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THE LEXICAL FIELD OF VERBS OF EATING IN ENGLISH AND SERBIAN: A CONTRASTIVE ANALYSIS*

ABSTRACT: The aim of the paper is to compare and contrast the lexical field of verbs of eating in English and Serbian. The contrastive analysis will analyze the meaning of the verbs in order to determine the differences and similarities among them. The main method employed is the method of componential analysis. The meaning of the verbs is decomposed into diagnostic components which would further be used to compare and contrast the verbs within one lexical field. The verbs are then be classified into groups and contrasted with the verbs in Serbian. In case diagnostic components of the verbs in English and Serbian match, there is formal correspondence. Cases of translation equivalence occur when components of the English verbs do not fully match those of Serbian verbs. The results obtained are expected to contribute to the more precise translation of verbs of eating from English into Serbian and vice versa. Contrasting the verbs within the lexical fields they belong to and contrasting them between the two languages reveals the relationship(s) among the verbs and provides an insight into the organization of the lexicon of both English and Serbian.

Key words: contrastive analysis, componential analysis, semantic components, formal correspondence, translation equivalence

1. Introduction

The aim of this paper is to compare and contrast the lexical field of verbs of eating in English and Serbian. In order to successfully compare and contrast the fields, the method of contrastive analysis will be applied, which contrasts meaning components of the verbs in the corpus. The aim of the contrastive analysis is to systematically explain the specific similarities and differences among the elements

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of two (or more) languages (Đorđević 1987: 3). Verbs of eating are contrasted semantically, on the basis of their meanings. The analysis is twofold, and does not only contrast the verbs in English against the verbs in Serbian, but also contrasts the verbs within one language. Such contrasting reveals the relationship(s) among the verbs within one language, and provides an insight into the organization of the lexicon of both English and Serbian. Moreover, the paper should offer adequate solutions when translating these verbs from one language into another: formal correspondents in case the components of meaning match in both languages, or translation equivalents in case a verb in English exhibits more components of meaning than a verb in Serbian.

2. Theoretical framework

The problem of meaning is crucial in semantics and lexicology (Dragičević 2010: 54). It is a complex issue, not only because it includes linguistic, extralinguistic and interlinguistic factors, but also due to the overlapping segments of the several types of meaning¹. This paper focuses on the literal meaning of a lexeme, the one that Austin referred to as a primary nuclear meaning (Austin 1961: 39). It is defined as the central, core meaning of a lexeme (Palmer 1976: 69), the lexical meaning (Dragičević 2010, Prčić 2008). When determining the central meaning of the verb *gobble*, for example, we are able to do that because there are verbs of eating that have certain features in common with *gobble*, and there are other verbs of eating which contrast with *gobble*. It is only by those means that it is possible to define the meaning of *gobble* (Nida 1975: 91).

Lyons claims that the meaning of any lexeme consists of its semantic components which represent the atoms of meaning (Lyons 1977: 317). Lehrer refers to them as semantic components (or semantic features) and defines them as constituents of the meaning of any lexical item (Lehrer 1974: 46). Lipka makes a distinction between (semantic) features and (semantic) components, the former being a subcategory of the latter, where features can be assigned a specific value, and components can be broken down into features (Lipka 1992: 110). In this paper, the term *diagnostic component* is used to refer to those features which are relevant in distinguishing one meaning from another (Nida 1975: 229, Prčić 2008:52).

When analyzing the meaning of a lexeme, it is important to include only those components that are necessary and sufficient for separating the meaning of one

lexeme from the meaning of the other lexeme(s) that might occupy the same semantic domain (Nida 1975: 26). The meaning of *slurp* can be defined by decomposing its meaning into smaller units, diagnostic components: ‘to eat’, ‘to make a sound’ and ‘with a mouth’. However, the analysis of the meaning(s) of a lexeme needs to be done very carefully, as decomposition into diagnostic components serves to the adequate specification of the meaning(s) (Prčić 2008: 54).

A contrastive analysis, as the main method of the analysis applied in this paper, refers to defining similarities and differences among the elements of two (or more) languages (Đorđević 1987: 1). The basic assumption in the contrastive analysis is that the elements that are compared have something in common, and it is this shared common feature against which differences can be stated. This common platform of reference is called *tertium comparationis* (Krzyszowski 1990: 15). In other words, there needs to be a universal linguistic feature against which contrasting is done (Đorđević 1987: 58).

