The Language of Advertising: Analysis of English and Lithuanian Advertising Texts

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Annotation. The spread of globalization and marketing during the last century triggered the proliferation of advertising genres. The goal of advertisements is to persuade consumers to act or think in a textually determined way in order to boost sales of particular commodities and services. In order to capture attention, convey the message and persuade the consumer, advertising texts use a range of manipulative language devices. Moreover, different cultures may have different expectations with regard to stylistic choices, language use and other preferences in the same genre. Hence the aim of the article is to analyze the language of advertising in English and Lithuanian in order to estimate the specificities of the advertising genre in the two different cultural and linguistic systems. The approach employed in the study draws on the ideas of the functionalist interpretation of text typology and source text analysis as proposed by Nord (1997) and Reiss (2000). The functionalist approach provides an in-depth understanding of the source and target text conventions and functions which are prerequisites for successful intercultural communication and translation.

The means to accomplish the task of the present article is the analysis of a comparable corpus of data consisting of 100 English and 100 Lithuanian advertising texts. For the analysis, only the textual part of advertisements is considered; it is viewed as one of the most important elements of the overall advertising message. The corpus is analyzed through the parameters of linguistic devices, syntactic features and language-use in English and Lithuanian advertising texts.

Key words: English advertisements, Lithuanian advertisements, appellative text type, genre conventions, language devices.

Introduction

The immense growth of technology and the quick spread of worldwide communication and marketing during the last century triggered the proliferation in promotional genres, advertising among them. The self-evident goal of advertisements is to persuade consumers to act or think in a textually determined way in order to boost sales of particular commodities and services. In order to capture attention, convey the message and persuade the consumer, advertising texts use a range of manipulative language devices. Moreover, different cultures may have different expectations with regard to stylistic choices, language use and other preferences in the same genre. Hence it is quite interesting to explore the language of English and Lithuanian advertisements. The aim of this study is to compare and identify the characteristic features of language in English and original (i.e. not translated) Lithuanian advertising texts. This will help to assess the typical patterns of the advertising genre within the two cultures.

The approach employed in the study draws on the ideas of the functionalist interpretation of text typology and source text analysis as proposed by Nord (1997) and Reiss (2000). The functionalist approach provides an in-depth understanding of the source and target text conventions and functions which are prerequisites for successful intercultural communication and translation.

The means to accomplish the task of the present article is the analysis of a comparable corpus of data consisting of 100 English and 100 Lithuanian advertising texts published in a wide spectrum of English and Lithuanian journals and magazines released in 2002 to 2006 inclusive. For the analysis, only the textual part of advertisements is considered; it is viewed as one of the most important elements of the overall advertising message. The corpus is analyzed through the parameters of linguistic devices, syntactic features and language-use in English and Lithuanian advertising texts. In order to make the insights on the similarities and differences between the English and Lithuanian advertising language more objective and reliable, statistical data derived from the corpus is given.

Relevant Aspects of Theoretical Framework

Determinative Factors of the Language of Advertising

There exists a variety of factors which determine the choice of linguistic devices, stylistic means, presentation and organization of the advertisement. Among the major factors influencing the advertising language are (1) the type of advertisement and (2) the distribution of advertisement components.

Although different sources distinguish various (1) types of advertisements, most often attention is paid to the advertised object, the means of communication and the target audience (cf. Bakanauskas 2004; Smetionienė 2001). As regards the advertised object, the typology proposed in the present study is based on the collected corpus of advertisements. The most popular objects of advertising in the collected material appear to be drinkable, electronic equipment and technology, goods of personal hygiene and cosmetics, medicine, cars and miscellaneous. Next, although the means of communication in advertising involves newspapers, magazines, television,
Finally, language of advertising. This feature of the corpus allows us to dimensional, ranging from particular groups of audience to collected corpus of advertisements may be said to be multi-suitable for a wide and heterogeneous audience. The advertisements and advertised products (such as medicine, Another type of the audience is supposed addressees. Smetonienė (2001, p. 28-39) names seven types of specific addresses which are: women addressees, men addressees, children addressees, teenager addressees, family addressees, addressees according to their income, and addressees according to their profession. Another type of the audience is supposed addressees. Advertisements and advertised products (such as medicine, chewing gum, pet food, etc.) aimed at this specific group are suitable for a wide and heterogeneous audience. The collected corpus of advertisements may be said to be multi-dimensional, ranging from particular groups of audience to supposed addressees. This feature of the corpus allows us to achieve objective and accurate generalizations about the language of advertising.

The importance of defining target addressees is stressed in a variety of sources as it guarantees the overall success of the advertising campaign (see Palmer 2000; Фарбу 2003; Bakanauskas 2004). Before creating an advertising text, certain groups of potential buyers are distinguished. The target audience is differentiated into: specific addressees and supposed addressees. Smetonienė (2001, p. 28-39) names seven types of specific addresses which are: women addressees, men addressees, children addressees, teenager addressees, family addressees, addressees according to their income, and addressees according to their profession. Another type of the audience is supposed addressees. Advertisements and advertised products (such as medicine, chewing gum, pet food, etc.) aimed at this specific group are suitable for a wide and heterogeneous audience. The collected corpus of advertisements may be said to be multi-dimensional, ranging from particular groups of audience to supposed addressees. This feature of the corpus allows us to achieve objective and accurate generalizations about the language of advertising.

