

Pregledni rad
UDK 32:801.5
323.28=411.21
Primljeno: 22.09.2015.
Odobreno: 20.10.2015.

Tanja Milosevic*

Master “Terrorism, Organized Crime and Security”,
University of Belgrade, Serbia

**RELATION OF LANGUAGE AND POLITICS:
IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING ORIENTAL LANGUAGES
FOR FIGHTING TERRORISM**

Abstract

In this paper, theoretical and practical relation between philology and terrorism is examined. Study of Oriental languages is especially emphasized, above all the study of Arabic and Persian language, among which the first one represents the language of a region which is today the source of turmoil and socio-political instabilities, while the second one represents the native language of the region which gave birth to many nowadays active terrorist organisations, such as the Islamic state, but also the al-Qaeda, the biggest terrorist organisations network in the world. Different types of relations between language and politics are presented by giving the historical examples of situations when language played a big role, whether as a unifying factor or as an “apple of discord”. This paper also analyses participation of linguists in security agencies all over the world, but also gives concrete examples in which the importance of knowing foreign languages, in this case – Persian and Arabic language and their dialects, come to the fore.

Key words: language, politics, Arabic language, Persian language, terrorism, the Islamic state, dialects, security.

* The author is a student of Master studies program “Terrorism, Organized Crime and Security” at the University of Belgrade.

1. INTRODUCTION

According to the Book of Genesis of the Old Testament, circa 2000 years b. c., people were still speaking one and only language, which gave them the chance to swimmingly communicate and live in a community. However, when they plucked up courage and dared to build a tower, the Tower of Babel which would reach the heavens, the God himself came down to Earth and, bitter with human haughtiness, addled their language, so that everyone spoke a language understandable only to himself. From there on, they could not understand each other anymore, so everyone went their own way, and the Tower of Babylon remained unfinished.

However, language diversity did not stop people from studying and learning different languages in order to facilitate communication, but also in order to achieve different political, economic or any other type of objectives. „People have always translated: before the professional interpreters, there were the travellers, the merchants, the ambassadors, the spies, and that makes for a lot of bilinguals and polyglots“¹ Hence, it is clear that people have since olden times understood the power of knowing foreign language has, when speaking of understanding the political, economic or any other situation in the world.

Today, according to *Ethnologue*², there are 7,102 different languages in the world, and as the world, with the emergence of unlimited communication, became available to every single individual, knowing numerous foreign languages surely can be a great advantage when analysing and studying contemporary worldwide phenomena. Even with a clear hegemony of English language, which numbers about 841 millions of speakers, knowing other foreign language represents a powerful tool for studying contemporary politics.

Taking the example of Arabic and Persian language, the purpose of studying them is crystal clear: since the Middle East, which is the cradle of these two languages, represents the focus of political event and cradle of many nowadays active terrorist organisations, by merely getting the first-hand information – which can be done only in case the individual acquiring them is fluent in these languages – a scientist studying terrorism in the Middle East can get the whole picture of events happening in this region. Also, studying books, articles and news written in foreign language can also provide us an insight into the attitude of the given country. For example, I would

1 Ricoeur, Paul *On translation*, Routledge, New York, 2006; p. 13.

2 :<https://www.ethnologue.com/world>, 07.08.2015.

like to address news articles regarding the terrorist act in Kumanovo. While reading news articles regarding this matter in different languages, one cannot fail to notice the difference in the terminological determination of perpetrators of the attack. To us, it is clear that this event was nothing else but a terrorist attack, and that the perpetrators are clearly terrorists, but, throughout the world, foreign media agencies used different names for the perpetrators in their reports on events in Kumanovo. For example, as for European media houses, British daily newspaper *The Guardian*, and French daily newspaper *Le Figaro*³ use quotation marks when addressing the perpetrators of the attack as *terrorists*, which only can imply that the perpetrators might or might not be terrorists. On the other hand, *BBC News*⁴ do not have any problems with defining the perpetrator, calling them *terrorists*, which simply reflects their attitude and opinion regarding the conflicts in Kumanovo. However, since these are terrorists who are believed to have spent one part of their lives fighting in the Middle East, by browsing Arab newspapers, one can easily notice the Arab attitude towards this event. For example, *Elaph*⁵, first Arab online daily newspaper from Saudi Arabia, defines the terrorist group simply as *armed forces*, while two places in the article where words *terrorism* and *terrorist* are used only when followed by quotation marks. Other Saudi daily newspaper, for example *al-Hayat* and *al-Saudiya*, almost don't even speak of terrorism, but call this event simply a conflict, while the *al-Saudiya* article even mentions the fact that the perpetrators of this attack are former members of today dismantled *Kosovo Liberation Army*. Maybe in this case the *Kosovo Liberation Army* is mentioned simply, since citizens of Saudi Arabia participated in the actions of this terrorist organization, in order to give a positive connotation of this event in Macedonia among the Arabs. Besides, since even more than a half of the population of Albania are Muslims, and Saudi Arabia represents a fatherland of Islam as a religion, remembering the ethno-separatist struggle of *Kosovo Liberation Army* in Saudi newspapers might also be interpreted as a reminder for Arabs that Albania, as a Muslim country, struggled for a long time in order to defend its own religion. Taking all of the examples of articles regarding conflict in Kumanovo in consideration, it is clear that by studying foreign sources of information we can obtain a better and more holistic view of one same political event seen by the eyes throughout the entire world.

