

## Gender resolution in Polish. Agreement of subject and predicate in sentences with conjoined noun phrases

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Polish has two agreement resolution options in the plural and the distinction is found in the past tense. In the Polish language with semantic and formal gender assignment rules, gender resolution for agreement in Polish can be problematic because nouns with particular values for their gender and subgender act differently when conjoined with other nouns of different gender (conjoined noun phrases contain two Nominative nouns and it must be a process of resolution that arbitrates between the agreement properties of the individual noun (Badecker, 2007)). According to the resolution rules for agreement of subject and predicate in sentences with conjoined noun phrases, in the plural, masculine personal nouns in conjoined noun phrases should take the MP verbal form, while non-masculine personal nouns (feminine, non-masculine personal and neuter) should take NMP agreement Rothstein (1993:732-733). The outcome of the mixture of nouns of different gender is examined according to the rules established by Corbett (1991).

The aim of this paper is to introduce and investigate the existing resolution rules which determine agreement between subject and predicate in the past tense. I will compare the data on gender resolution obtained from my questionnaire research (conducted in 2006 and 2007) with similar research done by Zieniukowa in 1979. Moreover, I will present that the existing resolution rules are not sufficient enough and there needs to be made a hierarchy for resolution rules: masculine-personal > feminine with personal value (where not all of the nouns are feminine) > masculine animate. In other words, the likelihood of MP agreement with greater semantic justification on the verb decreases as we move rightwards along the hierarchy.

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