

Е.А. Юрковская¹, В.А. Москвитина¹

¹Иркутский государственный университет путей сообщения, г. Иркутск, Российская Федерация.

ЭТИМОЛОГИЧЕСКИЙ АНАЛИЗ ЗАИМСТВОВАНИЙ-ЖАРГОНИЗМОВ СФЕРЫ ИНФОРМАЦИОННЫХ ТЕХНОЛОГИЙ, ИСПОЛЬЗУЕМЫХ РУССКОЯЗЫЧНЫМИ СОТРУДНИКАМИ КОМПАНИИ WRIKE (НА АНГЛИЙСКОМ ЯЗЫКЕ)

Аннотация. Статья посвящена этимологическому анализу жаргонизмов, используемых русскоязычными сотрудниками компании Wrike в процессе профессионального общения. Данные жаргонизмы относятся к корпусу профессиональной лексики сферы информационных технологий, в частности, Scrum-методологии организации работы над проектом. Было установлено, что 54 из 57 проанализированных жаргонизмов являются англоязычными заимствованиями. Профессиональный жаргонизм позволяет наиболее компактным способом передать комплексное профессионально-ориентированное значение. По способу образования данные жаргонизмы подразделяются на 3 группы. Наиболее многочисленной группой являются фонологические заимствования, образованные путем транслитерации и транскрипции английской профессиональной лексики. Выявлено, что значительная часть исследуемых жаргонизмов приобрела статус полноценной языковой единицы, так как они демонстрируют способность к образованию однокоренных слов различных частей речи.

Ключевые слова: заимствованные слова, профессиональный жаргон, жаргонизм, транслитерация, транскрипция, калькирование, Scrum-терминология.

Е.А. Iurkovskaia¹, V.A. Moskvitina¹

¹Irkutsk State Transport University, Irkutsk, the Russian Federation

ETYMOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF IT JARGON BORROWINGS USED BY RUSSIAN-SPEAKING WRIKE EMPLOYEES

Abstract. The article is devoted to the etymological analysis of jargon words used by Russian-speaking Wrike employees in the job place. These jargon words belong to IT professional vocabulary, in particular, deal with the Scrum methodology for organizing work on a project. It was found out that 54 out of 57 analyzed jargon words are English borrowings. Professional jargon allows the most compact way to convey complex professional-oriented meanings. According to the method of formation, these jargon words are divided into 3 groups. The most numerous group is phonological borrowings formed by transliteration and transcription of English professional vocabulary. It was revealed that a significant part of the words under study have acquired the status of a full-fledged linguistic unit, since they demonstrate the ability to form same-root words of various parts of speech.

Keywords: borrowings, professional jargon, jargon words, transliteration, transcription, calque, Scrum terminology.

Introduction

If you read or hear the phrases: «А чьи это таски висят в бэклоге?», «В чьем скоупе данная фича?», «А моки где?», «Сторю пока комплитить рано, надо вначале баги пофиксить», how many of these do you understand? Probably, not many or none. The phrases include IT jargon words that may prevent the person not belonging the IT area from understanding them. However, if you were a Wrike employee or *райкер* (from Eng. Wrike-er), you would easily make sense of the phrases. This article will help you translate the phrases into legible Russian. Besides, it will attempt to analyses the most productive ways of generating workplace IT jargon words employed by a specific IT Russian-speaking community.

Authorship of the Analyzed Vocabulary

The article studies of 57 IT words presented in 2 publications by the company Wrike at Habr.com [1]. Wrike is a software company that suggests an app for organizing team work on the basis of the Scrum methodology.

Scrum is a framework for project management that emphasizes teamwork, accountability and iterative progress toward a well-defined goal. The name comes from the sport of rugby, where scrum

is a formation in which everyone plays a specific role, but everyone is working towards a quick adoption of strategies [2].

Scrum is designed for teams of ten or fewer members who break their work into goals that can be completed within time-boxed iterations, called sprints. The Wrike company used to have offices in Russia but in 2022 it announced their departure from our country. Nevertheless, they have left a remarkable vocabulary list which is a fruitful source for a linguistic analysis. All the words on the list are related to Scrum terminology thus contributing to a Russian-speaking Scrum professional discourse vocabulary.

