



VARIOUS DIMENSIONS *of* CONTRASTIVE STUDIES

Edited by Bożena Cetnarowska Marcin Kuczok Marcin Zabawa



WYDAWNICTWO
UNIwersYTETU ŚLĄSKIEGO
KATOWICE 2016

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of **Contrastive**
STUDIES



NR 3530

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Edited by

Bożena Cetnarowska, Marcin Kuczok, Marcin Zabawa

Editor of the Series: Językoznawstwo Neofilologiczne
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Copy editor Gabriela Marszołek
Technical editor Andrzej Pleśniar
Cover design Kamil Gorlicki
Proofreader Krystian Wojcieszuk
Typesetter Damian Walasek

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ISSN 0208-6336
ISBN 978-83-8012-918-4
(print edition)
ISBN 978-83-8012-919-1
(digital edition)

Publisher
Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Śląskiego
ul. Bankowa 12B, 40-007 Katowice
www.wydawnictwo.us.edu.pl
e-mail: wydawus@us.edu.pl

First impression. Printed sheets: 20.75 Publishing sheets: 25.0
Offset paper grade III, 90 g Price: 28 zł (+VAT)

Printing and binding: "TOTEM.COM.PL Sp. z o.o." SP.K.
ul. Jacewska 89, 88-100 Inowrocław

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Editors' preface

Although the tradition of contrastive linguistics has a very long history, the approach to this type of studies has been constantly changing with the emergence of new linguistic theories and approaches to understanding the notion of language. Today, the scope of contrastive studies ranges from formal to functional and pragmatic linguistics, from structuralism through generativism to cognitivism, and from theoretical analyses to corpus linguistics. The present book focuses on the variety of the possible approaches to contrasting languages. Thus, the authors who have contributed to this monograph represent various methodologies and schools of analysis: formal, functional, cognitive, pragmatic, and cultural-linguistic.

The chapters included in the first part of the volume, titled “Contrastive Studies of Linguistic Structures”, represent formal (i.e., generative) approaches to the contrastive study of language structure, except for the chapter by Konrad Szcześniak, couched within the framework of cognitive linguistics. Two of them discuss phonological topics (i.e., the chapters by Anna Bloch-Rozmej and Artur Kijak), while the remaining ones are devoted to morphological and syntactic issues. The chapter by Anna Bloch-Rozmej brings a novel analysis of the phonology of Vilamovian, which is a West-Germanic minority language spoken in the Polish town of Wilamowice. The author investigates complex consonant clusters that occur at the edges of phonological domains in Vilamovian and compares them to those attested in English. She employs principles and parameters (within the model of Government Phonology) to describe domain structure in both languages. Artur Kijak discusses data from English and German, adopting the phonological model of Strict CV. The author argues that three distinct phonological processes, that is, vowel syncope, vowel-zero alternation, and syllabification of sonorant consonants, are closely related. The analysis of those phonological processes postulated in the chapter emphasises the expansionist behaviour of sonorants in weak positions.

Maria Bloch-Trojnar's chapter presents an analysis of two types of transpositional nominalisations in English and Irish, outlining the distinction between verbal and deverbal nominals. Their aspectual properties are examined very carefully. Moreover, a comparison is given of aspectual distinctions that can be expressed by verb forms. The author adopts the framework of the Lexeme-Morpheme Base Morphology. She argues that the semantic effects of transpositional operations are different in the two languages under comparison. Bloch-Trojnar relates this difference to semantic contrasts available in the aspectual systems of English and Irish.

Bożena Cetnarowska looks at the internal syntax of event nominals. The author focuses on the choice between pre-head possessives, post-head genitives, and relational adjectives as syntactic realisations of the subject-type argument in English and Polish derived nominals. Employing data from two linguistic corpora (i.e., the Corpus of Contemporary American English and the National Corpus of Polish), she examines the realisation of the external argument of the English noun *visit* and its Polish equivalent *wizyta*. Then she analyses the realisation of the internal argument of the English noun *arrival* (derived from the unaccusative verb *arrive*) and the Polish noun *przyjazd* 'arrival'. The author identifies some factors which influence the selection of one of the linearisation patterns available in English and Polish noun phrases.