There are two possible resulting links that can be established: correspondence (Đorđević 1987: 63) or formal correspondence (Prčić 2008: 170) and equivalence (Đorđević 1987: 58) or functional-communicative equivalence (Prčić 2008: 171).

Hyponymy, synonymy and antonymy are the three basic paradigmatic lexical relations (Lipka 1992: 134). Hyponymy, as the lexical relation which is of most interest for the analysis in this paper, will be further explained. Hyponymy is the inclusion of the meaning: *peck, devour, cram, gulp, gobble* and *wolf* are hyponyms of *eat*, *eat* being their hypernym². Hyponyms are more specific than their superordinate lexeme, as they always have at least one more feature that further specifies them. However, the relation between superordination and subordination does not end with the hypernym, because the hypernym itself can also have another lexeme that is superordinate to it³.

One of the ways to classify lexemes according to linguistic criteria is their grouping into lexical fields, where “common semantic features can be captured by an archilexeme” (Lipka 1980: 94)⁴. Lexemes in one lexical field are gathered around

² Lipka prefers the term *archilexeme* for two reasons: one is to avoid confusion between phonologically similar to hyponym and hypernym, the other is to follow the analogy of the Prague school of linguists which coined the term *archiphoneme* (Lipka 1992: 144). However, following Lyons, most linguists use the terms hyponym and hypernym.

³ Cruse discusses various types of hierarchies in detail, where the most important relation is that of dominance (Cruse 1987: 112-155).

⁴ Terminology in literature is extremely confusing: Cruse refers to lexical fields as *lexical configurations* (Cruse 1986), Lehrer speaks of *semantic fields* and *lexical fields* and uses

their hypernym with which they share at least one central diagnostic component; they are grouped according to their sense (Prčić 2008: 138). *Peck, pick, nibble, devour, binge, cram* and all the verbs in the corpus that denote a specific manner of eating belong to the lexical field of the verb *to eat* and share with it its central component – *to take food*. This paper will follow the approach based on the ideas proposed by Lipka: a lexical field needs to have at least two lexemes which belong to the same word class and needs to have at least one specific diagnostic component in common (Lipka 1990: 152).

As verbs are more abstract than nouns, there have been few attempts of the systematic analysis of the verbs related to eating, both in English and in Serbian. Beth Levin has made a classification of English verbs according to their meaning and their morphological and syntactic characteristics. She refers to the group of verbs related to taking food and drink as *verbs of ingesting*, and further classifies them into seven subgroups (*eat verbs, chew verbs, gobble verbs, devour verbs, dine verbs, gorge verbs and verbs of feeding*) (Levin 1993: 213). In Serbian literature there are no studies that investigate these verbs, but the paper written by Šojat, and based on Croatian corpus, deals mainly with the organization of verbs in the Croatian WordNet. It also exemplifies the structure and the organization of lexical fields in CroWN regarding the group of verbs of eating (Šojat 2012: 165-166).

3. Methodology of the research

The corpus consists of the verbs which are defined by the verb *to eat*, as eating is the diagnostic component that differentiates this lexical field of verbs from other lexical fields⁵.

The first step in the analysis is to determine the diagnostic components of the English verbs by the process of componential analysis. Decomposing the

these two terms as synonyms (Lehrer 1974), some linguists use the term *word field* (Lipka 1992: 151).

⁵ The verbs were compiled on the basis of their definitions in relevant monolingual and bilingual dictionaries of the English language: (*American Heritage Dictionary* (AHDO), *Cambridge Dictionaries Online* (CDO), *Collins Cobuild English Language Dictionary* (CCDO), *Dictionary Online* (DO), *Longman Dictionary Online* (LDO), *Macmillan Dictionary* (MMDO), *Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary* (MWDO), *Oxford Dictionaries* (ODO), *Oxford English Dictionary* (OED), *Longman Language Activator* (LLA), *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English* (LDOCE), *Longman Dictionary of English Language and Culture* (LDOELC)), (*The Sage* (Sage) and *WordWeb* (WW) and in the lexical database of English language (*WordNet* (WN)).

meaning of verbs into diagnostic components is done on the basis of dictionary definitions found in the relevant monolingual dictionaries of the English language. The meaning of all verbs is determined on the basis of their diagnostic components.

