

Exotic Plural Forms of Foreign Currency Names in English, French, Italian, and Ukrainian: Grammatical and Lexicographical Perspectives

Neįprastos užsienio valiutų pavadinimų daugiskaitinės formos anglų, prancūzų, italų ir ukrainiečių kalbose: gramatinė ir leksikografinė perspektyva

LINGUISTICS / KALBOTYRA

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This article analyses exotic plural forms of loanwords denoting foreign currency names in English, French, and Italian, the specifics of such lexemes in Ukrainian, and their presentation in Ukrainian bilingual dictionaries. The findings of the research prove that there is no unequivocal approach to the use of either exotic or adapted plurals in the names of foreign currencies and coins in English, French, and Italian. The analysis of academic materials within this research allows a recommendation to consult dictionaries for correct exotic plural forms in all the three languages, recognising the appropriateness of the adaptation of borrowed plurals to the native morphological model in the French and Italian languages. In translations of Ukrainian texts and the presentation in Ukrainian bilingual dictionaries, this approach should be preserved, with additional information provided on the donor language from which the exotic form was borrowed to ease the reader's comprehension and choice of the plural to be used.

KEYWORDS: foreign currencies, plural forms of loanwords, English, French, Italian, lexicographical approach, translation from/into Ukrainian.

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Abstract



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Introduction

A considerable issue in the English, French, and Italian languages is the correct use of exotic plurals of nouns borrowed in their non adapted form from foreign languages. As there is no regulation of the formation of such plural forms by the morphological models of the recipient language, reliable sources should be consulted. However, when different academic dictionaries provide different information on the correct exotic plural forms or offer alternative adapted variants, this might only raise ambiguity. Therefore, an elaborate approach is required to select appropriate forms where non adapted plurals exist.

The aim of this article is to reveal the specifics of exotic plurals of foreign currency names in English, French, Italian, and Ukrainian from the grammatical and the lexicographical perspectives. The objectives of the paper are to identify the patterns for the use of exotic plural forms of currencies in the chosen languages; to investigate the recommendations of grammarians and official bodies covering such plurals; to develop the guidelines for the use of correct plural forms when translating texts and preparing information to be included in Ukrainian bilingual dictionaries; and to explain how information on the exotic plural forms of foreign currencies should be arranged and presented in such dictionaries.

The choice of foreign currency names for the analysis is due to the fact that such loanwords often denote objects which exist only within a limited community and have restricted use in recipient languages. As a result, foreign currency names often preserve their exotic plurals in English, French, and Italian, being rivalled by plurals formed under the native morphological models of the recipient languages.

This research will focus on revealing the patterns of use of exotic plural forms of loanwords denoting foreign currency names in the English, French, Italian, and Ukrainian languages. The issues will be considered from a twofold perspective covering grammatical and lexicographical aspects. Based on the findings of the research, practical recommendations will be provided for the use of particular plural forms of foreign currency names in the aforementioned languages and their presentation in Ukrainian bilingual dictionaries.

Theoretical Background: Grammatical Perspective

The scope of the theoretical part of this research is to reveal the morphological models used in the English, French, and Italian languages for forming the plural forms of borrowed nouns. Particular attention will be paid to current trends and tendencies. The data gathered through secondary research will be used thereafter in the consideration of exotic foreign currency plurals.

English. Analysing the specifics of plurals of nouns borrowed by English from other languages, grammarians note primarily loanwords from Latin or Greek. According to Sinclair (2017, pp. 1098–1102) and Oxford Dictionaries (n.d.a), such words most often preserve their Latin or Greek plural or can have both their original plural form and the plural form in *-s* or *-es*, especially in non-technical or informal contexts: *focus – foci*, *stimulus – stimuli*, *aquarium – aquaria (or aquariums)*, *memorandum – memoranda (or memorandums)*, *criterion – criteria*, *phenomenon – phenomena*, *alga – algae*, *larva – larvae*, *nucleus – nuclei*, etc.

As noted by Willard (2017, p. 29), occasionally borrowed nouns in English preserve their plural form from the donor language, namely loanwords borrowed from French: *château – châteaux* (or anglicised *châteaus*); *tableau – tableaux* (or anglicised *tableaus*), etc. Willard also notes original Italian plural forms used in English as uncountable nouns, namely *graffiti* and *spaghetti*. Culpeper et al. (2018, p. 48) cite other irregular plural forms of borrowed nouns, namely *concerto – concerti* (from Italian) and *seraph – seraphim* (from Hebrew). Based on Collins Dictionary (n.d.), it can be added that both *concerto* and *seraph* have their anglicised plural forms too: *concertos* and *seraphs*, respectively. An analysis of Collins Dictionary also reveals other loanwords having both an exotic and an anglicised plural forms: *cello – cellos*

or *celli* (from Italian), *cherub* – *cherubs* or *cherubim* (from Hebrew), and words with invariable plurals: *samurai* (from Japanese), etc.

Therefore, it can be stated that most borrowed nouns tend to have an anglicised plural form, even if the donor language's original plural can be used too. There are no specific rules pertaining to the formation and use of particular plural forms: thus, in order to specify a word's plural form, it is worth consulting academic English dictionaries.

French. As noted by Grevisse and Goosse (2008, p. 694), nouns borrowed by French from other languages generally form their plural with an unpronounced *-s*, i.e., in accordance with the general rule. Nevertheless, if such loanwords remain weakly integrated into French vocabulary, they can either preserve their exotic plural or remain invariable.

