

Anglicisms in Polish media texts: a corpus-based study

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This paper analyses the phenomenon of anglicisms, i.e. single words or whole phrases taken from English which appear in a particular language. The presentation discusses the role they play in, and their impact on, Polish.

The study is based on the corpus of about eight thousand neologisms which appeared in Polish journalistic texts from 1985 to 1992 (“*Nowe słownictwo polskie. Materiały z prasy lat 1985-1992*”), of which anglicisms make up a large number.

In one of the articles devoted to English loanwords Fisiak (1986) says that by 1985 there were already more than 1000 anglicisms in the Polish language, whereas according to Mańczak-Wohlfeld (1994, 1995) their number had increased by May 1993 to 1600.

The present analysis provides further evidence for the tendency of the Polish language to borrow more and more English words for naming objects and activities in almost every field of life, e.g. culture, science, sports.

In the first part of the presentation we will concentrate on the quantitative aspects of this phenomenon. We will compare the percentage divergencies between the number of nominal, verbal, adjectival and adverbial instances of anglicisms from our corpus. In the second part we will discuss the qualitative aspects, such as the fact that some borrowings may undergo the process of native morphology, i.e. inflectional adaptation, e.g. *championem*, *aerobiku*, *liftować* together with word-formation, e.g. *T-shirt – T-shirtowy*; *AIDS – aidsowiec*; *broker – brokerski*. We will also consider discrepancies in the meaning of such loanwords and explore hybrid formations such as e.g. *postpeerel*.

The analysis conducted within the framework of corpus linguistics is intended to present the increasing influence of English upon the Polish lexical system and, accordingly, the risks for the language users.

References

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