3 <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/may/11/macedonia-violence-nikola-gruevski-government> i <http://www.lefigaro.fr/flash-actu/2015/05/11/97001-20150511FILWWW00356-macedoine-30-terroristes-arretes.php>, 07. 08. 2015..

4 <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-32695909> , 07. 08. 2015.

5 <http://elaph.com/Web/News/2015/5/1007044.html> , 07.08.2015.

In the previous case was shown how language can be a tool for studying the political state and political attitude through media. However, language does not have to be always just a tool for obtaining information. It can represent the mere root of the problem, the source of political turmoil, wherein as one of the more recent examples of cases when language served as a cause of a conflict we can mention the recent conflicts in Ukraine, in which almost half of the habitants in the south of the country spoke not Ukrainian, but Russian language. In this case, language served not only as the initiator of conflict, but also as a valid excuse for a violent campaign for overtaking territory.

Relation of language and politics has throughout history expressed in numerous different ways, and today it often represents and excuse for deepening the conflicts world-wide. When speaking of France, for example, which was recently targeted by the Islamic terrorism, we cannot fail to mention the colonisation of Maghreb, which represents the origin of the problem France is trying to carve up. As Alison Tarwater states, „France focused its power on assimilation. It attempted to create in its colonies the same feelings of loyalty toward France that “real” French people felt“.⁶ As a consequence, today the majority of habitants of Maghreb countries use French in their daily communication, while Arabic language is thrown into the corner. Moreover, the Maghrebi nationals make for a second most numerous ethnic groups in France, after the French, so that their domination in the streets of France is very noticeable. Or so they were once upon a time, since the entire French nation has even since the year of 1989 and the ban on headscarves in public schools, and then even stronger after the Charlie Hebdo and the recent terrorist attack, grown into fear of Islam, Muslims and Arab culture. Hence, the mere Romanization of Maghreb and imposing the French language in the Maghreb countries, represents today a big problem in France, by making a permanent connection between these two regions. France will always stay close to Maghrebi people, and Maghreb will always remain an extension of France.

However, since in previous case was shown an example when Arabic language became subordinate to French, we should mention that Arabic language, the language of the Qur'an and Islam, as it is widely known, remained important in the entire Muslim world. As the language of the religious praxis, it will always remain present in every part of the world which belongs to the “Muslim empire”, Arab words will always echo from the minarets and adhan will always be heard in Arabic language only. It

6 http://campusweb.howardcc.edu/salih/culture/Arabic_2-2_Alison_Tarwater-French_Colonization_in_the_Maghreb.pdf 08. 08. 2015.

is because the relation between Arabic language and Islam is unbreakable. Not even the attempts of separating Islam from Arabic language, for which the best example would be the Atatürk's revolution in Turkey, will ever permanently bear fruits. Arabic language will always remain the language of Islam, even though the biggest Muslim country, Indonesia, is not an Arab country.⁷ Today, when phenomena such as the Islamic state appear in this world, Arabic language is becoming a political symbol of Islamic caliphate, so it is just a matter of time that we should begin wondering will Arabic language, with the spreading of the Islamic state, follow its footsteps and repeat its military achievements from the golden period of the Arab caliphate. Because language is a double-edged sword: as it can be a unifying factor, it can also be "the apple of discord".

Problems of this kind are not unknown to us as a nation, since we had in our own back-yard the situation of politicization and politicization of language in order to create a linguistic separation. Serbo-Croatian language, which was officially created in 1850, when the Vienna Literary Agreement was reached, represented a polycentric standard language of Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro. More than 100 years later, in 1954 Novi Sad Agreement was reached and the language was standardized. However, after a few political disagreements which lead towards the disintegration of Yugoslavia in 1991, four languages merged in one immediately separated and continued living a lonely life, every language for itself. At that time begun a violent "cleaning" the language of words characteristically for the neighbouring languages by language standardization. Since then, in Serbia emerges a phenomenon of mass favouring of Cyrillic script over Latin, and vice versa in Croatia; Bosnians do not speak Serbo-Croatian anymore, since Serbs or Croatians do not live in Bosnia, so they speak Bosnian language. After some time even the Montenegrins, tired of speaking Serbian in Montenegro, begun their own language reformation, so since 2007, the official language of Montenegro is Montenegrin, and not Serbian. Hence, it is apparent that the ones born in the time of Yugoslavia became polyglots overnight, and that in Yugoslavia also existed one Tower of Babel, or that is, Tower of Yugoslavia. When politics stepped into the Tower of Yugoslavia and politicized Serbo-Croatian language, people did not understand each other anymore, and them, by further "cleansing" the language they pushed their neighbours away, not trying to understand each other, but to not understand.