According to Riegel, Pellat and Rioul (2009, pp. 334–335), plural forms of borrowed nouns in the French language can be treated differently: in an educated language, the usage of exotic plural forms is seen as a sign of erudition, or even distinction, while the informal language practices more spontaneously the morphological integration of anciently borrowed foreign words.

In contrast to Riegel, Pellat and Rioul, Mauger (1975, p. 22) advises using the French model of plural forms where possible, except for a number of nouns which still remain perceived mostly as purely foreign words or are traditionally used in the language with their exotic plurals: *un errata* – *des errata*, *un duplicata* – *des duplicata*, *un condottiere* – *des condottieri*, *un amen* – *des amen*, *un kyrie* – *des kyrie*, etc.

Arrivé, Gadet and Galmiche (2010) agree that both models coexist in the French language. Most words borrowed a long time ago and integrated completely into the French language are declined in accordance with the French model. On the contrary, some of the nouns resist their morphological integration, which is due to different reasons: recent borrowing, exclusive use in technical vocabulary, various sociolinguistic factors (Arrivé, Gadet and Galmiche, 2010, p. 414). Among the examples of such nouns, the researchers note English words ending in *-man*: *un jazzman* – *des jazzmen*, etc.

In some cases, the two tendencies collide, giving birth to variant plural forms: *un maximum* – *des maxima*, *des maximums*, *un minimum* – *des minima*, *des minimums* (Arrivé, Gadet and Galmiche, 2010, p. 414), *un confetti* – *des confetti*, *des confettis* (Mauger, 1975, p. 23), *un leitmotiv* – *des leitmotivs*, *des leitmotive* (Riegel, Pellat and Rioul, 2009, p. 335). Moreover, there is a tendency toward a growing use of the traditional French model: while Mauger (1975, p. 23) states that the noun *credo* borrowed from Greek is invariable in plural, Le Grand Robert de la langue française (Le Robert, 2017) provides only *credos* as its plural form. Also, while Mauger (1975, p. 23) states that the noun *confetti* most often remains invariable in plural and the form *confettis* is used occasionally, Le Grand Robert de la langue française (Le Robert, 2017) affirms that *confettis* is used more widely. Similarly, Arrivé, Gadet and Galmiche (2010, p. 414) note that the noun *scénario* has variances in plural: between the French *scénarios* and the Italian *scenarii*. Dictionnaire Larousse (Larousse, n.d.) adds that the Italian plural form of the noun has almost disappeared from usage.

Furthermore, it should be noted that the plural of borrowed nouns has been targeted by legislative effort. Thus, the Decree of the Ministry of Education of the French Republic On Grammatical and Orthographical Tolerances of 1977 (Ministère de l'Éducation (France), 1977, p. 828) stipulated the following: Nouns borrowed from other languages: *Des maxima* (des maximums). *Des sandwiches* (des sandwichs). It is admitted that, in all cases, the plural of such nouns can be formed in accordance with the general rule of the French language. Thus, the Decree of 1977 favoured the tendency toward a growing use of the French model in the for-

mation of borrowed nouns' plural forms. Also, the Orthographical Rectifications of December 6, 1990 (Conseil supérieur de la langue française (France), 1990, pp. 11–13), stipulated that the integration of borrowed words should be reinforced by applying to them the French rules of plural, citing the following examples: *un ravioli – des raviolis*, *un graffiti – des graffitis*, *un lazzi – des lazzis*, *un confetti – des confettis*, *un scénario – des scénarios*, *un jazzman – des jazzmans*, etc. The Orthographical Rectifications of 1990 aimed at harmonising the rules of the French language; however, the Rectifications were not introduced mandatorily. As shown above, while the tendency is shifting gradually toward the French model, grammarians recognise the preservation of exotic plural forms.

Analysing particular cases of exotic plurals in the French language, Grevisse and Goosse (2008, p. 699) note that such forms are typical of some names of foreign currencies, citing the examples of *un leu – des lei*, *un lev – des leva*.

Based on the information outlined above, it can be stated that there are no explicit rules as regards the formation of loanwords' plurals in the French language: while official bodies recommend adopting traditional plural forms with an unpronounced *-s* and there is a tendency toward a growing use of the French model, grammarians argue that the preservation of exotic plural forms is valid in particular cases.

Italian. As explained by Serianni (2016, pp. 149–150), there are several approaches to the formation of the plural forms of non-adapted loanwords in Italian. Borrowed nouns ending in a consonant remain invariable in plural according to the general rule: *il film – i film*, *il quiz – i quiz*, *il tram – i tram*, *il manager – i manager*, *il teenager – i teenager*, *il croissant – i croissant*, etc. In some cases, in order to highlight the word's borrowed nature or to recreate the ambiance of the surroundings, native plural forms of such borrowed nouns can be used, especially in journalistic texts. Serianni (2016, p. 150) also notes that rarely adapted versions of some of such nouns are used, and their plural conforms to the general plural of similar Italian nouns: *il flme – i flmi*, *il camione – i camion*. This is confirmed by Italian academic dictionaries: there are no adapted forms in Treccani (n.d.a), while Lo Zingarelli 2019 (Zanichelli, 2018) cites only the variant *flme*, marking it as rare. Finally, Serianni (2016, p. 151) stresses that invariable plurals of non-adapted loanwords are also widespread in nouns ending in vowels, even in *-e* or *-o*, which are typical endings of Italian nouns: *il kimono – i kimono* (rarely *i kimoni*), *il kamikaze – i kamikaze*, *il pope – i pope*. Some of the nouns take an exotic plural form: *la brioche – le brioches* (from French; also, in the adapted form, *la brioscia – le briosce*). However, Lo Zingarelli 2019 (Zanichelli, 2018) cites both plural forms in this case: *le brioche* (invariable) and *le brioches* (non-adapted from French).