Anna Malicka-Kleparska investigates in her chapter the occurrence of prefixed causative verbs and synthetic anticausative verbs in three Slavonic languages, that is, Old Church Slavonic, present-day Russian and present-day Polish. These two groups of verbs can be exemplified by the Polish causative *poczerwienić* 'to redden' and the Polish synthetic anticausative *poczerwienieć* 'to become red'. The author observes that no regular derivational relation obtains between causatives and anticausatives, although they are often based on identical roots. Moreover, she emphasises the occurrence of a significant morphosyntactic change in the development of Slavonic languages. Adopting a root-based construction approach to morphosyntax (within the current generative theory), the author suggests that prefixes can be treated as exponents of two functional heads at the same time in Old Church Slavonic (i.e., the exponents of the Voice heads and processual heads), whereas in Russian and Polish prefixes spell out Voice heads only.

The chapter by Ángel L. Jiménez-Fernández and Bożena Rozwadowska examines sentences containing psychological predicates (such as the verb *please*) and Dative Experiencers in Spanish, Polish, and English. The authors adopt a parametric variation approach and they investigate argument linking in the three languages under discussion. They argue

that discourse features, such as [Top(ic)] and [Foc(us)], determine the selection of a relevant psych predicate and exert influence on the placement of its arguments in a clause. Dative Experiencers are shown to occupy different positions in the course of their syntactic derivation in Spanish, Polish, and English. The hypotheses defended in this chapter are supported by data from an experiment eliciting acceptability judgments from native speakers of Spanish, Polish, and English.

Konrad Szcześniak in his chapter “A room with a view: The monostratal view with some room for derivations” indicates some problems resulting from the assumption of the monostratal organisation of Cognitive Construction Grammar. The author argues that it is not wholly satisfactory to recognise syntactic structures which exemplify word order variants within a clause as independent and unrelated constructions, as is currently assumed by proponents of construction grammar. He points out that it might be desirable to introduce some derivations (i.e., some transformation-like operations) into the constructionist model in order to account for the relationship between sentences containing verb-particle combinations, such as *I threw out the garbage* – *I threw the garbage out*, or between active and passive sentences. Szcześniak considers data from several languages (including English, Polish, Czech, and Ukrainian) to provide cross-linguistic supporting evidence for his claim.

The second part of the book is titled “Contrastive Studies of Words and Their Meanings” and contains six chapters. Bożena Duda in her chapter conducts a contrastive analysis of selected synonyms of the word *prostitute* in three languages: English, Italian, and Turkish. She notices that, since the three chosen languages are distant both geographically and culturally, some differences in the approach to the phenomenon of prostitution can be expected. The author focuses on the similarities and differences in conceptualisation patterns as well as in the mechanisms involved in the formation of forms synonymous to *prostitute*. Examples of similarities include the use of zoosemic metaphorical mappings in English and Italian or the use of foodsemic mappings in English and Turkish. Differences, in turn, include the absence of zoosemic mappings in Turkish or foodsemic in Italian.

In his chapter, Marcin Kuczok compares the most common life metaphors used by native speakers of American English, Hungarian, and Polish. According to his research, based on a questionnaire, the patterns of metaphorical conceptualisation of life depend on cultural experiences of the particular speech community. While for Americans, who have pursued their dreams in the new world, the dominant life metaphors are PRECIOUS POSSESSION and GAME, for Hungarians, who have experienced lots of wars in their history, these are WAR and COMPROMISE,

and for Poles, who have travelled a lot and coped with the problems of unstable economy, these are JOURNEY and WORK/EFFORT.

Eleonora Jozsko in her chapter discusses the presence (or the omission) and the quality of the description of selected examples of specialised vocabulary in general dictionaries. The analysis is based on equestrian terminology. The author notices that the coverage and the quality of the description of such vocabulary items is far from sufficient: many specialised equestrian terms (as well as specialised meanings of the terms that are also general words) are absent in general dictionaries. What is more, the definitions that do appear are not infrequently imprecise or contain subject matter mistakes.

Jacek Rachwał in his chapter conducts a morphological, semantic, and etymological comparison of the technical terms related to *house*, one of the core concepts for human existence and self-identification, in English and Polish. The author observes that while there is a similarity in the types of word-formation processes used in the creation of words related to *house* in both languages, there are differences in the semantic relationships between them. However, when it comes to etymology of these terms, both English and Polish borrowed words first from closely-related sister languages, and later, from their distant cousins in the Indo-European language family.

In his chapter, Marcin Zabawa discusses a specific type of the influence of English upon Polish, namely English loan translations in the Polish names of professions. His study is based on the official list of publications, composed by the Polish Ministry of Labour and Social Policy. The author also points to certain difficulties connected with the analysis of loan translations, such as the necessity of distinguishing between loan translations and semantic loans or between loan translations and native phraseological innovations. In conclusion, the author states that loan translations do not appear very frequently in the Polish names of professions. It is also not easy to assess them normatively, as that would involve assessing each construction separately.

