ANNA KISIEL

Institute of Slavic Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, Poland
Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Leuven, Belgium

ania-kisiel@tlen.pl

CONTRASTIVE ANALYSIS OF METATEXT. EXPRESSING POLISH *NIEMNIEJ* IN BULGARIAN

Abstract

The author discusses possible ways of expressing meanings of Polish *niemniej*, *tym niemniej* and *niemniej jednak* in Bulgarian. A contrastive analysis of the equivalents gives grounds for a reflection on how to conduct a cross-linguistic examination of metatext. Two important questions are raised: whether it is methodologically justified to compare objects non-identical such as units and compositions, lexical and grammatical means, and what exactly equivalence within metatext class means. It is expected that analysis of metatext in Polish and Bulgarian will allow to discover mechanisms of creating metatextual units.

Keywords: metatext; particles; confrontation; lexicography

Even though a contrastive analysis of two and more languages — both in synchronic and diachronic perspective — is nothing new in linguistics, there has not been yet developed any application of such approach to examining a metatext. It may result from two facts. On one hand a study on a metatext is not advanced even with regard to one language, on the other a metatext is more language-specific than lexis referring to the world. In other words, units used for talking about the act of speaking and about a speaker himself (especially his epistemic states) does not have to be (and most of the time are not) similar even in languages belonging to the same language group and being spoken by people not geographically distant.

As analysis of a metatext is not advanced, it is not easy to strictly determine the reference of the term. The better metatextual groups are examined, the more precise tools are used for differentiating metatextual language units from units that describe the world (quite recently a new study on meta-adverbs by Magdalena Danielewiczowa (2012) forced linguists to rethink criteria of distinguishing adverbs as a class). There is no, however, complete list of units of the mentioned kind (so far only descriptions of certain metatextual groups are available, like conjunc-

tions in Wajszczuk, 1997, units pointing to a theme in Sulich, 2008 or particles in Grochowski, Kisiel, & Żabowska, 2014) and no satisfying overview of the class.

To make it even worse, we have to keep in mind that one of a metatext's specificities is that the class is constantly being enriched with new units, mainly as a result of compositions stabilizing in their metatextual role (such as *między nami mówiąc*, also shortened like *nawiasem < nawiasem mówiąc*). Such stabilized compositions are only sometimes similar in different languages (such as units based on a combination of an adverb and a form — different for different languages — of a verb: *frankly speaking*, *szczerze mówiąc*, *говоря откровенно*). The specificity of a metatext arises from it being used not for naming what can be observed in the surrounding us universe but rather for speaking about our ways of talking about it, about us as speakers. Categorizing the world (as shown in a language) is often done similarly by people sharing one space, while “speaking about speaking” is more individualized. It is therefore highly possible that a specific meaning provided by a meta-unit of a language A is impossible to be fully expressed in a language B — nor by lexical means, nor by grammar. In other words, metatexts of different languages can be only partially corresponding.

Confronting two languages of the same group, such as Polish and Bulgarian, can show to what extent the correspondence of a metatext is a fact. It can, as it is expected, bring answers to a question about a metatext's origin. Confronting for example Polish and Bulgarian, the two languages lexically close and grammatically distant, with regard to a metatext might show whether it is common lexical source or shared grammar tendencies that is more important for how a metatext is being created.

In the presented paper two Slavic languages (Polish and Bulgarian) are being examined to see if the same meanings are expressed by language units similar in their function in a sentence, grammar requirements and etymology. As an example Polish *niemniej*, *tym niemniej* and composition *niemniej jednak* and their Bulgarian equivalents were chosen in the paper. The language data was provided by a semantically annotated parallel Polish-Russian-Bulgarian corpus (by V. Koseska-Toszeva, W. Sosnowski, A. Satoła-Staśkowiak, A. Kisiel, in preparation as a part of Clarin project) and by glosbe on-line dictionary.