Finally, (2) the distribution of advertisement components is also a decisive factor of the advertising language. The textual part of advertisement is not the only constituent of the message and works in combination with the visual and acoustical parts in order to affect our consciousness. All components of advertisement are related and affect each other, thus, a change in one element creates a change in the whole. Cook (1992, p. 3) sees advertisement not as a stable entity, but as a “dynamic synthesis of many components which comes into being through them”. Although printed magazine advertisements encompass both the textual and the visual messages, the approach taken in this study is devoted specifically to the textual part of the advertising message leaving the analysis of the visual aspects for semiotic research. Bakanauskas (2004, p. 77) emphasizes that the most important element of advertisement is its textual part. Text is seen as a linguistic sign describing some state, actions and feelings, thus affecting the addressee to respond in one way or another. Moreover, text dominates in nearly all types of advertisements – TV, radio, magazine, etc.

The textual part of advertisement is not integral and can be divided into smaller elements which are slogan and body text. Goddard (2003, p. 127) defines slogan as “a phrase designed to be memorable, attaching to a product or service during particular advertising campaign”. Usually, slogans are followed by the body text which carries more detailed information about the product advertised. Sometimes, the textual part of advertisement can include only slogan, while the body text can never stand alone.

Advertising Discourse: Advertisements as Texts

Following Hervey et al. (1995, p. 126), awareness of genre and text type is vital in that translators have to be familiar with styles of presentation and language use in terms of particular genre requirements in particular cultures. The present section concentrates on the most prominent aspects of the advertising register and the genre of advertising as a text type characterized by specific features.

Identifying the variation of language use, or register, within the specific situation is considered to be a prerequisite for successful translation and rendering of the foreign message (Hatim 2001, p. 263). Register can be defined as a set of lexical and grammatical features that accompany and help to identify discourse that occurs in a particular recurrent situation (Johnstone 2002, p. 147). Schäffner (2001, p. 213) and Goddard (2003, p. 30-31) distinguish a number of linguistic features typical of the English advertising register: imitation of spoken language; short, elliptical sentences; positive evaluative expressions and abundance of stylistic means affecting the audience (proverbs, puns, alliterations, rhyme, etc.). The listed features of language are culture-specific in their use and intensity within the same register (Steiner 2004, p. 21). To exemplify, the language of advertising of the source culture may exhibit certain features which would not sound natural or would not achieve the intended effect if translated into the target culture literally.

With respect to advertising as a genre, Trosborg (1997, p. 9) claims that the defining criterion of any genre is the communicative purpose that it is intended to fulfill. In determining the communicative purpose of the text, language functions play an important role. Each text serves some specific language function which helps to fulfill the communicative purpose of the text and allows us to classify texts into types. Nord (1997b, p. 50-51), following Bühler’s (1934) and Jakobson’s (1960) classification, describes the following language functions: referential function (i.e. reference to objects and phenomena of the world); expressive function (i.e. expression of the sender’s attitude or feelings); phatic function (i.e. establishing, maintaining or finishing contact); appellative function (i.e. appealing to the receiver’s experience, feelings, knowledge and sensibility in order to make him/ her react in a specific way).

Practically, texts often exhibit the presence of several language functions, which overlap and give a variety of combinations: representing-expressing, representing-persuading, etc. This is referred to as the multifunctionality of texts (Trosborg 1997, p. 14). However, there is always one dominant function while other functions are used as subsidiary, employed to achieve an overall intention of the text. For example, information included in advertisement should not be considered as a primary goal. Instead, it should be perceived as a complimentary function helping the advertisement be more persuasive (loc.cit.). Therefore, texts can be classified into categories or
types on the basis of their dominant contextual focus. Advertising as a genre is classified under the category of appeal-oriented texts, having the predominant function of persuasion. As Reiss (2000a, p. 38) points out, in appeal-oriented texts the information is always presented from a particular perspective and with a particular purpose. In commercial advertising, form and content are “at one in their overall goal of arousing consumer response” (loc.cit.) – that is, a commercial advertisement strives at persuading the reader to buy the advertised product.

In sum, it appeared that register description and analysis of style conventions of both source and target culture texts lead to successful translation decisions and correspondence to culture-specific genre requirements. It was also shown that the dominant communicative purpose of advertising genre is persuasion. This allowed us to classify advertisements as appeal-focused texts.

Analysis of English And Lithuanian Advertising Texts

The present chapter sets out to explore the characteristic features of English (EAL) and Lithuanian (LAL) advertising languages through the analysis of linguistic, syntactic and register dominances of advertising texts.

Linguistic Devices Expressing Persuasion

Lexico-Grammatical Devices

This section concentrates on how advertisements manipulate various parts of speech in order to make the message more persuasive. The attention is paid to some of the aspects of adjectival, adverbial, verbal and noun usage.

A majority of persuasion techniques strives to create a positive impression through evaluation and emotional appeal. Emotionality and evaluation are best expressed through an adjectival, adverbial, verbal and noun usage.