The hypernym for the lexical field is *to eat*. Its meaning is *to take food* and this component is included in the meaning of the following 25 verbs that belong to the lexical field of eating: *binge, bolt, breakfast, chomp, cram, crunch, demolish, devour, diet, dinner, down, feast, gobble, gorge, gulp, lunch, nibble, munch, peck, pick, pig, scoff, slurp, snack, taste* and *wolf*. The verbs are classified into several subcategories according to the additional diagnostic components that specify their meaning⁶:

1. the amount of food eaten (a little, all and too much)
2. the speed of eating (quickly, slowly)
3. the type of the meal eaten (breakfast, lunch, dinner)
4. the specific manner of eating (making sounds with specific organs)
5. the purpose of eating (e.g. in order to try the food).

The second step in the procedure is to analyze the verbs separately, and determine their specific components that differentiate them one from the other.

The third step is to check the translations of the English verbs in the bilingual English-Serbian dictionaries. Finally, the diagnostic components of Serbian verbs are checked in the monolingual dictionary of Serbian language, in order to determine the formal correspondents and translation equivalents of the English verbs.

4. Analysis of the data

The common diagnostic component of all the verbs that have entered the corpus is *to take food*. The subcategories previously proposed all contain additional component(s).

4.1. The verbs in this group contain the components *to eat + a specific amount of food*.

⁶ Different criteria are the result of the overlap of the meaning components. Nida refers to this as to the *intermediate level of expression of meaning* and provides a detailed discussion on the subject (Nida 1975).

4.1.1. The first group of verbs is specified by the following components: *to eat + a little amount of food*, and there are four verbs that belong to it: *peck*, *pick*, *nibble* and *snack*.

Peck contains the following components: *to eat + a little amount of food + with no interest/appetite*. The components imply that the person eating shows no enthusiasm or interest towards the food. The consulted bilingual dictionaries mostly provide the translation equivalents, like *probirati jelo* or *jesti vrlo malo*. However, *probirati* does not seem to correspond to *peck*, because it does not have the component *with no interest/appetite*. There is a corresponding verb in Serbian, and that is *mrļjaviti*. Its components match those of *peck* – *to eat + a little amount of food + with no appetite*. In some cases, however, *jesti (vrlo) malo* seems to be a better solution than the formal correspondent, especially if the context indicates a more positive or a more enthusiastic attitude towards food (1b). The example (1a) refers to the insufficient amount of food:

(1) a) He pecked at his dinner. (AHDO)

Mrļjavio je večeru.

(1) b) Thanks, I'll peck a bit. (OED)

Hvala, uzeću (poješću) malo.

The components of *pick* are *to eat + a little amount of food + in small bites*. According to English-Serbian dictionaries, the suggested formal correspondents are *probirati (u jelu)*, *grickati*, *glodati*, *jesti*, but they do not completely correspond to *pick*. *Glodati*, for example, contains the components *to eat + small amount of food + in small bites*. However, it also has the additional component that extends its meaning *by using teeth to separate softer from harder food*, while *jesti* is the hypernym and needs to be further specified. *Grickati*, on the other hand, has all the components that *pick* has, but in Serbian it implies repetition and can be used in such contexts only (2a). Its counterpart *gricnuti* is used when the action is not repeated (2b). Depending on the context, *probirati (jelo)* can also be the formal correspondent, as one of its components is *+ to select what is better*. It bears the implication of eating with delicacy, because *probirati* (when it is related to food) refers to taking only those items of food which seem most pleasing to the person eating (2c):

(2) a) Charles picked at his food in a bored fashion.

Čarls je ravnodušno grickao hranu.

(2) b) Lisa was so upset that she could only pick at her food.

Lisa je bila toliko uznemirena da je samo gricnula hranu.

- (2) c) Sarah picked at a plate of cheese for supper, but she wasn't really hungry.

Sara je probirala sir po tanjiru za večeru, ali zapravo nije bila gladna.

Nibble has the components *to eat + a little amount of food + by taking very small pieces*, and it is very similar in its meaning to *pick*. Still, these two verbs differ because with *nibble* the focus is on the fact that the person is taking the food little by little, and it is more neutral than *pick*. These two verbs share the formal correspondents in Serbian (3a). There is another verb in Serbian that corresponds to *nibble*, and that is *štrpkati*. It refers to taking off a small part of something, and, therefore, it can be used as a formal correspondent (3b).

- (3) a) We stood around drinking wine and nibbling on little snacks. (LLA)
Stajali smo naokolo, pili vino i grickali zakusku.