Polish *niemniej* and *tym niemniej* have been described in Kisiel (2013). The first unit carries a comment informing on a speaker wanting to assure of the truthfulness of R_2 being said about T_2 because he thinks that someone, knowing that R_1 , will not think that anything like R_2 can be true (R_1 is rhematic part of the preceeding context and R_2 is a rhema commented on by the described unit). The second, often mistakenly seen as a synonym of the former one, is used by a speaker who thinks that his conversational partner might not think that R_2 is true while the speaker believes that in circumstances described it is important to know that R_2 is no less true than R_1 . Such differentiation was presented in the formulas

$$T_0(T_1)R_1 \text{ niemniej } (T_2)R_2, \text{ jeżeli } T_0 = T_1, \text{ to brak } T_2(T_2 = T_0)$$

‘mówiący sądząc, że odbiorca, który wie, że TR_1 , może nie pomyśleć, że TR_2 , mówi, że R_2 jest tak samo prawdziwe o T_2 , jak R_1 o T_1 ’

‘a speaker thinking that his conversational partner, who knows that TR_1 , might not think that TR_2 , is saying that R_2 is as true about T_2 as R_1 is about T_1 ’

$$T_0(T_1)R_1 \text{ tym niemniej } (T_2)R_2, \text{ jeżeli } T_0 = T_1, \text{ to brak } T_2(T_2 = T_0)$$

‘mówiący sądząc, że odbiorca może nie pomyśleć, że TR_2 , mówi, że wiedząc, że TR_1 trzeba wiedzieć, że R_2 jest tak samo prawdziwe o T_2 , jak R_1 o T_1 ’

‘a speaker thinking that his conversational partner might not think that TR_2 , is saying that when knowing that TR_1 one must know that R_2 is as true about T_2 as R_1 is about T_1 ’

The meaning of *niemniej* makes it prone to coocurrence with contrasting *ale* and, less often, *lecz*, as well as *jednak* and *przeto*. All those cooccurrences have to be regarded as compositions, not new metatextual language units. *Ale* and *lecz* belong to a class of conjunctions, while *jednak* and *przeto* to two particle groups semantically close to the group including *niemniej*, *tym niemniej*. It is not common for two metatextual units that share semantical components to cooccur (in most cases such coocurrence leads to redundant sentences). In this case however, it is possible since even though *niemniej*, *jednak* and *przeto* are semantically close, they do not double each other’s meanings. *Niemniej* is used when there is fear that our conversational partner will not think about true R_2 ; *jednak* carries information that a speaker thought that it can be true that R_2 even though nothing was pointing to such possibility; *przeto* — accordingly to its etymology — points to the fact that R_2 is a consequence of what was said before (for details see Kisiel, 2013). It is then obvious that shared semantical components do not take the same place in a semantic structure of these units, but rather are combined differently with other individual components for each unit.

Even though most on-line dictionaries and translators provide one Bulgarian equivalent for all *niemniej*, *tym niemniej* and the composition *niemniej jednak* : *въпреки това*¹ (see <http://pl.glosbe.com>, <http://www.webtran.pl>, <http://webtranslation.paralink.com>; <http://www.tri-lite.pl/> as an exception provides different translations: *оуе* for *niemniej*, *обае* for *tym niemniej* and *niemniej jednak*), language data provided by corpora (tab. 1.) shows that there are more lexical means used in translations than what dictionaries suggest.²

¹To make it even worse, it is also chosen as an equivalent for *jednak* (in <http://pl.glosbe.com> together with *но* and *обае*); again with an exception of <http://www.tri-lite.pl/>, where *jednak* is translated only as *но*.

²Parallel corpora provide rewarding data to examine translations as they collect texts being a translations from A to B and vice versa, as well as from X to A and to B. In this way they show how a translator wanted to unravel in a language B a meaning hidden in a unit from a language A, but also how to present a certain notion from a language X separately in languages A and B.

Table 1: Equivalents of *niemniej*, *tym niemniej*, *niemniej jednak* in Bulgarian based on parallel texts.

Pol.	Bul.	
niemniej	въпреки това	5
	обаче	5
	независимо от това	2
	все пак	2
	но	2
	в същото време	1
	<i>no translation</i> ³	4
		21
niemniej jednak	въпреки това	21
	обаче	14
	независимо от това	8
	все пак	9
	при все това	3
	но	3
	в същото време	1
	<i>no translation</i>	3
		62
tym niemniej	въпреки това	32
	обаче	21
	все пак	19
	независимо от това	9
	при все това	9
	но	4
	от друга страна	1
	<i>no translation</i>	7
		102

I do not wish to discuss here the main problem of a contrastive analysis that is based on corpus data — the unavoidable deficiency of language data as provided by parallel corpora. It is known that a parallel corpus mostly contains of belle-lettres and official documents, as those texts are commonly translated and often available

³No translation has to be understood as absence of a unit or a construction that would provide the same (similar) meaning as a unit in input language.

in free access (current struggle over copyrights cannot be unnoticed). Such texts do not cover all language's resources. They are, to take one of their features into consideration, not spontaneous and therefore do not represent informal language layer (or represent in a very limited way — even literary texts, in which informal language was used, cannot be seen as fully natural, they are always creation, appear as a result of consideration, not unprompted action). As with every kind of corpus, one has to keep in mind restrictions deriving from criteria chosen for building a texts' collection.

