

LANGUAGE AT WORK – WORKING ON A LANGUAGE. STUDIES IN SEMANTICS AND WORD FORMATION

SUMMARY

Part I: Imagery and verbalized concepts

Keywords: Polish language, lexical semantic, conceptualization, mental verbs, noun *świadomość* (Eng. ‘consciousness’/‘awareness’), profiling, profile, conceptualization, life, death, noun *intuicja* (Eng. ‘intuition’), metaphor, noun *uśmiech* (Eng. ‘smile’)

1. The conceptual and lexical view of consciousness in the contemporary Polish (An outline)

The chapter outlines the conceptual and lexical view of consciousness as it presents itself in established Polish expressions. The starting point is analysis of the phenomenon of consciousness as: a) semantic component of various predicate structures; b) controller of human behaviour in the linguistic worldview. Reflecting on the definitions of the lexeme *świadomość* (Eng. ‘consciousness’/‘awareness’) in selected lexicographic resources, as well as studying its uses excerpted from the National Corpus of Polish, leads to indicating the semantic invariant of the notion which determines the essential facets of its conceptualization.

2. What can selected dictionaries and usage contexts of the Polish lexeme *nieświadomość* (‘unawareness’, ‘unconsciousness’) tell us about the state of being unaware

The chapter aims to answer to the question concerning the scope, aspects and results of the relationship between unawareness and language on the basis of a semantic analysis of three Polish lexemes: the noun *nieświadomość* (Eng. ‘unawareness’), the adjective *nieświadomy* (Eng. ‘unaware’) and the adverb *nieświadomie* (Eng. ‘unconsciously’). Data from selected dictionaries, as well as contexts documented in the National Corpus of Polish and retrieved from the Internet (by means of the Google search engine), allow us to establish three different meanings of the noun *nieświadomość*, as well as to construct several semantic profiles characteristic for two of those meanings.

3. Between life and death. Towards a definition of states of seemingly lost consciousness in Polish

The chapter discusses linguistic means of denoting states of seemingly lost consciousness. These states can be referred to by expressions *być w stanie śpiączki* (Eng. 'to be in a coma'), *zdiagnozowano u X-a stan wegetatywny* (Eng. 'a vegetative state was diagnosed in X') // *śmierć mózgową* (Eng. 'brain death'), *X jest przytomny, ale nie wykazuje oznak świadomości* (Eng. 'X is awake but does not show any signs of awareness'), *X nie reaguje za pomocą zmysłów na sygnały z otoczenia* (Eng. 'X shows no response to sensory stimuli'). The analysis is carried out within the framework of cognitive linguistics. The dataset consists of a corpus of contemporary Polish texts retrieved from the Internet, collected for purposes of this analysis. The texts are addressed to general public, not to specialists. The collection contains scientific terms as well. The author is interested, among others, in answering the following question: To what degree does the presence of consciousness decide about the fact that somebody is considered to be alive, and its absence about the fact that person is considered dead, while the feature „to be conscious” is ascribed to persons that are (seemingly) not showing any signs of life?

4. How do we think and speak about *intuicja* ('intuition') in Polish? A cognitive interpretation of the concept

The chapter attempts at reconstructing the conceptual structure of 'intuition' in the contemporary Polish. The analysis of lexicographic and corpus data lead to distinguishing two basic profiles of 'intuition'. The first one focuses on intuition viewed as a merit; with the following attributes: 'capacity, gift, character trait, personality trait, additional sense', while the other pertains to conceiving of intuition as a certain thought or conjecture. The overall view of intuition in Polish is complemented by tracing the characteristic metaphorical imagery connected with the concept.

5. *Uśmiech* ('smile') as a communicative word and as facial expression (The view of smile in contemporary Polish)

The chapter provides a characteristics of smile as facial expression, as reflected in linguistic forms featuring in the lexeme *uśmiech* (Eng. 'smile'), which in turn reflects the linguistic view of smiling in contemporary Polish. The facial expression itself serves merely as a background. On the basis of vast amount of data extracted from dictionaries and corpora, the chapter presents the relevant aspects of smile that fall into five general categories profiling the basic notion. These categories are: THE ACT OF SMILING (smiling), THE SUBJECT OF SMILING (the smiling person), THE ORGAN OF SMILE (what we smile with), LOCATION OF SMILE (where smile is seen), and the ADDRESSEE OF SMILE (who we smile at).

Part II: Important and constantly valid issues of word-formation

Keywords: Polish language, word-formation, homonymy, polysemy, semantic derivation, morphological derivation, analogy in word-formation, anomaly in word-formation, contamination, composita, blending, univerbation, composition, neologisms, neosemanticism, derivational neologism, cognitive word formation, values, value-laden word-formative mechanisms, textual word formation, pragmatic functions of word-formative, derivatives, Polish language, norm, usage, feminities

6. Morphological derivation and semantic derivation

The study reflects upon decisive factors for recognizing a neologism as a product of a semantic shift or of morphological derivation. By noticing various mechanisms behind new lexical structures, the author draws attention to the issue of boundaries between polysemy and derivational homonymy. She also points out the noticeable – both in neosemanticisms and derivational neologisms – influence of borrowings on the vocabulary of the contemporary Polish language. The analysis of neologisms deemed to be the effect of homonymy draws attention to the neologisms that are classified as morphological derivatives created by means of identical word-formation processes.

7. Values in word-formation

The chapter expands the research on axiological charges identifiable in language and in texts, originated by Jadwiga Puzyńska. Both overt and covert ways of expressing values in derivation are presented, and the place of evaluative components within the structure of derivatives analysed in relation to their respective derivational bases is discussed. The author draws attention to the following issues: a) intensification of evaluative value of derivatives studied within the axiological perspective, as well as qualitative revaluation of the whole structure and/or its parts; b) appreciative function of formatives. The author signals how evaluation may be derivationally expressed in the contemporary Polish, and points to the inherent degree of regularity / irregularity of various axiological exponents.

