The paper deals with the frequency rate of occurrence of computer jargon in students’ colloquial speech. The ratio of borrowings to their Lithuanian equivalents is also explored. The methods of the research include the analysis of the data obtained in the questionnaire survey and in the statistical processing. The results show that jargons prevail in students’ colloquial speech. The reasons for rejecting Lithuanian equivalents are analysed. Most probably students are influenced by the environment in which they communicate. The paper aims to research and analyse terms for the purpose of promoting correct usage.

Keywords: jargon, borrowings, Lithuanian equivalent, frequency rate of occurrence.

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Introduction

English is the main language in new technologies, especially in computing. A large number of words that come into our vocabulary are borrowed from English. Linguists try to find the equivalents to borrowings and to prevent the penetration of borrowings into the language. English has become a genuine *lingua franca*, the language used among groups having no other language in common. This is a language used widely for communication among people who do not share the same first language.

As Jeremy Harmer points out in his book “The practice of English Language Teaching”: “The reality of Global or World English has caused some people to become very interested in what actually happens when English is used as a *lingua franca* – that is between two people who do not share the same language and for whom English is not their mother tongue” (Harmer 2007:20). The situation in Lithuania is slightly different people who share the same language and for whom English is not their mother tongue start using English. Students while speaking among themselves, use borrowings which are usually inaccurate, unusable words, mostly jargons or even barbarisms.

The rapid development of technologies highly increased the penetration of English into the Lithuanian language. An anglicism, as most often defined, is a word borrowed from English into another language. Speakers of the recipient language usually consider an anglicism to be substandard or undesirable (as a form of language contamination). “Anglicism” also describes English syntax, grammar, meaning and structure used in another language with varying degrees of corruption. Words permeate the target language i.e. they simply come to be used by a speech community that speaks a different language from the one they originated in. Words are modified by means of affixation, i.e. by simply adding the endings to existing English words, for example, laptopas, noutbukas). They might be pronounced in the same way or similarly to the way they are pronounced in the source language, for example, *bug* – *ba-gas*, while those who are less familiar with the source language call it *bugas*. However, in time, more speakers can become familiar with a new
foreign word. The community of users grows to the point where even people who know little or nothing of the source language understand the new word, and even start using it themselves. The word becomes conventionalized. At this point, we call it a borrowing or loanword. (Not all foreign words do become loanwords; if they fall out of use before they become widespread, they do not reach the loanword stage.)

Conventionalization is a process in which a word gets gradually integrated into the language system by progressively permeating a larger speech community. As the word becomes familiar to more people, with conventionalization a newly borrowed word gradually adopts sound and other characteristics of the borrowing language. In time, people in the borrowing community do not perceive the word as a loan word at all. Generally, the longer a borrowed word has been in the language, and the more frequently it is used, the more it resembles the native words of the language.

The selection of the borrowed or Lithuanian terms is often determined by the competition between the borrowed and Lithuanian terms. However, there is some disagreement among specialists on the ratio of borrowed terms to Lithuanian equivalents. The choice is between adopting an existing term i.e. by borrowing it from other languages, or by creating a totally new word, a neologism. The following techniques of term formation can be distinguished – direct borrowing which mostly occurs through adoption, adaptation, i.e. the formation of new linguistic expressions by means of derivational elements based on already available lexical material and word formation rules, loan translation, when a term from one language is translated element by element into the receiving language, and completely new creation, i.e. the creation of new linguistic entities, when a new meaning is added to the existing words – semantic neologisms (Wright 1997: 25–41). The coexistence of several methods of secondary interlingual term formation provides the occasion for several alternative or competing new terms. As a result, when a new concept is introduced, it may take several years before the relevant terminology stabilizes.

