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RECENT PHRASEOLOGICAL BORROWINGS IN THE MONOLINGUAL LEXICOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTION

Abstract: The article focuses on the lexicographic description of recent phraseological borrowings in monolingual dictionaries. An extended model of lexicographic presentation of the expressions at issue is proposed and exemplified with Polish units borrowed from English. It comprises the description of their linguo-cultural properties, including the origins, which allows for providing the dictionary user with the information necessary for proper decoding the unit and using it in various contexts.

Keywords: phraseological borrowings, monolingual phraseological dictionary, microstructure

Borrowing is a natural process related to many factors, both of linguistic and extralinguistic nature. In a diachronic perspective, the analysis of loan words gives an insight into the development of a language, since it enables analyzing foreign influences observed in the receiving language over centuries. For instance, in the Polish language, well-adapted units were borrowed from several languages: some of them come from Latin (e.g. PL *aniol* ← LL *angelus*, PL *atrament* ← LL *atramento*), which resulted from the use of this language in the sphere of religion and education, German (e.g. PL *ratusz* ← GL *das Rathaus*, *rachunek* ← GL *die Rechnung*) – conditioned by the fact that cities and towns were set up according to the German law, Italian – borrowed due to the presence of Bona Sforza, married to Sigismund I the Old, the king of Poland and the Grand Duke of Lithuania (e.g. PL *kalafior* ← IL *il cavolfiore*, PL *cukinia* ← IL *la zucchini*), and others.¹ Such items have been used for many centuries; therefore, it can be assumed that they are not perceived as borrowings by native language users (Markowski 2012), unless they know the donor language and identify the words as potential loans, in contrast to recent borrowings interpreted by native language users as foreign elements in their mother tongue (e.g. PL *sushi* ← JL *sushi*, PL *nori* ← JL *nori*). From a linguo-

¹ For instance, in the Polish language, it is possible to indicate periods, in which given languages were main donors of borrowings. For example, Latin had dominated as a donor language before the French influence became significant in the 18th century and kept its status till the end of the first half of the 19th century. German borrowings were numerous in the Middle Ages and then, due to political conditions, in the 19th century, the Russian loans – in 19th century, while the English ones – in the years preceding the Second World War, during which the British-Polish trade started to develop (Klemensiewicz 1985: 643 – 652), and nowadays.

cultural point of view, borrowings are also interesting phenomena in a synchronic perspective. The studies of loan lexical items enables determining how the changes occurring in a given ethnic community are reflected in the language by means of borrowings.

While discussing loans, it is worth emphasizing that languages incorporate not only words, but also expressions (Veisbergs 2012; Fiedler 2012). In the Polish language, phrases from several languages are attested, for instance, PL *wyjść z szafy* ← EL *to come out of the closet*, PL *gwóźdź programu* ← FL *clou du spectacle*, IL *dolce vita* ← IL *dolce vita*, PL *podłożyć komuś świnie* ← RL *подложить свинью кому-либо*. The scientific variety is rich in phrases borrowed from the Latin language, for example, PL *sensu largo* ← LL *sensu largo*, PL *sensu stricto* ← LL *sensu stricto*. The above mentioned units, fully assimilated in Polish, can be contrasted with the recent phraseological borrowings.

After the political transformation of 1989, due to changes occurring in all spheres of life at that time in Poland, the nomination needs were greater than they tend to be in the periods without significant cultural changes (cf. Nowakowska 2005)². Many English units, both lexical and multiword ones, were borrowed in the period following the beginning of the post-communist era (Szerszunowicz 2015)³. Since many recent phraseological borrowings reveal specific linguo-cultural properties, the aim of the paper is threefold: 1) to analyze whether, and if so, how the units are described in Polish lexicographic works; 2) to discuss their linguo-cultural specificity; 3) to propose a microstructure of an entry allowing for the presentation of linguo-cultural features of selected phraseological borrowings.

As already mentioned, the transformation influenced all areas of human activity. Yet, in some of them, the changes were more intensive. The following areas are especially rich in English loans: politics (e.g. PL *spin doctor/doktor* ← EL *spin doctor*), economy and business (PL *biały kołnierzyk* ← EL *white collar*), family life (PL *rodzina patchworkowa* ← EL *patchwork family*), fashion and looks (PL *total look* ← EL *total look*), ecology (PL *zielona energia* ← EL *green energy*), information technology (PL *trol internetowy* ← EL *Internet troll*), healthy lifestyle (PL *bomba witaminowa* ← EL *vitamin bomb*).

² According to Mańczak-Wohlfeld (1994: 8), up to 1961 there were over 700 lexical borrowings from English, by 1985 about 300 new ones enriched the Polish lexicon, then by 1994 – about 600. Bajerowa (2003: 91) draws attention to the fact that this presentation does not include calques and phraseological borrowings, stating that their inclusion would make the number of loans bigger. In the Polish language, the tendency to borrow English units is continuing.

