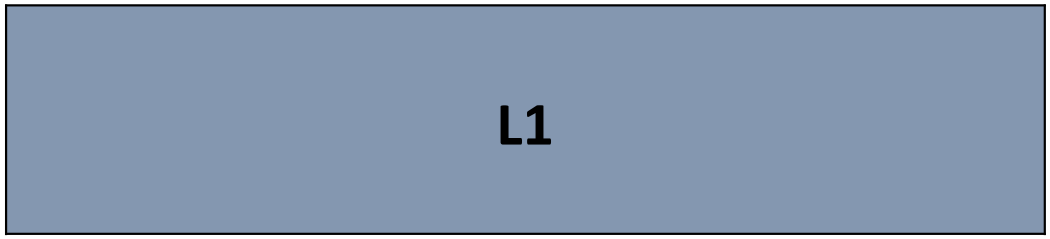
Phonological Interference in Word Associations

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Mother tongue

- Mother tongue
- Native language
- Primary language



“The mother tongue, the native language, and the primary language emerge as reliable definition of first language. People learn their first language by acquiring the language step by step from the early stage of their life.” (Aziz et al 2019: 161)

Interference

The effect by the process of another language learning because of learner's language background.

(Subandowo 2017)

"errors a speaker introduces into one language as a result of contact with another language"

(Crystal 2008: 249)

- Language transfer
- Linguistic interference
- Cross meaning

Subandowo (2017)

Association

Word associations/Sense associations

”association (n.) The general senses of this term are often found in linguistic discussion – the non-linguistic feelings (see connotation) which a lexical item gives rise to, or the range of psychologically connected items which come to mind (i.e. the word associations or sense associations). (Crystal, 2008)

“The psycholinguistic term association describes the connection or relation between ideas, concepts, or words, which exist in the human mind and manifests in an above-mentioned way: an appearance of one entity entails the appearance of the other in the mind.” (Sinopalnikova & Smrz, 2004)

Word association test

- Francis Galton (1879)
- Grace Helen Kent and Aaron Rosanoff

"The body of Word Association Norms constitutes the list of stimuli, lists of responses and their absolute frequencies for each stimulus word."

Paradigmatic relations

Syntagmatic relations

Formal associations

- orthographic associations
- phonological associations
  - “clang” associations
  - “bathtub effect”
    - de_____tion



Homonymy

"ambiguity between unrelated meanings … where two words happen to share the same orthography and phonology" Beretta et al (2005: 58)

Factors which determine the selection between the meanings

- context
- frequency
- degree of relatedness among word's meanings

Method and participants

Qualitative analysis

Aural-written method for collecting data

BG - ENG

Time: less than 1 min

Secondary and tertiary responses

Twofold approach:

- Homonymy in BG and in ENG
- Dictionaries of homonyms

Beginners 38%

29 respondents

2 successive years

3 small groups

Results

Orthographic
bad – bag

Phonological

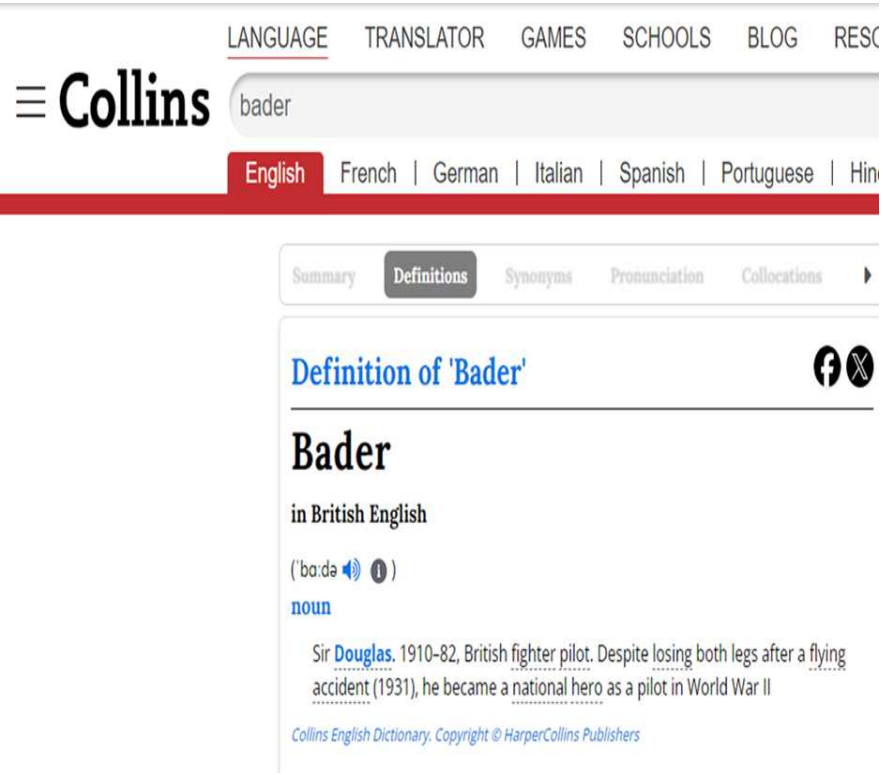
head – had

Semantic associations

- head – yellow, green, red, long, short, brown.
- bad - clean, room, house

Inappropriate responses

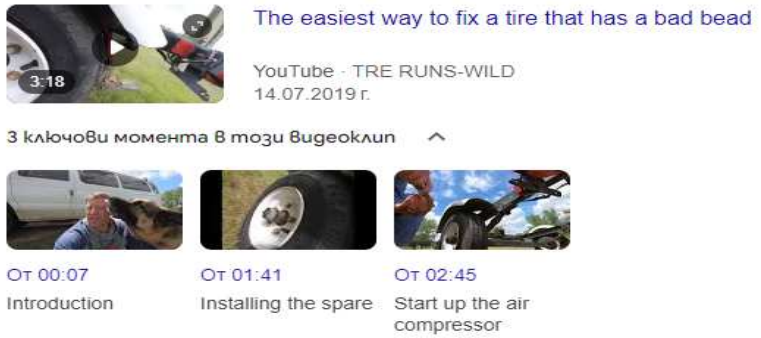
Spelling and grammar mistakes



Feadband

Bader

bead



In poker, **bad beat** is a subjective term for a hand in which a player with what appear to be strong cards nevertheless loses. It most often occurs where one player bets the clearly stronger hand and their opponent makes a mathematically poor call that wins with any subsequent dealing to complete the hand.

In pure mathematical terms a one-outer can be considered a pure bad beat, however there is no consensus among poker players as to what else exactly constitutes a bad beat and often players will disagree about whether a particular hand was a bad beat. A few examples are: quads over full house, quads over quads, straight flush over quads, small full house vs. bigger full house or better.

Types of bad beats [edit]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bad_beat

Similarities and differences in articulation

Similarities

Unstressed vocalism

- Reduction of unstressed vowels

BG The strongest reduction /а/ - /ə/

ENG Schwa the most common vowel sound in unstressed syllable

- Devoicing of final voiced consonant

град [грат], залез [залес], праг [прак], боб [боп] и т. н. (Stoyanova, 2021: 56)

cap- cab (Walker&Archer, 2024:33)

влак – мрак; време- бреме; дума – гума и т.н.“(Stoyanova, 2021: 32)

bad - bat, pad, pat (Bey, 1899: 34)

- Differences
- BG broad- narrow
- ENG e.g. to strong /tuː/ weak /tə/

Non-existence of some English vowels in Bulgarian

- Prolonged vowel before the final voiced consonant

Homonyms of *bad* according to Dictionary of Homonyms

(Rothwell, 2007)

If a person or object is **bad**, then they are the reverse of perfect. A bad person does criminal or selfish things, a bad apple tastes dreadful and might infect you with some disease, and a bad idea fails to lead to any very constructive outcome. Not surprisingly, the word 'bad' is attached to scores of nouns in a metaphorical or proverbial sense: bad blood, bad debt, bad egg, bad form, bad lot, bad news, bad patch, and so on. The word **bade** is the past tense of the verb 'to bid', and can be pronounced with a short 'a', in which case it is a homophone for 'bad', or with a long 'a', in which case, of course, it isn't.

Homonyms of *bad* according to A Dictionary of English Homonyms (Bey 1899:34)

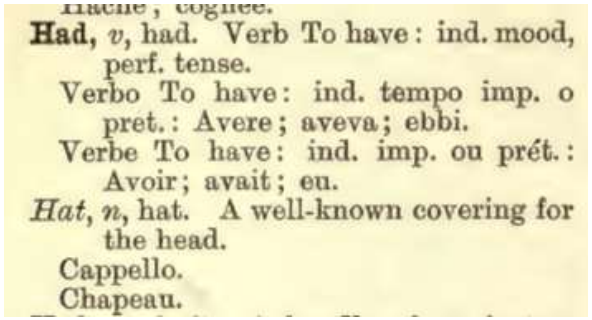
Bad, *a*, bad. Hurtful; destructive; injurious; not good.
Cattivo; male; malvagio.
Mauvais; méchant; malheureux.

Bat, *n*, bat. A stick used to strike the ball in the game Cricket; an animal with wings having the body of a mouse.
Maglio pel giuoco di cricket; pipistrello; nottola.
Chauve-souris; bâton.

Pad, *n*, pad. A soft saddle, cushion, or bolster stuffed with straw, &c.; an easy-paced horse; street robber.
Sella imbottita; cuscinetto; cavallo portante; ladro di strada.
Coussin; espèce de selle molle; cheval qui va à l'amble; voleur.

Pat, *n*, pat. A light quick stroke with the finger or hand.
Piccolo colpo; scappezzone; colpettino leggero; toccatina.
Frapper légèrement; une petite tape; un petit coup de main.

Homonyms of *had* according to A Dictionary of English Homonyms (Bey 1899:34)



Had, *v*, had. Verb To have: ind. mood, perf. tense.
Verbo To have: ind. tempo imp. o pret.: Avere; aveva; ebbi.
Verbe To have: ind. imp. ou prét.: Avoir; avait; eu.
Hat, *n*, hat. A well-known covering for the head.
Cappello.
Chapeau.

Results

Orthographic

bad – bag

mother tongue interference - BG letter g

Phonological

head – had

mother tongue interference

Semantic associations

head

– yellow, green, red - Asians, Native Americans and an emoji on the Internet, respectively.

- long, short – hat/ muscle
- brown - hat

bad

- clean, room, house - bed

Conclusion

In terms of homonymy the quality of produced vowels is more important in English than in Bulgarian.

If the significance of vowel sounds is ignored, it will naturally lead to wrong interpretation of the word which on its part will evoke quite different associations.

Knowledge about differences in phonology of the two languages would reduce (let's call them) artificial examples of homonymy and this way help students grapple to some extent with the difficulties that stem from homonymous words.

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