In the Lithuanian language, the neutral position of an adjective is before the noun (Ambrazas 1997, p. 701), whereas an adjective distanced from the head noun receives a special emphasis and does not sound quite natural. Therefore, Lithuanian advertising texts use heavy noun pre modification as a dominant practice, whereas no instances of post modification in the collected corpus have been noticed:

\[ [3.3] \text{Seni raštai byloja, kad Lietuvos didikai šį puikiai sublansuoto aromato, saldus vos juntamo deginančio skonio gerimą vartojo jau XVI amžiuje. (pre-modification)} \]

Another noticeable linguistic device expressing persuasion is manipulation of verbs through tense shifting. Tense is the category of verb related to time (Gramley and Pätzold 2002, p. 112). The continuum of time can be generally divided up into three levels: past, present and future. The corpus of English advertising texts exhibits the dominant usage of the present tense (88%). Sometimes one advertising text can combine several time perspectives, especially with the aim of contrasting past, present or future situations. In English, the present tense is the so-called “unmarked” tense used for characterization of habitual actions, narration of historical present, reporting mental or emotional state, commenting on immediately accompanying actions and demonstration or explanation of the individual acts involved (Gramley and Pätzold 2002, p. 113). The present tense verbs help English advertisements to characterize and portray the desirable situation, express positive thoughts and comments, and show the benefits of the advertised object. Also, the present tense infers that the action is happening now and that everything being said is a “general truth”. For example:

\[ [3.4] \text{Like many leading sportsmen, Britain’s Mark Foster uses Wellman’s…} \]

As a contrast to the present tense, past tense verbs are sometimes used in the collected advertisements (10%). Usually, past tense helps to describe the situation which was true when the advertised product was not used and which is mostly negative. According to Gramley and Pätzold (2002, p. 114), past tense forms create the feeling of remoteness and distance. The distance refers to temporal continuum and the reporting person. In this way, the addressee does not identify himself/ herself with what is being said. For example:

\[ [3.5] \text{I was left with a conspicuous, ugly scar on my leg after I cut myself in a car accident about two years ago.} \]

Future tense usage appears to be quite limited (6%). The possible reason might be that in the case of advertising future tense functions relate with the present tense functions. To be more precise, future tense is used to characterize and portray a positive picture or to express promises and certainty for a future event. On the other hand, present tense helps to create a more intimate relationship with the addressee. Example illustrating the occurrence of future verb form is:

\[ [3.6] \text{We think you’ll notice the extra effort.} \]

The distinction of present/ past tenses is the same in the Lithuanian advertisements. That is, past tenses (21%)
indicate a usually negative state of affairs or an event which existed or took place prior to the moment of speech. In contrast, a shift to the present (75%) and future (15%) tenses helps to create an intimate relationship with the audience, to express promise or necessity that something should happen. Differently from English advertisements, Lithuanian advertisements use a greater variation of time perspectives. Ambrazas (1997, p. 239) states that past tense forms are considered to be marked in the Lithuanian language while the present and future tenses are the unmarked members of the temporal opposition. Therefore, the present tense is most often used to denote the existing state of affairs or background situation (usually positive) whereas the future tense expresses a certainty of an action and a promise to perform it. Examples of the occurring tense patterns in Lithuanian advertisements are as follows:

[3.7] Priės keletą metų išsityriaus kaulų tankį. Rezultatai buvo prasti... (past tense)

[3.8] Jie teikia būtinausią maisto medžiagą, gerina žarnyno darbą, stiprina nervų... (present tense)

[3.9] Jie suteiks energijos ir papildys tavo organizmą vitaminių... (future tense)

Lexical devices referring to the noun usage also exhibit certain dominances in the advertising language: terminology use, creation of neologisms and reference to foreign words are the major ones.

Terms make the language of advertising sound more sophisticated and trustworthy. With respect to English advertisements, terms are very common (63% of advertisements involve term usage). On the other hand, although Lithuanian advertisements also involve a certain amount of terms (37% of advertisements), the general rule is to use more simple and understandable vocabulary. Most often terms refer to foreign products or technologies when there is no Lithuanian equivalent for an English term (often, an English term is followed by a Lithuanian explanation). Overuse of English terms might make an advertisement sound obscure rather than reliable or scientific. Consider:


[3.11] Keletą mėnesių Janina vartojo liekninamajį preparatą Bio-Slim, ir jos manymu...

Neologisms are newly coined lexical units or existing lexical units that acquire a new sense (Newmark 1988, p. 140). Formation of neologisms is very prominent in English, a very flexible language in terms of word formation (Gramley and Pätzold 2002, p. 35). Neologisms are common in English advertisements (20%) as they help to create the feeling of novelty and surprise:


The Lithuanian corpus exhibits lower occurrence of neologisms (10%):


Finally, reading advertising texts attention falls on the use of (4) foreign and fictitious words. One of persuasion techniques used in advertisements is involvement of exotic, foreign or literary words which create an impression of superiority, prestige and affect the imagination of the consumer. In English advertisements, foreign words do not outnumber the use of neologisms (11%) and are mostly met in foreign production advertisements (see example [3.14]). On the other hand, Lithuanian advertisements exhibit an abundance of references to foreign and fictitious words or exotic place names (31%) which counterbalance the lack of neologisms (see example [3.15]).

[3.14] All the way from South Africa’s Western Cape come the Kumala reds.

[3.15] Su kuo valgoma fusion cuisine. Ispaniškos salotos su omarais, prancūziška žuvienė “Aigosau”, itališki lakštiniai su vištienos krūtinėle, maskarpone sūriu bei pleťrūnu padažu ir tradicinis britų vanilinis …

Ending the discussion on the lexico-grammatical patterns of the English and Lithuanian advertising language, the observed dominances in English and Lithuanian advertising texts are presented in Table 3.1. (Appendix 1)

**Rhetorical Devices**

The corpus showed that 85% of English and 76% of Lithuanian advertising texts involved one or another form of rhetorical devices. Generally, rhetorical figures can be divided into schemes and tropes.

