Title: Military Terminology: uses and abuses of Anglicisms in Italian military language

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Abstract:
In times of war, in particular when there is a steady increase in the demand for effective and timely military communication, military terminology is of paramount importance. It represents not only the language of the military people, but the language of those who study the conduct and cultures of conflicts, of war reporters, of interpreters and translators, the language of military campaigns in places that are considered largely foreign-language-free, the language of the “enemy”, of the occupant, of the invaders, and, last but not least, a fundamental political tool. But how do Italian military people deal with this terminology? They just use what can be called “militailenglish”, that is the use, abuse and often misuse of English terms during briefings, debriefings, and meetings held in Italian. This is of no help for the civilians involved in the theatre of operations, especially those who report on wars and in particular interpreters and translators or “terps” (as they are commonly known among the US soldiers) who deal with a kind of translation that is “at permanent war with itself”.

Moving from these assumptions, the aim of my paper is twofold. On the one hand, it makes evident the massive use of Anglicisms in Italian military language through corpus of reference such as minutes of briefings and debriefings, excerpts from technical manuals, military reviews and web site pages of Italian military forces, on the other hand, it suggests a translation for some of these Anglicisms (translation based on my previous knowledge and on the support of experts in the military field).

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Carmen Fiano earned a PhD in “Eurolinguaggi scientifici, tecnologici e letterari” from the University of Naples “Parthenope” (2014) with a thesis entitled “Words Of War, War Of Words: From Peace Keeping To Interdiction Strike. A Terminological Study Of the Military Language In International Missions”. Since 2008 she has worked as a permanent teacher of English in a secondary school. From 1983 to 2008, she worked as a teacher of English terminology in the NCOs School of the Italian Airoforce in Caserta. Her main area of interest is military terminology with a particular focus on the language of military missions.