The units selected for the analysis here belong to a written language layer rather than spoken⁴ and so it is possible to find satisfactory language data in the trilingual parallel corpus. A metatext in general has lower frequency than units referring to the world, therefore to be able to analyse all metatextual units, a considerably big corpus is necessary. At the moment, the Polish-Russian-Bulgarian parallel corpus is quite limited (as it is still under construction) but for examining the two interesting me here units it is already of a sufficient size.

To start with, it is noticeable that gathered equivalents correspond with what is proposed in dictionaries and by on-line translators — the dominant equivalent for *niemniej*, *tym niemniej* is *въпреки това*. It is also visible that the translations of these units and of the composition *niemniej jednak* are not diverse. It is hardly surprising since even Polish lexicography does not offer any satisfactory solution to non-synonymy of these expressions — if *niemniej jednak* or *tym niemniej* are presented in a dictionary, they are seen as a combination of *niemniej* and another unit or as synonyms of *niemniej*. No semantical differentiation is ever suggested. Knowing then that for a native speaker of Polish and a specialist in distinguishing and characterizing units there is no visible difference between these three expressions, it cannot be expected from a translator to think about them differently. All the more that in this case the possibility of exchanging *niemniej*, *niemniej jednak* and *tym niemniej* in contexts is close to exceptionless.⁵

The translations provided open a place for a discussion on what can be noted as an equivalent — only a language unit or also a composition. Most of given Bulgarian equivalents do not successfully undergo a language unit tests. This can be said about the most frequent *въпреки това*, and also about *независимо от това* or *при все това*. Bulgarian preposition *въпреки* is very close to Polish *mimo* (although sometimes translated by Polish *chociaż*, which is not its closest counterpart) and *can*, which is a typical feature of a preposition, coexist with a coreferential pronoun *to* as a composition *въпреки това*, see

- (1) *Въпреки стереотипа* за ромите като за най-мобилното население, в периода 1993–2001 г. те се очертават като най-стационарната група в страната.
- (2) Сътрудничеството с Международния наказателен трибунал за бивша Югославия също остава недостатъчно и е постигнат частичен напредък относно

⁴They do however have the highest frequency in press style, which is barely represented in the trilingual parallel corpus. Fortunately in other written texts their frequency is also satisfying.

⁵I on purpose resign from presenting the composition *niemniej przeto* here. The expression is very rare and stylistically marked. It is also by far the most semantically different from the other three (cf. Kisiel, 2013). There is also no text representation of the expression in parallel corpora.

но завръщането и интеграцията на сръбските бежанци, *въпреки приетите важни законодателни промени*.

- (3) За последните 12 години между 300 000 и 900 000 души са напуснали България и са се отправили към Западна Европа и Северна Америка. Много от тези висококвалифицирани и образовани емигранти са постигали успех в своята професия. *Въпреки това* се смята, че много от тях искат да се завърнат в България и да й помогнат по пътя към по-добро бъдеще.
- (4) Вярвам ви. Но *въпреки това* има нещо, което криете.
- (5) Приветства волята на Комисията да въведе механизъм за ревизия и преразглеждане, предвид технологичния характер и интензивното развитие на автомобилната промишленост; *въпреки това* счита, че в законодателството следва да се прибегва по-често до клаузи за прекратяване на срока на действие, с оглед на това да се гарантира, че законодателството не възпрепятства или противодейства на постоянния технологичен напредък, резултат от научноизследователската и развойна дейност и пазарните сили (...)
- (6) И ако говорим за равно третиране, трябва да имаме предвид и това, а не само да говорим за емоции — и не че обвинявам някого, че е емоционален — предполагам, че положението е много трудно, но *въпреки това* се създава погрешно впечатление, когато се казва, че не е имало равно третиране.
- (7) Подчертава значението на наличието на надеждни данни за кредит и измами, с които да разполагат банките и другите доставчици на кредити, достъпът до които да е възможен на справедлива и прозрачна основа; *въпреки това* настоятелно подчертава необходимостта от защита на личните данни на потребителите.