In their chapter, Joanna Jasińska-Bryjak and Lucyna Marcol-Cacoń focus on the contrastive analysis of foreign job titles in Polish and Italian. The emphasis is placed on the influence of English upon the two aforementioned languages. The authors show that both languages are heavily influenced by English; the majority of such loanwords, however, can be seen as somehow justified, as they do not possess native Polish or Italian counterparts. The authors also point to certain problems connected both (1) with the discrepancy between the organisational structure of domestic companies and the global corporations which operate on the Polish and Italian markets and (2) with certain instability

of English borrowings in Polish and Italian, for example, the use of variant forms, such as *menedżer*, *menadżer*, and *manager*.

The third part of the book is titled “Contrastive Linguistics beyond Language Forms” and its six chapters focus on the relationships between discourse and culture, as well as the problems of language acquisition. In her chapter titled “English language use in scientific discourse,” Elżbieta Mańczak-Wohlfeld discusses the role of English in scientific publications in Poland. It is generally agreed that English in Polish scientific publications is most frequently used in the case of scientists, natural scientists, including medicine, and engineers. It is fairly uncontroversial, as the author observes, for such scientists to present and publish their papers in English. The situation is less clear in the case of social sciences and the humanities. The author suggests that if a paper concerns more general issues, it is preferable to publish it in English, as that can result in a wider readership. If, on the other hand, a paper deals with more specialised, language- or culture-specific contexts, it may be preferable to publish it in a native language. This, however, is seen by the author as an exception to a general recommendation on publishing in English.

In her chapter, Ewa Bogdanowska-Jakubowska analyses and compares self-presentational styles of two main Polish political parties, that is, the Civic Platform (PO) and the Law and Justice (PiS), with two approaches being employed: Critical Discourse Analysis and the discursive approach to face and politeness/impoliteness. She comes to the conclusion that while the members of both parties tend to use the same strategies of self-presentation, their actual realisation is different.

Paulina Biały, the author of “The English and the Poles: Two different cultures, two different uses of diminutives” shows that the speakers of English and Polish differ in their use of diminutives because of certain fundamental cultural discrepancies between their language communities. The presented study is based on an analysis of the use of diminutives elicited with a questionnaire filled by a group of native speakers of Polish and of English. As the author of the chapter observes, the speakers of Polish express their emotional attitudes through diminutives, while the English tend to treat them as literal descriptions of the objective state of reality.

In “Semiotic structure of the creolized verse text” Olena Vialikova compares the merging of verbal and non-verbal components in Ukrainian and American creolized poems. This type of poetry is characterised by the combination of language forms with graphic elements, such as pictures, colour, perspective, and framing. The author adopts the so-called lingvosemiotic analysis of the verse text, which she conducts at three structural levels of language: syntactic, semantic, and pragmatic.

The poems analysed in the chapter include selected examples of shape poetry, concrete poems, and zaum or nonsense poetry, written by different authors.

In her chapter, Teresa Włosowicz focuses on the phenomenon of cognate words in nine Indo-European languages from the Germanic, Slavonic, and Romance families. The author claims that despite the impression that the existence of cognates facilitates the process of language learning, they may in fact pose a threat to a learner who remains unaware of their misleading power. The analysis presented in this chapter involves phonetic, orthographic, morphological, syntactic, and semantic properties of selected cognate words. Its aim is to illustrate the fact that cognates actually form a continuum: from full cognates to partial false friends, to true false friends.

Victoria Camacho-Taboada, Ángel L. Jiménez-Fernández, and Susana López-Rueda examine the interlanguage of English-speaking learners of Spanish, focusing on their acquisition of pronominal subjects. The chapter, couched within the framework of generative grammar, brings an analysis of the data provided by a large-scale experiment which involves an acceptability judgment test and a translation test. The authors emphasise the importance of information structure for the occurrence of explicit pronominal subjects in Spanish. They observe that speakers of Spanish as L2 overuse subject pronouns while native speakers of Spanish employ overt pronominal subjects which serve as some type of Topic or Focus. A scale of learning difficulty is proposed (for English speakers of Spanish) which is sensitive to the typology of topics and foci adopted in the chapter.

We would like to thank all the authors who have contributed to the content of this volume. We hope that the readers will find the various dimensions of contrastive linguistics presented here thought-provoking and inspiring.

Bożena Cetnarowska, Marcin Kuczok, Marcin Zabawa

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PRICE 28 ZŁ
(+ VAT)

ISSN 0208-6336
ISBN 978-83-8012-919-1