Comparative Analysis of Macedonian and French Legal Terms Etymology

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Abstract

This paper aims to analyze the etymological origin of Macedonian and French legal terms. The focus is on the Macedonian legal terminology, having in mind that etymology researches referring to Macedonian terminology are not numerous unlike those referring to French terminology and French vocabulary in general. Object of analysis will be terms of Latin origin that play a very important role in this field, but also terms of other origin such as Greek, Italian. The analysis should show the influence of different historical, sociological and cultural factors in the process of borrowing and developing a specific legal terminology in both languages.

Keywords*: etymology, legal terminology, borrowing, Macedonian, French*

Introduction – etymology

Etymology is a science that studies the origins and history of words and analyzes the changes they have endured in form and meaning over time. In fact, the term *etymology,* is derived from the Greek word ἐτυμολογία (*etymologia) – etymon –*"true sense" and *logia* – "the study of". The term *etymology* is also used, by extension, to refer to the origin of a certain word. In this paper we will deal only with legal terms. In order to make an efficient analysis we will follow two elementary etymological approaches.

Firstly, we will try to identify the ancient term –the etymon, from which the contemporary term has derived, and then we can analyze the eventual meaning changes over time.

This type of analysis can be very useful for the law students or legal translators, assimilating a new terminology, as well as for legal experts who might find a certain pattern related to the word formation or thereby better understand the contemporary meaning of the term.

Latin terminology

Macedonian language is a Slavonic language and the bulk of Macedonian words are of Slavonic origin. Still, Macedonian legal terminology abounds in Latin words or expressions. This phenomenon can be explained by the influence of the Roman law. In fact, the Macedonian legal system is based on the principles of the Roman law, so, by inheriting the Roman legal concepts, we also inherited some Latin terminology. These terms can be divided into two groups:

1) terms and expressions in original Latin form;
2) terms and expression of Latin origin, but adapted to the Macedonian language system.

Although, Latin terms are sometimes viewed as a tool used to give a serious tone to the style, thus supporting the arguments, the use of Latin terms in their original form is rare, and often characteristic of academic writing. For example, in the university textbook *Вовед во правото* (Бајалциев: 1999)*,* we find the terms *abusus (злоупотреба на правно овластување), tempore (време), conditio (услов), modus (начин)* accompanied with Macedonian explanations. In the translation of the European Convention on Human Rights there is also a Latin expression in its original, not translated form – *ex officio.*

Latin expressions can also be found in the decisions and resolutions of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Macedonia[1]. Some of them are put in brackets and follow the Macedonian expression: *генерален закон (lex*

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[1] The decisions and resolutions of the Constiturional Court of the Republic of Macedonia are available at http://www.ustavensud.mk/domino/WEBSUD.nsf .

generalis) but usually they are an equal part of the text and are not followed by an explanation. Among others we can quote: *erga omnes, in genere, fiat iustitiam pereat mundus*, *de facto* etc.

There are also some other Latin expressions in use in legal contexts like: *corpus delicti, ex nihilio, sine qua non, in flagrante, res iudicata, per capita, pro bono, status quo, in medias res, ad hoc.* Some of these terms, like *status quo, in medias res* are not limited to legal contexts, but are in use in general language too.

There are some expressions that are transcribed into Macedonian, but have a Latin form. That is the case of terms *а приори, апостериори* that are not used only by jurists.

In the second group, one can find numerous terms of Latin origin, borrowed directly and just transcribed into Cyrillic, but rooted in the langue like *alibi –алиби, veto - вето.* Usually Latin terms are adapted to the language system and they represent legal internationalisms:

abolitio – аболиција – abolition;

actum – акт – act;

agnatus – агнат –agnate;

conventio –конвенција – convention;

decretum – декрет –decree;

iurisdictio - јурисдикција –jurisdiction;

iurisprudentia – јуриспруденција-jurisprudence;

legalis – легален – legal;

legitimus –легитимен – legitimate ;

pactum –пакт –pact;

testamentum –тестамент – testament.