The first four examples come from National Corpus of Bulgarian,⁶ while the other three present parallel sentences to those with, respectively, *niemniej* ((5)), *tym niemniej* ((6)) and *niemniej jednak* ((7)). No visible difference can be observed between them. To say more, it is possible, although not showed in the table with equivalents, to translate Polish *niemniej jednak* (8) and *tym niemniej* (9) by *въпреки че*, see

- (8) Препоръчва се следният дозов режим при титрирането, *въпреки че* във всички случаи лекарят трябва да вземе предвид клиничната нужда на пациента, възрастта му и съпътстващите заболявания
- (9) *Въпреки че* бяха предприети някои съществени инициативи по отношение на част от посочените по-горе ангажименти, редица важни ангажименти, свързани с основни елементи на Споразумението за партньорство АКТЬ-ЕО и Инструмента за сътрудничество за развитие, все още не са изпълнени.⁷

Similarly, there is no difference between coreferential uses of *независимо от това* (*niezależnie od tego*) and *при все това* (*przy tym wszystkim, pomimo tego*)

⁶<http://ibl.bas.bg/>.

⁷The Polish equivalent sentence requires a reverse sentence order: Podjęto szereg istotnych inicjatyw odnoszących się do niektórych z powyższych zobowiązań; tym niemniej nie zrealizowano jeszcze wielu ważnych zobowiązań w zakresie zasadniczych elementów umowy o partnerstwie AKP-WE (...).

and usages showing a translation of Polish units, see NCB

- (10) *Независимо от ясно формулираните си цели и задачи*, засега ДаБ има незадоволителен административен капацитет.
- (11) Друг европейски дипломат в Скопие каза, че ако Македония подпише споразумение, ЕС няма да наложи санкции. *Независимо от това*, действието ще бъде запомнено.
- (12) Информация за именуването на децата в такива бракове предоставя С. Антова: „за словашкото общество е характерно децата да наследяват имената на родителите си в зависимост от своя пол. Това явление напоследък, макар и не често срещано, е модерно и в България”. От друга страна, българските роднини претендират за спазване традицията детето да наследява името на някой от родителите на родителите. *При това проблемът за избор на име* се усложнява от факта, че след 1960 г. в Словакия и в България е въведен препоръчителен списък на имена, от който единствено е било позволено да се избира име.
- (13) Много трудно биха се прогнозирали бъдещите миграционни потоци, тъй като те са зависими от икономическите различия и политиките за вземане на решение както в страните, които приемат, така и в тези, които изпращат мигранти. Налице е обаче схващането, че има значителен потенциал за продължаване на миграционния поток към страните от Европейския съюз от страни, граничещи със западна Европа, както от Източна Европа, така и от развиващите се страни. *При все това* официално регистрираните мигранти са само част от айсберга.

and parallel texts⁸

- (14) *Независимо от това*, е жалко, че този успех не бе по-изразен и със сигурност е необходима повече работа. (*equivalent of niemniej*)
- (15) *Независимо от това* следва да бъдат установени общи правила. (*equivalent of niemniej jednak*)⁹
- (16) *Независимо от това*, съм доволна от бързата реакция на Европейската комисия и на държавите-членки (...) (*equivalent of tym niemniej*)
- (17) *При все това*, за целите на настоящата оценка, получателят е считан за голямо предприятие (...) (*equivalent of niemniej jednak*)
- (18) *При все това* считам, че не трябва да пропиемяваме новата възможност, създадена в Канкун, да бъдем практични и да преговаряме. (*equivalent of tym niemniej*)

The same can be said about *в същото време* that presents two states as equal, see

⁸The ideal parallel corpus is supposed to present the smallest completed and integrated unity in two or more languages (in most cases it equals to aligning sentences). Such an approach creates certain problems with regards to metatextual units since very often the contexts provided in a corpus is not sufficient for examining a structure they work on. The same applies to numerous text organizing mechanisms, such as coreference mentioned in this article.

⁹See also a translation of *niemniej jednak* with the use of another composition involving *независимо*: *Независимо от всичко* режимът DIS беше одобрен от Комисията на 4 ноември.

- (19) *В същото време* при шофиране или работа с машини, трябва да се има предвид, че при ситаглиптин са докладвани случаи на замайване и сънливост (...).
- (20) Думите, които шептяха, бяха току-що родени и в същото време им бяха познати като собствените им гласове... древни истини... заложени в душата.

