

Aleksandra Ryś

*Sociopragmatic analysis of lexicalized comparisons in constructed colloquial utterances.*

*Based on the Corpus of Polish Dramatic Texts (1772-1939)*

### Summary

The subject of this doctoral dissertation is the presentation of a sociopragmatic method for examining lexicalized comparisons in early texts belonging to the so-called speech-related text types, drawn from the Corpus of Polish Dramatic Texts (1772–1939) (KorTeDa). The analyzed comparisons are treated as part of phraseology and phrasematics, which justifies the inclusion of the following combinations: 1) consisting of the comparandum, tertium comparationis, and comparatum combined using a hyphen, e.g., *prawda jasna jak słońce* (truth is clear as the sun); 2) so-called quasi-comparisons, e.g., *pracować jak wół* (to work like an ox); 3) metaphorical utterances conveying folk knowledge about the world in an easy-to-remember form, e.g., *Kiedy wleziesz między wrony, musisz krakać jak i one* (When you get among the crows, you have to croak like them), including: 4) combinations with the status of formulas, such as: *jak Boga Kocham* (as I live and breathe).

The paper posed two research questions: 1) For what purpose and in what functions were lexicalized comparisons used in utterances representing selected speech acts? and 2) What is the quantitative and qualitative relationship between the analyzed sociolinguistic variables and the use of lexicalized comparisons in specific pragmalinguistic contexts? The study aimed to answer these questions by analyzing selected lexicalized comparisons at the pragmatic and sociolinguistic levels. This included the influence of sociolinguistic variables on the identification of communicative situations and the analysis of the use of comparisons in a given situational context. The research procedure is inspired by T.A. van Dijk's method of pragmatic literary research. A quantitative analysis of the material, focused on identifying the relationship between the use of lexicalized comparisons in a specific communicative situation and the sociolinguistic variables represented by the interlocutors, was conducted using annotations implemented in KorTeDa.

The dissertation consists of an *Introduction*, six chapters, and a *Conclusion*. The first part presents the research assumptions and methodology, discusses current methods of analyzing phraseologisms from a historical perspective, and discusses the possibilities of linguistic research using corpora. Chapter 1 examines the role of modern technologies in linguistics, highlighting the development and application of linguistic corpora, including specialized corpora such as KorTeDa. Chapter 2 is devoted to the characteristics of diachronic

sociopragmatic studies: it explains the research subject, presents the linguistic data used, and argues for the choice of constructed dialogues as the basis for analysis. Chapter 3 reviews the state of research on lexicalized comparisons, presents how linguists approach them, and outlines the possibilities and limitations of their study.

The next three chapters of the dissertation are analytical. Chapter 4, based on a lexicographic survey, verifies which constructions from KorTeD are present in selected early Polish lexicons (e.g., the *Słownik wileński*, the *Słownik frazeologiczny języka polskiego* edited by S. Skorupka, and the *Nowa księga przysłów i wyrażeń przysłowiowych polskich* edited by J. Krzyżanowski). A detailed analysis covered 78 lexicalized comparisons occurring in 111 textual variants in 150 utterances. The examined comparisons, along with information on their presence in early lexicographic sources, are summarized in tabular form. The results of the qualitative analysis, which identified 17 speech acts, are presented in Chapter 5. The pragmatic analysis identified speech acts manifested in utterances that incorporated lexicalized comparisons. For this purpose, I used A. Wierzbicka's classification of speaking verbs, adapted for the analysis of Polish dialogues written between 1772 and 1939. In each utterance, I identified the linguistic functions accompanying the use of lexicalized comparisons, applying D. Biber's classification of language's functions. The results of the analysis, based on sociolinguistic data tagged in KorTeDa, are presented in Chapter 6. The results were compared with quantitative data on the speakers' gender, age, and social status, which showed that the use of lexicalized comparisons varied depending on the variable examined, the communicative situation, the recipient, and the language's functions.

The investigation culminates in the *Conclusion*, which is based on the research conducted. The entire dissertation is enriched by a proposal for innovative research on phrasemes from a historical perspective, presented on the basis of lexicographic descriptions of three exemplary lexicalized comparisons. Perspectives for further research are also indicated, as the presented research procedure can be used to study other units representing the phrasematic resource of Polish and other natural languages. They can also be verified using material drawn from other linguistic corpora.

**Keywords:** speech act, sociopragmatics, historical pragmatics, lexicalized comparisons, functions of language

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