Because of the Slavonic origin of the Macedonian language, there are very often synonymic doublets of words of Latin and of Slavonic origin. Macedonians use both *легален (legal)* and *законски*, *аболиција (abolition)* and *ослободување од кривично гонење, адоптант (adopter)* and *посвоител, конституционален (constitutional)* and *уставен.*

Some longer Latin expressions are translated and then enrooted in Macedonian. That is the case of the expression *matrimonium nullum absolutum* translated as *апсолутна ништовност на бракот.*

Terminology of Greek origin

Legal terms of Greek origin generally refer to different forms of goverment within a State. We can mention the commonly used term *демократија (democracy)* from the two Greek word δῆμος (*dêmos*) "people" and κράτος (*kratos*) "power" or "rule. We find the same Greek word κράτος in other terms, such as:

Аристократија – aristocracy from the Greek word *aristos* "excellent";

Автократија –autocracy from the Greek word *autokrateia* "ruling by oneself";

Монократија –monocracy from the Greek word *monos*, μόνος, "one/singular".

The ending *–хија* from the Greek word ἄρχω *(arkho)* meaning "to rule or to command can be found in these terms:

Монархија – monarchy – as monocracy from the Greek word *monos*, μόνος, "one/singular";

Олигархија – oligarchy - from ὀλίγος *(olígos)*, meaning "few";

Автархија – autarchy - from Greek αὐταρχία *autarchia,* "state of self-rule".

There are also two terms derived from the Greek word πόλις (*polis*) – "city".

These words are:

Политика – politics - from *politikos*, meaning "of, for, or relating to citizens";

Полиција –police - πολιτεία (*politeia*), "citizenship, administration, civil polity".

A certain number of terms of Greek etymology refer to different concepts:

Амнестија – amnesty - from Greek *amnestia* "forgetfulness (of wrong).

Бигамија – bigamy - *bi*- "double" and *gamos* "marriage";

Деспот – despot - from *despotes* "master of a household, lord, absolute ruler

Моногамија – monogamy- *monos* "single, alone" and *gamos* "marriage";

Монопол – monopoly – from *mono* and *gamos* and *polein* "to sell";

Тиран – tyrant- from *tyrannos* "lord, master, sovereign, absolute ruler unlimited by law or constitution";

Хипотека – mortgage – from ὑπό- (hypó-) –"under"and θήκη (thḗkê) "lodge";

The bulk of these terms are well enrooted in every-day or in specialized communication, but sometime they can be replaced by a Macedonia synonym of Slavonic origin. For example, the term *бигамија* has two synonyms *двобрачност* and *двоженство*. Still, the Greek term *бигамија* is much more used then its synonyms.

Terminology of Italian origin

Terms of Italian etymology are few and they generally refer to the field of finances or commerce, but because of the interdisciplinary character of the Law, we can mention them as a part of Commercial law. Terms borrowed from the Italian language are[2]:

Банка - bank - from Old Italian *banca* - moneylender's exchange table;

Банкрот - bankruptcy - from Italian *banca rotta*, literally "a broken bench";

Биланс – profit- from *bilancia-* instrument with two lances (*lancia)* used fo measuring heavy objects;

*Тарифа – tariff –*from Italian *tariffa* – tariff, price, assessment;

*Капар – deposit –*from Italian *caparra* – from Latin *capere* -to take;

*Кредит- credit –*from *credito* from Latin *credere –*to trust*;*

*Сторно –cancellation–*from Italian *storno–* the route that a certain amount of money passes from one account to another or a lottery ticket. This meaning is altered in Macedonian and the new meaning is "correction of an erroneous entry rate or cancellation of a certain account".

Words that are not directly linked with the financial domain and originating from Italian are *кампања –campaign-* from *campagna-* firstly meaning "field, open space, then *гето* and *бандит.*

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[2] Italianisms in Macedonian are elaborated in detail in *Италијнизмите во македонскиот јазик* (Italiansims in the Macedonian language) (Саржоска : 2009)

An interesting object of analysis is the term *гето (ghetto)* whose origin is not certain. The original use of this term is linked to 16th century Venice when it designated a part of the city where Jews were segregated. It derives from the Italian term *gheto* or *ghet* in a reference to a foundry where the Jewish community was located in Venice or from the Italian term *borghetto*, diminutive of *borgo* – "borough". There are also some theories about the Hebrew origin in the word *get* meaning "separation document".

It should also be noticed that although these terms are borrowed from Italian, the role of this language in the borrowing process varies. So, for example, the term *бандит* originates from the Italian term *bandito,* but was borrowed in Macedonian by the intermediary of the Serbo-Croatian language. The bulk of these Italian terms have Latin origin, and perhaps even Greek, but we consider them as Italianisms because they were borrowed from this language directly or indirectly through an intermediary language.