От друга страна (z drugiej strony) like in

- (21) От друга страна, обменът на информация може сам по себе си да представлява нарушение на член 8 от Договора (...),

is, on the other hand, a real language unit. But its usage in sentences being a translation of those with *tym niemniej* is incidental. *От друга страна* has an exact counterpart in Polish (given above) and there is no reason to see the unit as an equivalent of *tym niemniej*.¹⁰

Also *все пак* and *обаче* have to be seen as real language units. Here, however, another problem arises: *все пак* is a counterpart of Polish *mimo wszystko*, while *обаче* — of *jednak*. Both *mimo wszystko* and *jednak* belong, like *niemniej*, *tym niemniej*, to the class of particles and, what is more, they share certain semantical components. As it was said before, the main difference between *niemniej*, *tym niemniej* and *jednak* is that by the latter a speaker gives away that even before something happened he/she had a feeling that it would happen (see frequent *Jednak przyszedłeś!* used when one was hoping for someone to come but did not believe it could really happen) (Kisiel, 2013). The usages of *обаче* registered in NCB prove its similarity to *jednak*, see

- (22) Взаимодействието и сътрудничеството между нея и гранична полиция (нейните служители обикновено първи се срещат с имигрантите и бежанците) е твърде слаба и съществува слаб контрол над решенията, вземани от персонала на Гранична полиция. Новото законодателство предвижда присъствие на представители на ДаБ на граничните пунктове, така че те да влязат в незабавен и пряк контакт с бежанците и търсещите убежище при пристигането си в страната. Това *обаче* още не е приложено.
- (23) Имигрантка от Ирак, която в родината си е работила в неправителствена организация за правата на жената, разказва, че трябва да иска разрешение от съпруга си преди да излезе от дома, както и за да купи нещо за себе си. Решенията в повечето семейства се вземат съвместно. В някои от случаите *обаче* тази споделена отговорност е само привидна.
- (24) В други новини, американският посланик в Хърватска Лорънс Росин изрази разочарование от колебанието на Хърватска да подкрепи американската операция за разоръжаване на Ирак. „Става въпрос за войната и мира. Вашето правителство *обаче* реши да избегне отговорността и да играе пасивна роля“, заяви той в интервю.

¹⁰The same can be applied to *но* that is an equivalent of Polish *ale*. In this case the difference between the two units is of bigger significance due to both units' complexity within the language system they belong to.

The usages of *обаче* as equivalents of *niemniej*, *tym niemniej*, *niemniej jednak* are presented in glosbe dictionary without a context, which makes it impossible to decide whether in those cases *обаче* is closer to *jednak* or to units that are its equivalents in parallel texts (see the brackets)

- (25) Други проучвания обаче сочат, че младите хора, могат да се насочат към по-вредни модели на консумация на алкохол като реакция спрямо увеличаването на цените, например предварителна консумация на алкохол, при която хората консумират по-евтин алкохол вкъщи (...) (equivalent of *niemniej*)
- (26) То обаче е проблем, който ще изнася борбата срещу международния тероризъм в съседните държави и региони, докато продължават сраженията в Афганистан. (equivalent of *tym niemniej*)
- (27) Много опасения обаче бяха изразени по отношение на натиска върху Малта и Лампедуза и съвсем основателно. (equivalent of *niemniej jednak*)

It is also the case of *все пак*. The usages provided by the parallel corpora see

- (28) *Все пак* ние трябва да положим големи усилия, за да гарантираме, че крайният резултат ще представлява насърчаване за държавите, а не пречка, и няма да налага условия, които са твърде сложни за управление. (equivalent of *niemniej*)
- (29) Дори тази директива да няма съвсем същото предназначение като Регламент (ЕИО) No 2, тя *все пак* осигурява необходимото регулиране на ниво Общност.

(equivalent of *tym niemniej*)

are given without a context and so do not allow for examining possible similarities and differences between how the Bulgarian unit acts in the sentence and how it is done by Polish units. Also, when observing usages of *все пак* in NCB, we can clearly see that the unit is closer in meaning to *mimo wszystko* rather than *niemniej*, *tym niemniej*, see

- (30) И двамата ти родители са били непорочни, Карло. Изпълнили са обетите си пред Господ. И *все пак* намерили начин да те създадат.
- (31) — Мосю Поаро — погледна го тя с подозрение. — Нали не дадохте тези пари само, за да сте... за да сте мил с мен? — Мил? — възкликна той, ужасен от мисълта. — Мога да ви уверя, мадмоазел, че когато става дума за пари, аз съм самата деловитост! Той доби толкова обиден вид, че Джейн трябваше да помоли за извинение. — Мисля — каза тя, — че трябва да посетя някои музеи, за да се запозная с древното грънчарство. — Добра идея. Джейн се спря на вратата и се върна назад. — Може би не сте дали онези пари, само за да бъдете мил към мен, но *все пак* бяхте много мил.
- (32) Пазете устройството сухо. Валежите, влажността и всички видове течности или влага могат да съдържат минерали, които да доведат до корозия на електронните схеми. Ако устройството ви *все пак* се намокри, извадете батерията и оставете устройството да изсъхне напълно, преди да я поставите обратно.