7 <http://www.counterpunch.org/2007/08/30/arabic-as-a-terrorist-language/>, 05.09.2015.

2. TRANSLATION AND TERRORISM

Terrorism nowadays represents one of most serious political problems world-wide, a problem written about so many times that today there are numerous academic and administrative definitions that are trying to finally determine and explain this political term. During previous year only, there were 13463 terrorist attacks⁸ committed in the world, while, according to the Global Terrorism Database formed by the Department of Homeland Security and lead by the University of Maryland⁹, in the period from 1970 to 2014, there were 141,967 terrorist attacks committed in the world.

Today, when neither the world nor an individual are safe, when the number of terrorists and terrorist attacks¹⁰ is only increasing, at the time of witnessing the emergence of a terrorist state in the making – The Islamic state, dealing with terrorism, as well as with national and global security represents an imperative for every modern country. Hence, it is not strange that every country today, including ours, is paying more and more attention to education of young specialists which will cope with the contemporary problem of terrorism. “For ones that take the first lines in the fight against terrorism, knowledge of foreign languages sometimes can even save a life. Apart from field officers, many others should know foreign languages, including the ones that often stay hidden“.¹¹

In order to completely understand the contemporary events and global emergence of terrorism, it is imperative that we firstly understand the state of mind and the historical background of the Middle Eastern countries which have been, together with Iraq as bellwether, according to the statements of *Country reports on terrorism*¹², for the last two years, at the top of the list in terms of number of terrorist attacks carried; also, first three most active terrorist organizations have originated

8 *Annex of statistical Information: Country reports on terrorism 2014*; A Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Center of Excellence; University of Maryland, 2015.

9 <http://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/>, 26. 08. 2015.

10 See more: Pavlicevic, Predrag, “Rationality in the phenomenon of terrorism and counterterrorism strategy”, *Nauka i društvo – Science and Society*, no.1, 2015, p. 31-71.

11 Jordanov, Marko) *Poliglote u senci*, Magazin Odbrana, 2008, br. 77, str. 74.

12 National consortium for the study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism, *Annex of statistical Information: Country reports on terrorism 2013*, A Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Center of Excellence; University of Maryland, 2014; i *Annex of statistical Information: Country reports on terrorism 2014*; A Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Center of Excellence; University of Maryland., 2015.

from the Middle East. Since Arabic and Persian language are most dominant languages of the Middle East, it is logical that these languages, as a result of contemporary political events in the Middle East, together with always present English language, come to the fore when speaking of languages needed in the field of terrorism. „Today, there are several hundreds of separatist movements and organizations in 180 countries of the world. Revealing, prevention and suppression of such terrorist organizations' activities is, without knowing their native language, very hard and sometimes even impossible“.¹³

Knowing different languages is always an advantage when studying terrorism, and given the fact that a one information about, for example, one event, seen through the prism of different opinions and understandings given in native languages of different nationalities, can give to a polyglot a complete overview of the situation from different points of view. Because of that, knowing one of so-called “crisis languages”, that is, languages of the countries which are going through different political crisis, represents a unique opportunity for seeing the situation from the point of view of the country in which the given situation is happening, without foreign media interference, in the language that is native to the given country.

Even though Arabic language and Persian too, was object of interest and studying since the early days of the Islamic civilization, the terrorist attacks of 11th September 2001 in New York and Washington yet achieved to draw more attention to Arabic and Persian language, which became the language symbols of terrorism¹⁴. „When the US was attacked on September 11 2001, interest in Arabic Language received much attention than ever. Many of the interested groups and individuals enrolled themselves more in institutions where they can study Arabic. This was to enable them understand the language of the people who would accept to die in such a desperate manner“.¹⁵ Even though this suicide attack was not the first of its kind throughout the history of human kind, still, it had such an impact on development and popularization of Arab and Persian language studies in the world.

„Statistical research on the Internet in the United States Military Academy indicates that foreign languages including Arabic on the top priority takes the highest portion of units“, hence, „Arabic language and literature is being taught in the

13 Jordanov, Marko *Poliglote u senci*, Magazin Odrana, 2008, br. 77, str. 75.

14 See more: Simeunovic, Dragan, “Problems of defining extremism in the contemporary political science”, *Science and Society – Nauka i društvo*, no. 1, 2015, p.11-31.

15 Imam, Ibrahim Abubakar, *Effects on Global War on Terrorism on the Growth of Arabic language*; American International journal of Contemporary research, 2013, Vol. 3, No. 6, p. 66.

United States Military Academy of West Point¹⁶; studies of this kind can also be attended at the United States Air Force Academy, as well as at the British Military Academy. Since Arabic language stepped into universities and education programs that form specialists which will deal with security and defence of the state, it can only be assumed that the language itself represent an imperative when dealing with security matters, as well as the defence of the given state. This fact is only proven by the fact that diplomatic missions of the Great Britain in Nigeria set Arabic language highly on the list of skill requirements of their employees.