³ After 1989, in Polish, there were many referential gaps, for instance, in the field of business organisation and culture, which enhanced the intensity of the borrowing process. However, nowadays, due to its character as a *lingua franca*, the influence of the English language is noticeable in many languages. See Furiasi, Pulcini, Rodríguez González 2012; Fiedler 2012; Veisbergs 2012.

From a lexicographic perspective, two questions should be posed: the first one regards the decision whether the unit ought to be included in a phraseological dictionary, the second concerns the description of the expression, i.e. which properties should be presented in the entry. In order to ensure the consistency, the inclusion criteria are to be proposed. In fact, it is difficult to formulate general rules: it is the editor or the author of the dictionary who decides which criteria to adopt for a given lexicographic work. It is advisable to introduce the operational corpus-based criteria (Steyer 2004; Sailer 2007), which allow for a systematic description of phraseological borrowings. Apart from corpora, the World Wide Web constitutes a source of the information of given units (Kilgarriff 2004; Colson 2007). The WebCorp® can be used for determining the properties of analysed expressions. Moreover, questionnaires and in-depth interviews may be implemented in order to do research on the familiarity of the researched units with the language users.

In Poland, in the period following the transformation, several dictionaries of phraseological units have been published. It can be assumed that the lexicographic sources published after 2000 should include the borrowings which enriched the Polish language at that time (e.g. SFWP; WSFPWN; WSF; WSFJP; WSFL; WSFJP). Yet, apart from the canon of phraseology included in all the dictionaries consulted, not many borrowings are attested. For instance, the expression *wyścig szcurów* is included only in some of them (WSF; WSFL; WSFJP). The loan phrases at issue are presented in the same way as other phraseological units in a given dictionary. It means that the entry provides basic information, for example: the one for the unit *wyścig szcurów* in WSF is as follows: ‘rywalizacja wśród młodych wykształconych ludzi w sferze zawodowej’ *Młodzi teraz nie mają czasu, aby zajrzeć w swoje serce, posłuchać swojej duszy. Żyją szybko i niezdrowo, kochają sporty ekstremalne i zabawę na maksa. Każdego dnia uczestniczą w wyścigu szcurów, więc w głowie kołaczą się im przeróżne myśli dotyczące ich pozycji w tym pokręconym świecie* (WSF: 317). The entry contains the explanation of the meaning of the expression and an example illustrating its use. The description in WSFL and WSJP comprises the same elements (WSFL: 73; WSFJP: 340), while in another source (WSFJP: 769), the unit is accompanied by two labels: *dziennikarski* ‘journalese’ and *pogardliwy* ‘derogatory’.

The description of the units in the consulted dictionaries is limited to basic information: this model does not comprise the cultural component, although it is widely acknowledged that decoding and using phraseological units requires cultural knowledge (Szerszunowicz 2011). Moreover, the presentation of linguistic properties is not comprehensive. Therefore, it is proposed that the extended entry model of the monolingual description of recent borrowings should comprise the following elements: phraseological unit (head phrase), variants, stylistic label, definition, grammatical information (e.g. restrictions), collocates, examples, information on usage (pragmatic properties: who uses the unit speaking to whom, when etc.), synonyms, antonyms, origins, additional information, extra links to

the texts in which a given unit was used both in the canonic and modified forms, optionally accompanied by visual materials.

In the case of recent borrowings, the form of the unit given as the head phrase should be determined by means of the analysis of the corpora available. The variants of a given phrase should be included (e.g. *wyglądać jak milion dolarów*, variant: *wyglądać jak milion dolców*). The stylistic labels are very important elements of description, providing the information necessary for the dictionary user to be able to use the expression properly. The borrowings differ in their stylistic markedness and register, since some of them belong to specialized languages, while others are used in the informal or formal varieties.

It is suggested that the stylistic label should be followed by the explanation of the meaning of a given phraseological borrowings. Generally speaking, the semantics of fixed phrases tends to be complex (cf. Калдиева-Захариева 2013: 185 – 187). It is worth stressing that the meanings of recent loan phrases have to be determined by the analysis of their occurrences in various texts. The study of various contextual use enables analysing the senses of a particular fixed expression. The information regarding the grammatical properties, especially restrictions, should also be given.

The inclusion of collocates is very important, too, since it enables the user to be aware of the typical combinations. Moreover, the information on usage should contain the presentation of typified genres and areas of use. As for examples, they should illustrate the use of a given unit in a comprehensive way. The sentences may be both author-made and semi-authentic or authentic. They have to offer the user a panoramic picture of the use of the described unit. Since phraseological units tend to be underrepresented in corpora (Moon 2003), it can be assumed that it may be difficult to find appropriate sentences illustrating the use of all the recent borrowings. Therefore, proposing own examples by the authors may be an acceptable solution to the problem. Moreover, the entry should comprise links to various texts in which the units appears, both in the canonic and modified forms. Visual presentations are worth including in the entry, too, for instance: cartoons, photographs, print screens etc.

