



MT

18 ta' Ġunju 2016

**Seminar pubbliku mill-Kunsill Nazzjonali tal-Ilsien Malti
dwar il-kitba tal-kliem mill-Ingliz fil-Malti**

Il-kitba tal-kliem mill-Ingliz fil-Malti... lejn id-‘Deciżjonijiet 2’

Il-Kunsill Nazzjonali tal-Ilsien Malti llum, 18 ta' Ġunju 2016, organizza seminar li matulu ppreżenta l-proposti tiegħu fuq il-kitba tal-kliem mill-Ingliz fil-Malti u sema' l-fehmiet tal-pubbliku qabel jipubblikahom f'dokument uffiċjali. Għas-seminar attendew madwar 200 ruħ minn oqsma differenti, ewlenin fosthom għalliema f'kull livell akkademiku, awturi u pubblikaturi, tradutturi u qarrejja tal-provi, ġurnalisti, kif ukoll nies oħra interessati li f'xogħolhom jużaw il-Malti.

Il-problema tal-kitba ta' dan il-kliem spiss tohloq diffikultà lil kull min jikteb bil-Malti għax l-għadd tal-kliem mill-Ingliz fil-Malti żdied, l-aktar f'oqsma relattivament reċenti, bħat-teknoloġija. Il-Kunsill tal-Malti kien ħerqan li joffri soluzzjoni imma fl-istess waqt qagħad attent li qabel jippreżenta l-proposti tiegħu jisma' l-opinjoni tal-pubbliku u jikkonsulta lil kull min hu involut. Problema serja u artikulata bħal din titlob riċerka u diskussjoni fit-tul.

Sa mill-2007, il-Kunsill beda proċess ta' riċerka u diskussjoni ma' firxa sħiħa ta' individwi. Ippubblika dokument għad-diskussjoni b'35 fehma ta' nies minn oqsma differenti u fl-2008 organizza wkoll seminar biex jiddiskuti s-sugġett mal-pubbliku. Il-Kunsill studja u kkunsidra dak li ħareġ mis-seminar u mill-fehmiet tal-pubbliku fil-gazzetti u l-internet f'kumitati maħturin apposta b'rappreżentanza wiesgħa. Maż-żmien baqa' jiltaqa' wkoll ma' setturi differenti biex ikompli jisma'.

F'xogħlu l-Kunsill tal-Malti mexa fuq numru ta' prinċipji:

1. l-Ingliz jidhol biss meta l-Malti ma jaqdinix;
2. mhux kull kelma li mal-ewwel daqqa t'għajn tidhrilna żejda, tkun bilfors żejda;
3. teżisti differenza fl-aċċettabilità bejn il-lingwa miktuba u l-lingwa mitħaddta;
4. kelma titqies integrata fil-Malti għax jaċċettawha l-kelliema tal-Malti u allura l-ortografija trid issib mezz kif tiktibha;
5. kelma missellfa mill-Ingliz jista' jkollha aktar minn pronunzja waħda fil-Malti; u

6. li ma jkunx hemm il-ħtieġa, xejn prattika, li min jikteb bil-Malti jkollu joqgħod jirreferi għal lista twila ta' kliem li trid tibqa' tiġi aġġornata kontinwament. Dan ifisser li min jikteb irid jeżerċita għażla matura u jzomm il-konsistenza.

Il-proposti pprezentati fis-seminar kienu:

1. il-kliem li jieħu forma grammatikali Maltija (eż. *ċansijiet, kejkijiet, jikklikkja*) jibqa' jinkiteb la Maltija;
2. is-suriet kollha tal-istess nom jew tal-istess verb jinkitbu, kemm jista' jkun, bl-istess zokk, kemm jekk jinkitbu la Maltija u kemm jekk jinkitbu la Ingliża (eż. *brejk > brejkijiet/brejks*, inkella *brake > brakes*);
3. l-għażla tiktibx kelma bl-Ingliż jew la Maltija hija f'idejn il-kittieb u din tikkonċerna l-aktar il-kitba tan-nomi (eż. *computer/kompjuter, helicopter/ħelikopter, file/fajl*). Dan ma jfissirx li zokk ta' verb miktub la Maltija jrid bilfors jinkiteb hekk fin-nom ukoll (eż. niktbu la Maltija l-verb *skenja, niskanja, skenjajt* imma għan-nom, mill-istess verb, għandna għażla: *scanner* jew *skener, scanning* jew *skening*).
4. Illum għadd kbir ta' Maltin huma midħla mas-sura viżiva tal-kliem missellef kif jinkiteb fl-Ingliż u jirreżistu kitba la Maltija, anke għaliex ittellef fil-qari u fil-kitba. Ħlief għal xi kliem li ndara jinkiteb la Maltija, kliem li l-forma ortografika Maltija tiegħu titbiegħed wisq minn dik Ingliża l-Kunsill tal-Malti qed jissuġġerixxi li nħalluh miktub bl-Ingliż (eż. *union* mhux *junjin/unjin, hockey* mhux *ħoki, shutter* mhux *xater*). Hekk ukoll il-kliem kompost minn żewġ kelmiet. Dan qed ikun issuġġerit jithalla miktub bl-Ingliż, eż. *windscreen* mhux *windskrin, shockabsorber* mhux *xokebżorber, fire extinguisher* mhux *fajerekstingwixer*.