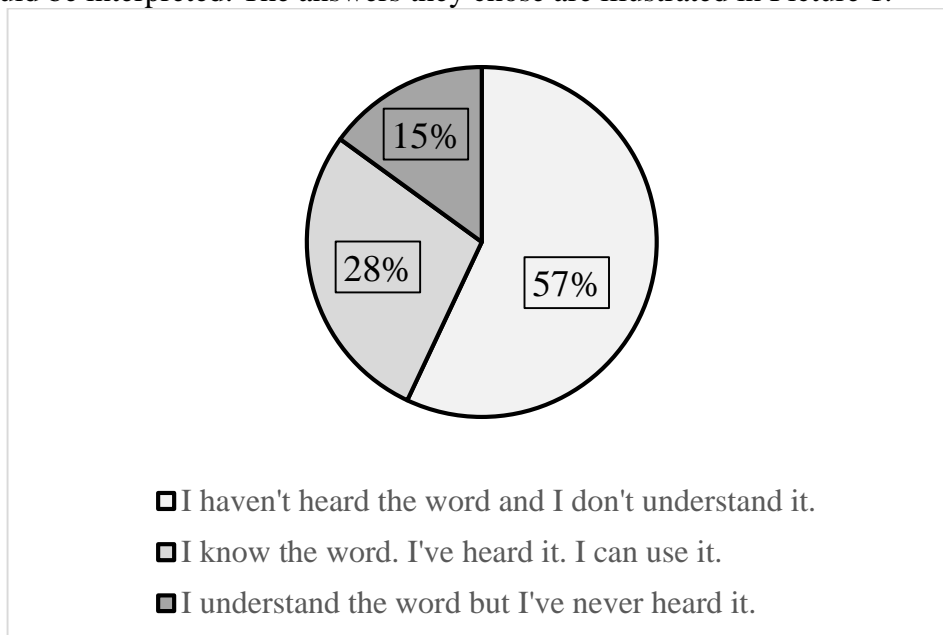
Professional Terminology and Jargon

Professional discourse is a specific form of verbal communication in professional settings. This term refers to the language used by professional communities (e.g. IT-specialists, lawyers, doctors, economists) which reflects some shared professional knowledge and use of the same terminology in their intra-community interaction. Professional discourses are equipped with professional vocabularies composed of both terminology and professional jargon words.

Terminology refers to the vocabulary used in a particular subject area or field of study and serves as a means of communication, allowing professionals to communicate complex ideas and concepts with precision and accuracy.

Jargon also refers to the vocabulary that is used within a particular profession or industry. Its mission is to serve as a shorthand for complex ideas and concepts, allowing professionals to communicate quickly and efficiently. Unlike terminology, which is used to facilitate communication, jargon often excludes individuals who are not part of a particular group or community.

A survey done on 20 respondents (18 IT students and 2 IT professionals not dealing with Scrum) has revealed that only 28% of the words were familiar to the respondents and the meanings of 15% of the words could be interpreted. The answers they chose are illustrated in Picture 1.



Picture 1. Word Awareness Survey Results

Thus, we can make a conclusion that most of the words have a jargon but not terminological character. You have to be a Wrike employee or at least an expert in the Scrum methodology to understand all of them.

Etymological Analysis of IT Jargon Borrowings Used by Russian-Speaking Wrike Employees

The vocabulary list includes 40 nouns, 3 adjectives, 14 verbs. It's remarkable that many of them make word-formation rows, e.g.

(1) *гол, голевой* (Eng. goal) – цель спринта (бывает одна или несколько), которую команда берется сделать. Цель состоит из ряда задач, которые нужно выполнить, чтобы его достигнуть: «Эта задача *голевая*, нужно сделать ее в первую очередь», «Все *голы* в этот раз не выполнили».

The meaning the word expressed is also verbalized as the adjective *голевой* and the plural noun *голы*.

(2) *ассайнить* (Eng. assign) – назначать задачу на человека в качестве исполнителя:

«*Заассайнь* (verb) эту задачу на кого-нибудь из бэкэнда»,

«Так не было у задачи *ассайни* (noun)»;

(3) *деплой* (Eng. deploy) – процесс интеграции кода из разработческих веток в продуктивную (мастер) ветку:

«Кто сегодня *деплойный* (adjective) дежурный?»,

«Завтра *деплоим* (verb) очень важную задачу»,

«Задача ушла в *деплой* (noun)»

The ability of the words to be transformed into various parts of speech proves that the words have gained independency and conventionality, though within a specific professional community, namely the Wrike team, or wider the Scrum community.