A scheme can be defined as an artful deviation from the ordinary arrangement of words (Baldick 1996, p. 199). Koženiuskienė (2001, p. 9) uses a three way distinction of schemes grouping them into (1) the figures of repetition (plėtotojo figūros), (2) the figures of omission (trumpinimo figūros) and (3) the figures of composition (komponavimo figūros). The Figures of repetition carry a high emotional and expressive value which contributes to the persuasion and agitation of the audience. The corpus analysis reveals that the most common figures of repetition used in English and Lithuanian advertising texts are repetition of sounds, syllables and keywords, enumeration, and synonymy. Table 3.2 presents (Appendix 2) the listed figures and their functions in advertising texts.

In sum, both English and Lithuanian advertisements employ large numbers of repetitive devices which help to impress the audience through the constant emphasis of key words and ideas.

The second group of schemes is the figures of omission (trumpinimo figūros). It can be said that figures of omission stand in contrast with figures of repetition as they avoid verbosity and aim at an intentional omission of words and phrases. This attracts the addressee’s attention to the missing elements; arouses interest and emotions. Especially widely used rhetorical figure belonging to this group in both EAL and LAL is ellipsis which refers to the omission of a word or words readily implied by the context (Goddard 2003, p. 125).
Advertising language is often described as imitating spoken discourse. Goddard (2003, p. 125) notes that spoken language is highly elliptical: ellipsis is used for language economy; also, it can create the sense of informality:

[3.16] Are you getting enough? It is important to have enough calcium… (omission of object)

[3.17] Išorinis grožis – vidinė jėga. (omission of copula verb)

In addition to ellipsis, the corpus material provides instances of another figure of omission – preterition, which involves incomplete sentences with endings marked by dots. The motivation for using preterition is to create an intrigue and arouse imagination. The addressee is involved in text creation in that he/ she has to fill in the missing parts of the sentence:

[3.18] Darwin may have the theory… But we’ve got the keys.


The last group of rhetorical figures is the figures of composition (komponavimo figūros). Koženiuskienė (2001, p. 308) describes them as dealing with specific composition of words, phrases or sentences, their regrouping, interchangeability or similar distribution in subsequent phrases. The dominant function of figures of composition is an appeal to emotions and creation of the advertising message. The corpus of English advertisements provides a considerable number of the two types of rhetorical figures:


[3.21] It’s better to shower with this mousse… (i.e. moose and mousse are homophonous words)

Wordplay, which is often based on rhyming words, also appears to be of common usage in EAL:

[3.22] I’d murder a burger. Refreshingly honest – Diet 7up.

The corpus of Lithuanian advertisements does not display any examples of puns. On the other hand, there are a number of instances of wordplay. In other words, although the Lithuanian language is not as flexible in pun creation as English, the play on words helps to make the LAL be more playful and memorable. Most often, advertisements use an intentional rhyming of words having the same sound (homophony), for example:

[3.23] Gefilus apsaugos Jus!

[3.24] Brendis su kava – ar ne puikiai pažinčiai proga?

A trope is an artful deviation from the ordinary or principal signification of a word (Baldick 1996, p. 230). Smetoniene (2001, p. 101) notes that advertising language employs a variety of tropes as they help to express ideas in an imaginative and more economical way which contributes to enhancing the effect of persuasion. The analysis of the corpus material shows that both EAL and LAL are characterized by an extensive use of a variety of tropes. The most noticeable and common tropes in the corpus are the following:

1. **Metaphor** contributing to the aesthetics of the advertising message and emphasis of the key idea:

   [3.25] Who’s at the end of your rainbow?

   [3.26] Atrodo, kad Jūsų akys dega?

2. **Personification** when the advertised object is attributed human qualities, which makes it seem more attractive and familiar:


   [3.27] Horn – alas su nuotaika.

3. **Rhetorical question** raising a problem, so the addressee has to read the body text in order to find the solution:


   [3.29] Sodrių spalvos? Pažeisti plaukai?

4. **Simile** helping to emphasize positive values of the advertised object or to strengthen emotional representation of a certain aspect in an imaginative way:

   [3.30] Your body is a temple. Treat it with reverence.


5. **Overstatement** mostly expressed by adjectival and adverbial modifications:

   [3.32] Watch out! My D-cup lashes are going to make waves.


On the whole, although the given list of tropes can not be viewed as full, it can be said that EAL and LAL are similar in an extensive trope and scheme application as rhetorical figures make the message more attractive, memorable and persuasive. Moreover, a single advertisement tends to employ a combination of several rhetorical figures.

**Syntactic Features of Text Components**

The present section aims to analyze the syntactic peculiarities of slogans and body texts in both EAL and LAL. The attention will be paid to the composition and function of the occurring sentences.

**Syntactic Features of Slogans**

According to their composition, all sentences can be divided into simple, consisting of a single clause, and multiple, consisting of several clauses (Quirk et al. 1985, p. 40). The corpus of data shows that the most frequently occurring sentence type in English and Lithuanian slogans is a simple sentence (87% of English and 86% of Lithuanian texts), which tends to be rather short and highly elliptical. The unmarked structure of a simple sentence involves subject, verb and object, which can be accompanied by an explanatory supplement.
Quotations, slogans, especially in English advertisements, consist of several short, simple sentences. Short, eye-catching sentences make slogans easy to remember, for example:

[3.34] We help to heal. We make fashion as painless as possible.


Multiple sentences appear to be not very frequent in the collected corpus of English and Lithuanian slogans; most probably this is because such structures tend to be longer and less memorable:


[3.37] Džiaugiuosi, jog numėciau svorio ir esu žymiai energingesnė.

Moreover, sometimes English advertisements exhibit an unconventional punctuation of multiple sentences (7%). Rannu (1998) identifies such cases as “compound-simple” sentences. By this he means that a multiple compound sentence is presented as separate clauses; this makes it look similar to simple sentences, for example:

[3.38] Darwin may have the theory…But we’ve got the keys.