- (3) b) She never eats a full meal – she just nibbles. (Sage)
Ona nikada ne jede ceo obrok – samo štrpka.

The components of *snack* are the following: *to eat + a little amount of food + between meals*. English-Serbian dictionaries define *snack* primarily as a noun, although there is a formal correspondent in Serbian, and that is *užinati* (4a). In Serbian *pojesti (za) užinu* is also commonly used (4b). The hyponym, *jesti*, can likewise be used when modified with an adverbial phrase (*između obroka*) (4c).

- (4) a) She never loses weight because she snacks between meals. (CCDO)
Ona nikako ne mršavi jer užina između obroka.

- (4) b) I'll just snack on an apple if I'm hungry. (MWDO)
Poješću jabuku za užinu ako budem gladan/gladna.

- (4) c) She would improve her diet if she ate less fried food and snacked less. (CCDO)
Popravila bi svoju ishranu kad bi jela manje pržene hrane i manje jela između obroka.

4.1.2. The verbs in this group have the components *to eat and all the food*, and there are three verbs: *demolish*, *devour* and *pig*.

Demolish has the additional component *+ very quickly*. In the bilingual dictionaries there is only one formal correspondent, *požderati*, but it cannot be taken as the proper formal correspondent, because it is overspecified. It bears the components of greediness and voraciousness, while *demolish* is used in a more benign environment, implying humour. The better solution would be to use two

verbs that are used in informal contexts in Serbian— *slistiti* (5b) and *smazati* (5a), although, according to the consulted monolingual Serbian dictionary, they lack the component *very quickly*. Their use can be considered in the following examples:

(5) a) She demolished the whole cake. (CCD)

Smazala je celu tortu.

(5) b) The teenagers demolished four pizzas among them. (WN)

Tinejdžeri su slistili četiri pice.

In some dictionaries *devour* is treated as a synonym of *demolish*. *Devour* clearly implies that the person is eating the food so that nothing is left and is doing it voraciously, with great hunger. That is why it is more appropriate to use *(po)žderati/prožd(i)rati* as a formal correspondent of *devour*, because it also contains the component of *eating up greedily* (6a). In cases where greediness is not dominant, *(pro)gutati* can be used as a corresponding verb (6b). There are several adverbs (*proždrljivo*, *halapljivo*, *nezasito*) that modify the verb *jesti*, which is used as a translation equivalent (6c):

(6) a) He devoured three sandwiches. (WN)

Proždrao je tri sendviča.

(6) b) He devoured half of his burger in one bite. (ODO)

Progutao je pola hamburgera u jednom zalogaju.

(6) c) The young cubs hungrily devoured the deer. (CDO)

Mladi su proždrljivo pojeli jelena.

Pig is the verb that has the following components: *to eat + all the food + greedily + more than is necessary*. It is similar in its meaning to *devour*, as it implies greediness, but differs from *devour*: *pig* means that the person is eating too much food. *Pig* is similar to *overeate*, but has a distinctly negative connotation, and is used to express the disapproval of the manner in which somebody is eating. As a verb, *pig* represents a metaphorical reading of the way pigs eat. It is based on the semantic features of the noun *pig*, which implies gluttony and dirt. The English-Serbian dictionaries do not recognize *pig* as a verb, but there are ways of expressing its meaning components in Serbian, although some of the components may be missing. One is the verb *prejedati (se)* (7a), the other is the verb *(pre)žderati* (7b). It seems that the latter verb is more suitable, as it refers to eating greedily, while its prefix refers to eating too much. There is the third option, the hyponymous verb modified with the adverb of manner (*jesti kao svinja*) (7c):

(7) a) They pigged themselves on ice cream. (MMDO)

Prejeli su se sladoleda.

- (7) b) I found Sam in front of the TV, pigging out on pizza and fries. (LDOCE)

Našao sam Sema ispred tv-a, kako se prežderava picom i pomfritom.

- (7) c) As soon as they got their food they started pigging out as the man had said to do. (ODO)

Čim su dobili hranu počeli su da jedu kao svinje kako je čovek i rekao.

4.1.3. This group of verbs has the following components: *to eat + an excessive amount of food*, and it consists of three verbs (*binge, cram* and *gorge*).

Binge has the components *to eat + too much food + immodestly*. Bilingual dictionaries do not provide corresponding verbs, but there is a verb in Serbian that has all the components that *binge* has, *prejedati se*⁷ (8a).

