

ENGLISH PARTICIPIAL COMPOUNDS AND THEIR
CORRESPONDING FORMS IN POLISH: A TRANSFORMATIONAL
CONTRASTIVE STUDY

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1.0. The present paper is a part of the author's doctoral dissertation devoted to active participles in Polish and English and aims at contrasting English participial compounds with their corresponding forms in Polish. The transformational model selected for the following contrastive analysis is based on the TG framework developed by Polański (1967), as well as methods developed by Lees (1963), and Jacobs and Rosenbaum (1968).

The starting and working hypothesis is that participial compounds in English and their Polish equivalents have the same derivation and that the surface differences are caused by the different application of the shift transformations.

1.1. By a compound is meant a construction consisting of two or more independent words which are understood as one lexical unit. Syntactically the constituents of a compound may be of two kinds: copulative (paratactic relation) and attributive (hypotactic relation). When the modifying word precedes the modified one the compound is called regressive (characteristic of all Indo-European languages). When the modifying word follows the modified one the compound is called progressive. The most important feature of a compound is that the word order is fixed (Gołąb 1970: 645).

1.2. English participial compounds belong to the attributive, regressive types. In spelling they are joined by a hyphen, and although there is no rule stating with what compounds the hyphen should be used, it seems it is always used with participial compounds. A present participle forming a compound functions as a head-word to the whole construction (Hathaway 1967: 267). It may form a compound with different parts of speech, with nouns, adjectives

and adverbs being the most numerous (Scheurweghs 1966 : 155). The whole compound functions than as a modifier to a nominal unless it is in apposition-which rarely occurs.

Certain compounds are known both in Polish and English although in English they are far more common. Nominal compounds, for example, are known to both languages (Marton 1970), while participial compounds are a peculiar syntactic property of English.

2.0. Although we can find 1 : 1 equivalence in Polish and English, at least in the case of a participle being modified by an adverb, the position of the Polish adverb is not fixed as it is in English; and such a construction offers no syntactic peculiarity. Nevertheless, it is interesting to compare English participial compounds with their corresponding forms in Polish from the point of view of the shift transformations employed in their derivation.

2.1. Diagram I shows the difference in pattern between English compounds and their nearest equivalents in Polish. As will be observed later the Polish pattern as shown in the diagram is not the only possibility.

The 1 : 1 equivalence appears only in the case of adverbial modifiers though the position of the constituents in Polish equivalents is not fixed, and they do not form compounds. In the discussion that follows only the position of Polish constituents that directly corresponds to English pattern will be discussed.

ENGLISH			POLISH		
1	2	3	1	2	3
adverb	participle	nominal	adverb	participle	nominal
well	wishing	people	dobrze	życzący	ludzie
long	lasting	flowers	długo	trzymające się	kwiaty
far	reaching	influence	daleko	sięgające	wpływy
adjective	participle	nominal	adverb	participle	nominal
good	tasting	food	dobrze	smakujące	jedzenie
sweet	smelling	flowers	słodko	pachnące	kwiaty
innocent	looking	creature	niowinnie	wyglądające	stworzenie
noun	participle	nominal	participle	noun	nominal
honey	gathering	bees	zbierające	miód	pszczoly
peace	loving	nations	miłujące	pokój	narody
sky	brightening	explosions	rozświetlające	niebo	eksplozje

Diagram 1

In the case of English adjectival modifiers, though the Polish pattern remains unchanged, the place of the adjectival modifier to a participle (position 1 in the diagram) is occupied by the corresponding adverbial modifier. Adjectives

in Polish cannot modify participles and that is why they are converted into adverbs in our diagram. The patterns with nouns are different in the two languages. In English they may modify participles, and in this function they may occupy position 1. In Polish nouns are participle complements, and in this function they always follow the participle; and none of the constituents of a participial phrase may be moved separately.

3.0. As pointed out by Lees (1963 : 121) it is possible to construct on the basis of compound transformations an indefinitely large number of compounds which do not occur in English. At present, however, attention is focused on the mechanism responsible for creating participial compounds while disregarding the problem of which compounds do and do not occur in English.

3.1. Participial compounds mirror two grammatical relations, viz., verb-object and verb-adverbial. The following phrase structure rules are necessary for the present analysis:

E and P PS 1. $S \rightarrow NP VP$

E and P PS 2. $VP \rightarrow Aux MV$

E and P PS 3. $MV \rightarrow V \begin{cases} \text{Nom} \\ \text{Advbl} \end{cases}$

E and P PS 4. $Advbl \rightarrow \begin{cases} \text{Manner} \\ \text{Place} \\ \text{Time} \end{cases}$

E and P PS 5. $Advbl \text{ Manner} \rightarrow \begin{cases} \text{Adverb} \\ \text{Prep. Phr} \\ \text{Adjective} \end{cases}$ (only in English)

3.2. When discussing the derivation of English participial compounds and their corresponding Polish constructions it is assumed that the participial transformation has already been applied to relative clauses thereby generating constructions of the following form:

a) E and P NP Part_{attr} NP_{object}

b) E and P NP Part_{attr} Advbl

where Part_{attr} = an active participle in the attributive function

a) bees gathering honey

pszczoly zbierające miód

b) food tasting good

jedzenie smakujące dobrze

The above constructions are generated from restrictive relative clauses. Nonrestrictive relative clauses may also be a source of participial compounds when in apposition, but since appositive compounds are rare and do not

represent any syntactic peculiarity, they are not included in the present analysis.

In English the compound transformation shifts the participle modifier or complement to the front position (position 1 in the diagram) and the participle to the position immediately following its complement or modifier (position 2), thus yielding

E T1. NP Part_{attr} NP' ⇒ NP' Part_{attr} NP

E T2. NP Part_{attr} Advbl ⇒ Advbl Part_{attr} NP

The participial compound transformation introduces a hyphen between the constituents of the compound which is assumed to be a necessary property of the compounds in question.

In Polish the shift rules generating equivalent constructions are as follows:

P T1. NP, Part_{attr} NP' ⇒ Part_{attr} NP', NP

P T2. NP Part_{attr} Advbl ⇒ Advbl Part_{attr} NP

P T3. NP Part_{attr} Advbl ⇒ Part_{attr} Advbl NP

(There are still more possibilities which, however, being beyond the present discussion are not included in this study).

P T2. looks much the same as E T2., but P T2. exist concomitantly with P T3., and there is an optional choice as to which of the two rules (P T2. or P T3.) will apply. The examples that follow illustrate our analysis. The structures underlying relative clause constructions look as follows:

E 1 bees which are gathering honey...

P 1 pszczoły, które zbierają miód...

E 2 food which is tasting good...

P 2 jedzenie, które smakuje dobrze...

E 3 influence that is reaching far...

P 3 wpływy, które sięgają daleko...

After the participial transformation is applied we have:

E 1₁ bees gathering honey...

P 1₁ pszczoły zbierające miód...

E 2₁ food tasting good...

P 2₁ jedzenie smakujące dobrze...

E 3₁ influence reaching far...

P 3₁ wpływy sięgające daleko...

The shift transformation then generates:

E 1₂ honey — gathering bees...(E T1)

P 1₂ zbierające miód pszczoły...(P T1)

E 2₂ good — tasting food...(E T2)

P 2₂ dobrze smakujące jedzenie...(P T2)

E 3₂ far — reaching influence... (E T3)

P 3₂ daleko sięgające wpływy... (P T2)

P 3_{2a} Sięgające daleko wpływy... (P T3).

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