



**Vilnius  
University**

**Helsingin yliopisto  
November 21, 2019**

---

**Jurgis Pakerys  
(Vilnius University, Department of Baltic Linguistics)**

**Morphological adaptation of verbal and  
adjectival borrowings in Latvian and  
Lithuanian**

Slides online: <http://pakerys.eu>

# Outline

1. Types of morphological adaptation
2. Adaptation of adjectives
  1. Latvian
  2. Lithuanian
3. Adaptation of verbs
  1. Latvian
  2. Lithuanian
4. Conclusions
5. References

# 1. Types of morphological adaptation

1. **Zero** adaptation
2. Assignment to **inflection** class
3. **Addition** of **derivational** suffix
4. **Substitution** of **derivational** suffix
5. (indirect) **Truncation** of **derivational** suffix

See Pakerys 2016a; see also Wohlgemuth 2009 esp. on (2) and (3) and some additional types of verbal borrowings

## 2. Adaptation of adjectives. Latvian

### Zero adaptation

Alternative: word level code switching (in some cases)

French *bordeaux* > (...) > **bordo**(-Ø) *kleita* ‘burgundy dress’

English *top* > (...) > **top**(-Ø) *piedāvājums* ‘top offer’

English *cool* > **kūl**(-Ø), **cool**(-Ø) *cilvēks* ‘cool person’

Frequency: LOW in standard, HIGH in slang

## 2. Adaptation of adjectives. Latvian

### Assignment to inflection class

Indefinite declension in (1-2), definite declension in (3-4):

- 1) German *forsch*(-Ø), *-er*, *-e*, *-es* > *forš-s*, *-a* (*sieviete* ‘cool lady’)
- 2) English *interactive* > *interaktīv-s*, *a* (*splēle* ‘interactive game’)
- 3) English *permanent* > *permanent-ais*, *-ā* (*grims* ‘permanent makeup’)
- 4) English *fake* > *feik-ais*, *-ā* (*smaids* ‘fake smile’)

Frequency: HIGH, PRODUCTIVE

## 2. Adaptation of adjectives. Latvian

Assignment to inflection class as:

- **Replacement** of inflections  
Russian *krut-oj*, *-aja* > *krut-s*, *-a* ‘cool’  
Cf. also German *forsch(-Ø)*, *-er*, *-e*, *-es* > *forš-s*, *-a*
- **Addition** of inflections  
English *fake* > *feik-ais*, *-ā*  
Russian *ryž-ij* (NOM.SG.M) > *riž-ij-s* ‘red-haired’ (inflection “doubling”)

## 2. Adaptation of adjectives. Latvian

### Addition of derivational suffix

German *echt*(-Ø), etc. > *ekt-īg-s* 'real'

English *super* > (...) > *super-īg-s*

English *cool* > *kūl-īg-s*

German *eutroph* > *eitrof-isk-s*

German *ionogen* > *jonogēn-isk-s*

## 2. Adaptation of adjectives. Latvian

### Addition of derivational suffix

Distribution trend (modern Latvian)

*-isk-*: standard (internationalisms)

*-īg-*: colloquial/slang

Frequency: HIGH, PRODUCTIVE



## 2. Adaptation of adjectives. Latvian

### Substitution of derivational suffix

German *richt-ig* > *rikt-īg-s* ‘proper, etc.’

English (Latinate) *gener-ic* > *ģener-isk-s*

Frequency: LOW

## 2. Adaptation of adjectives. Lithuanian

### Zero adaptation

Alternative: word level code switching (in some cases)

French *bordeaux* > (...) > **bordo**(-Ø) *suknelė* ‘burgundy dress’

English *sexy* > **seksi**(-Ø) *suknele* [=suknelė] ‘sexy dress’

FREQUENCY: LOW in standard, HIGH in slang

## 2. Adaptation of adjectives. Lithuanian

### Assignment to inflection class

Latin *absolut-us, -a, -um* > *absoliut-us, -i* (replacement)

English (Adj) *fucking* > *fakin-as, (-a?) faken-as, (-a?)* (rare)

Frequency: HIGH, NOT PRODUCTIVE for English borrowings

## 2. Adaptation of adjectives. Lithuanian

### Addition of derivational suffix

No clear cases of internationalisms

English *cool* > *cool-in-is*, *-ė*, *cool-išk-as*, *-a*

Frequency: MEDIUM

Distribution: *-in-is* relational, *-išk-as* qualitative

## 2. Adaptation of adjectives. Lithuanian

### Substitution of derivational suffix

Polish *hermet-yczn-y*, Russian *germet-ičesk-ij*,  
*germet-ičn-yj* > *hermet-išk-as*, *hermet-in-is* 'hermetic'

Cf. also German *hermet-isch* < Latin *hermet-ic-us*

Frequency: HIGH, PRODUCTIVE

## 2. Adaptation of adjectives. Lithuanian

### Truncation of derivational suffix

Polish *central-n-y*, Russian *central'-n-yj* > *central-in-is* >  
*centr-in-is* 'central'

Frequency: LOW

## 2. Adaptation of adjectives. Summary

- **Non-adapted** forms are frequent **in slang**
- Both Latvian and Lithuanian productively use **adaptational suffixation**
- **Assignment to inflection** class of English borrowings is productive only in Latvian

Further references: Pakerys 2016b, Pakerys 2017 (Latvian), Pakerys 2016c (Lithuanian); see also Görlach, ed. 2002 on borrowings from English in European lgs.