Patota (2017, p. 49) notes in this regard that the recommended model for forming the plural of borrowed nouns which have already entered the Italian language is to leave them invariable. One of the reasons for leaving such nouns invariable is to avoid possible errors and ungrammaticality through alteration of native forms from the donor language. Thus, Patota cites the following examples: *il leader – i leader*, *il garage – i garage*, *il soviet – i soviet*. Nevertheless, exceptions to this rule include nouns which are used more often in plural (*i cow-boys* from English, *le crêpes* from French) and nouns borrowed from Spanish and Portuguese. For *crêpe*, the same plural form is cited in the Grande Dizionario Hoepli Italiano di Aldo Gabrielli (Hoepli, n.d.), while Lo Zingarelli 2019 (Zanichelli, 2018) describes this noun as invariable and additionally notes the French plural form with the morpheme *-s*.

Setti (2002) adheres to the rules outlined above; however, the researcher notes that such rules are generally applicable to nouns which have long been integrated into the Italian language. Setti notes that problems can arise when dealing with neologisms, rare words, and

words used only in special fields of knowledge, which can take the final morpheme *-s* when borrowed from English, French, Spanish, or Portuguese. Summarising, Setti advises leaving the plural form invariable for loanwords integrated into the Italian language and used widely; on the contrary, the exotic plural form from the donor language is recommended when the word has been borrowed recently or is strongly limited in use. This opinion is also shared by Treccani (2012), stating that exceptions in the formation of plurals include borrowed nouns not integrated strongly into the Italian language or having a special connotation: *contractors*, *royalties*, *neocons*, etc. Also, irregular plurals are inherent of noun phrases such as *Papa boys*, *fish and chips*, or *hedge funds*. Finally, Treccani (2012) states that there are borrowed nouns whose plural form differs significantly from the singular, providing the example of *il Land – i Länder* borrowed from German.

Thus, as can be stated based on the information above, similarly to French, there are different approaches to the formation of loanwords' plurals in the Italian language. While the general rule is to leave such nouns invariable, a number of factors might affect the actual use of plural forms, which often implies certain subjectivity in the choice of the plural to be used.

Ukrainian. The plural of Ukrainian nouns in all declensions follows two main models: the nouns are declined in all cases according to the general rules (with exceptions) or remain invariable (including a small number of loanwords preserving their exotic plural). For correct declension of borrowed nouns, it is required to identify correctly the loanword's gender.

According to Vykhoivanets and Horodenska (2004, p. 91), invariable nouns with homonymic endings in Ukrainian can be either neuter, masculine or feminine, and this distinction is based on whether such nouns denote inanimate or animate objects. According to Ponomariv (1997, pp. 119–120), there are several groups of invariable nouns: nouns of the neuter gender have the stem ending in *-a* (preceded by a vowel), *-o*, *-y*, *-e*, *-i*, *-ю* and denote inanimate objects (*ампула*, *панно*, *рагу*, *пюре*, *таксі*, etc.); nouns of the masculine gender include names of animals (*кенгуру*, *поні*, *шимпанзе*, etc.) and names of male persons, including proper names (*аташе*, *мосьє*, *Дюма*, *Золя*, etc.); finally, nouns of the feminine gender include names of female persons, including proper names (*міс*, *леді*, *мадам*, *Зергерс*), and Ukrainian female last names with the stem in a consonant or *-o* (*Луценко*, *Сагайдак*, *Мазур*, etc.).

Vykhoivanets and Horodenska (2004, pp. 91–92) state further that a prominent tendency in the contemporary Ukrainian language is the shifts in the gender of borrowed nouns denoting inanimate objects based on the degree of the foreign word's integration into the Ukrainian lexical system, formation of its lexical and semantical ties, and the word's subordination to particular morphological categories. Thus, the researchers argue that such loanwords tend to adopt the gender of the class to which they belong: *сироко*, *памперо*, *торнадо* are masculine nouns (they adopt this morphological characteristic from the class name *вітер*, as the three are types of winds), while *гінді*, *урду*, *фарсі* are feminine nouns (*мова*, language), even though their characteristics might suggest such nouns' neuter gender.

Therefore, when dealing with foreign currency names in Ukrainian, the main issue is to identify properly the gender of the noun. In terms of plural forms, two models may be applicable: either variable endings according to the general rule or invariable forms.

Based on the analysis of the grammatical specifics shaping the formation of borrowed nouns' plurals in English, French, and Italian, this research will now focus on investigating the plural forms adopted in the three languages for the names of foreign currencies and the specifics of their presentation in Ukrainian bilingual dictionaries.

The logic of the research will include several consecutive stages:

- 1 On the first stage, lexicographical material will be collected from academic dictionaries of the English (Collins Dictionary, Merriam-Webster), French (Le Grand Robert de la langue française, Le Trésor de la langue française), and Italian (Treccani, Lo Zingarelli 2019) languages, and additional reliable sources where appropriate.
- 2 Such data will be analysed from the perspective of the morphological models prioritised in the chosen languages for forming the plural forms of currency names. Patterns will be revealed and compared against the findings presented in the theoretical part of the research. Shortcomings of the models adopted by the aforementioned academic dictionaries will be highlighted.
- 3 Based on the findings derived, practical recommendations will be provided for appropriate presentation of the plural forms of foreign currency names in English-, French-, and Italian-Ukrainian dictionaries.

