

POLISH "SAM" AND ITS ENGLISH EQUIVALENTS

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1.1. The Polish word SAM, often called a demonstrative pronoun (cf. Szober 1962) covers also other functions and corresponds to several English words, such as:

1. VERY, RIGHT (in the meaning of "exacting")
2. ALONE, BY ONESELF (meaning: with no company)
3. NOTHING BUT (without company of other objects or adjuncts or accumulated to a greater extent)
4. VERY (giving the exact reason)

1.2. The division suggested in the paper (partially based on the notion of syntagmatic position (cf. Karolak 1963) will be roughly as follows:

(1) ALONE as in

- a. I am alone — Jestem sam
- b. I can go alone — Mogę iść sam

(2) BY HIMSELF as in

He did it by himself — Zrobił to sam

(3) ONESELF as in

I like it myself — Sama to lubię

(4) ONLY as in

There were only girls — Były tam same dziewczyny

(5) VERY, RIGHT, NOTHING BUT as in

at the very beginning — na samym początku

right in the middle — w samym środku

There was nothing — Były tam same

but blank empty puste kartki

sheets of paper. papieru.

2.1. In our discussion of English equivalents of the Polish word SAM to be

dealt with, we will start with the word ALONE occurring as in the examples:

Sometimes I think I'd be better *alone*.

I czasem myślę, że wolałbym być *sam*. (G)

You oughtn't be *alone*.

Nie powinieneś być *sam*. (G)

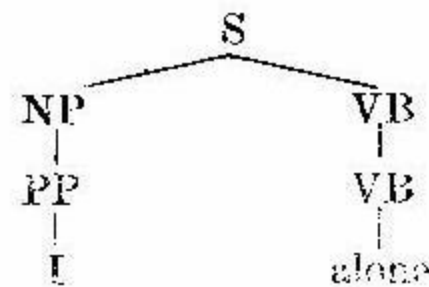
He grew bold and spoke to a woman who sat *alone* on a park bench.

Zdożył się na odwagę i przemówił do kobiety, która siedziała *sama* na ławce. (SA)

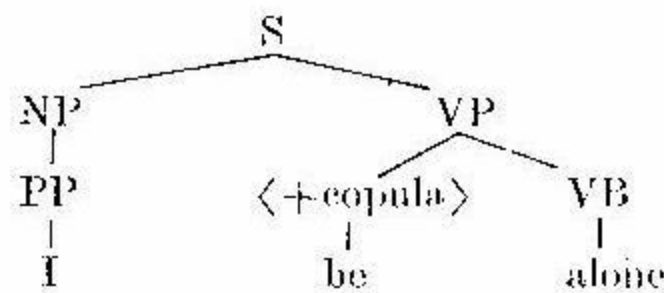
I should prefer to be *alone*.

Wolałabym być *sama*. (SM)

The sentence *I am alone* has roughly the following deep structure:



which, after applying copula transformation (Jacobs and Rosenbaum 1968: 101), yields:



The structure may be compared with:

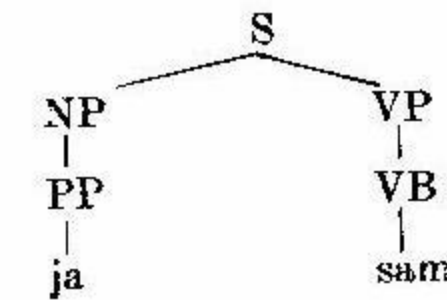
(1) I am quite $\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{heavy} \\ \text{happy} \\ \text{pretty} \\ \text{ALONE} \end{array} \right\}$

on the one hand and with:

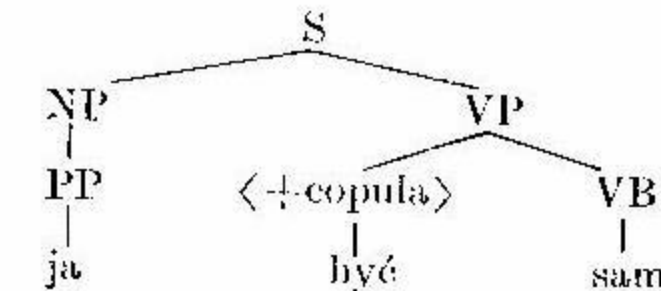
(2) I can go $\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{with Alice} \\ \text{with my dog} \\ \text{ALONE} \end{array} \right\}$ (quickly) (today)

on the other.