Terms borrowed from English

As an integral part of the general language, the legal language is also prone to the influence of the English language. The English influence is visible through some terms accepted in every-day communication like: *прес-конференција –press-conference, клуб - club* or *лидер-leader.* As we can see from the examples there is not any pattern in the way that we borrow English terms. For example, the term *press-conference* is partially adapted to the Macedonian language system with the form *конференција*. On the other hand, the word *клуб* follows the way the word is written in English whereas the word *лидер* imitates the English pronunciation. There are also numerous terms referring to different concepts such as:

Брифинг-briefing

Бојкот – boycott

Буџет – budget;

Импичмент – impeachment;

Лизинг – leasing;

Лоби, лобирање – lobby, lobbying;

Маркетинг – marketing;

Револвинг (кредит) – revolving (credit);

Чек –check..

A very interesting case in etymology is the case of the term *genocide* because it has double, both Greek and English etymology. Namely, the first part *geno-* derives from Greek *genos* –"race", whereas the second part is an English ending *–cide* (having a Latin etymology – *cidium* – killing) denoting an act of killing. In accordance with this model, the author Michael Moorcock coined a new term *urbicide* from the Latin *urbis – "*city". This term was used during the war in Croatia, in reference to the genocide that took place in Vukovar, when the entire city was destroyed. One can also spot a certain tendency to borrow English terms even when it is not necessary i.e. when there is a Macedonian term. For example, the term *импичмент* that sounds very strange in Macedonian can be easily replaced with the Macedonian term *отповикување,* or instead of *прес-конференција* one can use the term *конференција за печат.* Flagrant examples are terms *benchmark* and *off-shore* borrowed integrally in Macedonian *бенчмарк* and even used in a plural form *бенчмаркови,* as well as *оф шор.*

Terms of French origin

Terms of French origin are not numerous in the Macedonian legal terminology. Still, there are some terms of French origin that can be found in this terminology. These terms were borrowed usually in the second half of the last century when French was a prestigious langue. That is the case of the term *апанажа* from French *apanage*, *apaner* -"to endow with means of subsistence". In fact, this is an old Latin word, but it was borrowed from French. We can also mention other words borrowed from French:

Асамблеја – assembly – from old French assemeblée – gathering, union, marriage;

Аташе – attaché – person assigned to a diplomatic post – from the French verb *attacher* – "to attach";

Биро́ – bureau –from the French term *bureau* meaning both "desk" and "office". This term was used by Jean Claude Marie Vincent de Gournay to coin in the 18ᵗʰ century the term *bureaucracy (bureaucratie* in French). So, the first part of the term is French and the second is the Greek ending – *kratia – "*to rule". This term was also borrowed in Macedonian and is used in the same form *бирократија.*

Дипломат – diplomat – from French *diplomate* – from modern Latin *diplomaticus* –used in titles of collections of international treaties;

Кохабитација – cohabitation from French *cohabitation-* to live together;

Коминике –communiqué – an official argument or statement;

Малтретира – mistreat – from French – *mal* "bad" and *traiter* – "to treat";

Масакр – from French *masacrer* – "to slaughter";

Министер – minister –From old French *menister –"*servant, administrator".

Портпарол - spokesperson – from the French *–porter* 'to bear" – *parole –*"word";

Премиер – Prime minister from the word *premier* –first;

Протокол – protocol- from French *protocole* –from Latin *protocollum* meaning "draft";

Франшиза - franchise - from Old French *franchise* "freedom, exemption, privilege".

It is interesting to mention the fact that the official European Union legislation, legal acts, and court decisions are called *acquis communautaire* and this is a French term that is not translated into English, nor into Macedonian. In fact, the term *aquis* means "that which has been agreed upon" and the term *communautaire* means "of the community".

As the bulk of words borrowed from French, legal terms of this origin also have specific pronunciation because of the fact that French words are stressed on the last syllable. That is the case of the terms: *аташе, биро, басакр, премиер, парламент, портпарол.* On the other hand, some words vary in pronunciation, but tend to adapt to Macedonian pronunciation: *дипломат,* others are stressed on the second syllable counting backward *асамблеја, франшиза, малтретира* which is also an indicator of the foreign origin of the term.

French terms can also be found in some university books like *ordre public* given as an explanation between brackets after the Macedonian term *јавен ред* (Шкариќ:2000) or in the Constitutional courts decisions and resolutions where we found a French word from the general language *vis à vis.*

From the short list of terms of French etymology given above one can easily conclude that these terms generally refer to diplomacy foreign affairs and politics in general.