The list of currency names analysed for the purposes of this research includes 112 items (currencies and coins) based on 54 currencies for which the National Bank of Ukraine (2018) publishes official exchange rates.

Table 1

List of foreign currencies to be investigated and their ISO codes

Item No.	ISO Code	Name	Item No.	ISO Code	Name
1	AUD	Australian dollar	31	LBP	Lebanese pound
2	AED	United Arab Emirates dirham	32	MAD	Moroccan dirham
3	AMD	Armenian dram	33	MDL	Moldovan leu
4	AZN	Azerbaijani manat	34	MXN	Mexican peso
5	BDT	Bangladeshi taka	35	MYR	Malaysian ringgit
6	BGN	Bulgarian lev	36	NOK	Norwegian krone
7	BRL	Brazilian real	37	NZD	New Zealand dollar
8	BYN	Belarusian rouble	38	PKR	Pakistani rupee
9	CAD	Canadian dollar	39	PLN	Polish złoty
10	CHF	Swiss franc	40	RON	Romanian leu
11	CNY	Chinese yuan	36	NOK	Norwegian krone
12	CZK	Czech koruna	37	NZD	New Zealand dollar
13	DKK	Danish krone	38	PKR	Pakistani rupee
14	DZD	Algerian dinar	39	PLN	Polish złoty
15	EGP	Egyptian pound	40	RON	Romanian leu
16	EUR	euro	41	RSD	Serbian dinar
17	GBP	pound sterling	42	SAR	Saudi riyal
18	GEL	Georgian lari	43	SEK	Swedish krona
19	HKD	Hong Kong dollar	44	SGD	Singapore dollar
20	HRK	Croatian kuna	45	TJS	Tajikistani somoni
21	HUF	Hungarian forint	46	TMT	Turkmenistan new manat
22	IDR	Indonesian rupiah	47	TND	Tunisian dinar
23	ILS	Israeli new shekel	48	TRY	Turkish lira
24	INR	Indian rupee	49	TWD	new Taiwan dollar
25	IQD	Iraqi dinar	50	UAH	Ukrainian hryvnia
27	JPY	Japanese yen	51	USD	United States dollar
28	KGS	Kyrgyzstani som	52	UZS	Uzbekistani sum
29	KRW	South Korean won	53	VND	Vietnamese đồng
30	KZT	Kazakhstani tenge	54	ZAR	South African rand

The chosen structure of the research is expected to bring practically applicable findings to facilitate the use of correct plural forms of foreign currency names in English, French, and Italian, to allow avoiding widespread errors with foreign currency names in Ukrainian, and to contribute to the provision of correct information in Ukrainian bilingual dictionaries.

English. Prior to proceeding to the analysis of currency names' plural forms, it should be noted that English dictionaries adopt different approaches to treating the spelling of such nouns in general. For example, the name of the Ukrainian national currency, the hryvnia, is cited as *hryvna* or *hryvnia* in Oxford Dictionaries (n.d.b), *hryvna*, *hryvnyia*, or *hryvnia* in Collins Dictionary (n.d.), and *hryvnia* or less commonly *hryvna* in Merriam-Webster (n.d.). In this case, Merriam-Webster prioritises the traditional Ukrainian form through transliteration and the official spelling adopted by the National Bank of Ukraine. All the three dictionaries cite *kopiyka* as a 1/100 denomination of the *hryvnia*. Analysing the spelling of the Belarusian currency, the tendency can be confirmed: only Merriam-Webster distinguishes between *rubel* (Belarusian currency) and *rouble*, while Oxford Dictionaries and Collins Dictionary provide *rouble* only. Similarly, Merriam-Webster states that a 1/100 denomination of the *rubel* is the *kapeyka*, while Oxford and Collins note *kopeck* only. Given these differences, it is worth now proceeding to the analysis of plural forms of foreign currencies in English dictionaries. The dictionaries chosen for this analysis include Collins and Merriam-Webster, as there is no information on declension in Oxford Dictionaries.

Results and Discussion

Item No.	ISO Code	Singular	Plural		Note
			Collins	Merriam-Webster	
1	AMD	luma	lumas*	luma, lumas	1/100
2	AZN	manat	manats*	manat, manats	
3		gopik	gopiks*	gopiks, gopik	1/100
4	BDT	poisha	poishas*	poisha	1/100
5	BGN	lev	leva	leva, levs	
6		stotinka	stotinki	stotinki, stotinkas	1/100
7	BRL	real	reis	reais, reis, reals	
8	BYN	kapeyka	–	kapeek	1/100
9	CNY	yuan	yuan	yuan	
10		jjiao	jjiao	jjiao	1/10
11		fen	fen	fen	1/100
12	CZK	koruna	korunas, korun	koruny, korunas, korun	
13		haler	halers, haleru	haleru	1/100
14	DKK	kroner	kroner	kroner	
15		øre	øre	øre	1/100
16	GBP	penny	pennies, pence	pennies, pence	1/100
17	GEL	lari	laris*	lari	
18		tetri	tetris*	tetri	1/100
19	HRK	kuna	kune	kuna, kune	
20		lipa	lipa	lipa, lipe	1/100
21	HUF	fillér	fillér, fillérs	fillérs, fillér	1/100
22	IDR	rupiah	rupiah, rupiahs	rupiah, rupiahs	

Table 2

Currencies with exotic plural forms in Collins Dictionary (n.d.) and Merriam Webster (n.d.)