Western civil and military security agencies have long been prioritizing the importance of linguistic qualities of their employees, which became the practice in our country only in the recent years. „In well-organized security and informational agencies of some countries, there are specialized centres for study and specialization in many foreign languages. In the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) there is even a foreign language institute in which 16 languages are being taught. In France, there is The Joint School of Intelligence and language studies EIREL (L'École Interarmées du renseignement et des études linguistiques), located in Strasbourg, which exists over 20 years¹⁷. Apart from that, even the Ministry of Defence of the United States of America has an Institute for foreign languages, with 25 foreign language courses, which was formed not only for the Ministry, but also for the use of other federal agencies.

As Jorgen Staun states, „cultural studies in this sense thus encompass studies which focus on identity, cultural or ideological explanations for behaviours and action. And one of the defining features of cultural studies is the prominence this leaves to language¹⁸. If treating language as one piece of the puzzle that forms ones identity, its study surely cannot be pushed aside, so when trying to understand the actions and doings of a contemporary terrorist, anyhow we should devote ourselves to studying his culture, socio-political state of the country he comes from, as well as the language he speaks. And since Arabic language is closely connected to Islam, which is one of the most common reason for discord and conflicts, as well as most commonly used as an excuse for terrorist attacks, its study should be set high on the list of priority language which could lead towards better understanding and more effective fight against terrorism.

16 Ibid, str. 69.

17 Jordanov, Marko, *Poliglote u senci*, Magazin Odbrana, br. 77, 2008, str. 74.

18 Staun, Jorgen, *A linguistic turn of Terrorism Studies*; Danish institute for International Studies; Copenhagen, 2009, p. 5.

Apart from that, the importance of study of different dialects of one language also plays a very important part when using the language in fight against terrorism. Language is a live organism, and it is prone to change due to time or geographical influences. Because of that, it is understandable that Arabic language, which has taken a vast territory of 24 countries in which it is an official language and a few others where Arabic is used in daily communication among its habitants, is dialectological divided into 5 big holes, which are further divided into smaller dialectological branches. Knowing dialects represents an important issue in language study, just because more detailed syntaxes and lexicological analysis can, almost without an error, determine the country from which the speaker comes, which represents a very important trump when analysing recordings of terrorists and determining their nationality.

For example, even the most common phrases which are used on a daily based, such is a simple „how are you“ might be a clear national identifier of one terrorist’s origin, so for a linguist who has high knowledge of Arabic language and its dialectology, this terrorist would not be an Arab, but Egyptian, Lebanese, Palestinian or of any other nationality. Dialectological differences in Arabic language are so apparent and recognizable that even the previously mentioned „how are you“, an Egyptian would say كَيْزَا (‘izayyak), while Arabic language speakers from Levant would say كَيْفِيك (kīfak); and Iraqi would say لَيْنُولُش (šlūnak), as well as his neighbour from Syria would, while in less formal speech an Iraqi would rather say شَاكُمُ وَكُنْش (šakū māku). However, a person who encounters a Syrian or an Iraqi for the first time, Syrian and Iraqi version of لَيْنُولُش (šlūnak) would sound identical. The difference is most often shown in the pronunciation of letter “a” in this word, which a person from Syria would rather pronounce as a vowel somewhere in between letters „a“ and „e“, while one Iraqi speaker would pronounce it simply as letter “a”. Moreover, even though these examples show a situation when a speaker is addressing a male person, the most evident difference between Syrian and Iraqi dialect is shown in a situation when addressing to a female, when a Syrian would say كَيْنُولُش (šlūnik), while Iraqi speakers would pronounce this word with a distinct difference in the last letter of the word, so that letter “k” would transform into a sound equivalent to “ch”, and the word كَيْنُولُش ج would be pronounced as *šlūnech*.

Apart from that, knowing foreign languages and their dialects has a twofold significance. Not only that it can aid understanding a contemporary terrorist, but also „proficiency in the language of a terrorist, as well as in its dialects, or some less known specifics of that foreign language can often even save a field officer’s

life¹⁹ However, knowing dialects and specifications of such foreign language can only be acquired through a serious university study of the language, and not by self-learning or by attending short courses. This is especially true when speaking of languages that are grammatically, phonetically and construction-wise totally different from the European languages which every child has a chance of studying during its education prior to university. Also, knowing such language and culture specifications of a nation aids a contemporary scholar who deals with terrorism to get closer and identify himself with the subject of his study in order to acquire more information.