2.2. Similar situation may be observed while analysing Polish SAM:



and, after applying copula transformation:



Similarly:

(1) Jestem bardzo $\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{ciężki} \\ \text{szczęśliwy} \\ \text{ładny} \\ \text{SAM} \end{array} \right\}$

SAM occupies here, as ALONE in English (1) above, the same syntagmatic position as other predicates quoted.

In

(2) Mogę iść dzisiaj szybko $\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{z Alą} \\ \text{z psem} \\ \text{SAM} \end{array} \right\}$

however, the syntagmatic position occupied by SAM (or ALONE in English examples) is that of CONCOMITAVE, i.e., a subtype of circumstance as opposed to an adverbial (of time, manner, etc.). SAM and *z Alą* cannot co-occur and this is a condition for regarding them as one functional unit of the language, different from (1) (cf. Karolak 1963: 139: „Stwierdzenie różnicy pozycyjnej dwóch składników może być, jak się wydaje, dostatecznie pewną podstawą do uznania ich za dwie różne jednostki funkcjonalne danego języka”).

In both languages *happy*—ALONE do co-occur, which does not prove that the division based on syntagmatic position is not valid. ALONE (SAM) co-occurring with *happy* (*szczęśliwy*) as in:

Jestem szczęśliwy SAM.

I am happy ALONE.

is ALONE (SAM) — a different lexical item, the one that belongs to the category CONCOMITAVE, as:

Jestem szczęśliwy z Alą.

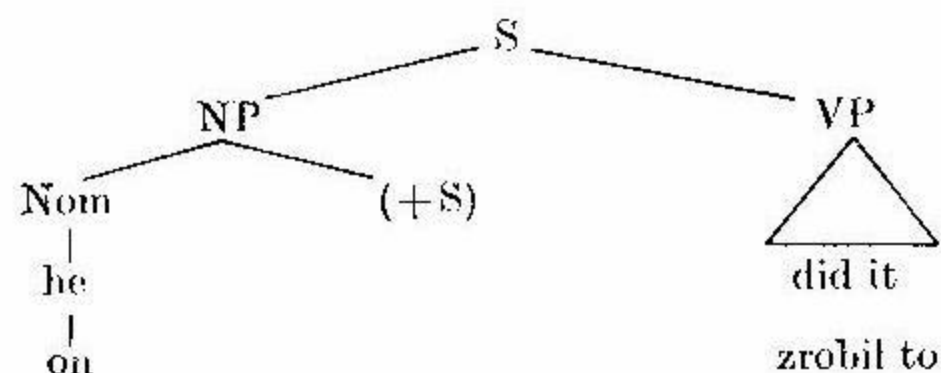
I am happy with Alice.

2.3. Let us consider still another usage of the word SAM and its English equivalent BY HIMSELF (HERSELF, etc.) as in the sentence:

Zrobił to *sam*.

He did it (by) *himself*.

The example suggests that SAM being a concomitave is attributive to the NP:



S — he is alone

S — on jest sam

It is introduced transformationally, the embedded sentences being of the form:

Nom + be + Pred

Apparently, this holds true of the two languages. In English, however, a slight stylistic variation may occur, namely it may appear with or without BY, e.g.

Why can't you write *yourself*?

Dlaczego nie napiszesz *sam*? (SM)

meaning: with no help and not "personally".

3.1. Polish SAM may also emphasize NP, thus changing slightly its meaning, as in the following examples:

(1)

Sama to lubię.

I like it *myself*. (G)

meaning: *ja też* to lubię. (I also like it)

Sama mam ochotę na kieliszek.

I'm going to have a drink *myself*. (RL)

meaning: *ja też* mam ochotę (I am also going to...)

(2)

Sam wydawca je do mnie przysłał.