### 3. Adaptation of verbs. Latvian

Note: **Slavic** borrowings are **not included** in this review

**Zero adaptation** (vs. code switching)

*Pēc tam **restart**(-Ø) uz normal režīmu un uzliec pa jaunam* (boot.ritakafija.lv, 2006-12-31)

‘Then **restart** [the Windows operating system] in normal mode and install [the driver] once again’

Frequency: LOW



# 3. Adaptation of verbs. Latvian

Assignment to inflection class

Not attested (?)

## 3. Adaptation of verbs. Latvian

### Addition of derivational suffix

Middle Low German *huren* > *īr-ē-t* 'hire'

English *restart* > *restart-ē-t* (frequent), *restart-o-t* (rare)

English *save* > *seiv-o-t* (frequent), *seiv-ē-t* (rare)

### Distribution trend

Standard/old borrowings      *-ē-t*

Slang/new borrowings      *-o-t*

# 3. Adaptation of verbs. Latvian

Frequency: HIGH, PRODUCTIVE

*-o-t* seems to be more productive than *-ē-t*,  
see Google data (2012) in the next slides

**Table 1.** Google token frequency of  $-o-t$  vs.  $-\bar{e}-t$ Vilnius  
University

		$-o-t$	$-\bar{e}-t$
apdeitot	< update	4 330	3
apgreidot	< upgrade	6 860	9
banot	< ban	271 000	9
čatot	< chat	35 200	4
daunlaudot	< download	5	7
drinkot	< drink	302	3
fakot	< fuck	1 770	3
jūzot	< use	1 990	178
seivot	< save	1360	7
zipot	< zip	238	2

**Table 2.** Google token frequency of  $-\bar{e}-t$  vs.  $-o-t$ Vilnius  
University

		$-\bar{e}-t$	$-o-t$
forvardēt	< forward	348	5
kancelēt	< cancel	1 100	32
klozēt	< close	3	1
restartēt	< restart	15 500	48

## 3. Adaptation of verbs. Latvian

### Substitution of derivational suffix

No clear instances, cf. truncation

### Truncation of derivational suffix

German *dress-ier-en* > *dres-ier-ē-t* > *dres-ē-t* 'train (animals)'

Frequency: LOW

### 3. Adaptation of verbs. Lithuanian

Zero adaptation (vs. code switching)

*tada **restart**(-Ø) ir paziurek[,] ar krausis* (uzdarbis.lt, 2013-11-14)

‘Then restart [the operating system] and see if it boots’

*jie kažką kalba, aš nieko ne **understand**(-Ø)* (Corpus of spoken Lithuanian)

‘They are talking about something and I do not understand anything’

Frequency: LOW

# 3. Adaptation of verbs. Lithuanian

Assignment to inflection class

Not attested (?)



### 3. Adaptation of verbs. Lithuanian

#### Addition of derivational suffix

English *restart* > *restart-uo-ti*, *restart-in-ti*

English *save* > *seiv-in-ti*

Frequency: HIGH, PRODUCTIVE

#### Distribution trend

Standard/old borrowings      *-uo-ti*

Slang/new borrowings      *-in-ti*

## 3. Adaptation of verbs. Lithuanian

### Substitution of derivational suffix

Polish *modern-iz-owa-ć*, Russian *modern-iz-irova-t'* >  
*modern-iz-uo-ti* > *modern-in-ti* 'modernize'

Frequency: LOW

### 3. Adaptation of verbs. Lithuanian

(indirect) Truncation of derivational suffix

German *dress-ier-en* (> Russian *dress-ir-ova-t'*)

> *dres-ir-uo-ti* > *dres-uo-ti* 'train (animals)'

Frequency: LOW

## 3. Adaptation of verbs. Summary

### Latvian

Suffixal adaptation prevails

*-o-t* in new/slang borrowings

*-ē-t* in older/standard borrowings

### Lithuanian

Suffixal adaptation prevails

*-in-ti* in new/slang borrowings

*-uo-ti* in older/standard borrowings

# 4. Conclusions

## Typology of adaptation strategies

1. Zero adaptation (vs. word level code switching)
2. Assignment to inflection class
3. Addition of derivational suffix
4. Substitution of derivational suffix
5. (indirect) Truncation of derivational suffix

## 4. Conclusions

- In Latvian and Lithuanian, suffixal adaptation of borrowed adjectives and verbs prevails
- Latvian uses assignment to inflection class of adjectival borrowings from English much more frequently than Lithuanian
- Distribution of suffixes with regard to standard/old vs. slang/new borrowings (Latvian *-isk-* vs. *-īg-*, *-ē-t* vs. *-o-t*, Lithuanian *-uo-ti* vs. *-in-ti*)



**Vilnius  
University**

---

**Kiitos!**

JURGIS.PAKERYS@FLF.VU.LT

# References

Görlach, Manfred (ed.) 2002, *English in Europe*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Pakerys, Jurgis. 2016a. On the derivational adaptation of borrowings, *SKASE Journal of Theoretical Linguistics* [online] 13(2), 177–188, [http://www.skase.sk/Volumes/JTL32/pdf\\_doc/10.pdf](http://www.skase.sk/Volumes/JTL32/pdf_doc/10.pdf).

Pakerys, Jurgis. 2016b. Morphological adaptation of adjectival borrowings in modern Latvian, *Vārds un tā pētīšanas aspekti* 20(1), 147–162.

Pakerys, Jurgis. 2016c. Morphological adaptation of adjectival borrowings in modern Lithuanian, *Baltistica* 51(2), 239–269 (<https://doi.org/10.15388/Baltistica.51.2.2273>).



# References

Pakerys, Jurgis. 2017. Par ko liecina feikais un superīgs?, *Valodas prakse: vėrojumi un ieteikumi* 12, 38–47.

Wohlgemuth, Jan. 2009. *A Typology of Verbal Borrowings*. Mouton de Gruyter.