The entry also comprises synonyms: in fact, slight differences are often observed in their meanings and use, which should be signaled. For instance, the borrowing *wyglądać jak milion dolarów* has the following Polish synonyms: *wyglądać jak anioł* [to look like an angel]⁴ zwykle o kobiecie: ma subtelną urodę lub jest na biało ubrana [usually about a woman: she looks subtle or she is dressed in white] (SP: 189), *wyglądać jak bóstwo* [to look like a goddess] o kobiecie: jest zadbana, elegancko ubrana i wygląda pięknie [about a woman: she takes care of herself, is elegantly dressed and looks beautiful] (SP: 189), *wyglądać jak panisko* [to look like a lord] jest dobrze ubrany i pewny siebie [is well dressed and self-

⁴ The literal translation of the units and their meanings are provided in square brackets.

confident] (SP: 189), *wyglądać jak księżniczka z bajki* [to look like a duchess from a fairy tale] o młodej kobiecie: *wygląda pięknie* [about a young woman: she looks beautiful] (SP: 189), *wyglądać jak królowa* [to look like a young queen] o młodej kobiecie: *wygląda pięknie* [about a young woman: she looks beautiful] (SP: 189), *wyglądać jak z obrazka* [to look like (one) from a picture] ma bardzo ładny, lecz trochę banalny wygląd [sb's appearance is very nice, but a little common] (SP: 190), *wyglądać jak z żurnala* [to look like one from a fashion magazine] jest ubrany według najnowszej mody [sb is dressed according to the latest fashion] (SP: 198), *wygląda coś jak z bajki* [to look like (something) from a fairy tale] 'o czymś, co wydaje się cudowne i nierzeczywiste' [about something which seems to be wonderful and too good to be real] (SP: 188), *wygląda coś jak z filmu* [to look like (something) from a film] 'o czymś, co jest zgodne z filmowym wyobrażeniem życia' 'about something which resembles the film image of life' (SP: 188). A brief analysis of the units shows that they differ from the recent borrowing *wyglądać jak milion dolarów*, since they tend to be more specific on the semantic plane and the choice of collocates is more restricted. Furthermore, it is advisable that antonyms should also be included.

In the case of interlingual borrowings, the origins of such units ought to be an element of their lexicographic description. The language from which they come should be given and the reasons for borrowing the unit can be presented in this part of the entry. The information of foreign origins can be accompanied by additional information of linguo-cultural character. To illustrate this aspect, the unit *wyścig szczurów* (EL *rat race*) will be discussed. After 1989, with the adoption of free market rules, international corporations started to operate in Poland, which influenced the lifestyle of workers. Since they wanted to be promoted, they devoted more time to work and professional development, which meant more competition among workers. The entry should comprise the information about the reflection of the cultural changes in the language.

It is worth adding that several new phraseological borrowings are carriers of new concepts and values⁵, as it is the case with the unit *wyglądać jak milion dolarów*, which reflects the perception of good looks as a value in the modern life, important from the point of view of social and professional success. New pragmatemes have been borrowed from English because of the changes in the sphere of politeness, conditions by the workshops and trainings offered to corporation employees. The unit *Milego dnia!* (EL *Have a nice day!*) was originally used by the staff of the Polish branches of American companies, then it started to be frequent in everyday discourse. Moreover, some borrowings have been adopted because of stylistic needs, like the expression *total look* (EL *total look*). The use of the unit

⁵ Cultural changes occurring in a given language community may result in the creation of new concepts, which have not existed there before. On the notion of cultural concepts see Илиева 2013.

introduces an element of prestige into the communication: the sense verbalised by the borrowing can be expressed by means of Polish phrase; however, the stylistic values of the loan and the Polish equivalent differ significantly.

The proposed approach ensures a hybrid character of a dictionary: apart from providing the basic information on the unit at issue, such a lexicographic work offers an insight into its linguo-cultural properties, presenting it on a wider background. Thanks to it, the dictionary users will be able to acquire sufficient knowledge about the characteristics of the expression, necessary for decoding the unit in various contexts and using it to meet their current communication needs. New technologies facilitate updating the dictionaries, so that it can be extended and modified easily with a view to adding new borrowings and elaborating on the entries which have already been included in a given lexicographic work.

ABBREVIATIONS

EL – English language
FL – French language
GL – German language
IL – Italian language
JL – Japanese language
LL – Latin language
PL – Polish language
RL – Russian language

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