The corpus of Lithuanian advertisements does not include the “compound-simple” sentences, which suggests that emphatic punctuation of multiple sentences is not typical of the Lithuanian slogans.

The dominant feature of both simple and multiple sentences occurring in English and Lithuanian slogans is the highly elliptical nature (61% of English and 69% of Lithuanian texts). In English and Lithuanian slogans, the most commonly omitted elements tend to be copula, auxiliary verbs and subject pronouns. Consider:


[3.41] Any excuse to part…Can’t say no.


In the above examples, the auxiliary has and the copula yra are elided in [3.39] and [3.40]. In [3.41], the subject pronoun you and in [3.42] the subject pronoun aš are left out. The elision of structural elements in English marks informal or spoken discourse; however, this is not the case in the Lithuanian language. In Lithuanian, certain structural elements can commonly be elided without affecting the neutrality of the style. For example, the present tense of būti (be) as well as the first and the second person pronouns in subject position are often omitted because Lithuanian marks person by verb morphology (Ambrazas 1997, p. 469-470). In other words, the subject of a personal sentence is inferred by the verb ending; therefore, it is not necessary to repeat the same feature by other elements.

According to their communicative function, English and Lithuanian sentences can be grouped under the headings of statements, directives, questions, and exclamations (on this see Quirk et al. 1985; Labutis 1998). The function of statements, which are considered to be the most neutral sentences, is to present certain information or inform about a state (Labutis 1998, p. 112). As is seen from the collected corpus material, statements are among the most typical sentence types in both English (55%) and Lithuanian slogans (74%) (see examples [3.43] and [3.44]). They usually introduce positive qualities and characteristics of the advertised object. It can be said that statements tend to have a form of simple declarative and positive sentences. Negative sentences appear to be uncommon in the corpus (3% in English and 0% in Lithuanian texts) because they arouse negative associations and can interfere with the function of persuasion. Furthermore, statements, especially in the Lithuanian advertising texts, can have an exclamation mark at the end meant to attract the addressee’s attention to the new information (2% in English and 21% in Lithuanian texts); therefore, such sentences should not be classified as an exclamatory type (see examples [3.45] and [3.46]).


[3.44] Esu visada rami dėl ateities.

[3.45] Vitamins with passion!

[3.46] Geriau šviežėsnis!

The second type of sentences occurring in EAL and LAL, as provided by the corpus material, is directives (31% in English and 20% in Lithuanian texts). In their typical form, directives contain no subject or operator; instead, they involve a predication with an imperative verb. Normally, an imperative refers to some future action which the reader is urged to perform (Quirk et al. 1985, p. 87). It should be stressed that imperatives in advertisements do not express orders, prohibitions or demands. On the contrary, imperatives are used to stimulate and advise readers on taking action in a respectful or user-friendly way. Consider the following examples:

[3.47] Let your true colours glow.


As well as statements, directives can have an exclamation mark at the end which signals the importance of the new message (3% in English and 6% in Lithuanian texts):

[3.49] Dare to dazzle!

[3.50] Pasiruošk perduoti visus įspūdžius MMS telefonu!

With respect to questions, they are not as popular as the former sentence types in LAL slogans (6%), whereas EAL slogans employ questions more freely (14%). Mostly, questions are used in order to intrigue and interest the addressee. The majority of questions are rhetorical. The answer to such questions is either self-referential or it is given in the body text, for example:

[3.51] Stomach feeling dismal?

[3.52] Ar gali atsispirti legendai?

Finally, the corpus material of both English and Lithuanian
slogans does not involve any examples of exclamatory sentences, which are usually used for emphatic rather than informational effect. Therefore, it can be said that exclamatory sentences are not typical of the advertising language in English and Lithuanian.

The present discussion of the English and Lithuanian slogans allows us to observe that although the syntactic structure of slogans is similar in both languages, it is not identical. The following section will concentrate on the syntactic analysis of the body text in English and Lithuanian advertisements.

**Syntactic Features of Body Texts**

Body texts differ from slogans in a way that they do not have to be short, memorable and striking. Usually, they repeat the ideas expressed in the slogan, give additional information about the advertised product and try to convince the consumer in its positive qualities. Generally, the syntactic structure of body text clauses is less concentrated as in the case with slogans; freer and natural (also see Rannu 1998).

The corpus analysis allows us to distinguish three types of body texts according to the composition of their sentences. First, body texts can involve only multiple sentences, second, a combination of both simple and multiple sentences can be present, and third, a text can consist of several simple sentences. It should be said that 91 English and 89 Lithuanian advertisements had body texts, whereas other advertisements involved only slogans.

The first type of body texts involving only multiple sentences appeared to be not as common in English (18.6%) and Lithuanian (12.3%) advertisements. As body texts try to explain or prove certain things, multiple sentences include a larger amount of information and are more explicit than slogans. Consider the following examples:

[3.53] Panadol provides powerful pain relief for all, but because it’s unlikely to affect your stomach, it’s easy on you. No other painkiller works better with your body than Panadol, when taken as directed.


In addition, “compound-simple” sentences (i.e. when a multiple compound sentence is presented as separate clauses; this makes it resemble simple sentences) specific only to English advertisements can be distinguished (8.7%):

[3.55] Of course fashionable shoes win over sensible shoes every time. **And sadly there’s often a price to pay** – “blisters”. But now there’s New Elopast Blister Plasters…

Turning to the texts consisting of a mixture of simple and multiple sentences it has to be stated that they make up the biggest number in English (54.9%) and Lithuanian (50.5%) advertising texts. Such texts include both information and evaluation of the product. Examples of texts with simple and complex or compound sentences are as follows:

[3.56] Bruiseze helps soothe the pain, reduce swelling and minimize bruises. Contains heparinoid. Always read the label.