The purpose of this study is to examine the frequency rate of occurrence of computer jargons and Lithuanian equivalents in students’ everyday speech and the reasons of not using Lithuanian equivalents and the adoption of Lithuanian terms in the language. The paper aims to raise the awareness and express the concern about the contamination of the language with inadequate jargons and encourage further exploration of computer terms. A particular emphasis has been placed on the analysis of some jargons and their Lithuanian equivalents.

**Respondents and research methods**

The study was conducted at Vilnius Gediminas Technical University. 119 students were questioned and 82 students submitted reasons for not using Lithuanian terms. The respondents were the day- and evening-time first year students of Engineering Informatics.

The spoken use of borrowings and their equivalents was studied by examining the data collected through the questionnaire and statistical treatment of results obtained. The results of the questionnaire are displayed in Table.

The questionnaire comprises 39 jargons or borrowings and 53 Lithuanian computer terms. The analyzed jargons and the corresponding technical terms were selected from the list of substandard, inadequate words and their Lithuanian equivalents taken from the term bank of the Institute of Lithuanian language (http:www.lki.lt). Other borrowings, such as flešas, tačpedas and blogas are relatively recent developments, so they have been included into the questionnaire because of their high frequency rate of occurrence in students’ everyday speech. Geležis and blogas are semantic neologisms, whose meaning is new but the form existed, i.e. the semantics has been changed due to adaptation. Some Lithuanian equivalents are neologisms: i.e. new concepts created to denote a new reality, which was previously expressed by a borrowing. Skrei-
Results of the questionnaire: “Do I use these words”

| No | Jargon             | Never, % | Some times, % | Often, % | Lithuanian equivalent | Never, % | Some times, % | Often, % | Why never? |
|----|--------------------|----------|---------------|----------|------------------------|----------|---------------|----------|------------|
| 1. | apgreidas          | 36.13    | 30.25         | 32.77    | plėtotė                | 85.83    | 12.61         | 1.68     |            |
| 2. | akauntas           | 18.49    | 29.41         | 50.42    | paskyra                | 80.83    | 16.81         | 0.84     |            |
| 3. | blogas             | 47.06    | 28.57         | 24.37    | internetinis dienoraštis | 45.00    | 43.70         | 11.76    |            |
|    |                    |          |               |          | tinklaraštis           | 79.17    | 15.97         | 4.20     |            |
| 4. | brauzeris          | 62.18    | 27.73         | 9.24     | naršyklė               | 8.33     | 39.50         | 53.78    |            |
| 5. | bagas, bugas       | 50.42    | 21.01         | 27.73    | riktas                 | 90.83    | 3.36          | 0.00     |            |
|    |                    |          |               |          | klaida                 | 17.50    | 42.02         | 39.50    |            |
| 6. | čipas               | 36.97    | 38.66         | 24.37    | lustas                 | 71.67    | 22.69         | 4.20     |            |
|    |                    |          |               |          | mikroschema            | 5.00     | 52.94         | 40.34    |            |
| 7. | daunlauddinti      | 25.21    | 35.29         | 39.50    | parsisiųsti            | 2.50     | 23.53         | 73.11    |            |
