Some remarks on hidden anglicisms

Alicja Witalisz

The article presents an overview of nearly three hundred English semantic loans which have entered Polish in recent years. The point of interest here is their essentiality vs. inessentiality (or acceptability vs. unacceptability) in view of a lexicographers' problem of placing them in dictionaries of Polish. Also, the article clarifies the criteria that enable a lexicographer to differentiate between a semantic loan and a loanword, which is crucial in deciding on the polysemous or homonymous character of the borrowed element, which, in turn, finds its application in deciding on the number of dictionary entries. One other issue discussed here is the problem of etymological information provided in dictionary entries that include the newly adopted English meanings. This seems a vital issue in view of the fact that most of the Polish lexemes that currently adopt new senses from English are earlier Latin (or French) lexical borrowings.

The problem of etymological information may also be discussed in reference to another kind of hidden anglicisms, i.e. phraseological calques from English. One other problematic issue a lexicographer has to face here is the co-existence of an English phraseological expression (adopted by Polish in the form of a lexical borrowing) and its translated form – a phraseological calque (or loan translation).