- (8) a) He would binge on chocolate until he was sick. (MMDO)

Prejedao bi se čokolade dok mu ne bi pozlilo.

The verb *cram* has the following components: *to eat + too much food + to fill to satiety*. There are several verbs in Serbian that are its formal correspondents: *natrpati (se), nabokati se, nakljukati se*. They all have the same components as *cram*, and can be used as its translation equivalents (9a, 9b):

- (9) a) He was cramming his mouth with food. (MMDO)

Natrpavao je usta hranom.

- (9) b) The child crams her food. (MWDO)

Dete se kljuka hranom.

Cram has the same components as *gorge*, but *gorge* has the additional component *+greedily* and implies eating with great speed and hunger. There are several suggested correspondents and equivalents in English-Serbian dictionaries: *(na)žderati, krkati (se), pohlepno/nezasito/neumereno jesti/gutati*. *Žderati* fully matches the components of *cram*, and represents its formal component (10a). Other possible translations are verb phrases that are modified by the adverb of manner (10b,10c), as can be seen in the examples below:

⁷ In some dictionaries *binge* also has the component *as part of an eating disorder*, but the formal correspondent remains *prejedati se*, as *prejedanje* (gerund) is the lexeme for the eating disorder of constantly eating too much food.

- (10) a) He gorged himself. (DO)
Nažderao se.
- (10) b) They gorged themselves with candy. (AHDO)
Pohlepno su jeli bombone.
- (10) c) I half-expected to see Grace Adler walk up to the podium and complain about men while gorging on chocolate silk pie. (ODO)
Pomalo sam očekivao da vidim Grejs Adler kako se penje na podijum i žali na muškarce dok nezasito guta svilenu pitu od čokolade.

4.2. The components that define this group of verbs are *to eat + with a specific speed*.

4.2.1. The first group is characterized by the following components: *to eat + quickly*. There are five verbs: *gulp*, *scarf*, *bolt*, *gobble* and *wolf*.

Gulp has the components *to eat + quickly + in large morsels*. The focus is on the process of swallowing food quickly. The formal equivalent found in the consulted dictionaries is *progutati*, but it should be modified by the adverb *brzo* (11a) or by the adverbial phrase *u velikim zalogajima* (11b).

- (11) a) He gulps down his food like a starving man. (DO)
Guta hranu tako brzo kao da je izgladneo.
- (11) b) She told him not to gulp his food. (MWDO)
Rekla mu je da ne guta hranu u velikim zalogajima.

The second verb in this group is *scoff*. Its components are *to eat + quickly + with eagerness*, and it is used in informal contexts. The consulted English-Serbian dictionaries suggest one correspondent, *žderati*, but it is too strong. *Smazati* and *slistiti* are more appropriate, as they have all the components that *scoff* has.

- (12) a) I baked a huge cake this morning, and the kids scoffed the lot. (CDO)
Ispekla sam ogromnu tortu jutros, a deca su sve smazala.
- (12) b) She scoffed the plate of biscuits. (LDOCEO)
Slistila je tanjir kekسا.

Bolt, *wolf* and *gobble* are verbs in this group that have the following components in common: *to eat + very quickly + without chewing*.

The additional component of *bolt* is *+ hastily*. This verb refers to eating too quickly because of a hurry. English-Serbian dictionaries suggest *progutati* as its correspondent (13a). In some cases, it needs to be modified with a noun phrase

nesažvakana hrana, particularly when it refers to medical problems with indigestion (13b).

(13) a) Don't bolt your food down! Chew it up slowly. (LLA)

Nemoj samo da tako gutaš hranu! Sažvaći je polako.

(13) b) Being under stress can cause you to miss meals, eat on the move, or bolt your food. (MMDO)

Stres može dovesti do preskakanja obroka, uzimanja hrane s nogu ili gutanja nesažvakane hrane.

Gobble has the following components: *to eat + very quickly + without chewing + greedily*. The dictionaries offer one translation equivalent, the verb *gutati*, modified by *halapljivo* or *lakomo* (14a), and two formal correspondents, *žderati* and *gumati*. The use of *žderati* is questionable, because it has the components that refer to eating a lot of food voraciously. *Gumati* has the components that fully match those of *gobble*, but is considered archaic. Still, there is a verb in Serbian that can be used – (*po*)*kusati*, but only in informal contexts (14b).

(14) a) Pete gobbled all the beef stew. (CCDO)

Pit je halapljivo pojeo čitav goveđi odrezak.