| 8. | displejuus         | 30.25    | 33.61         | 35.29    | vaizduoklis            | 46.67    | 40.34         | 11.76    |            |
| 9. | distribucija       | 67.23    | 22.69         | 9.24     | platinimas             | 34.17    | 39.50         | 26.05    |            |
|    |                    |          |               |          | platinamas paketas     | 74.17    | 21.01         | 4.20     |            |
| 10.| draiveris          | 5.04     | 21.85         | 73.11    | tvarkyklė              | 37.50    | 48.74         | 12.61    |            |
| 11.| fleias             | 2.52     | 10.08         | 86.55    | atmintukas             | 84.17    | 12.61         | 0.84     |            |
| 12.| fontas             | 38.66    | 36.13         | 25.21    | šriftas                | 5.00     | 31.09         | 63.87    |            |
| 13.| geležis            | 63.87    | 21.01         | 15.13    | aparatinė įranga       | 52.50    | 31.93         | 15.13    |            |
| 14.| habas, hubas       | 61.34    | 16.81         | 21.85    | šakotuvas              | 65.00    | 22.69         | 12.61    |            |
|    |                    |          |               |          | telktuvas              | 94.17    | 4.20          | 0.84     |            |
| 15.| hakeris            | 4.20     | 20.17         | 74.79    | programišius           | 85.83    | 12.61         | 0.84     |            |
| 16.| hardas             | 5.88     | 13.45         | 80.67    | kietasis diskas        | 6.67     | 40.43         | 52.94    |            |
| 17.| ikona              | 10.92    | 28.57         | 59.66    | piktograma, ženklelis  | 39.17    | 43.70         | 15.97    |            |
|    |                    |          |               |          | Ženklelis               | 64.17    | 31.09         | 5.88     |            |
| 18.| imeilas            | 4.20     | 13.45         | 83.19    | elektroninis paštas    | 14.17    | 48.74         | 51.26    |            |
| 19.| instalicija, instaliavimas | 3.36  | 20.17         | 77.31    | įrengimas              | 60.83    | 23.53         | 13.45    |            |
|    |                    |          |               |          | idiegimas              | 24.17    | 54.62         | 20.17    |            |
| 20.| kalkuliatorius     | 11.76    | 29.41         | 58.82    | skaičiuoklis           | 24.17    | 51.26         | 23.53    |            |
| 21.| kešas              | 67.23    | 21.85         | 10.92    | spartinančioji atmintinė | 50.83    | 38.66         | 10.92    |            |
| 22.| kompas             | 1.68     | 19.33         | 78.99    | kompiuteris            | 1.67     | 38.66         | 59.66    |            |
| 23.| kursorius          | 40.34    | 31.93         | 26.89    | žymeklis               | 33.33    | 36.97         | 29.41    |            |
| 24.| laptopas           | 2.52     | 17.65         | 79.83    | nešiojamasis kompiuteris | 4.17     | 42.86         | 53.78    |            |
|    |                    |          |               |          | skreitinukas           | 95.83    | 1.68          | 0.84     |            |
| 25.| linkas             | 10.08    | 29.41         | 60.50    | nuoroda                | 5.83     | 47.06         | 47.06    |            |
|    |                    |          |               |          | saitas                 | 15.83    | 42.86         | 41.18    |            |
tinukas, lustas, brukalas, šlamštaiškis, riktas can be considered totally new creations, while atmintinė, atmintukas and jutiklinė plokštėlė have been created to meet the need for the unique naming of new concepts.