23		sen	sen	sen	1/100
24	ILS	shekel	shekels*	shekels, shekalim, shekelim	
25		agora	agorot, agoroth	agorot	1/100
26	JPY	yen	yen	yen	
27		sen	sen	sen	1/100
28	KGS	som	somy	som	
29		tiyin	tiyins*	tiyin	1/100
30	KRW	won	won	won, wons	
31		chon	chon	chon	1/100
32	KZT	tenge	tenges*	tenge	
33		tiyin	tiyins*	tiyin	1/100
34	MDL	leu	lei	lei	
35		ban	bani	bani	1/100
36	MYR	ringgit	ringgits*	ringgits, ringgit	
37		sen	sen	sen	1/100
38	NOK	krone	kroner	kroner	
39	PKR	paisa	paise	paisa	1/100
40	PLN	złoty	złotys, złoty	złotys, złotych	
41		grosz	groszy	grosze, groszy	1/100
42	RON	leu	lei	lei	
43		ban	bani	bani	1/100
44	RSD	para	paras, para	paras, para	1/100
45	SEK	krona	kronor	kronor	
46		öre	öre	öre	1/100
47	TJS	somoni	somonis*	somoni	
48	TMT	manat	manats*	manat, manats	
49		tenne	–	tenesi, tenne	1/100
50	TRY	lira	lire, liras	liras	
51		kuruş	kuruş	kuruş	1/100
52	TWD	jjiao	jjiao	jjiao	1/10
53		fen	fen	fen	1/100
54	UAH	hryvnia	hryvnias*	hryvnia, hryvnias	
55		kopiyka	kopiykas*	kopiykas, kopiyky, kopiyok	1/100
56	UZS	sum	sumy	sums	
57		tiyin	tiyins*	tiyin	1/100
58	VND	dông	dôngs*	dông	
59		hào	hào*	hào	1/100
60	ZAR	rand	rands*	rand	

Note: Words marked with an asterisk designate nouns where Collins Dictionary provides no information on plurals, a typical occurrence when the plural form is standard.

As can be seen from the table above, 60 of 112 currency units and coins analysed have plural forms not inherent of the traditional morphological model of the English language, as presented in at least one of the two chosen dictionaries. This testifies that exotic plural forms of currencies are widespread in contemporary English: in certain cases the plural preserves the same form as the singular, and in certain cases native forms are used: *lev – leva, leu – lei, agora – agorot, krona – kronor, ban – bani, tenne – tenesi*, etc. Also, in a number of cases both an anglicised and an exotic forms coexist. However, a major difficulty in choosing the correct form is the fact that there are significant discrepancies in the plural forms of currencies cited by Collins Dictionary and Merriam-Webster, as well as in the prioritisation of such plurals. In addition, it is worth noting another important issue identified in terms of the use of exotic plural forms of foreign currencies in the English language. Thus, Merriam-Webster cites three plural forms of the Ukrainian currency, the hryvnia: *kopiykas, kopiyky, kopiyok*, without any further notes. While *kopiykas* is an anglicised variant, *kopiyky* and *kopiyok* are native Ukrainian plural forms. It should be noted that these native Ukrainian forms are used with different numbers: 2, 3, 4, 22, 23, 24, etc. *кониўку (kopiyky)*, and 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 25, 26, 27, etc. *кониўок (kopiyok)*. Therefore, if the exotic plural forms from Merriam-Webster are used without taking into account this nuance, the constructions obtained can be ungrammatical from the point of view of the Ukrainian orthography. Similar problems might exist with the exotic plurals of the Belarusian, Polish, Czech, and other national currencies and coins.

French. While academic English language dictionaries provide extensive information on plural forms for all currencies investigated, the information which can be accessed in French dictionaries is more limited.

Item No.	ISO Code	Singular	Plural		Note
			Le Robert	Le Trésor	
1	BGN	lev (m)	leva	leva	
2	GBP	penny (m)	pennies, pence	pennies, pence	1/100
3	KRW	won (m)	won, wons	–	
4	MDL	leu (m)	lei	lei	
5	RON	leu (m)	lei	lei	

Table 3

Currencies with exotic plural forms in Le Grand Robert de la langue française (Le Robert, 2017) and Le Trésor de la langue française informatisé (ATILF, n.d)

Based on the materials of the Publications Office of the European Union (2018), an extensive list of currencies and coins spelt in French can be retrieved. Using the materials of the Banque de France (2018) and UTC Sorbonne Universités (2011), it is possible to retrieve the gender and plural forms of the currencies analysed and compare the discrepancies which exist with Le Robert and Le Trésor.

As can be seen from the table below, while there is no sufficient information on the plural forms of foreign currencies in French dictionaries, additional data reveal that exotic forms are used often. Most loanwords provided in the table above are coins. The main reason for not including currency names is that information is missing in reliable sources: the data found on the web reveals that both adapted and non-adapted plurals are used, but to avoid possible distortions, such sources were excluded from the research. In a number of cases, a collision of two tendencies can be identified: the French plural forms *shekels, öres* in dictionaries are rivalled by the exotic plurals *shekalim (sheqalim), öre* in other sources.