Terms of Slavonic origin

Terms of Slavonic origin generally derive from the Old Slavonic language. Some of them can be recognized by the endings *–ие* or *–ние,* and surprisingly, although terms with these ending are considered to be archaic or even poetic, they find their place in the legal language. So, legal experts often use terms like *решение, одобрение, соопштение, образложение* or *дејствие.*

The Old Slavonic origin is also obvious in the complex terms *малолетен, малолетник* because of the word *лето* used in this compound form to designate "years". That is also the case of the term *образец* borrowed probably from Russian by the intermediate of Serbian whose etymon is the Old Slavonic *образъ* – appearance, look.

It should be mentioned that the term *право* originates from the Old Slavonic language (Skok :1971). In fact, it is etymologically linked to the adjective *прав,* which originally signified "directed forward". The neutral adjectival form *право* became a noun and an equivalent for the Latin term *ius*. The equivalent forms in many Slavonic languages: *право* in Russian, Bulgarian, Serbian, *prawo* in Polish etc, confirms the Old Slavonic etymology of this term.

Some terms are borrowed directly from the Russian such as *семејство*, *зет*, *потомок,* and of course borrowed from Serbian such as *чедо*, *хранител*, and *штитеник.* Still, generally the bulk of these Slavonic and not highly specialized terms are of old Slavonic origin, borrowed from the Russian language by the intermediate of the Serbian. Some rare Macedonian terms represent a calque i.e. they imitate the Serbian model: *велепредавство - велеиздаја*.

Some dialectal words such as *армас*, *армасник*, *армасница* can be found in the *Bulletin* that relates to the family law (Хаџи-Василев: 1998) but these words are not part of official legal documents.

There are also some terms whose designations do not have a similar equivalent in another Slavonic language and are part of the Macedonian legal terminology, although they are frequently used in the everyday life too. These terms are *злостор* and *закана*.

Terms of other origin

As we already mentioned Macedonian legal terms generally derive from Latin and Slavonic, and terms of other origins represent a complementary terminology, due to different borrowing procedures.

Terms of German etymology are not very numerous, and they are usually part of the general language, but can be found in specialized legal contexts. We can mention certain terms like:

Концерн (from the German word "Konzern") –" a concern – specific business group"*;*

Шверц, шверцува, шверцер (from "Schwärze") –"illegal commerce";

Пуч- putsch (German "Putsch"-revolt, riot) –"attempt to overthrow a government";

 *Пункт – (German "*Punkt") –"point";

Рабат – rebate (German "Rabatt") – "a type of sales";

Штрајк – strike (German -"Streik") - "a form of protest".

In this group, we can mention a small number of terms deriving from other languages. That is the case of the Macedonian term *омбудсман* meaning public advocate and deriving from Swedish term *ombudsman* - "legal representative".

Having in mind the Turkish presence on the Macedonian soil there is a certain number of archaic Turkish terms designating concepts from the Turkish Empire such as *кадија (Turkish judge) бег, ага султан (Turkish officials,)апс, апсаана (prison).*

A certain heritage of the communist era are terms originating from Russian such as: *перестројка (perestroika)* or *колхоз (kolkhoz).*

In this group, although it is not a strictly legal term we can also mention the term of Japanese origin *мајкун - tycoon.*

From the examples analyzed above it is evident that the gabs in the legal terminology are fulfilled by borrowing from the Latin, Russian, Serbian or by imitating some international models. Thus, neology is rare in Macedonian legal terminology.

Etymology of French legal terms

Latin terms

As well as Macedonian legal terms, French legal terms have different origin. The main difference with the Macedonian is the fact that

Macedonian is a Slavonic language while French is a romance language, originating from Latin. Thus, unlike the Macedonian, the French language disposes of a vast vocabulary (and not only legal terminology) of Latin origin. Taken into consideration the fact that general vocabulary derives from Latin we can easily conclude the importance of Latin in the legal field where the influence is not only on a linguistic, but also on a conceptual level, because of the influence of the Roman law. So, there are a lot of, not highly specialized terms, on the line between the general vocabulary and the legal terminology that have Latin origin in French and Slavonic in Macedonian. For example, the term *société (society)* derivates from the Latin *societas* whereas in Macedonian we use the term *оипшество* that is of Slavonic origin. This is also the case of the term *право*, analyzed above and the French term *droit* having a Latin origin in the word *directum.*

Still, as in Macedonian, we can mention two groups of Latin terms: terms used in original form and terms adapted to the contemporary French language system. Another aspect of these terms, is the meaning changes that occurred in time having in mind the dynamicity of the language system.

