

On shaky ground: Polish Dative Experiencers and adjunct control

The aim of this presentation is to provide a thorough analysis of Polish Dative Experiencers, as exemplified in (1):

(1) Piotrowi przypomniała się stara miłość.

Peter-DAT remembered REFL old love

'Peter thought of his old flame.'

The syntactic analysis of these arguments in Polish is far from straightforward, with claims often made about their subject-like status (cf. Bondaruk and Szymanek 2007, for similar claims in other languages cf. Landau 2010). The claim made in this presentation is that Dative Experiencers in Polish do not behave like subjects except for one empirical domain, i.e. adjunct control, as shown in (2) for a participial clause (where the implicit subject of *wróciwszy* is *Peter*):

(2) Wróciwszy do rodzinnego miasteczka, Piotrowi przypomniała się stara
miłość.

 returning to home town Peter-DAT remembered
REFL old love

'Having returned to his hometown, Peter thought of his old love.'

This line of argumentation has not been researched extensively in Polish. One of the hallmark properties of canonical subjects is that they are co-referent with implicit subjects of participial clauses. This familiar prescriptive rule is known in Polish as the identity of subjects and it requires that no other element than the Nominative Agent subject of a sentence in the active voice can control into (or be semantically identical to) the participial clause. Although evidence to the contrary can be adduced in Polish which shows that the strict application of the rule is untenable (cf. Bojałkowska and Saloni 2008), the author's main focus is on a more nuanced study of the behavior of Dative Experiencers in the broader adjunct control context. Through a careful examination of the three main types of adjunct control in Polish (which include control into participial clauses, gerunds and adverbial clauses and each of their subtypes) and the role of variables (such as the position of the adjoined element and the position of the Dative argument) the author presents a detailed account of Dative Experiencers (and, in doing so, shows how the normative 'identity of subjects' rule does not keep up with actual language users' intuitions). To summarize, the investigation of Polish Dative Experiencers in the context of adjunct control, which this presentation reports on, is significant for three main reasons. Firstly, it is a step towards a systematization of different types of adjunct control (to a large extent a yet uncharted territory in Polish, cf. Witkoś et al. 2011). Secondly, to assess the acceptability/grammaticality of selected linguistic examples, the author makes use of empirical methods which are solidly grounded in relevant research methodology (cf. Schütze 1996, Sprouse 2007). Finally, a theoretical model of the derivation of Dative Experiencers and adjuncts is proposed (couched in the framework of generative grammar) which explains their quasi-subject control property (cf. Żychliński 2013).

Selected references:

- Bojałkowska, Krystyna and Zygmunt Saloni. 2008. "On the 'subject' of Polish constructions with 'adverbial participles'", *Wiener Slawistischer Almanach* 61: 301-315.
- Bondaruk, Anna and Bogdan Szymanek. 2007. "Polish nominativeless constructions with Dative Experiencers: Form, Meaning and Structure", *Studies in Polish Linguistics* 4: 61-97.
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- Schütze Carson T. 1996. *The empirical base of linguistics: grammaticality judgements and linguistic methodology*. Chicago: Chicago University Press.
- Sprouse, Jon. 2007. A program for experimental syntax: Finding the relationship between acceptability and grammatical knowledge. Ph.D. dissertation, University of Maryland.
- Witkoś, Jacek, Cegłowski, Piotr, Snarska, Anna and Sylwiusz Żychliński. 2011. *Minimalist facets of control. An English-Polish Comparative Overview of Gerunds and Infinitives*. Poznań: Wydawnictwo Naukowe UAM.
- Żychliński, Sylwiusz. 2013. On some aspects of the syntax of object Experiencers in Polish and English. Ph.D. dissertation, University of Adam Mickiewicz.