Fis-seminar ġew diskussi wkoll xi punti oħra, ngħidu aħna jekk il-kliem li jithalla miktub bl-Ingliż għandniex nimmarkawh bil-korsiv jew bil-virgoletti.

Il-pubbliku għadu jista' jagħti l-opinjoni tiegħu fuq il-proposti pprezentati u t-tliet punti għad-diskussjoni sas-Sibt, 2 ta' Lulju, billi jikteb fl-indirizz kunsilltalmalti@gov.mt. Tagħrif ieħor jinsab fis-sit tal-Kunsill tal-Malti: www.kunsilltalmalti.gov.mt. Wara li jikkunsidra l-opinjonijiet kollha li ħarġu fis-seminar u dawk li se jidhlu sad-data msemmija, il-Kunsill se jippubblika d-dokument ufficjali finali bid-'Deċiżjonijiet 2'.

Il-Kunsill Nazzjonali tal-Ilsien Malti hu fiduċjuż li – għalkemm f'deċiżjonijiet bħal dawn diffiċli togħġob lil kulħadd – meta tittieħed deċiżjoni finali tkun ingħatat soluzzjoni li tgħin lill-ilsien Malti jkompli miexi 'l quddiem mingħajr diffikultajiet żejda għal min jiktbu.

TMIEM

EN

18th June 2016

**A public seminar organised by the National Council for the Maltese Language
on the spelling of English loan words**

The spelling of English loan words... towards 'Deċiżjonijiet 2'

Today, 18th June, the National Council for the Maltese Language, has organised a seminar in which proposals on how English loan words should be written in Maltese were presented to the public for discussion before they are published in an official document.

The seminar was attended by about 200 persons from different areas of interest and expertise, including teachers of all academic levels, authors and publishers, translators and proof readers, journalists, and other people interested in using Maltese.

The spelling of English loan words often creates difficulties for those who write in Maltese because their number has increased tremendously, especially in areas such as technology. The National Council for the Maltese Language has been keen to find a solution to this problem while, at the same time, being very careful to listen to people's opinions and to consult with those involved before presenting specific proposals. This is a serious and intricate problem that requires a lengthy and thorough discussion.

Since 2007, the Council started carrying out research and having discussions with a wide variety of individuals. A discussion document was published, with the opinions of people from different areas of expertise and, in 2008, a seminar was held to discuss the subject with the public. The Council analysed the outcomes of the seminar, together with the opinions expressed by the public in newspapers and on the Internet, and in committees set up on purpose. The Council again had a number of meetings with different people to hear what they had to say.

The Council based its proposals on the following basic principles:

1. an English word or expression should only be used if a Maltese one does not exist;
2. not every word that, at first, might appear to be superfluous is necessarily so;
3. there are differences in acceptability between the spoken and the written language;
4. a word is considered to be integrated in Maltese because it is accepted by Maltese speakers and, therefore, the orthography must find a way of writing it;
5. a word borrowed from English can be pronounced in more ways than one in Maltese;
6. a person who writes in Maltese should not need to refer to a long list of words that must be continually updated; this means that the writer must exert a mature choice and be consistent in his/her writing.

The proposals presented in the seminar were:

1. words that have been assimilated into the Maltese grammatical form (e.g. *ċansijiet*, *kejkiġiet*, *jikklikkja*) should be written in Maltese;
2. all the forms of the same noun or verb should, as far as possible, keep the same orthographic stem, both in Maltese and in English (e.g. *brejk* > *brejkijiet/brejks*, or *brake* > *brakes*);
3. the choice of whether to write a word in English or in Maltese is in the writer's hands; this mainly applies to the spelling of nouns (e.g. *computer/kompjuter*, *helicopter/helikopter*, *file/fajl*). This does not mean that a verb stem written in Maltese has to be the same as a noun – e.g., we write the verb *skenja*, *niskenja*, *skenjajt* in Maltese but with the related noun, we have a choice (i.e., *scanner* or *skener*, *scanning* or *skening*).
4. many writers are used to the English written form of loan words and they resist spelling them in Maltese, one reason being that they feel that the Maltese spelling distracts them and slows them down when reading or writing. Except for words which people are used to writing in Maltese, the Council suggests that words whose Maltese orthography is very unlike the English spelling should be written in English (e.g. *union* not *junjin/unjin*, *hockey* not *ħoki*, *shutter* mhux *xater*). The same applies to compounds, which, again, should retain the English spelling (e.g. *windscreen* not *windskrin*, *shockabsorber* not *xokebżorber*, *fire extinguisher* not *fajerekstingwixer*).

Some other points were discussed during the seminar, including whether words spelled in English should be marked in some way, e.g. being italicised or placed within inverted commas.

Members of the public can express their opinion about the proposals presented at the seminar until Saturday, 2nd July, by writing an email to kunsilltalmalti@gov.mt. More information can be found on the Council's website: www.kunsilltalmalti.gov.mt. After considering all the opinions expressed during the seminar and the opinions that will reach the Council until the date mentioned above, the Council will publish a final, official document with 'Deciżjonijiet 2'.

The National Council for the Maltese Language is confident that, although it is difficult to please everyone, the final decisions will actually be a solution that will help the Maltese language continue to develop with less problems for those who write.

ENDS