(14) b) She gobbled up her dinner. (CDO)

Pokusala je večeru.

Wolf has the following components: *to eat + very quickly + without chewing + in large morsels*. Similar to *pig*, *wolf* also represents a metaphor related to the noun it is derived from, as wolves are conceptualized as voracious and fierce animals. The equivalents of *wolf* are *halapljivo/pohlepno jesti/gutati (hranu)* (15a,15b).

(15) a) He wolfed down his breakfast. (OD)

Halapljivo je pojeo svoj doručak.

(15) b) When the food finally came she wolfed it down immediately.

(LLA)

Kad je hrana napokon stigla, istog trena ju je halapljivo progutala.

4. 3. This group refers to the type of the meal eaten, and the verbs have the following components: *to eat + a specific meal*⁸. These verbs are *breakfast, lunch, dine*.

⁸ Šojat classifies the verbs in this group according to the time of the day when the meal is eaten (Šojat 2012: 169).

4.3.1. *Breakfast* has the following two components: *to eat* + *breakfast*, and refers to eating the first meal of the day. Its formal correspondent is *doručkovati* (16a).

(16) a) We breakfasted on the terrace. (AHD)

Doručkovali smo na terasi.

The components of *lunch* are *to eat* and *lunch*. *Collins Cobuild Dictionary* defines *lunch* as *to eat lunch especially at a restaurant*. *Ručati* is the most typical correspondent (17a). In some situations, it refers to having lunch at a restaurant, where the context itself implies that the lunch with a client is a formal occasion (17b).

(17) a) We lunched quite late today. (DO)

Danas smo ručali prilično kasno.

(17) b) I will be lunching with a client. (LDOCEO)

Ručaću sa klijentom.

The verb *dine* has the following components: *to eat* + *dinner*. Dictionaries define dinner as the main meal of the day. The English-Serbian dictionaries offer *ručati*, *večerati* and *obedovati*, which brings us to the problematic issue of cultural differences as the concept of the main meal in Serbian culture typically refers to lunch, the meal eaten at midday. The meaning components of *ručati*, therefore, do not match those of *dine*. *Večerati* is the correspondent which is mostly used as a formal correspondent of *dine* in Serbian, but *ručati* must not be neglected as it denotes what *dine* denotes in English⁹. The following examples illustrate the uses of *večerati* and *ručati*:

(18) a) They dined together at an expensive restaurant. (MMDO)

Večerali su zajedno u skupom restoranu.

(18) b) We often dine with friends in this restaurant. (WW)

Često ručamo sa prijateljima u ovom restoranu.

4.4. The verbs in this group refer to the specific manner of eating.

4.4.1. This subgroup has the following components: *to eat* + *to make sounds* + *with mouth*. There are two verbs in this group, *chomp* and *slurp*.

⁹ More on denotation see in Prčić (2008: 68-73).

Chomp has the components *to eat + to make sounds + with mouth + noisily*. The verb in Serbian which has the same components is *mljackati/mljaskati*. However, the English verb does not have positive implications, while *mljackati* implies enjoying the food. A better solution would be to use the translation equivalent *glasno žvakati* (19a).

(19) a) They were chomping burgers at the picnic. (MWDO)

Glasno su žvakali hamburgere na pikniku.

Apart from *to eat + to make sounds + with mouth*, *slurp* has the additional feature *+ as if sucking*. The suggested formal correspondent in Serbian is *srkati*. As this verb primarily refers to taking liquid food, it can be used with the food which is not solid and which can, therefore, be taken by the way of sucking.

(20) b) Try not to slurp. (CDO)

Probaj da ne srčeš.

4.4.2. The second subgroup has the following components: *to eat + to make sounds + with teeth* and there are two verbs, *crunch* and *munch*.

The components of *crunch* are *to eat + to make sounds + with teeth + as if grinding*. Crunching mainly refers to crushing hard food between the teeth. There are two correspondents that can be used in Serbian: *hrskati* (21b) and *krckati* (21a). In some cases, translation equivalents like *drobiti zubima* can also be used (21d).

(21) a) Jane was crunching a peppermint noisily. (MMDO)

Džejn je glasno krckala pepermint.

(21) b) The thought of two thousand people crunching celery at the same time horrified me. (ODO)

Zastrašila me je pomisao na dve hiljade ljudi koji hrskaju celer u isto vreme.

(21) d) She sucked an ice cube into the mouth, and crunched it loudly.

