar tu tienda de 'cupcakes'?” (elconfidencial 21/10/2020).

Real food is a new movement that has arisen, mostly through social media such as Instagram and advocates for the consumption of natural, unprocessed or minimally processed food. Even though, this movement was originally created by the Spanish nutritionist Carlos Ríos, he decided to give his new trend an English name, probably to look more international and sophisticated. Other related terms, frequently used in Spanish, are *realfooding* (practice of real food), and *real fooder* (person who practises real fooding).

(3). Hoy en día el movimiento 'realfood' está más de actualidad que nunca en España y gran parte de la responsabilidad la tiene el dietista-nutricionista Carlos Ríos (20minutos 02/10/2020).

Steak bites whose Spanish equivalent form refers to *dados de carne marinados y asados*. The English version is shorter and more sophisticated than the Spanish one.

(4). hamburguesas de bacon Lucky Devil y los steak bites, unos dados de carne (elmundo 03/05/2020).

Wine lover is an Anglicism that refers to someone who loves wine or in Spanish *amante del vino*.

(5). Jordi Ríos se ha convertido en un wine lover, aunque hasta hace poco era abstemio (lavanguardia 27/07/2020).

Similar are the cases for *gin tonic* instead of *ginebra con tónica*, *muffin* instead of *magdalena*, *showcooking* instead of *espectáculo culinario*, *steak house* instead of *restaurante especializado en carne de vacuno asada*, *veggie Burger* instead of *hamburguesa vegetal*

b. **Expressive**: Those anglicized lexical items that are marked from a connotative or stylistic point of view. The Spanish terms these English terms replace may have a pejorative or negative semantic load that the Anglicism does not have. For example:

Food truck, which makes reference to *puestos ambulantes de comida*. In Spanish, this definition is not only too long, but also contains some negative semantic load, since they may be associated with lack of quality, dirtiness, and low

social prestige of this kind of moving restaurants. The English expression is more neutral and does not have this negative meaning.

(6). Destaca en los 12.000 m² de recinto la zona del Village, que ofrecerá una amplia área gastronómica con food trucks, zona market y una área lúdica para la familia (lavanguardia 25/08/2020).

Junk food is another English expression whose Spanish equivalent is full of negative semantic load: *comida basura*. Consequently, the use of the English lexical item is more neutral.

(7). El primer ministro británico utiliza el ejemplo de su propia lucha con la balanza para animar a los ciudadanos a hacer más ejercicio y alimentarse de forma sana, en un vídeo colgado en Twitter coincidiendo hoy con el anuncio de que la publicidad televisiva de junk food (comida basura) queda vetada hasta las 9.00 de la noche (elpais 27/07/2020).

c. **Referential:** The capacity of the Anglicism to name new concepts that have probably been originated in the Anglo-American world and have no direct equivalent in the RL. Some examples that present a referential function are:

Batch cooking or a new habit which consists of cooking the meals for the whole week in just one day.

(8). Lo mejor que puedes hacer en estos días es optar por el «Batch cooking»: cocinar un día y comer toda la semana (abc 02/06/2020).

Beer yoga is a new practice originated in the US that consists of having some wine or beer while doing yoga.

(9). 'Beer yoga' es el nombre de esta particular metodología en la que el equilibrio es muy importante, y con razón, puesto que después de una o dos copas parece más difícil conservarlo (elconfidencial 21/06/2020).

Brunch, which is formed by the combination of the stem Br (from *breakfast*) and suffix -unch (from *lunch*) and refers to the meal that replaces the breakfast and lunch, usually taken at weekends (GDA). There is no equivalent term in Spanish that expresses this concept with just one term.

(10). Otros se han decantado por la oferta de 'brunch' como en Marta, cariño, una sala espectáculo que ya contaba con cocinas (20minutos 16/10/2020).

Mood food is another English lexical item which refers to a new trend which encompasses all the types of food that produce happiness due to their high level of substances associated with pleasure and inner wellbeing.

(11). Es lo que buscan, por ejemplo, los seguidores del mood food, una tendencia gastronómica con amplia aceptación en Japón que ya cuenta con miles de seguidores. Su filosofía es en esencia encontrar platos y dietas que estimulen el buen humor y el placer (eldiario.es 20/04/2020).

Slow food is one more English lexical item that refers to an international trend that promotes wine and good food culture as a reaction that opposes to fast food.

(12). Por la tarde, la ruta verde nº 19 os permitirá un poco de ejercicio terrestre desde allí hasta Ses Illetes, pasando por Sa Roqueta, antes de regresar a Es Pujols donde disfrutar del auténtico slow food (lavanguardia 11/10/2020).

Street food refers to a new culture of fast food cooked in an artisanal way with ecological and seasonal ingredients.

(13). “Es necesario adaptarse a la situación, ya que no sabemos cómo las personas van a reaccionar al street food en la nueva normalidad” (elpais 24/08/2020).



Figure 4: Picture of modern gourmet food

The previous lines confirm that the use of the examined Anglicisms is motivated by any of the three different functions.