Oxford Dictionary of English defines jargon as "special or technical words that are used by a particular group of people in a particular profession and that other people do not understand". Jargon relates to a specific activity, profession or group. Much like slang it develops as a kind of shorthand, to quickly express ideas that are frequently discussed between members of a group.

According to the frequency rate of use the jargon words and expressions can be divided into 3 groups:

- **Percentage of the most frequently used jargon words** (Figure 1): flešas 86.55%, imeilas 83.19%, hardas 80.67%, laptoas 79.83%, kompas 78.99%, pasvordas 78.15%, instalacija 77.31%, prezentacija 75.63%, printeris 74.79%, hakeris 74.79%, draivers 73.11%, seivinti 72.18%, rezoliucija 64.71%.

- **Percentage of respondents who occasionally use the following jargon words** (Figure 2): softas 36.13%, daunlaudinti 35.29%, displėjus 33.61%, noutbukas 32.77%, vebsaitas 31.09%, vebas 30.25%, apgreidas 30.25%, linkas 29.41%, kalkuliatorius 29.41%, akauntas 29.41%, ikona 28.57%, spamas 20.17%.

- **Percentage of respondents who never use the following jargon words** (Figure 3): ploteris 81.51%, distribucija 67.23%, kešas 67.23%, gelezis 63.87%, brauzeris 62.18%, hubas 61.34%, tačpedas 57.14%, opcija 52.94%, bugas 50.42%, blogas 47.06%, kursorius 40.34%, fontas 38.66%, čipas 36.97%.
Some of the borrowings have more than one Lithuanian equivalent. Not all the equivalents of one and the same borrowing are equal competitors. Some of them are used more frequently, others are not so easily assimilated.

Lithuanian equivalents can be divided into the following groups:

The percentage of hardly ever used Lithuanian equivalents (Figure 4): skreitinukas 95.83%, telktuvas 94.17%, šlamštlaiškis 93.33%, brukalas 91.67%, riktas 90.83%, antplūdis 87.50%, programišius 85.83%, plėtotė 85.83%, įtikinė plokštėle 85.00%, atmintukas 84.17%, paskyra 80.83%, tinklarasčius 79.17%, platinamas paketas 74.17%, lustas 71.67%.

The percentage of rarely used Lithuanian equivalents (Figure 5):
šakotuvas 65.00%, ženklelis 64.17%, pateiktis 63.33%, braižytuvas 61.67%, įrengimas 60.83%, spartinančioji atmintinė 50.83%, vaizduoklis 46.67%, parinktis 45.83%, skiriamoji geba 45.00%, žiniatinklis 45.00%, internetinis dienoraštis 45.00%, tvarkyklė 37.50%.

The percentage of sometimes used Lithuanian equivalents (Figure 6): įdiegimas 54.62%, mikroschema 52.94%, skaiciuoklis 51.26%, pristatymas 47.06%, piktograma 43.70%, saitai 42.86%, klaida 42.02%.

kišeninis kompiuteris 41.18%, asmeninis kompiuteris 40.34%, platinimas 39.50%, žymeklis 36.97%, šlamštas 36.13%, aparatinė įranga 31.93%.

The percentage of frequently used Lithuanian equivalents (Figure 7): parsisiųsti 73.11%, šriftas 63.87%, svetainė 60.50%, slaptazodis 59.66%, kompiuteris 59.66%, spausdintuvas 58.82%, išsaugoti 54.62%, nesiojamas kompiuteris 53.78%, narškly 53.78%, kietasis diskas 52.94%, elektroninis paštas 51.26%, programinė įranga 47.06%, įrašyti 45.38%.

Fig 1. Frequently used jargon words

Fig 2. Occasionally used jargon words

Fig 3. Never used jargon words

Fig 4. Hardly ever used Lithuanian equivalents
Research findings

The choice of lexis is determined by the combination of extra linguistic (age, motivation, socio-cultural environment, etc.) and purely linguistic factors (adherence to the grammatical and lexical principles of the language) (Girčienė 2005: 128–140).

Although the students know about the existence of Lithuanian terms, and precise technical terms are formally recognised, they give preference to jargon. The context in which students communicate mostly determines the use of lexis. Jargon is more colloquial and is used by students in their everyday speech. Not all the equivalents are of equal significance, some of them are used more frequently. For example, mikroschema (never – 5.00%; sometimes – 52.94%; often – 40.34%) is more common than lustas (never – 71.67%; sometimes – 22.69%; often – 4.20%) and the corresponding jargon word čipas is sometimes used by 38.66% of the respondents (never – 36.97%; often – 24.37%). Jargon word spamas is often used by 52.94% of the respondents, while šlamštas is sometimes used by 36.13% of the students, other equivalents antplūdis, brukalas, šlamštlaiškis being almost never used.

The Internet as a major channel for information exchange sees a marked predominance of English. Moreover, the major reason for the rejection of Lithuanian equivalents is that students use English programs. All questioned students gave preference to English programs. Although the operating system and other programs can be localized, i.e. translated into the target language, students prefer the English variant to the Lithuanian one as they have been using the programs for long and got accustomed to them.