8. Pragmatics of word-formative action (A continuation of M. Honowska's thought on word-formative techniques of becoming)

The author refers to selected syntheses and detailed analyses from among the many achievements of word-formation studies in the last fifty years, to briefly discuss the ways in which textual derivatives (belonging to parole) have been described. Particular attention is paid to M. Honowska's views on the pragmatics of word-formative action. The timeliness of her thought is evident in the perspective of current research, and the author believes that it is not so much thanks to Honowska's intuition, as it is to the accuracy of her opinions, forecasting the paths of word-formative interests and research, and of future development of word-formative methodology. Such description serves as a background for considerations on modern

interpretations of textual word-formative expressions. Appreciating the importance of word-formative advertising mechanisms presented in E. Rogowska-Cybulska's book, the main part of this chapter outlines the horizon of research that would need to be accepted in order to fully realize the functioning and the role of word formation in advertising. Textual derivatives are discussed from the perspective of the phenomenon of linguistic usage, i.e. in their relation to a specific speech act, directing their interpretation in such a way as to highlight the activity of both participants of the particular speech act in which they feature.

9. The univertation phenomena in present-day Polish texts

The study gives an insight into the criteria according to which linguists describe various procedures of univertation. After a brief description of main disputable questions connected with the way in which scholars outline the range the discussed problems concerning the very term and the concept of univertation, the author presents the typical and non-typical phenomena labelled as univertation.

10. Contamination composita as results of analogy and anomaly

The process of morphological contamination, i.e. bringing disintegrated parts of two independent word forms together into a novel one, is examined in relation to the role of analogy and anomaly, illustrated with Polish examples, and related to a corresponding phenomenon in English, known as blending. The operational tools used in the chapter are mainly those of structural morphology, yet cognitive linguistics approaches are evoked as well in order to present contamination in a broader context.

11. Why do we say *pani minister* rather than *pani ministra*? Factors influencing the norm and the usage of feminitives

The title question signals two detailed issues related to general tendencies observable in the Polish language at the turn of the 20th and the 21st centuries. These tendencies pertain to usage: coining / not coining (for many different reasons) feminitives stemming from masculine nouns, as well as using / not using masculine nouns with reference to women. While the author is fully aware that a more comprehensive work is required in order to account for the reasons usage restrictions pertaining to feminitives are loosened or upheld, she focuses on the form *ministra* (Eng. 'minister-FEM'), which serves as a distinct example of a more complex set of issues connected with feminitives.

Part III: Why we need to study neologisms – and how to do it

Keywords: Polish language, Czech language, lexicography, neologisms, word-formation system, word-formation norm, lexical norm, chronologisation lexicography, method of photodocumentation

12. Potential formations and occasionalisms

The chapter reviews selected Polish and Russian (Soviet) researchers' descriptions of neologisms. It scrutinizes the terminology employed in the studies devoted to neologisms, and juxtaposes the accounts against categories such as the word-formation system, word-formation norms and lexical norms. The chapter concludes with an attempt at classifying Polish derivatives with respect to the previously discussed types of new derivational phenomena.

13. The dictionary *Nová slova v češtině* – a mature work of the Czech lexicography

The main aim of the chapter is to present the usefulness of the two volume dictionary of neologisms (from the years 1985–2002) edited by Olga Martincová and titled *Nová slova v češtině* (T. 1. Praha 1998; T. 2. Praha 2004). The lexical evidence collected by the author, encompassing 11,600 entries, shows both the dynamics of lexical processes and a wide range of word formation phenomena and trends taking place in the Czech language at the turn the 20th and 21st centuries.

14. Can we, should we, is it worthwhile to examine neologisms? (In relation to photodocumentation research method by Piotr Wierzchoń)

The discussion carried out in the chapter is related to two books by Piotr Wierzchoń: *Jaskółki przejawów internacjonalizacji w słowotwórstwie współczesnej polszczyzny z lat 1894–1984. Tylko sto przykładów* and *Fotodokumentacja. Chronologizacja. Emendacja. Teoria i praktyka weryfikacji materiału leksykalnego w badaniach lingwistycznych*. Even though the author appreciates the importance of the innovative method of photodocumentation, especially its crucial role in the research on vocabulary redating, she also shares postulates concerning mass (computer) material excerpts, and engages in polemics. The debatable points raised pertain to the oversimplifications and controversial character of certain observations and findings of Piotr Wierzchoń in connections with neologisms, as well as methods of their collection and verification.

15. Towards a dictionary of contemporary Polish neologisms

The chapter is devoted to discussing neologisms of the contemporary Polish language as an object of lexicography. Upon stating that the abundant Polish literature on neologisms lacks a monolingual lexicon thereof, the author critically discusses registers of the new vocabulary in the modern Polish published in the volumes titled *Nowe słownictwo polskie*. In her further reflections, the author proves the

value of the Polish chronologisation lexicography and the dynamically developing photolexicography as instruments which facilitate neologism re-dating. The author emphasises that the application of these methods for material data verification may contribute to authenticating both the material base of the future dictionary and lexical and derivational models of Polish from the second half of the 20th century.

16. The achievements of Polish chronologisation lexicography (From the standpoint of morphological derivation)

The chapter discusses selected works of Jan Wawrzyńczyk, founder and the main originator of the Polish chronologisation lexicography, with focus on those that are of utmost importance to studies of derivation, neologisms in particular. The author overviews reference works that she deems vital and indispensable in the process of authenticating the seemingly new derivatives, verifying the findings, and collecting new derivational formations.

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