(CCDO)

Stavila je u usta kockicu leda i glasno je zdrobila zubima.

Munch has the following components: *to eat + to make sounds + with teeth + with jaws*. Apart from just making noise while eating, munching refers to making “big continuous movements of mouth” (LDOCEO) and implies enjoying the food. There are two suggested solutions in English-Serbian dictionaries: *mljackati* (22a) and *glasno žvakati* (22b).

- (22) a) Fifteen minutes later we were sitting in the kitchen munching a late lunch and leafing through our new book. (ODO)
Petnaest minuta kasnije sedeli smo u kuhinji mljackajući kasni ručak i prelistavali našu novu knjigu.
- (22) b) Russell munched his breakfast toast. (ODO)
Rasel je glasno žvakao tost za doručkom.

4.5. This group of verbs is related to the purpose of eating. There are three verbs:
diet, feast, taste.

Diet is the verb with the following components: *to eat + less + in order to lose weight*. There are no verbs in Serbian that could be used as a formal correspondent, and the bilingual dictionaries suggest various translation equivalents, like *držati dijetu* and *uzdržavati se od jela*..

- (23) a) I've been dieting ever since the birth of my fourth child. (CCDO)
Držim dijetu još od rođenja četvrtog deteta.

The components of *feast* are *to eat + to celebrate*. It has several formal correspondents in Serbian: *gostiti se, (po)častiti se, provoditi se, pirovati*.

- (24) a) We sat feasting on barbecued chicken and beer. (ODO)
Sedeli smo i gostili se piletinom sa roštilja i pivom.
- (24) b) The men would congregate and feast after hunting. (ODO)
Muškarci bi se skupili i počastili posle lova.
- (24) c) Starving dogs feasted on the human corpses. (CCDO)
Izgladneli psi su pirovali nad ljudskim telima.

Taste has the components *to eat + in order to try the taste of food*. *Taste* implies experiencing what the food is like. Its formal correspondents are *probati* and *okusiti*, the former being more frequent in Serbian (25a, 25b).

- (25) a) I've never tasted anything like it. (CDO)
Nikada nisam probala nešto slično.
- (25) b) She barely tasted her dinner. (DO)
Jedva da je okusila večeru.

5. Discussion

As the aim of the paper was to analyze verbs belonging to the lexical field of eating, the analysis was based on decomposition of meaning of the verbs in the English part of the corpus. Their diagnostic components were compared and contrasted with the related verbs in Serbian, which were also decomposed into diagnostic components. The verbs and their components are presented in Table 1.

eat	a little amount of food																																							
	too much food																																							
	all food																																							
	in small bites																																							
	in large bites																																							
	in small pieces																																							
	quickly																																							
	greedily																																							
	eagerly																																							
	immodestly																																							
	hastily																																							
	as if grinding																																							
	as if sucking																																							
	make sounds																																							
	with mouth																																							
	with teeth																																							
	with jaws																																							
	with no interest																																							
	without chewing																																							
	first meal																																							
	midday meal																																							
	last meal																																							
	between meals																																							
	to excess																																							
	to satiety																																							
	to lose weight																																							
	to celebrate																																							
	to try the taste																																							
binge prejedati se		✓	+	☑	+																																			
bolt																																								
breakfast doručkovati																																								
chomp mljackati																																								
cram nabokati se nakljukati se																																								
crunch hrskati, krckati																																								
demolish																																								

THE LEXICAL FIELD OF VERBS OF EATING IN ENGLISH AND ...

slistiti, smazati				█						█																									
devour proždirati				█						█	█																								
diet																																█			
dinner večerati																																			
feast gostiti se, častiti se, pirovati																																		█	
gobble žderati, gumati											█	█																							
gorge žderati																																		█	
gulp							█			█																									
lunch ručati																																			
nibble gricnuti, grickati, štrpkati	█							█																											
munch mljackati																																		█	
peck	█																																		

mrljaviti																									
pick grickati, gricnu-ti																									
pig prejedati se prežderavati se																									
scoff slistiti, smazati																									
slurp - srkati																									
snack užinati																									
taste probati																									
wolf																									

Table 1. Verbs of eating in English and Serbian

Table 1 shows that most English verbs have their formal correspondents in Serbian (21 out of 25 verbs), which means that English and Serbian conceptualize eating in similar ways, and that in both languages these concepts can be expressed lexically. There are only four English verbs that do not have correspondents in Serbian, although the concepts expressed by these verbs exist in Serbian. It is, therefore, necessary to lexicalize these concepts by their translation equivalents: equivalents refer to verbs that are modified by the adverbs of manner, like *halapljivo/pohlepno jesti* (which is the translation equivalent of *wolf*) and *(pro)gutati u velikim zalogajima* (equivalent of *gulp*), or are complemented with a noun phrase, like *(pro)gutati nesažvakanu hranu* and *biti na dijeti* (equivalents of *bolt* and *diet* respectively).