[3.57] Nominacijoje už išskirtinę grynumą Originali lietuviška aukštinė deginė apdovanota XII tarptautinės parodos World Food Moscow 2004 auksu medaliu. Ši deginė filtruojama ne tik keturių pakopų filtravimo sistema, bet ir ypatingu suletimtu būdu.

With respect to the last group consisting of simple sentences only, the corpus material also provides a considerable amount of examples. Namely, English texts involved 26.3% and Lithuanian – 37% of advertising texts of the latter type:


[3.59] Paskutinė išpardavimo savaitė! Prekių kiekis ribotas!

As well as in slogans, all types of sentences in body texts avoid negations so that negative associations would not be evoked. Only 6.5% of English body texts and 7.8% of Lithuanian body texts used one or another form of negation. Moreover, body texts can involve ellipsis, especially when built up of simple sentences. However, this strategy is not as widespread as in slogans (35.1% in English and 24.7% in Lithuanian body texts).

[3.60] Loves horror movies. Drinks Tequila. Owns a kilt. Supports Dundee United. 80s music. 70s décor


The examples above involve simple sentences with omitted pronominal subjects.

With respect to the distribution of sentences according to their communicative functions, the corpus material provides that the most common types of sentences used in body texts are statements (74.7% in English and 80.8% in Lithuanian body texts) and directives (25.2% in English and 19.1% in Lithuanian body texts). Body texts in EAL and LAL can involve (1) only statements, (2) only directives, or (3) a mixture of both sentence types (see examples [3.62] and [3.63]).


Questions are also met in English (15.3%) and, although not as often, in Lithuanian (8.9%) body texts. Most often, the body text either starts with a question which is then followed by an answer, or a question can stand at the end of the advertising message functioning as a rhetorical question. For example:


[3.65] Originali pipirinė, citrininė, juodųjų serbentų, spanguolinė. Kokia labiausiai mėgstaite?

As well as in slogans, the corpus material does not present
any examples of exclamations in English and Lithuanian body texts. This suggests that emphatic exclamations are avoided because they can sound artificial. However, it should be mentioned that statements and directives can have an exclamation mark at the end which functions as an attractive device, i.e. marks important ideas and implies that certain statements are to be read. On the other hand, it turned out that English body texts have very few examples of sentences ending with an exclamation mark (4%), whereas in Lithuanian advertisements exclamation marks appeared to be very common (25.8%). Therefore, it can be stated that in English texts, exclamation marks are avoided, whereas in Lithuanian advertisements they help to intensify key ideas and appeal to emotions, for example:

[3.68] At Solgar, we leave nothing to imagination.

[3.69] Our bone is living tissue that is constantly being replenished. From our mid thirties,…

Pronominal reference to the reader does not differ a lot in supposed and specific addressee-oriented advertisements in English. The reason could be that English does not have the T/ V (Tous/ Vous) distinction signaling the level of formality. English advertisements use two major ways of reference to the audience: the second person singular or plural pronouns (as in example [3.70]) or zero reference (signaled by imperatives), when the addressee is implied (as in example [3.71]):

[3.70] If you really don’t like it, we’ll give you your money back.

[3.71] Been stung? Seek urgent treatment from Anthisan, fast and effective relief from bites…

The corpus material reveals that both pronominal (51%) and zero references (30%) are common in English advertisements. The major difference between the two forms of address is in the level of formality: zero reference is more informal and sometimes has a shade of colloquialism. Therefore, zero reference is abundant in advertisements oriented at young people and teenagers, for example:


As to the first person singular pronoun I, there are very few instances of its usage in the corpus material (6%). The first person pronoun usually refers to the speaker who tells about his/ her experiences. The use of the first person singular pronoun creates an intimate relationship as the shared experience tends to be quite personal:

[3.73] I didn’t know I was hit by east syndrome! I was hit by chronic fatigue; I lost energy…

Pronominal reference in the Lithuanian advertisements exhibits certain differences from the English advertisements. One of the reasons is that Lithuanian has a T/ V distinction of the second person singular pronoun (Tu/ Jūs) which signals the level of formality, politeness and social distance between the two communicating parties.

When referring to the firm, Lithuanian advertisements, as well as English, sometimes employ the first person plural
pronoun *mes* (10%), also signaled by the verb endings:


[3.75] Tačiau negalime tvirtinti, kad tai ir yra pagrindinė priežastis kodėl su Ultra visuomet būna taip linksmas.

On the other hand, the corpus material exhibits certain mismatches between the English and Lithuanian reference towards the senders or receivers of the message. As it has been previously mentioned, in English reference to both senders and receivers is usually expressed by the first and the second person pronouns which sound more user-friendly and personal, whereas the third person pronouns exclude the speaker and the hearer from the message and create a social distance between the two communicating parties. In the Lithuanian language, the third person pronouns *jis, ji, jie, jos* or common nouns are used to refer to both persons and inanimate objects (Ambrazas 1997, p. 189). The third person reference to the firm or the audience (14%) is aimed at demonstrating rather than at creating the distance between the sender and the receiver. For example:

[3.76] Omnitel Extra abonentai pido, o mes dovanojame už kiekvieną lita po nėromamą minutę...