„Getting someone to cooperate, whether a foreign citizen, or our own citizens, members of some national minority, who can represent a potential terrorist threat to a country, calls for getting extremely close connection between the field officer and future collaborator. With the help of a translator, a third party, such connection is very hard or even impossible to establish²⁰ It is a fact that foreign people often have difficulties cooperating and make field work even harder, so in such situations, “fluency in a foreign language, that is, the language of the future collaborator, can have a very positive effect. When a collaborator hears words in his native language spoken by the field officer, he will automatically transpose the whole situation into a cultural and civilizational ambiance which is close to him, and the operative himself would now become a person the collaborator could trust²¹“.

However, since translation in the service of terrorism studies is not always reduced to oral translation, it is necessary that we pay a little bit of attention to written translation, which can often be a hard task even for the most skilled translator. Beauty of one sentence hardly can be recreated in other language, since there is a chance that some cultural identifiers might not exist in that other language into which it is translated, that there might be a slight inequality of synonymy in languages, or that there is a vast difference in grammatical and stylistic language forms. Also, knowing culture and history of the nation from which language it is translated often represents one of the most important conditions for a good translation. Moreover, even though „a satisfactory translation is always possible, a good translator is never satisfied with it²² A translator must not only know the language

19 Jordanov, Marko, *Dijalekti čuvaju život*, Magazin Odrana, br. 78, 2008, str. 42.

20 Jordanov, Marko, *Dijalekti čuvaju život*, Magazin Odrana, br. 78, 2008, str. 43.

21 Ibid, str. 43.

22 Newmark, Peter, *A textbook of translation*, Prentice Hall International, New Jersey, 1988, p.6.

he is translating from, but also his own language and culture, and when translating a literary work, it is a fact that the translator himself must also be a writer.

On the other hand, the translator must be capable to objectify the text he is translating, since even by choosing the words a translator can point out his own opinion about the topic he is translating. For example, if a translator would run into a word he does not understand and reach for Muftić's big Arab-Bosnian dictionary, which offers a vast number of synonyms and translation solutions, he might have a problem when deciding which word he should use. So word *إرهاب* ('irhāb) which now means *terrorism*, due to lack of other Arab words which would carry the same meaning, a translator can, in the end, end up with a slightly milder meaning by using some of the solutions offered in the dictionary, among which are „frightening, intimidation, terror, threat, sabotage“²³, and word *غريم* (ġarīma), which means *felony, crime or criminality*, might be translated simply as „sin, evildoing, transgression“²⁴, which would definitely soften the meaning and give a positive connotation to the sentence translated.

3. TRANSLATION IN SECURITY AGENCIES

„Fluency in foreign languages is the basic requirement for working in one contemporary, well-organized security or intelligence agency, no matter what kind of a job it is. Employees of security and intelligence agencies which speak foreign languages, or professional linguists which work in such agencies are engaged with translating and analysing written or audio materials and are directly keeping track of terrorists' communication, and as well have a key role in performing tactical tasks“²⁵. So, since activities of the Islamic state nowadays drive most attention, as well as constant conflicts between Israel and Palestine, along with the long-time present Taliban phenomenon, knowing Arabic and Persian language represents most significant tool for studying and attempting prevention of further incidents of this kind, not only on the territory of the Middle East, but also in any other country, including ours.

„Activities of the analytic unit is simply impossible without highly qualified linguists. Organizational structure of contemporary security and intelligence agencies

23 Muftić, Teufik, *Arapsko-bosanski rječnik*, III izdanje, El-Kalem, Sarajevo, 2004, str. 564.

24 Ibid, str. 215.

25 Jordanov, Marko, *Poliglote u senci*, Magazin Odbrana, br 77, 2008, str. 75.

is unimaginable without the existence of analytic unit, since it represents the brain of the entire organization, a place where further activities are planned and new directions of action are “.²⁶ This unit, hence, among other professional staff, is made of linguists, polyglots who often speak not one, but several languages, among which most highlighted as important are languages of the areas hit by different crisis situations; these languages provide easier and faster analysis and potential prevention of further conflicts in such critical territories, and then also aid prevention of transferring the conflicts from one territory to our own country.

For example, on the website of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) following languages are listed as necessary languages needed for conducting analytical work: Arabic (Yemeni dialect), Chinese, Farsi, Pashto and Somali. Moreover, in order to further training of employees for performing analytical work, Federal Bureau of Investigation formed a Programme for studying foreign language that provides to employees a complete course of a foreign language of their wish, among which are also the previously mentioned necessary languages.²⁷

French Directorate-General for External Security (DGSE), which works under the directive of French Ministry of Defence, also states on its website that, apart from engineers, computer technicians, crypto-mathematicians and analysts, they also have a need for translators and interpreters for many languages²⁸, among which to most wanted are Russian, Chinese, Arabic, Pashto, Urdu, and especially Maghrebi dialects and Syro-Lebanese dialect.²⁹ Moreover, even Interpol, the international criminalist organization situated in Lion in France, when hiring new employees requires from them to be fluent in at least one out of four official languages of the organization, which are French, English, Spanish and Arabic.