In the first groupone can find the same terms used in Macedonian like *res iudicata, lex generalis, lex specialis, inter alia, erga omnes, inter partes* and many other. In the French Constitutional Council documents we found among other **ex *æquo, a priori, ex ante, ex tunc, ex nunc, mutatis mutandis, lex mitior* etc. In these documents, were used not only short syntagmas, but also long expressions such as: *salus populi, suprema lex, lex posterior, priori derogat, pacta sunt servanda, nemo iudex in re sua ...* The use of these Latin terms and expressions in their original form is not a surprising fact, because as in Macedonian the terms are commonly used in text referring to the legal doctrine. Still, in French the frequency of Latin terms and expressions in these texts is greater.

There are also some Latin legal terms that have Latin form, but still function today as French nouns like the term *exequatur* a Latin verb that became a French noun used with an article *un exequatur.* A Latin nouns functioning in French are also terms *affidavit, subpoena and consortium.*

French terms deriving from Latin are numerous and the key concepts in this field are designated with this kind of terms. We can give just a shot list illustrating this phenomenon:

Crime – comes from the Latin word *crimen;*

Décision – decisio ;

Délit (delict) – delictum ;

Juge (judge) - iudex;

Juridique – iuridicus

Légal (legal) – legalis;

Légitime (legitimate) –legitimus;

Loi (law) – lex;

Règle (rule) – regula.

French etymology makes a distinction between terms originating from classic Latin (and some directly from legal Latin) like: *dépôt* from *depositum,* or *consolidation* from *consolidatio*, or terms originating from ecclesiastic, popular, scholastic Latin. There are also a lot of terms originating from Medieval Latin like: *minute* from *minuta, légiste – legista, concordat –concordatum* etc.

It should also be noticed that etymology evolution brought up some variations in terms form. Thus, the Latin *statum* evolves in French *statut* when the terms is used as an independent linguistic element, but it has the form *statu* (without *t)* in the expression *statu quo.*

Other etymologies

In his book *Linguistique juridique* Gérard Cornu (Cornu: 1990) indicates clearly that the bulk of the French legal terminology is of Latin origin and the other terminology sources are called *complementary.* It is interesting to notice a certain parallelism in French and Macedonian terms etymology, because in French we find also terms of Greek, Italian and English origin.

As far as terms of Greek origin are concerned, they refer to the same concepts as in Macedonian i.e. they are terms designating forms of government. French also use terms such as *monocratie, autocrate, autarcie, politique.*

There are also some legal terms referring to different concepts such as:

Antichrèse (antichresis) –anti and *chrēsis* –use;

Économie (economy) -from Greek *oikonomia -oikos* house + *nemein* to manage;

Monopole (monopoly) from Greek *monopōlion,* from *mono-* + *pōlein* to sell;

Emphythéose (emphytheusis) - emphyteuein "an implanting".

From the Macedonian and French list of legal terms of Geek origin, as well as from the given English equivalents we can conclude that legal terms of Greek origin are internationalisms in wide use and many of them are a heritage of the Ancient Greek civilization.

French authors, especially Cornu (2005), show that Latin and Greek language play a very productive role in the neology. This is due to the fact that Latin and Greek prefixes and suffixes appear frequently in a large number of terms and thus their meaning becomes obvious to the specialists. So, the meaning of the new terms will be easily understood and the term will be easily implanted in the wider communication. For example, the Greek prefix *a-* is known for its privative meaning and is today combined with Greek or French terms:

Anomie – from Greek *a-* + *nomos* law;

Apatride (stateless person) from *a-+patris* –ancestors land;

Amnistie (amnesty) –from *a -* + *mnasthai* to remember.

The preaffix *auto-* meaning *self -* enabled the creation of combined Greek-French terms:

Autogestion (self-management) from Greek *auto-* and French *gestion;*

Autodéterminatio (self-determination) from Greek *auto-* and Fench *détermination (*that also has Latin etymology);

The Latin *unus-* gave birth to terms like:

Unilinéaire (unilinear) from Latin *unus-* and French *linéaire;*

Unanimité (unanimity) from Latin *unus-* and Latin *anima* "soul".

The list of French legal terms of Italian origin is not very abundant. Besides terms already mentioned in the Macedonian list like: *crédit, drogman, banque* or *banqueroute,* we can also mention terms like:

Agio from the Italion *aggio;*

Change from *cambio;*

Artisan from *artigano, arte*.