5. Conclusions

This paper provides evidence of the increasing trend to use English lexical items to refer to food and drinks related terms in Spanish. The present-day tendency that advocates for a growing awareness of the importance of consuming local, seasonal, unprocessed or minimally processed food seems to be gradually having more impact on Western societies. Consequently, new eating and drinking habits are being developed and new terms need to emerge in order to name these new practices. The current constant emergence of new food trends and the urgency and univocity imposed by the cultural globalization in addition to the speed of our communications make English as the *lingua franca* necessary to respond to these communicative necessities. Some other terms from our sample are in English simply because they are shorter and more economical from the linguistic point of view or because they sound more sophisticated than their Spanish versions. In addition, in other cases, some English lexical units do not contain the negative semantic load that the Spanish one may have.

English, once more, proves to be the *lingua franca* or useful tool that enables international communication in this globalized world by offering new terms and expressions that are urgently needed to name new food and drinks related concepts. The question whether the examined Anglicisms will remain in Spanish or not is a matter of time. Some of them will probably be accepted and established, and some of them will probably disappear as the trend goes by.

REFERENCES

- Álvarez Mellado, Elena, *Observatorio Lázaro*. Available on <https://observatorio-lazaro.es/index.php>. 2020. (Álvarez Mellado 2020)
- Balteiro, Isabel & Campos, Miguel Ángel. “False anglicisms in the Spanish language of fashion and beauty”, in *Ibérica*, 24, 2012, pp. 233-260. (Balteiro & Campos 2012)
- Crespo-Fernández, Eliecer & Luján-García, Carmen, *Anglicismos sexuales en español*, Granada, Comares. 2018. (Crespo-Fernández & Luján-García 2018)
- Fundéu BBVA. 28/01/2019, *Gastronomía, extranjerismos con equivalente español*. Disponible en <https://www.fundeu.es/recomendacion/comida-extranjerismos-en-espanol/>. Web 04 Nov. 2020. (Fundeu 2020)
- García Núñez, Encarnación. *Analysis of the use of anglicisms in social media*. Trabajo de Fin de Grado. Universidad de Jaén, 2019. (García Núñez 2019)
- Luján-García, Carmen, “Analysis of the presence of Anglicisms in a Spanish internet forum: some terms from the fields of fashion, beauty and leisure”, in *RAEI*, 30, 2017, pp. 277-300. (Luján-García 2017a)
- Luján-García, Carmen, “Anglicisms and their use in an Internet Forum Addressed to Spanish-speaking Teenagers”, in *Spanish in Context*, 14, 3, 2017b, pp. 440-463. (Luján-García 2017b)
- Luján-García, Carmen (ed), *Anglicismos en los nuevos medios de comunicación: Tendencias actuales*, Granada, Comares, 2021. (Luján-García 2021)
- Pulcini, Virginia, Furiassi, Cristiano & Rodríguez González, Félix, “The lexical influence of English on European languages. From words to phraseology”, in Furiassi, C. Pulcini, V. & Rodríguez González, F. (eds.), *The Anglicization of European Lexis*, Amsterdam and Philadelphia, John Benjamins, 2012, pp. 1-24. (Pulcini, Furiassi & Rodríguez González 2012)
- Rodríguez González, Félix, “Functions of anglicisms in contemporary Spanish”, in *Cahiers de Lexicologie*, 68, 1, 1996, pp. 107-128. (Rodríguez González 1996)
- Rodríguez González, Félix, “Anglicismos en el mundo del deporte: variación lingüística y sociolingüística”, in *Boletín de la Real Academia Española (BRAE)*, CXII, XXXVI, 2012, pp. 261-285. (Rodríguez González 2012)
- Rodríguez González, Félix, *Gran Diccionario de Anglicismos*, Madrid, Arco Libros, 2017. (Rodríguez González 2017)

Rodríguez-Medina, M^a Jesús, “Este jugador está en el top ten de los cracks: anglicismos en la prensa deportiva en las redes”, in Luján-García (ed.), *Anglicismos en los nuevos medios de comunicación: Tendencias actuales*, Granada, Comares, 2021, pp. 121-140. (Rodríguez-Medina 2021)

ABSTRACT

In the last decade, a growing awareness about eating healthy food has emerged among part of the Spanish population. This paper examines the current use of English lexical items in Spanish in the particular fields of food and drinks. The findings report on the noticeable tendency to use Anglicisms to refer to new or recent concepts related to food, gastronomy and drinks. The use of these English borrowings is explored according to different linguistic functions.

Key words: Anglicisms, food and drinks, Spanish

REZUMAT

În ultimul deceniu, o parte a populației spaniole a devenit din ce în ce mai preocupată de consumul de alimente sănătoase. Prezentul articol analizează utilizarea actuală a termenilor englezești din limba spaniolă din domeniul alimentelor și băuturilor. Cercetarea evidențiază o tendință accentuată de a folosi anglicisme pentru a numi concepte noi sau recente privind mâncarea, gastronomia și băuturile. Utilizarea acestor împrumuturi din limba engleză este clasificată în diferite funcții lingvistice.

Cuvinte-cheie: anglicisme, mâncare și băutură, spaniolă