The speed of introduction of a term also influences its use, for example, the Lithuanian term naršykė was adopted at the same time as a new reality so it was easily incorporated into the language. The borrowing ‘browser’ didn’t get its way into the language. As much as 9.24% of the respondents use the borrowing „brauzeris“, while „naršykė“ is often used by 53.74%.

The longer a borrowed word has been in use, the more difficult it is to replace it. Some jargon words have been used for a long period of time and got assimilated in the language, so in the course of time it is getting more difficult to replace them with Lithuanian equivalents. For example, the majority of the respondents
(79.83%) use the word laptopas. The Lithuanian equivalent skreitinukas is still unknown and only used by 0.84% of the students, 95.83% of the students have never used it. Another equivalent is a two-word compound nėšiojamasis kompiuteris, which is often used by 53.78% of the respondents.

Moreover, the following jargons prezenta-cija (often used by 75.63%), printeris (74.79%), personalinis kompiuteris (63.03%) are already considered to be international words by most of the respondents. However, they have not been officially recognized yet.

Semantic neologisms are motivated and much better as to acceptance rate, for example, parsisiųsti 73.11%, svetainė 60.50%, slaptažodis 59.66%, įsiaugoti 58.82% can be considered the most frequently used neologisms.

An opinion poll “Why don’t I use a Lithu-
anian equivalent?” was conducted to investigate the causes for the rejection of Lithuanian terms. 81 students submitted the reasons. The respondents had to select one of the given reasons for each rejection of a Lithuanian equivalent. Other reasons of rejection are displayed in Figure 8 and are as follows: unattractive 11.08%, unusual 10.04%, unheard 7.03%, unaware of their existence 3.08%, incomprehensible 3.05%, actually not used 3.00%, inaccurate 1.08%, misleading 1.00%.

Some neologisms are new lexical entities and students find it difficult to recognize Lithuanian terms. 84.17% of the students were unaware of the existence of the terms riktas, lustas, atmintukas. In order for a term to exist, it must have a lexically recognizable form. For example, riktas 90.83%, skreitinukas 95.83% are hardly ever used as they are mostly incomprehensible. Brukalas 91.67%, atmintukas 84.17% are almost never used. It usually takes time for the term to be adopted. Shorter terms are more easily integrated into the colloquial language than the longer ones or two-word composite equivalents, e.g. jutiklinė plokštėlė (never used by 85.00% of the respondents); platinamasis paketas (never used by 74.17% of the respondents). On the other hand, the shorthand of kompiuteris – kompas is quite popular being often used by 78.99% of the respondents.

Other reasons are as follows: šlamštlaškis (never used by 93.33% of the respondents) - difficult to pronounce and the meaning is not precisely defined, besides, it can also be the some kind of advertisement, not only the letter. Other Lithuanian equivalents, such as vaizduoklis (sometimes used by 40.34%), atmintukas (never used by 84.17%), brukalas (never used by 91.67%) have some other stylistic connotation attached.

As we can see from the results of the survey the vast majority of the respondents consider Lithuanian terms unattractive and unusual. In the choice of lexis linguistic factors are of minor importance as compared to extra linguistic factors.

Conclusions

Some terms may be readily accepted for no apparent reason, and whereas some of these are as readily replaced, others become impossible to uproot from current usage. The dynamics of acceptability seems in some cases unpredictable. Officially recommended terms practically are not used, while parallel jargons flourish in spoken usage. Finding out the causes, the patterns or regularities hidden behind such apparent randomness is one of the tasks facing terminologists.

We need to encourage further research by raising students’ awareness so that they could adjust their speech in order to be intelligible and literate. Based on the results of the questionnaire we can conclude. That the respondents
basically use computer jargon in their speech, i.e. the frequency rate of occurrence of jargons is higher than that of Lithuanian variants. They know Lithuanian equivalents quite well but give preference to jargons in their colloquial speech. Most probably, they are influenced by the environment in which they communicate, other reasons for rejecting Lithuanian terms are associated with the fact that these terms seem to be unattractive, unusual, unheard.

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