Table 4

Currencies with exotic plural forms in Le Grand Robert de la langue française (Le Robert, 2017), Le Trésor de la langue française informatisé (ATILF, n.d.), and in other sources

Item No.	ISO Code	Singular	Plural			Note
			Le Robert	Le Trésor	Other Sources*	
1	AMD	luma (m)	–	–	luma	1/100
2	BDT	poisha (m)	–	–	poisha	1/100
3	BGN	lev (m)	leva	leva	–	
4		stotinka (m)	–	–	stotinki	1/100
5	CNY	chiao (m)	–	–	chiao	1/10
6		fen (m)	–	–	fen	1/100
7	CZK	haléř (m)	–	–	haléřů	1/100
8	DKK	øre (m)	–	–	øre	1/100
9	GBP	penny (m)	pennies, pence	pennies, pence	pence	1/100
10	GEL	tetri (m)	–	–	tetri	1/100
11	HUF	fillér (m)	–	–	fillér	1/100
12	ILS	shekel (m)	shekels	–	shekalim, sheqalim	
13		agora (f)	–	–	agorot	1/100
14	INR	paisa (f)	–	–	paise	1/100
15	KGS	tyiyn (m)	–	–	tyiyn	1/100
16	KRW	won (m)	won, wons	–	–	
17		cheun (m)	–	–	cheun	1/100
18	KZT	tiyn (m)	–	–	tiyn	1/100
19	MDL	leu (m)	lei	lei	–	
20		ban (m)	–	–	bani	1/100
21	NOK	øre (m)	–	–	øre	1/100
22	PKR	paisa (f)	–	–	paise	1/100
23	PLN	grosz (m)	–	–	groszy	1/100
24	SEK	öre (m)	öres	–	öre	1/100
25	TJS	diram (m)	–	–	diram	1/100
26	TMT	tenge (m)	–	–	tennesi	1/100
27	TWD	chiao (m)	–	–	chiao	1/10
28		fen (m)	–	–	fen	1/100
29	UAH	kopiyka (m)	–	–	kopiyok	1/100
30	UZS	tiin (m)	–	–	tiin	1/100
31	VND	hào (m)	–	–	hào	1/10
32		xu (m)	–	–	xu	1/100

Note: The column marked with an asterisk was compiled by the author based on data from the Banque de France (2018) and UTC Sorbonne Universités (2011).

Also, it is worth recalling a tendency analysed in the theoretical part: coins are more limited in their use and are not integrated into the French language. This is the main reason for the existence of exotic plurals of such loanwords in professional use.

Similarly to the issues revealed in the plural forms of currency names in the English language, it should be stated that the exotic form *kopiyok* as the only plural form of *kopiyka* is ungrammatical from the point of view of the Ukrainian language.

Italian. As the general rule for borrowed nouns ending in a consonant in Italian is to remain invariable in plural, for the purpose of this analysis such invariable nouns will be excluded from consideration: regardless of whether invariability exists in the donor language, the formation of their plural forms follows the general native model.

As can be seen from the table presented above, there are a number of currency names which still preserve their exotic plural form from the donor language in Italian. The same tendencies as in the French language can justify this situation: such loanwords have restricted use in the Italian language and are weakly integrated into it.

Another important tendency which becomes apparent when analysing the data above is that two academic sources, Treccani and Lo Zingarelli 2019, adopt different approaches to the treatment of exotic plurals. Thus, Treccani provides only the exotic forms of plural for the currencies presented in the table: *lev – leva*, *real – reais*, *sheqel – sheqalim*, *leu – lei*, *ban – bani*, *peso – pesos*, etc., which diverge from the traditional morphological model of the Italian language. On the contrary, Lo Zingarelli 2019 cites alternative plurals in most cases, prioritising the form inherent of the Italian language; exotic plurals are given by the dictionary in brackets, citing the donor language: *il real – i real*, (Portuguese *i reais*); *il sheqel – i sheqel*, (Hebrew *i sheqalim*); *rial – i rial*, (Arabic *i rialat*), etc. However, it should be noted that in

Item No.	ISO Code	Singular	Plural		Note
			Treccani	Lo Zingarelli 2019	
1	BGN	lev (m)	leva	lev, leva	
2		stotinka (f)	stotinki	–	1/100
3	BRL	real (m)	reais	real, reais	
4		centavo (m)	–	centavo, centavos	1/100
5	DKK	øre (m)	øre	øre	1/100
6	GBP	penny (m)	pence, pennies	penny, pence	1/100
7	ILS	sheqel (m)	sheqalim	sheqel, sheqalim	
8	MDL	leu (m)	lei	leu, lei	
9		ban (m)	bani	–	1/100
10	MXN	peso (m)	pesos	peso, pesos	
11		centavo (m)	–	centavo, centavos	1/100
12	NOK	øre (m)	øre	øre	1/100
13	PLN	złoty (m)	złoty	złoty, złotych	
14		grosz (m)	groszy	–	1/100
15	RON	leu (m)	lei	leu, lei	
16		ban (m)	bani	–	1/100
17	SAR	rial (m)	rial	rial, rialat	

Table 5

Currencies with exotic plural forms in Treccani (n.d.a.; n.d.b) and Lo Zingarelli 2019 (Zanichelli, 2018)

Presentation in Ukrainian Bilingual Dictionaries

cases when a borrowed noun ends in a vowel which should be declined in Italian nouns in plural both Treccani and Lo Zingarelli 2019 leave the noun invariable: *l'ore – gli ore* (and not *gli ori*); *il peso – i peso* (and not *i pesi*), (Spanish *i pesos*), etc.