The publisher sent them to me *himself*. (SM)

Sama mi odpowiedziała.

She gave me the answer *herself*. (SM)

meaning: personally.

(3)

On *sam* jest Lutkins.

He's Lutkins *himself*. (SA)

Sam jesteś złodziej!

You are a thief *yourself*!

meaning: *to przede wszystkim ty* (it's mostly you) while accusing someone and/or being accused of something. It is to be understood as: it is not only me to be accused or blamed, your fault is at least as big as mine.

4.1. In the examples below Polish SAME, SAMI stand for TYLKO (ONLY):

Były tam (tylko) *same* dziewczyny.

There were *only* girls.

In this meaning, however, it appears mostly in plural, e.g.

Rosły tam *same* czerwone kwiaty.

Sami wysocy mężczyźni.

whereas:

*Rósł tam *sam* czerwony kwiat.

*Był tam *sam* wysoki mężczyzna.

sound if not ungrammatical, then unacceptable, at least in this meaning. (KWIAT, for instance, can also denote collectivum, as FISH in English and RYBA in Polish).

4.2. When comparing the above sentences with their English equivalents:

Only red flowers grew there.

Only tall men.

Only a red flower grew there.

There was *only* a tall man.

the difference becomes apparent. The "only" of English sentences can be translated into Polish as "tylko" in either singular or plural. Note that whereas in singular Polish "tylko" has only one equivalent in English, namely "only", in plural or collectivum we can have three possibilities:

a. *same* (sami, samo)

Były *same* stare bułki.

Zostało *samo* stare pieczywo.

b. *tylko*

Były *tylko* stare bułki.

Zostało *tylko* stare pieczywo.

c. *tylko* $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{same} \\ \text{sami} \\ \text{samo} \end{array} \right.$

Były *tylko same* stare bułki.

Zostało *tylko samo* stare pieczywo.

4.3. Polish SAME (TYLKO) may be expressed in English not only by means of ONLY but also NOTHING BUT as in the examples:

Na biurku leżały *same tylko* puste kartki.

There was *nothing but* blank empty sheets of paper.

Została *sama* wódka.

There is *nothing but* vodka left.

5.1. Let us consider very briefly still another usage of Polish SAM, as in the constructions:

Był pozostawiony *sam sobie*.

He was left $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{(all) to himself} \\ \text{on his own.} \end{array} \right.$

Sam sobie jesteś winien.

It's your *own* fault.

Mów *sam za siebie*.

Speak for *yourself*.

Mówił *sam do siebie*.

He talked to *himself*.

Walczyli *sami ze sobą*.

They fought with *themselves* (or: they fought among themselves, depending on the meaning).

This is another usage of SAM (rather colloquial) which is not translated into English. The constructions seem to be almost idiomatic, the only English idiomatic equivalent being: "your own fault".

5.2. The examples given above do not exhaust all the possibilities of expressing Polish SAM in its various meanings. The most frequent functions are the following: expressing exactness, limiting, and underlying extremes, e.g.

On jest tyle wart za *sam* wygląd.

It's worth that for the looks *alone*. (G)

Sześć strzałów wpakował w *sam* środek tarczy.

He put six shots *inside* the bull. (G)

Na *samym* końcu.

At the *very end*.

Od *samego* początku chciał pisać.

From *the very beginning* he wanted to write.

W *samym* środku.

Right in the middle.

5.3. CONCLUSIONS

The obvious and revealing common features conclusions that may be drawn from the above considerations are the following:

a. both Polish SAM and its English equivalent ALONE may be used as predicates, introduced by means of copula transformation

b. they may both occur in the syntagmatic position occupied by concomitative

c. both SAM and its other equivalent HIMSELF (herself, etc.) when used as a concomitative are attributive to the NP and are introduced transformationally.

ABBREVIATIONS

a. authors

G — Graham Greene, transl. by Hanna Olędzka

RL — Ring Lardner

SA — Sharwood Anderson

SM — Somerset Maugham

all other examples and translations come from the author.

b. symbols

S — sentence

NP — noun phrase

VP — verb phrase

VB — verbal

PP — personal pronoun

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