The analysis has shown that for the most of the English verbs within the lexical field of eating there is a lexeme in Serbian which is equal in its form, function and content. Both languages have various means of expressing and lexicalizing of various (and numerous) processes related to eating, which further leads to the conclusion that the concept(s) of eating and their lexicalizations in English and Serbian match to a certain extent. Similar conceptualization in the two languages is particularly evident along the dimensions of *eating too much* and that of *eating all the food*, but English and Serbian exhibit significant discrepancy in the lexicalizations of these concepts. The search for formal correspondents in Serbian is restricted by the problems of divergence and convergence, as many of the English verbs have more than one formal correspondent in Serbian: *cram* – *nabokati*, *nakljukati se*, *demolish* – *smazati*, *slistiti*, *feast* – *častiti se*, *gostiti se*, *pirovati*, *gobble* – *žderati*, *gumati*, *pig* – *prejedati se*, *prežderavati se* and *scoff* – *slistiti*, *smazati*. Divergence is mostly present among the verbs that have the components *all the food*, *a lot of food*, *quickly*, *greedily*. Convergence, on the other hand, is related to several English verbs that have the same corresponding verb(s) in Serbian. This is the case with *chomp* and *munch*: these two verbs have the same correspondent – *mljackati*. Moreover, *demolish* and *scoff* can both be translated as *slistiti* and *smazati*; *gobble* and *gorge* are translated as *žderati*, while the translations of *nibble* and *pick* can be both *gricnuti* and *grickati*.

There are eleven verbs in English that have both formal correspondents and translation equivalents, although in some cases formal correspondent lack all the components that characterize English verbs. In those cases it is necessary to modify the correspondent, as is the case with the verb *gutati* (the correspondent of *gulp*) which, in order for its meaning to be fully transferred into Serbian, needs to be modified with *u velikim zalogajima*.

The problems of convergence and divergence are partly the result of the differences in the two cultures and the different conceptualization of certain entities or actions. Therefore the meaning of some of the verbs in English needs to be transferred into Serbian by translation equivalents. The other reason lies in the fact that English-Serbian and Serbian-Serbian dictionaries do not provide specific and detailed definitions of verbs. Moreover, many of the verbs in the representative monolingual Serbian dictionary are defined by their synonyms, and are imprecise. Although the analysis has shown that there are lexical gaps in Serbian, there are equivalent verbs and phrases that are used in everyday speech, but are not found in dictionaries (*užinati*, for example, as the correspondent of *snack* or *jesti kao svinja* as the equivalent of *pig*). The results of the analysis should lead towards further research into the collocation range of verbs of eating in Serbian as this would reveal the context these verbs are used in and would contribute to the more precise conceptualization and lexicalization of these verbs.

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Jelena Biljetina

LEKSIČKO POLJE GLAGOLA JEDENJA U ENGLESKOM I SRPSKOM:
KONTRASTIVNA ANALIZA

Rezime

Rad predstavlja kontrastivno proučavanje sa ciljem da se analiziraju glagoli koji spadaju u leksičko polje jedenja u engleskom, te njihovo upoređivanje sa odgovarajućim poljem u srpskom. Glagoli se analiziraju na semantičkom nivou, njihova značenja se dekomponuju u semantičke komponente da bi se utvrdilo koje se od tih značenjskih komponenti preklapaju i razlikuju unutar leksičkog polja jedenja u engleskom i srpskom. Analiza je pokazala da engleski i srpski pokazuju slično konceptualizovanje jedenja, ali da postoje određene razlike u njihovim leksikalizacijama. Analiza je takođe pokazala da definicije glagola povezane sa jedenjem u dvojezičkom englesko-srpskom i jednojezičkom srpsko-srpskom rečniku treba detaljnije specifikovati.

Ključne reči: kontrastivna analiza, komponentijalna analiza, semantičke komponente, formalna korespondencija, prevodilačka ekvivalencija.