[3.77] Šiandien kepėjai pasirengę tenkinti visus igeidžius. Pirkėjų pageidavimu, “Gardėsis” Lietuvoje kepa...

While addressing the audience, LAL uses the second person pronouns (26%). However, in the Lithuanian advertisements, differently from EAL, the second person pronouns can signal the social status of the target addressees and influence the level of formality of the message. The corpus of the Lithuanian advertisements shows that texts oriented at supposed addressees and at addressees with high income prefer to use the second person *jūs*, which, in order to sound more respectful, is sometimes capitalized (*Jūs*); when the pronoun is absent, verb endings signal the polite reference. On the other hand, *jūs* can refer to plurality. For example:

[3.78] Atrodo, kad Jūsų akys dega?


Specific addressee-oriented advertisements employ both forms of the second person pronoun – this depends on the social status, age and other factors related to the addressees. For example, advertisements oriented at young people, teenagers or children employ the more informal *tu* or the second person informal reference signaled by verb endings. This makes the message sound simple and close to the spoken discourse, for example:

[3.80] Atsigalvink sveikai. Troškina? Jei nori kuo greičiau nuvyti troškulių šalim...


Although there are certain instances of the first person pronoun usage, it is not frequent (7%):

[3.82] Mano amžiaus moters odos būklė yra tas veidrodis, ku-

ris aplinkiniams parodo, kokia mano sveikata, ar aš laiminga...

Differently from the English advertisements, Lithuanian texts involve high usage of zero reference (41%) when advertisement does not address the audience; the emphasis falls only on the advertised object:


The question of formality relates to another aspect of register analysis, i.e. the features of tonal register and its markers. Advertising language is often characterized as imitating informal spoken discourse. Table 3.4 (Appendix 4) presents the most common language features used for creating a user-friendly and informal atmosphere imitating the spoken language in English and Lithuanian advertisements.

Although advertising language in English and Lithuanian is neutral rather than formal, some comments on the information presented in Table 3.4 are due. In advertising texts, the level of tonal register tends to have a slight variation depending on the target audience. First, the corpus material shows that English advertisements oriented at younger or average middle-class audience use slang words which make advertisements sound colloquial and often create a humorous effect (10%). However, in the Lithuanian advertisements, no evidence of colloquialisms or slang was found. Therefore, it can be stated that with respect to vocabulary use, LAL keeps closer to the standard Lithuanian and has a higher tonal register than EAL.

Second, certain differences in tonal register were detected in the use of direct/ indirect requests. In English advertisements, imperative forms referring to the second person express direct requests and contribute to the informality of the message. Imperatives are very common in advertisements oriented at the middle-class average age and younger audience. Advertisements which try to sell expensive goods or aim at supposed addressees tend to use indirect forms of requesting such as recommendations, suggestions or offers. In this way, the message does not carry colloquial aspect and sounds more polite, for example:

[3.84] Just one capsule a day, one month prior to, and throughout your time in the sun, will help optimize your tan.

In LAL, direct address through the use of imperatives is also quite common in advertisements aimed at a younger audience. Imperatives contribute to the dynamism of the message and help to imitate the spoken language. When imperatives are used in supposed addressee-oriented advertisements, the verbs adopt the endings -ite, -ite which imply the polite second person pronominal reference (*jūs*) or plurality. In this way, the message does not sound too informal or rude, for example:


As well as in English advertisements oriented at addressees with a high social status and income or at supposed addressees, Lithuanian advertisements employ indirect forms of requesting:
To sum, the present discussion revealed that register varies not only between the source and the target cultures, but also between the advertisements of the same language depending on the audience addressed. It appeared that the sender of the advertising message tries to establish a close and friendly contact with the reader in order to gain trust and to persuade. The level of formality tends to differ between the advertisements oriented at supposed and specific addressees, the former being more polite and the latter more informal or sometimes even colloquial in both EAL and LAL. It also appeared that Lithuanian advertisements carry a higher level of tonal register than English and are closer to the standard Lithuanian.

Conclusions

The aim of the article was to analyze the language of advertising in English and Lithuanian in order to estimate the specificities of the advertising genre in the two different cultural and linguistic systems. A close analysis of the collected corpus of English and Lithuanian advertising texts shows that despite the common communicative purpose of persuasion, the two languages exhibit both, similarities and differences in terms of their linguistic, syntactic and register characteristics. The detected features of the English and Lithuanian advertising languages are as follows:

Similarities:

1) Lexico-grammatically, EAL and LAL are characterized by an extensive use of modifying adjectives and adverbs which contribute to the persuasive effect of the message. In order to depict the state of affairs, present tense is used; for the sake of contrast, present/ past dichotomy is applied.

2) The extensive use of rhetorical devices in English and Lithuanian advertisements helps to appeal, interest and surprise the audience. Repetition, ellipsis, preterition, wordplay, metaphoric language, personification, rhetorical question, overstatement and simile appear to be especially common.

3) Syntactically, English and Lithuanian slogans tend to be simple, highly elliptical declarative or directive sentences most often including only relevant thematic information. As to the body texts, the typical composition is a combination of simple and multiple sentences. Ellipses are not as frequent as in the slogans for the sake of explicitness. As well as in the slogans, statements are common and negations avoided. Moreover, questions framing the text can be met.

4) As to the register, it turned out that due to the pronominal differences in the two linguistic systems, the choice between the second person pronouns tu and jūs in Lithuanian can contribute to the formality of the message which is impossible in English. Moreover, Lithuanian texts are richer with the third person pronouns used for demonstration and zero references when the emphasis falls on the advertised product. English advertisements employ informal vocabulary and colloquialisms for creating humorous effect or friendly atmosphere, whereas no evidence of slang is found in the Lithuanian texts. Thus, it can be said that LAL keeps closer to the standard Lithuanian and has a higher tonal register than EAL.