In order to use the plural forms of foreign currency names correctly in Ukrainian, it is important to identify properly the noun's gender. As the general models of declension are applicable in Ukrainian to most loanwords, the distinction between genders allows revealing the correct forms in all seven cases (nominative, genitive, dative, accusative, instrumental, locative, and vocative). The most problematic aspect in this context is to define the gender of invariable nouns: as stated earlier in this article, there are different patterns for identifying a borrowed invariable noun's gender in Ukrainian, and there are different tendencies affecting this process.

Based on the findings outlined in the theoretical part of the research and the table below, it is worth emphasising the existence of significant discrepancies among Ukrainian sources as regards the gender of invariable foreign currency names. Hrytsaienko (2007, p. 365) notes that the approaches toward the identification of invariable currency units' genders are unsystematic in Ukrainian dictionaries; according to the researcher, the reasons for assigning a gender to such nouns often remain non-transparent and are in collision with the grammatical rules of the Ukrainian language.

Thus, analysing the names of foreign currencies and coins such as *пенні, цзяо, ларі, теньге, сомоні*, or *песо*, it can be stated that there is no grammatical justification for these nouns to take any other gender except for neuter: such nouns are invariable, denote inanimate objects, and their class name (*валюта (f) – currency, монета (f) – coin*) suggests no alternative interpretations in accordance with the Ukrainian orthography. The same applies to *євро (euro)*: there are no obvious grammatical reasons to consider *євро* as a masculine invariable

Table 6

Currencies with exotic plural forms in Slovníky Ukrainy (Ukrainskyi movno-informatsiinyi fond NAN Ukrainy, n.d.), VTSSUM (Busel, 2005), and SUM 20 (Ukrainskyi movno-informatsiinyi fond NAN Ukrainy, 2010–2018)

Item No.	ISO Code	Singular	Gender			Note
			Slovníky Ukrainy	VTSSUM	SUM 20	
1	BRL	сентаво	n	n	–	1/100
2	CNY	цзяо	–	m	–	1/10
3	DKK	ере	n	n	n	1/100
4	EUR	євро	m	n	m/n	
5	GBP	пенні	m/n	m	–	1/100
6	GEL	ларі	m	m	n	
7		тетрі	–	n	–	1/100
8	KZT	теньге	m	n	–	
9	MXN	песо	m	n	–	
10		сентаво	n	n	–	1/100
11	NOK	ере	n	n	n	1/100
12	SEK	ере	n	n	n	1/100
13	TJS	сомоні	m/n	–	–	
14	TMT	теньге	m	n	–	1/100
15	TWD	цзяо	–	m	–	1/10
16	VND	хао	n	f	–	1/10
17		су	n	n	–	1/100

Note: m = masculine, f = feminine, n = neuter.

noun. This issue is particularly important given the wide use of the euro as a currency of international settlements in Ukraine.

Taking into account the facts considered in this article, it is possible to develop a recommendation to disregard the genders of the 16 currency units outlined above and other similar cases in Ukrainian dictionaries. In accordance with the Ukrainian orthography, it can be advised that such currencies be used as neuter nouns: this approach would allow avoiding ungrammaticality in translations. This principle was put into the core of lexicographical work within Kyiv Dictionary's orthographic dictionary of the Ukrainian language featuring this article's author as a member of the editorial staff. In addition to the currency names noted above, the dictionary also provides a uniform approach to the interpretation of the gender of other foreign currencies and coins: neuter invariable nouns include *лоті, седи, сукре, леоне, ескудо, даласі, вату*, and other similar, less widely used, currencies and coins (Kyiv Dictionary, n.d.).

Focusing specifically on currencies which have exotic plural forms in English, French, and Italian, the following recommendations can be developed for choosing correct plurals when processing and translating texts from Ukrainian into these foreign languages and when processing information to be featured in Ukrainian bilingual dictionaries:

- 1 In English, it is worth consulting reliable dictionaries to choose a foreign currency name's plural form to be used. If only an exotic plural exists, it can be deemed appropriate to use this exotic form instead of creating anglicised variants not stipulated in sources. The same applies to invariable forms. No specific grammatical tendencies were identified in the course of this research, which would allow prioritising anglicised plural forms in these cases; furthermore, in dictionaries providing alternative variants, exotic forms are often cited first. Nevertheless, a considerable issue is represented by the fact that such exotic plurals might be ungrammatical or irrelevant depending on the word combination in which they are used, as shown on the example of the Ukrainian hryvnia's plural forms. Therefore, if two or more variants are admitted by dictionaries, both the native and the anglicised form can be used; however, the use of the anglicised form would eliminate possible ungrammaticality through the adoption of altered forms from the donor language.
- 2 In French, it can be recommended to use French morphological forms of foreign currency names' plurals with an *-s* ending in accordance with the recommendations of official bodies in the field of education. This approach also allows avoiding possible ungrammaticality. However, exotic forms can be preserved equally when they are provided by dictionaries and used in reliable sources: *lev – leva, leu – lei, penny – pennies, pence*, etc. Exotic forms can be used with other nouns disregarded by dictionaries. However, even in these cases the use of traditional French *-s* plurals should not be deemed erroneous.
- 3 In Italian, a recommendation can be developed to consult the dictionaries for choosing an appropriate plural form. This research testifies that Italian lexicographical sources adopt different approaches toward the formation of foreign currency names' plurals, and grammarians advise deciding upon the plural based on factors such as the time of adoption by the Italian language and wideness of use. Both approaches can be deemed appropriate, and the choice of either of the forms stipulated in academic dictionaries should be deemed correct. An error worth avoiding is to form plurals based on the Italian morphological models for currency names such as *peso* or *ore*: as dictionaries consider such nouns to be invariable, their invariability should be preserved.