54 of the words on the list are English borrowings, otherwise called loan words. There are only 2 verbs and 1 noun which are Russian IT jargon words:

пинать – делать, выполнять;

катить – отправлять готовую работу;

костыль – временная «подпорка» в коде, которая приводит к нужному результату, но само решение является идеологически неверным.

It is no surprise as, firstly, IT Russian is overloaded with English borrowings. English-speaking community is recognized as the pioneer of the IT area so the technology has spread all over the world together with its linguistic representation. Some of IT English borrowings have become so commonly-used among Russian speakers that nowadays they are not viewed as borrowings at all, e.g. *монитор, сканнер, принтер*.

Secondly, English is a major donor language – the leading source of borrowings for many other languages and Russian is no exception. English is commonly recognized as a global language. It enables you to participate in global conversations both technical and humanitarian, expand your social and professional networks.

And thirdly, may be the most credible reason is that the company, which employees use the words, is an American company based in California. It used to have 9 offices in Russia. No doubt that the interaction of the Russian employees with their English-speaking co-workers led to the situation when the two languages had to come in contact, and the need for a common professional language caused the vocabulary to appear.

In linguistics, borrowing (also known as lexical borrowing) is the process by which a word from one language is adapted for use in another without any changes in its meaning. There are 3 basic types of borrowings [3]: phonological, lexical, calques. All the three types can be found in the list under analysis.

1. **Phonological borrowings** (50 items) are words that loan the verbal shell of a word together with its meaning. In Russian Linguistics, the term ‘transliteration’ is generally used to define such borrowings. However, we also have to specify two types of transliteration: orthographic and phonetic.

1) Orthographic transliteration involves rendering a language from one writing system to another. In case of English borrowing from the Latin alphabet to the Cyrillic alphabet, e.g.

консерн (Eng. concern) – смесь многих значений, таких как: особый интерес, беспокойство, цель, настороженность, опасение и т.д.;

фасилитатор (Eng. facilitator) – человек, берущий на себя обязанности ведущего. Он обеспечивает успешную коммуникацию внутри команды, пытается упростить общение и создает понимание между всеми участниками команды.

2) Phonetic transliteration involves rendering a language from one pronunciation to another, e.g.

скоуп (Eng. scope) – набор частей продукта, закрепленных за отдельной командой.

буст (Eng. boost) – процесс повышения производительности, ускорение загрузки;

майлстоун (Eng. milestone) – запланированная дата окончания работ по выборочным задачам.

The examples above are clear cases of each of the two types of transliteration. However, in many cases, it was problematic to differentiate between phonetic and orthographic transliteration as the terms displayed both ways, e.g.

дейли (Eng. daily) – ежедневные короткие (от 5 до 30 минут) встречи команды с целью поделиться прогрессом по выполненным задачам за предыдущий день и озвучить план работ на текущий день;

матчиться (Eng. match) – приводить к единообразию.

Therefore, it will be unreasonable to specify on the number of the items modelled on each of the types.

Further, the analysis revealed that the words of this group can be also divided into

1) reversible, which can be easily reversed back into the relative English word. As an experiment with back transliteration of the vocabulary by means of an online translit converter [4] demonstrated, only 8 are identically transliterated back in to their exact prototypes, e.g.

спринт (Eng. sprint) – заданный отрезок времени, за который нужно выполнить запланированный объем работы, чтобы в конце этого отрезка был ожидаемый результат;

инпут (Eng. input) – в разговорной речи используется в значении внимание, отклик.

2) non-reversible, e.g.

бэклог (Eng. backlog) – объем работы, который требуется выполнить команде. The coverter returns “bjeklog”.

фича (Eng. feature) – определенная часть или деталь от общего продукта, которая разрабатывается изолированно. The coverter returns ‘ficha’.

It should be noted that most evidently, the non-reversible character of the words doesn't mean that they can be misunderstood. It is successfully compensated by the relative professional knowledge as the words are references to their English Scrum terminology prototypes, e.g.

‘a backlog is a list of tasks required to support a larger strategic plan’ [5];

‘a feature in agile product development is defined as a part of the product – whether a service, functionality, etc. – that delivers both business value and satisfies a customer need’ [6].

A remarkable feature of the transliterated vocabulary is the attempt to adapt the words to the morphological structure of the Russian language. It is quite a common process if we talk about borrowing verbs, e.g.