The summary of the similarities and differences allows us to draw a conclusion that although both languages exhibit a lot of correspondences, still there are a number of idiosyncratic and language-specific features which should be taken into consideration while creating or translating the advertising message.

Differences:

1) Lexico-grammatically, English texts show several cases of adjectival post-modifications which are absent in the Lithuanian advertisements. LAL exhibits preference to the present tense usage. English advertisements employ abundance of terms and neologisms which contribute to the reliability and novelty of the message. On the other hand, Lithuanian advertisements compensate the lack of neologisms with foreign and exotic words which allude to the prestige of the advertised product.

2) With respect to rhetorical devices, the corpus of English advertisements provides a considerable number of puns which help to create the aesthetic effect of the message and make it more memorable, whereas there are no examples of puns in the Lithuanian corpus.

3) Syntactically, English slogans and body texts employ unconventional punctuation in the so-called “compound-simple” sentences for the sake of emphasis which is untypical in the Lithuanian texts. On the other hand, it appeared that Lithuanian advertisements prefer to intensify ideas in statements and directives adding exclamation marks which are not as widespread in the English texts. Although it has been said that English and Lithuanian advertisements are highly elliptical, the elliptic effect differs: omitted subjects, pronouns, copula verbs and auxiliaries contribute to the spoken and informal discourse formation in English, whereas in Lithuanian, ellipses often do not affect the formality of the style.

4) As to the register, it turned out that due to the pronominal differences in the two linguistic systems, the choice between the second person pronouns tu and jūs in Lithuanian can contribute to the formality of the message which is impossible in English. Moreover, Lithuanian texts are richer with the third person pronouns used for demonstration and zero references when the emphasis falls on the advertised product. English advertisements employ informal vocabulary and colloquialisms for creating humorous effect or friendly atmosphere, whereas no evidence of slang is found in the Lithuanian texts. Thus, it can be said that LAL keeps closer to the standard Lithuanian and has a higher tonal register than EAL.
References


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Jurgita Vaičienoniene

Angliškų ir lietuviškų reklamos tekstų kalbos analizë

Santrauka
### APPENDIX 1

Table 3.1. Frequency rate of lexico-grammatical patterns in EAL and LAL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lexico-grammatical devices</th>
<th>English advertisements</th>
<th>Lithuanian advertisements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adjectival/ adverbial usage</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extensive evaluative, emotional use of modifiers</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjectival pre modification</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjectival post modification</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verbal usage</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past tenses</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present tenses</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future tenses</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noun usage</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terms</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neologisms</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign/ exotic/ fictitious words</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### APPENDIX 2

Table 3.2. Figures of repetition and their functions in EAL and LAL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figures of repetition</th>
<th>Functions</th>
<th>EAL examples</th>
<th>LAL examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Repetition of syllables and sounds | - Aesthetic effect.  
- Emotional appeal. | Moto
tiné. Moto
tola.  
Intelligence everywhere. | Stumbro Starka. Suderinto skonio Starka. |
| Repetition of keywords and ideas | - “Hammering” down the content.  
Maximum control.  
Maximum anti-dandruff protection. | Sodrus juodasis šokoladas, švelnus pieninis šokoladas, juodasis ir pieninis šokoladai pagardinti riešutais, juodasis ir pieninis šokoladai pagardinti riešutais… |
| Enumeration | - Summarizing positive/ negative values.  
- Illusion of quality and superiority.  
- Amplification. | Dinner party. House party. Disco party. The Disaronno Sour adds a new twist to being out or just being. | Originali, pipirinė, citrininė, juodųjų serbentų, spanguolinė. Kokią labiausiai megstate? |
| Synonymy | - Positive/ evaluative description.  
- Illusion of quality, superiority and prestige.  
- Amplification. | The 1st high-intensity permanent colour with micr-minerals and ultimate-staying power. 100% intense. 100% long-lasting. | Nesiėlvariau jie pastelgsiu kvailokai ar neapdairiai. |
Table 3.3. Variance of syntactic features of English and Lithuanian advertising texts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Syntactic features</th>
<th>Slogans</th>
<th>Body texts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>EAL</td>
<td>LAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simple sentences</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple sentences</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compound</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complex</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Compound-simple”</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simple + Multiple</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sentences</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statements</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directives</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Questions</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exclamations</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ellipses</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negations</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exclamation marks</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3.4. Linguistic means imitating spoken and user-friendly discourse in EAL and LAL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Linguistic means</th>
<th>EAL examples</th>
<th>LAL examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short verb forms</td>
<td>That’s exactly what we’ve done with New Megane, to create a car that’s as beautiful as it is to look at.</td>
<td>______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short, elliptical sentences</td>
<td>Samsung A8000 – small, sexy, stylish.</td>
<td>Tikriaus nebuina! Vienintelis tikras kriausiu sidras Lietuvoje!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of direct imperatives</td>
<td>Buy this and get a Sony specialist free.</td>
<td>Pasiruošk perdūoti visus įspūdžius MMS telefonu!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Familiar use of address</td>
<td>______</td>
<td>Tai kas, kas tavęs dar nerode per TV baru ir hollywoodai…</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of positive/evaluative expressions</td>
<td>No other pain killer works better.</td>
<td>Idealus gaiva trykštančių vaisių ir ypatingai švelnios deginės derinys.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>