Also, as for the United Kingdom, „Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) has long been the biggest employer of graduated linguists and has about 250 linguist who cover a big spectre of languages, and who make for about 10% of total employees of this agency“. Apart from that, „MI5 estimates that about hundreds of their employees use their language skill daily during work. Even though

26 Jordanov, Marko, *Poliglote u senci*, Magazin Odbrana, br. 77, 2008, str. 76.

27 <https://www.fbi.gov/news/testimony/a-national-security-crisis-foreign-language-capabilities-in-the-federal-government>, 30. 08. 2015.

28 <http://www.defense.gouv.fr/dgse/tout-le-site/nos-besoins-en-recrutement>, 22. 05. 2015.

29 <http://www.lefigaro.fr/lefigaromagazine/2011/08/12/01006-20110812ARTFIG00002-le-nouveau-visage-des-agents-francais.php>, 28. 08. 2015.

there is a big need for language capacity, the language spectre has changed a lot, shifting from Eastern European languages to Mandarin, Persian, Korean, Somali, West African languages and numerous divergent regional Arabic dialects“, while on MI6 website appeared a call for application of linguists who are fluent in Arabic or Mandarin Chinese language.³⁰

However, the problem of recruiting is reflected in the fact that, even though in order to follow and study terrorist activities or a perpetrator of any other kind of a crime knowledge of culture and history plays a big role, knowing literary language, which is in most cases the only way a linguist would get to learn the language cannot be of a big help, since for this type of work knowing dialects and “street language” is an imperative. Knowing such “street language” is often a big advantage in prevention of terrorism, since most of the contemporary Islamist terrorists are often young people without higher education, so they do not speak the literary language of the highly educated elite, but speak their own dialects at the previously mentioned “street language”. The problem is that such words definitely won’t be found in any dictionary of the literary language.

During the last two decades, and especially after the attack of the World Trade Centre and Pentagon in 2001, there is a growing need for foreign languages fluency in the Ministry of Foreign Relations, as well as in the agencies which deal with national and global security. The attitude of many states that filling their staff with linguists is a good response to a question of growing problems in the field of diplomacy, defence and national security is more and more present, so nowadays knowing foreign languages represents one big advantage when applying for jobs in the field of national security.

As for the United States of America, US Intelligence community, “composed of sixteen intelligence agencies including the FBI, CIA and NSA, and the US Department of Defence (DoD) have thus invested in a series of initiatives over the last two decade to improve foreign language capacity“.³¹ Today these security-intelligence agencies do not request of their employees that do not belong with the translation services to be fluent in any foreign language, but still give special bonus points to the ones which are fluent in some of the “crisis languages”, while the ones fluent in some more common language they give less points; the points given are later

30 <https://www.sis.gov.uk/careers/roles/language-specialists.html>, 30. 08. 2015.

31 Chen, Seline; Breivik, Anne, *Lost for words: the need for languages in UK Diplomacy and Security*; The British Academy, London, 2013, p. 50.

taken into consideration when determining the amount an employee will be paid. The positive side of giving points to employees is shown in the fact that there is an increase of interest for studying Chinese, Japanese and Arabic, which are considered as difficult languages for learning. Yet still remains a vast amount of not covered “crisis languages” which for some reason do not enjoy the same popularity as these three languages, among which are Farsi and Korean.

The importance of knowing foreign languages for efficient work of security agencies is definitely inconsiderable. By analysing the data collected from foreign countries that pay a lot attention not only for keeping the peace and security of its country, but also for prevention and fight against terrorism, we can clearly conclude that security agencies definitely respect highly knowledge of foreign languages, and especially, among others, fluency in Arabic and Persian language.

Importance of translation for fighting terrorism

Terrorism is not a new phenomenon in the world or in Europe. Also, terrorism is not only Islamist phenomena. But, due to growing activities of Islamic terrorists, other terrorist organizations’ activities are overshadowed by the current events in the Middle East, especially by the activities of the Islamic state, and which tend to spread toward the other parts of the world. Islam became the symbol of violence, even though Islam should never be understood as an admirer of violence. „In fact, terrorism today is often understood as a consequence of religious and cultural differences that are tearing the world apart“.³² Many religious leaders and leaders of terrorist organizations quote verses from the Quran when giving an excuse for their actions, brain-washing their followers with stories of the big Islamic caliphate based on the original Mohammad’s Muslim community and who, driven by the idea that in Heavens await all the rewards this world can offer, they give their lives in vain to this false Islam.

Nowadays, in the times when terrorism, with the development of technology and warfare, became omnipresent, can be conducted even through internet and video footage of various forms of political violence, we cannot predict future actions of any terrorist organization. In the times when the world has become a global village, when fighting is not done only by soldiers, pawns of a terrorist leader, but the attack can be conducted even by a push of the button, by car bombs, or other types of long-distance warfare. For example, members of the Islamic state have,

32 El Mossadak, Hassan, *Terrorisme et monde arabe*, Etudes du Moyen-Orient, Volume 1, No. 2, 2010, p.2.

even from the beginning, been recording their actions and sending first-class directed videos of their evildoings to the world. Thanks to technology, their activities have spread wings and flew all over the world, so that they unrestrainedly live on many internet web sites and enhance the strength of many articles of the journalist covering politics. At the same time, by recording footage of their actions, as well as by interviews they always reluctantly give to the media, they give an insight to numerous political analysts into their life and work, as well as a chance to possibly predict their further actions. Also, they provide material to skilled linguists and translators so that they would be able to linguistically and dialectological-wise analyse the speech of terrorists appearing in such recordings.