комплитить (Eng. complete) — завершать задачу, закрывать задачу, когда она полностью готова;

фиксить (Eng. fix) – устранять проблему.

But this vocabulary also demonstrates that borrowed nouns can be morphologically adapted to the Russian tradition, namely some nouns acquire gender characteristics, e.g.

таска (Eng. task) – задача, заведенная или планируемая на любого работника;

бага (Eng. bug) – ошибка в коде, проблема, недоработка. The word has been used for a long time but in this vocabulary its morphological structure takes the feminine gender into account. Probably, that makes using the word in speech more convenient. The author of the vocabulary also remarks the diminutive of the word – *багуля* – маленькая проблема;

сторя (Eng. story) – корневая задача с описанием требований для разработки, она содержит в себе подзадачи, назначенные на разработчиков разных должностей. Это точка входа при разработке какого-либо функционала.

The analysis of the types of words within the corpus under study has also revealed that among the transliterated vocabulary there are 2 specific groups of words:

1) 6 transliterated abbreviations including

мок (Eng. mock-up) – макет с UX-дизайном для разработки;
реф (Eng. reference) – схожий функционал или внешний вид, который используется для ориентира;

спека (Eng. specification) – документ с подробным описанием требований, условий и технических характеристик, как должен работать разрабатываемый функционал;

2) **7 transliterated acronyms.** An acronym is a type of abbreviated word consisting of parts of the full words, e.g.

пио (Eng. PO, Product Owner) – роль по скрам-методологии, человек, ответственный за проработку продукта и распределение бэклога. Он знает о требованиях пользователя и возможностях команды;

пиэм (Eng. PM, Product Manager) – менеджер, который отвечает за продукт, его обязанности совпадают с обязанностями пио, отличие только в том, что это название должности, а не роли в скраме;

капиай (Eng. KPI, Key Performance) – единица измерения, которая требуется для того, чтобы понять эффективность какой-либо деятельности.

It should be mentioned that the words *пио* and *капиай* are peculiar cases of transliteration as *пио* is a mixture of phonetic (*пи*) and orthographic (*о*) transliteration while the first syllable in *капиай* is neither of them (not *кей* or *к*). It is Russian-like pronunciation of the letter *к*.

2. **Lexical borrowings** (only 1 item) are words that are borrowed with a shift in meaning. e.g.

драйвер (Eng. driver - водитель) – человек, который берет на себя инициативу управления проектом/процессом/задачей. В его обязанности входит следить за тем, как протекает созданный им процесс, и руководить им. Он мотивирует других людей выполнять работу для достижения поставленных целей.

Such a small number of lexical borrowings can be explained by the fact that the vocabulary is based on a ready-to-use English-language scrum terminological group, from which the words were borrowed together with their specific professional meanings. The word ‘driver’ in the meaning given above, was not found in either of the available scrum glossaries [7–10].

It is notable that all the respondents of the survey marked the term as ‘known’ but they supposed a different meaning the word has in English – ‘a computer program that makes it possible for a computer to use other pieces of equipment such as a printer’ [11].

Nevertheless, the term can be called ‘arbitrary’ lexical borrowing with a shift of meaning as it has a specific meaning in scrum communities and is likely to be properly interpreted by them.

3. **Calques** (3 nouns) are exact translations of the corresponding English words that preserve the meaning, e.g.

ветка (Eng. branch) – полная копия проекта, в которой ведется разработка;

стоимость задачи (Eng. task value) – суммарное количество затрат разработчика на задачу.

One more noun constitutes a very complicated case of calque mixed with play on words:

ручка (Eng. handler – обработчик) – ответ от сервера, в котором приходят данные.

First the term ‘handler’ was substituted by the similarly sounding ‘handle’ and then calqued into Russian.

Conclusion

As the analysis of the list of IT jargon words used by Wrike’s employees has demonstrated, borrowing IT words from English proved to be the most common word-forming technique.

The words were borrowed together with what they represent, namely the participants, ideas, events of the Scrum project management methodology.

Most of the words were formed by means of the phonetic transliteration technique and were furthermore adapted for use in Russian conversation.