Problems might arise in association with the spelling of *euro*. In English, French, and Italian, *euro* should never be capitalised; in English and French the noun is variable and should be declined according to the native morphological model; in Italian the noun should remain invariable in plural (Collins Dictionary, n.d.; Merriam-Webster, n.d.; Oxford Dictionaries, n.d.; Le Robert, 2017; ATILF, n.d.; Treccani, n.d.a; Zanichelli, 2018).

Given the findings considered above, particular attention should also be paid to the presentation of the aforesaid foreign currency names in English-, French-, and Italian-Ukrainian dictionaries. The following recommendations can be provided in this regard:

- 1 When citing either an exotic plural only or both an exotic and an adapted form, a brief note should be provided on the origin of the borrowed form, similarly to the approach used by Lo Zingarelli 2019 (Zanichelli, 2018): [Italian-Ukrainian] *lev (m) (pl. lev, (болг.) leva) – лев (ч.)*. This should ease the comprehension of the exotic form by the reader.
- 2 Where concerns exist regarding possible ungrammaticality of the exotic form in the donor language, only an adapted form should be cited: [English-Ukrainian] *коріюка (pl. koriykas) – коніюка (ж.)*. Otherwise, it is possible to cite exotic forms as well with additional comments, but this might be redundant and might bring further ambiguity.
- 3 If there are difficulties with the prioritisation of the plural forms to be used, advice of grammarians and the information provided in academic dictionaries and other reliable sources should be taken into consideration, reflecting the current tendencies in prioritised plurals: [French-Ukrainian] *won (m) (pl. wons, won) – вона (ж.)*.

Conclusion

The findings of this research testify that the use of particular plural forms of foreign currencies and coins might raise difficulties and ambiguity: there is no unequivocal approach offered by academic sources in English, French, and Italian to treat the plurals of such borrowed nouns based on either the donor language's exotic model or the recipient language's morphological principles.

In the English language, grammarians' recommendations provide a restricted coverage of the use of foreign currency names' exotic plural forms; as a result, it is worth consulting academic dictionaries to make a correct choice. In French, there is a tendency toward the adaptation of borrowed nouns to the French morphological model, adding an *-s* ending in plural: this tendency is supported by the recommendations of official bodies. However, this trend is resisted by the practice of use of exotic forms in professional sources. In the Italian language, grammarians recommend to adapt the plural form when nouns have long been integrated into the language system and are used widely. Italian academic dictionaries have different approaches to the issue, prioritising either the exotic or the adapted form.

When translating texts with such currency names having exotic plurals into and from Ukrainian, it can be recommended to follow the guidelines provided by reliable academic sources, taking into the existing grammatical tendencies. Thus, in Ukrainian-English translations, the choice is to be made based on the analysis of dictionaries; a common recommendation is to avoid exotic plurals where risks are high to face ungrammaticality due to altered adoption from the donor language. In Ukrainian-French translations, the French model with *-s* plurals can be prioritised, as it is approved by official bodies and allows avoiding ambiguity and ungrammaticality; in the cases where academic dictionaries and/or professional sources prioritise the exotic plural, it can be deemed appropriate both to use such exotic plurals and to adapt them. Finally, in Ukrainian-Italian translations, the choice on the plural form is to be made based on an analysis of dictionaries; adaptation should be avoided with foreign currency names ending in a vowel, which remain invariable according to academic Italian dictionaries.

In the preparation of bilingual English-, French-, and Italian-Ukrainian dictionaries, currency names having exotic plural forms should be cited together with the donor language of such plurals to help the reader make their own choice of the correct plural form to be used.

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Santrauka

Neįprastos užsienio valiutų pavadinimų daugiskaitinės formos anglų, prancūzų, italų ir ukrainiečių kalbose: gramatinė ir leksikografinė perspektyva

Šis tyrimas analizuoja neįprastas daugiskaitines skolinių formas, kuriomis anglų, prancūzų ir italų kalbose išreiškiami užsienio valiutų pavadinimai. Taip pat tiriami tokių leksemų, matomų ukrainiečių kalboje, ypatumai ir jų pateikimas ukrainiečių kalbos dvikalbiuose žodynuose. Šio tyrimo rezultatai įrodo, kad aiškaus būdo naudoti neįprastų ar pritaikytų daugiskaitinių užsienio valiutų ir monetų pavadinimus anglų, prancūzų ir italų kalbose nėra. Šiame tyrime analizuotų akademinų šaltinių analizė leidžia pateikti rekomendaciją pasinaudoti žodynais ieškant teisingų neįprastų daugiskaitinių formų visose trijose kalbose ir atpažįstant daugiskaitinių skolinių tinkamą pritaikymą prancūzų ir italų gimtosios kalbos morfologiniuose modeliuose. Ukrainietiškuose tekstų vertimuose ir ukrainietiškuose dvikalbiuose žodynuose šis būdas turėtų būti išsaugotas, tačiau turi būti pateikiama papildoma informacija apie tą kalbą, iš kurios ir buvo pasiskolinta neįprasta žodžio forma, tam kad skaitytojui būtų lengviau suprasti patį žodį ir pasirinkimą naudoti tokią daugiskaitinę formą.

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