In such cases often the forensic linguistics skills come to the fore. Even though forensic linguistics is often used when analysing testimonies for the purpose of preparing a case for the court, the instruments a linguist uses when forensically analysing the speech can definitely be used when studying audio and video recordings of a terrorist. Skills of analysing the dialectological identifiers, syntax, semantics, lexicology and morphology can often bring a scientist one step closer to determining geographical, sociological and psychological features of the individual carrying out the attack. Moreover, by analysing the previously stated features one can deduce whether a statement was previously rehearsed or represents a natural attitude of the speaker. For example, when linguistically analysing the documentary about the Islamic state, prepared by Medyan Dairieh, a VICE News channel journalist³³, one can clearly hear the difference between the previously rehearsed statements that represent messages for the rest of the world which does not belong to the Islamic state, but also the influence of grown up individuals on children who, subdued by the stories of the great Islamic state, decisively proclaim their wish to fight the infidels and serve the Islamic state till the rest of their lives. Apart from that, when watching this video, a skilled linguist familiar with Arab dialectology can easily catch various dialects the members of the Islamic state are using, which only gives us more information about the presence of different nationalities within the army of the Islamic state, and points out potential support of the countries or members of the countries from which the Islamic state's fighters come from. Also, one can also determine the difference in use of language varieties, which shows that official statements of the media spokesperson are always written in literary Arabic language, while the rest of communication is conducted in the dialects of the speakers, or in *amiyya*, a mixture of literary language and

33 <http://www.vice.com/rs/read/moje-putovanje-u-srediste-islamske-drzave>; 07.09.2015.

dialects. Moreover, the mere fact that this journalist gained access and free pass into the Islamic state, and was given first-hand information and footage from the inside of this self-proclaimed state represents a very interesting case. The question is was this journalist given this chance only because he is an Arab or a Muslim? Even Nelson Mandela said: „If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart“. Hence, ticket into the heart of the Islamic state for this journalist was his nationality, his religion and the language he speaks. From this can be concluded that knowing Arabic language definitely represents a very powerful tool for active and effective data collection, as well as for analysing the previously acquired information regarding the contemporary political situation in the Middle East and the current fight against terrorism.

Apart from that, linguists often have more success when interrogating and interviewing persons suspected to have participated in any kind of terrorist act or political violence, given the fact that they would not need a third party to mediate their communication with the person of interest. An Arab would rather open up to his compatriot or to a person speaking his native language and respects his culture. A skilled linguist who, apart from language, at the same time knows a lot about the culture and tradition of the nation whose language he is studying, and who knows of the methods used by the forensic linguists when analysing speech, will have less difficulties acquiring the necessary information. Apart from that, by using dialectology, a linguist will during the interview know how to adjust his own speech in order to create a psychological connection would in most cases result in emotional connection and easier identification of the person of interest with his interviewer. Hence, knowing Arabic or Persian language or their dialectological varieties can definitely be efficient tool for easier, faster and more effective data collection from the terrorists or persons of interests whose native language is one of the previously mentioned languages, which can be of a great importance for analysis and prevention of further terrorist activities worldwide in the future.

Because of all that, translation as a part of intelligence agencies, state authorities, ministries of foreign relations, diplomatic missions and agencies that analyse political situation in the world, plays a big part in the fight against terrorism. Numerous linguists, even though they are left in the shadows most of the times, give a big contribution to the study, analysis and prevention of terrorist attacks. Nowadays, in the times when immigrants from the Middle East slowly fill the streets of the European capitals and try to start a new life in an unknown environment, linguists

are the pillars of a modern country's security thanks to their translation activities which is based on interpreting movements and behaviours of the immigrants. Also, linguists protect their country by tracking behaviour of immigrants not only in our country, but also in the countries of the European Union, which represent a symbol of freedom and final goal for most of these travellers just because, even though the Middle East is not a safe place for living, not all the immigrants are the victims of war and social problems. Within the rivers of immigrants that are flooding the Europe, so among Arabs, Afghanis and citizens of other endangered African countries, there can also be found many individuals that are using this emerging crisis and frenzy for Europe in order to easily enter the European capitals and possibly preform their tasks, previously planned by some terrorist organization. Wasn't it in the end of July the case that a terrorist attacks was carried out in Turkey right next to a refugee camp? Who can with certainty state that among the fathers, mothers and children running away from the war, carrying nothing but a few personal things and a little bit of ash from their ruined family homes in their pores, there are no well hidden persons using the mass migration in order to easily infiltrate Christian communities in Europe, and then punish all the infidels or apostates satiated over there, to be found? Hence, the task of linguists cannot be seen as insignificant: linguists put all their love for language or languages in the service of their country, hoping that by catching at least one irregularity in the speech or at least one lie help defending their country and their nation from the threat nowadays terrorism takes along with it.