Now, as all the jargon words used in the phrases at the beginning of the article have been analyzed in the article, it will you will easily understand the meaning of the phrases suggested at the beginning of the article

БИБЛИОГРАФИЧЕСКИЙ СПИСОК

1. Словарик айтишника. Что? Где? Куда? URL: <https://habr.com/ru/companies/wrike/articles/475558/>, <https://habr.com/ru/companies/wrike/articles/477936/> (дата обращения: 27.05.2024).
2. Scrum Methodology: An Introduction to the Scrum Process. URL: https://www.projectmanager.com/blog/scrum-methodology_ (дата обращения: 27.05.2024).
3. Mahmudova Z. Sh. qizi. Types of borrowed words // Central Asian Research Journal for Interdisciplinary Studies (CARJIS). 2022. Volume 2. Issue 1. DOI: 10.24412/2181-2454-2022-1-129-132.
4. TRANSLIT.CC. URL: <https://translit.cc/> (дата обращения: 27.05.2024).
5. What is a Backlog. URL: <https://www.productplan.com/glossary/backlog/> (дата обращения: 27.05.2024).
6. Are Features a Part of Scrum? URL: <https://resources.scrumalliance.org/Article/features-scrum> (дата обращения: 27.05.2024).
7. Glossary of Scrum Terms. URL: <https://www.scrum.org/resources/scrum-glossary> (дата обращения: 27.05.2024).
8. Agile And Scrum Terminology: A Glossary For Agile/Scrum Concepts. URL: <https://www.softwaretestinghelp.com/agile-and-scrum-terminology/> (дата обращения: 27.05.2024).
9. Scrum Inc. URL: <https://scrumtrek.ru/blog/agile-scrum/scrum-glossary/> (дата обращения: 27.05.2024).
10. Scrum Glossary. URL: <https://www.wrike.com/scrum-guide/glossary/> (дата обращения: 27.05.2024).
11. Cambridge Dictionary. URL: <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/> (дата обращения: 27.05.2024).

REFERENCES

1. *Slovarik ajtishnika ili Chto? Gde? Kuda?* [An IT specialist's dictionary or What? Where? Where to?] Available at <https://habr.com/ru/companies/wrike/articles/475558/>, <https://habr.com/ru/companies/wrike/articles/477936/> (accessed 27 May 2024) (in Russian).
2. *Scrum Methodology: An Introduction to the Scrum Process*. Available at <https://www.projectmanager.com/blog/scrum-methodology> (accessed 27 May 2024).
3. Mahmudova Z. Sh. qizi. Types of borrowed words. *Central Asian Research Journal for Interdisciplinary Studies (CARJIS)*, 2022, vol. 2, i. 1. DOI: 10.24412/2181-2454-2022-1-129-132.
4. *TRANSLIT.CC*. Available at <https://translit.cc/> (accessed 27 May 2024).
5. *What is a Backlog*. Available at <https://www.productplan.com/glossary/backlog/> (accessed 27 May 2024).
6. *Are Features a Part of Scrum?* Available at <https://resources.scrumalliance.org/Article/features-scrum> (accessed 27 May 2024).
7. *Glossary of Scrum Terms*. Available at <https://www.scrum.org/resources/scrum-glossary> (accessed 27 May 2024).
8. *Agile And Scrum Terminology: A Glossary For Agile/Scrum Concepts*. Available at <https://www.softwaretestinghelp.com/agile-and-scrum-terminology/> (accessed 27 May 2024).
9. *Scrum Inc*. Available at <https://scrumtrek.ru/blog/agile-scrum/scrum-glossary/> (accessed 27 May 2024).
10. *Scrum Glossary*. Available at <https://www.wrike.com/scrum-guide/glossary/> (accessed 27 May 2024).
11. *Cambridge Dictionary*. Available at <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/> (accessed 27 May 2024).

Информация об авторах

Юрковская Елена Александровна – канд. филол. наук, доцент кафедры «Иностранные языки», Иркутский государственный университет путей сообщений, г. Иркутск, e-mail: eayur@mail.ru.

Москвитина Виктория Андреевна – студентка группы ИС.1-23-2, факультет «Управление на транспорте и информационные технологии», Иркутский государственный университет путей сообщений, г. Иркутск, e-mail: 12023117350@irgups.ru.

Information about the Authors

Iurkovskaia Elena Aleksandrovna – Ph.D. in Philology, Associate Professor, the Subdepartment of Foreign Languages, Irkutsk State Transport University, Irkutsk, e-mail: eayur@mail.ru.

Moskvitina Viktoria Andreevna – student of Group IS.1-23-2, Transport Management and Information Technologies Department, Irkutsk State Transport University, Irkutsk, e-mail: 12023117350@irgups.ru.