Interestingly, in Polish there are two expressions *mimo wszystko*: one a prepositions + a noun like in

- (33) Towarzysze radzili mi porozmawiać z Gomułką, coś mu wytłumaczyć. Wiedziałem, że ta rozmowa nic nie da i do niczego nie doprowadzi, ale mimo wszystko zgodziłem się.
- (34) Urządzenie powinno być trzymane z dala od wody, gdyż wilgoć może mu zaszkodzić. Jeśli mimo wszystko urządzenie zamoknie, wyjmij baterię i osusz całość suchą szmatką.

and second being a metatextual expression (even though its components are not exchangeable, cannot be reordered nor removed, its status as a language unit is not fully clear) whose main role is to sum up what has been said, see

- (35) — Mnie też nie było łatwo przyzwyczać się, co najdziwniejsze ogromnie dokuczliwa na początku była ta cisza i szczekanie psów, z czasem uszy przywykły, a gdy już przeprowadziliśmy się z „zielonej willi” do tego domu, to zaczęłam się rozkoszować przestrzenią. Tylko ogrom pracy wykończeniowej potwornie męczył, bo z braku wystarczających funduszy trzeba było wiele rzeczy robić własnoręcznie. Ale to już historia! — skwitowała Marta.
— Mimo wszystko ja chyba nie mogłabym tu mieszkać, prawdopodobnie jestem typowym blokowcem.
- (36) Możliwe, że nie myślał pan wówczas o mojej przyjemności ani dobrobycie, mimo wszystko był to miły wobec mnie gest.

The sentences (34) and (36) are variations of, respectively, (32) and (31). The comparison of usages of *mimo wszystko* and *всe пак* shows how similar was their way from a composition to a metatextual unit.

The overview of Bulgarian equivalents of *niemniej, tym niemniej, niemniej jednak* shows the general problem of a contrastive analysis of a metatext: metatexts in two different languages are not congruous. This has a serious effect both on theoretical approach towards a cross-languages analysis of a metatextual layer and on practical decisions concerning what to describe in a bilingual dictionary. The ideal stance suggesting comparing only those language objects that are similar in meaning, function and their grammatical features (a popular approach towards units referring to the world — it is likely to compare fe. nouns with nouns but not nouns in one language and adjectives in the other) when applied to a metatext's examination makes the analysis incomplete. It seems necessary to compare metatextual units in one language with: a) metatextual units in the other language, also those that have a closer counterpart in the input language if there is no better equivalent for the language unit in question, b) expressions that cannot be seen as language units but rather as compositions stabilized in a certain function, c) grammatical means used in the other language regularly to express the meaning of the language unit in question. Confronting units as described in a) can provide a better description of a metatext. It can give answers to such questions as: why are some meanings lexically expressed in only some languages (see the case of *niemniej, tym niemniej* that do not seem to have exclusive counterparts in Bulgarian and have to be expressed by Bulgarian units or compositions having closer equivalents in Polish)?, if there is no specific mean to express a certain meaning, what and why will be chosen as the closest equivalent out of the resources of a output language (in this case, the choice of *въпреки това, все пак, независимо от това, при все това, от*

дъпазъ страна, обаче and *но* as equivalents of discussed Polish units suggests that either those expressions have wider meaning in Bulgarian than their counterparts in Polish or, what is more likely, that their Polish counterparts, respectively, *mimo wszystko, niezależnie od tego, przy tym, z drugiej strony, jednak, ale* are seen as close in meaning to *niemniej, tym niemniej, niemniej jednak*?

Confronting units in one language with certain expressions in another language is against the principle of comparing language object of the same type and concentrating on what is real, not accidental, in a language. However, when it comes to a metatext such a decision is not unjustified. Majority of metatextual units are former compositions (in this case: *niemniej* < *nie+mało*_{comparativus}, *tym niemniej* < *tym+nie+mało*_{comparativus}) and therefore confronting units with compositions might be a way to observe how certain compositions are becoming metatextual units. That can be one of the ways to research into mechanisms of creating metatext. The same refers to observing grammatical means for expressing certain metatextual meaning.

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