References:

- *Annex of statistical Information: Country reports on terrorism 2014*; A Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Center of Excellence; University of Maryland, 2015
- Chen Seline; Breivik, Anne, *Lost for words: the need for languages in UK Diplomacy and Security*; The British Academy, London, 2013
- El Mossadak Hassan, "Terrorisme et monde arabe", *Etudes du Moyen-Orient*, Volume 1, No. 2, 2010.
- Imam Ibrahim Abubakar, "Effects on Global War on Terrorism on the Growth of Arabic language", *American International journal of Contemporary research*, Vol. 3, No. 6, 2013.

- Jordanov Marko, *Dijalekti čuvaju život*, Magazin Odbrana, br. 78, 2008.
- Jordanov Marko, *Poliglote u senci*, Magazin Odbrana, br. 77, 2008
- Muftić Teufik, *Arapsko-bosanski rječnik*, III izdanje, El-Kalem, Sarajevo, 2004
- National consortium for the study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism, *Annex of statistical Information: Country reports on terrorism 2013, 2014*
- Newmark Peter, *A textbook of translation*, Prentice Hall International, New Jersey, 1988.
- Pavlicevic Predrag, “Rationality in the phenomenon of terrorism and counterterrorism strategy”, *Nauka i društvo – Science and Society*, no.1, 2015
- Ricoeur Paul, *On translation*, Routledge, New York, 2006.
- Simeunovic Dragan, “Problems of defining extremism in the contemporary political science”, *Science and Society – Nauka i društvo*, no. 1, 2015.
- Staun Jorgen, *A linguistic turn of Terrorism Studies*; Danish institute for International Studies; Copenhagen, 2009.

Internet sources:

- <http://alhayat.com/Articles/9176882/>-اين وودق م-تموك ح-مؤعت-ةي م هول ا-وفون اموك-ةك ع م-
- <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-32695909>
- <http://www.lefigaro.fr/lefigaromagazine/2011/08/12/01006-20110812ARTFIG00002-le-nouveau-visage-des-agents-francais.php>
- <http://www.vice.com/rs/read/moje-putovanje-u-srediste-islamske-drzave>
- <http://www.counterpunch.org/2007/08/30/arabic-as-a-terrorist-language/>
- <http://www.defense.gouv.fr/dgse/tout-le-site/nos-besoins-en-recrutement>
- <https://www.ethnologue.com/world>
- <http://elaph.com/Web/News/2015/5/1007044.html>
- <http://www.lefigaro.fr/flash-actu/2015/05/11/97001-20150511FILWWW00356-macedoine-30-terroristes-arretes.php>
- <http://www.alsaudiya.net/world/ارشال اعم-ك اب تشال اب-ني حل سم م-5-م هت ت-اين وودق م/>

[-https://www.fbi.gov/news/testimony/a-national-security-crisis-foreign-language-capabilities-in-the-federal-government](https://www.fbi.gov/news/testimony/a-national-security-crisis-foreign-language-capabilities-in-the-federal-government)

- <https://www.sis.gov.uk/careers/roles/language-specialists.html>

- http://campusweb.howardcc.edu/salih/culture/Arabic_2-2_Alison_Tarwater-French_Colonization_in_the_Maghreb.pdf

- <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/may/11/macedonia-violence-nikola-gruevski-government>

- <http://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/>

ODNOS JEZIKA I POLITIKE: ZNAČAJ POZNAVANJA ORIJENTALNIH JEZIKA U BORBI PROTIV TERORIZMA

Apstrakt

U radu se ispituje teorijski i praktični odnos filologije i terorizma. Posebno se stavlja akcenat na proučavanje orijentalnih jezika, pre svega arapskog i persijskog jezika, među kojima prvi predstavlja sferu nemira i sociopolitičke nestabilnosti celog jednog regiona, dok drugi predstavlja jezik područja koje je iznedrilo danas vrlo aktivne terorističke organizacije, kao što su Islamska država i Al-Kaida. Istorijskim primerima u kojima je jezik igrao veliku ulogu, bilo kao ujedinjujući faktor ili „jabuka razdora“, prikazane su različite vrste odnosa između jezika i politike. U radu se takođe analizira i zastupljenost lingvista u bezbednosnim agencijama širom sveta, a takođe se daju konkretni primeri u kojima dolaze do značaja poznavanja stranog jezika, u ovom slučaju persijskog i arapskog jezika i njihovih dijalekata.

Ključne reči: jezik, politika, arapski jezik, persijski jezik, terorizam, Islamska država, dijalekti, bezbednost.