It is also obvious that these terms are closely linked to the field of economy and finances.

Although France has a precisely defined language policy aimed at protecting and developing the use of French terms, the English linguistic predominance is inevitable, and felt in various domains. The legal field is not an exemption, and today we can name some legal terms of English origin: *club, dumping, trust.* There are a lot of terms of Latin origin but still borrowed from English such as *coalition, corporation, parlement* from the English word *Parliament* then *jury, verdict, label*. Of course the French use their own specific pronunciation to these borrowed English terms. Thus some of these word, by form and pronunciation, are not strange to the French linguistic system: *coalition, corporation, parlement,* while others have a specific form like *trust, jury, verdict, label* and others tend to imitate the English pronunciation like *club, copyright* or *dumping.*

Some terms originating from the Old French language are still in use in the legal French. These terms are *icelui, icelle* and *nonobstant.* Still, there is a tendency to replace these terms with contemporary French terms like

celui (he), celle (she) or *même si, sans égard à, en dépit de, malgré (although).*

In French there are also terms originating from the Provencal that are not numerous such as *caisse (cash register)* from *caissa* or *cadastre (cadaster)* from *cadastro.*

There are also terms of Arab origin such as *douane (customs)* from the Arab *diuân* or *avarie (major accidents)* From the Arab word *awâr –* *"dammaged goods".*

Words of German origin represent 1, 35 % of the entire French vocabulary. Some of them belong to the legal field such as *échevin (alderman), gage, maréchale (marshal), guerre (war)* or it is rather a military terminology.

Conclusion

The analysis and the etymology lists presented above can lead to several conclusions with respect to the etymology of Macedonian and French legal terms.

The first conclusion is the fact that these two languages belong to different language groups- Macedonian is a Slavonic language descending from the Old Slavonic while French is a Roman language descending from Latin. That means that the general vocabulary derives from the Old Slavonic in Macedonian and the general French vocabulary derives from the Latin. On the other hand, because of the influence of the Roman law, having established some principles that apply even today, Latin is of great importance in the field of law. From the corpora analysis it was obvious that texts referring to the legal doctrine in academia abound in Latin terms and expressions, but they can also be found in Constitutional courts document that also use language on a higher level than the general public Academic writing often abounds not only in Latin but in legal terms of different origin. Still, they are usually put into brackets and just illustrate the Macedonian term. Thus, in the воок *Македонија на сите континенти* (Шкариќ: 2000) there are not only Latin terms and expressions *ne bis in idem* (p. 432), but also French *cohabitation* (p.382), German *Bundesstaat, Staatenbund* (p.527),

Spanish *comunidades autonomas* (p.536), English *judicial review* (p.531) etc.

If we compare the influence or the presence of Latin terms and expressions we can conclude that Latin terms and expressions are more numerous in French than in Macedonian which can be explained, above all, by the different language etymology in general.

As far as Greek terms are concerned, a certain parallelism can be spotted between the Macedonian and French legal terms leading us to the conclusion that these terms are internationalisms, because Greeks were the first to talk about *democracy, oligarchy, tyranny* etc. It is important to notice that prefixes and suffixes deriving from these ancient languages are still active when forming new words such as *urbicide*, and because of their established form and well known meaning they are at the origin of the creation of some new, contemporary internationalisms.

Macedonian and French dispose of similar legal terms of Italian etymology referring mainly to the field of economy and finance. Both languages are not immune to the influence of English and each has already borrowed a certain number of English legal terms. Legal terms of German origin are rare in Macedonian and French legal terms of German origin refer mainly to the military domain.

Macedonian legal terminology has a different etymology compared to French when it comes to words of Old Slavonic and it is interesting to notice that a certain number of terms are derived from French, borrowed during the period when French was a prestigious and dominant language.

Finally, if we analyze the borrowing process more profoundly we can see that even when we mention English borrowings like *parliament,* French like *кохабитација,* Italian like *bank* etc. very often the etymon is from Latin origin and the Latin can also be from Greek origin. So, a lot of terms mentioned from the French, English, Italian legal lexicon originate from Latin or Greek and Latin or Greek are mother languages in this field.

At last, etymology analysis can be very useful even today when the accent is put on fast and contemporary information. The analysis of the term's etymon and of its evolution can help us better understand and more precisely use a specific, and often vague legal term.

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