

## TYPES OF VERB COMPLEMENTATION IN ENGLISH AND THEIR EQUIVALENTS IN POLISH

BARBARA LEWANDOWSKA

*University of Łódź*

The purpose of the present paper is a survey of verb complementation types in English, according to the pattern proposed by Quirk et al. (1972: 799–854), as compared with the equivalent forms in Polish. The subject will be considered only from the structural point of view to serve mainly pedagogical purposes.

English is taken to be  $L_1$ , i.e., the source language in this paper, while equivalent utterances in Polish, i.e.,  $L_2$ , will be given either as congruent (strictly equivalent) versions, or if not acceptable—a loosely congruent structure, or else—an intralanguage translation paraphrase (for theoretical basis of this differentiation see Marton 1968, Krzeszowski 1971, Sharwood Smith 1976).

Quirk et al. (1972:820) distinguish four main types of complementation: (A) Intensive, (B) Monotransitive, (C) Ditransitive, and (D) Complex transitive.

(A) *Intensive complementation* occurs in sentences where there is coreference relation between the subject and the subject complement. Not all copulas (or linking verbs) in sentences with subject complements in English have strictly equivalent versions in Polish, some of them are expressed in Polish as verbs in different aspects (for further discussion see Lewandowska 1974), which reflects the differentiation between current and resulting copulas in English:

(1) to be sick -- być chorym

vs.

(2) to fall sick — zachorować

(3) to be sour — być kwaśnym  
vs.

(4) to turn sour — skwaśnieć

(A1) *NP complement*

(5) John is a nice boy

(5a) Janek jest miłym chłopcem

NP in subtype (A1) in Polish is assigned the Instrumental case marking with the appropriate gender and number marker.

(A2) *Adverbial complement*

(6) He is at school today

(6a) On jest w szkole dzisiaj

If Adv is expressed by a Prep P, the NP in Polish bears the case marking in agreement with the corresponding preposition: *w szkole*

(A3) *Adjective phrase complement without postmodification*

(7) John is very bright

(7a) Janek jest bardzo bystry

The Adj is expressed in Polish in the Nominative case with the appropriate gender marking, as well as number marking.

(A4) *Adjective phrase complement with prepositional phrase postmodification*

(8) He was shocked about her reaction

(8a) Był wstrząśnięty jej reakcją (Instr.)

(9) She was bad at mathematics

(9a) Była słaba z matematyki (z+Gen)

(10) She was interested in languages

(10a) Interesowała się językami obcymi (Instr.)

(11) She was aware of the difficulties

(11a) Była świadoma trudności (Gen.)

(12) His plan was based on co-operation

(12a) Jego plan był oparty na współpracy (na+Instr.)

(13) He is subject to criticism

(13a) Jest przedmiotem krytyki (Gen.)

(14) He was angry with her

(14a) Był zły na nią (na+Acc.)

(15) He was pleased with it

(15a) Był zadowolony z tego (z+Gen.)

The categories that are overtly expressed in the Adj of (A4) in Polish are identical to those of (A3). The case of the NP following the Adj or the Prep, as well as the preposition itself, are idiosyncratic in both the languages, hence they are most frequently translations or loose equivalents.

(A5) *Adjective phrase complement with finite clause postmodification*

Adj P may be expressed by an adjective: *I am sure* — *Jestem pewna*, participle: *I am annoyed* — *Jestem zaniepokojona*, or deverbal adjective: *It is desirable* — *Jest pożądane*. The subject is either personal or preparatory *it*. The verb in the *that*-clause postmodifying Adj P complement can be either indicative, or putative *should* in English. The Polish language employs in this case (*that*) *że*-clauses with indicative mood or *żeby*-clauses with dependent mood (verb takes the form of Preterite):

(16) I am sure that we'll be late

(16a) Jestem pewna, że się spóźnimy

(17) I'm surprised that he should resign

(17a) Jestem zdumiona, że zrezygnował

(18) It is likely that she never visited him

(18a) Jest prawdopodobne, że nigdy go nie odwiedzała

(19) It is essential that he arrive by tomorrow

(19a) Jest istotne, {żeby} przybył do jutra  
{aby}

(20) It is desirable that you read the book

(20a) Jest pożądane, {żebyś} przeczytała tę książkę  
{abyś}

It is characteristic that in (A5) *żeby*-clauses with the dependent mood in Polish most often correspond to *that*-clauses having a subjunctive verb in English. The Polish complementizer {*aby*} is marked with the category of person and number: *żebym* — *that I*, *żebyś* — *that you* (Sg), *żeby* — *that* {*he, she, it*}  
{*they*}  
*żebyśmy* — *that we*, *żebyście* — *that you* (Pl).

(A6) *Adjective phrase complement with to-infinitive postmodification*

This type of complementation containing several superficially similar but basically different constructions in English renders a variety of distinct structures in Polish, very rarely congruent to the English version.

(21) He is splendid to wait — It is splendid of him to wait — It is splendid that he waits

(21a) To cudowne, że on czeka (*that*-clause with indicative verb)

(22) He is hard to convince — To convince him is hard — It is hard to convince him

(22a) Przekonać go jest trudno — Jest trudno go przekonać (infinitive in subject position)

(23) He was quick to react — He reacted quickly

(23a) Zareagował szybko (V+Adverbial)

- (24) The dress is easy to wash — It is easy to wash the dress — The dress washes easily
- (24a) Jest łatwo uprać tę sukienkę (Inf+NP+Cop+Adv), Uprać tę sukienkę jest łatwo
- (24b) Ta sukienka pierze się łatwo (NP+V (pseudo-refl.)+Adv)
- (24c) Ta sukienka jest łatwa do prania (NP+Cop+Adj+Prep+Gerund)
- (25) I was indignant to hear about it — To hear about it made me indignant — It made me indignant to hear about it

No strictly equivalent version of this type exists in Polish, where either the participial construction or a temporal clause will be used:

- (25a) Byłem oburzony słysząc o tym (=hearing about it)
- (25b) Byłem oburzony, gdy o tym usłyszałem (=when I heard about it)
- (26) I am (rather) prone to agree with you

with strictly equivalent version in Polish:

- (26a) Jestem (raczej) skłonny zgodzić się z tobą  
but: (27) I am reluctant to agree with you  
rendered as:

- (27a) Nie jestem skłonny zgodzić się z tobą  
corresponds to negated (26) rather than to (27).

### (B) *Monotransitive complementation*

Since both in English and Polish verbs can be followed by nominal and clausal objects playing a number of semantic functions, it would not be possible to consider all the relations in the present paper. Therefore only the most common subclasses will be exemplified here.

#### B1) *Noun phrase objects*

- (28) The policeman stopped the car — The car was stopped by the policeman
- (28a) Policjant zatrzymał auto — Auto zostało zatrzymane przez policjanta
- (29) John and Mary liked the new neighbours — The new neighbours were liked by John and Mary
- (29a) Jan i Maria lubili nowych sąsiadów — Nowi sąsiedzi byli lubiani przez Jana i Marię

#### B2) *Prepositional objects*

The prepositional object may be a noun, a pronoun, an *-ing*, or a *wh*-clause in English. In Polish it may be also a noun, a pronoun, or a gerundial form (deverbal or verbal noun, corresponding to an *-ing* in English. In Polish, however, some of the objects having prepositional equivalents in English, are expressed by case relationship:

- (30) He objected to it  
(30a) Sprzeciwił się *temu* (Dat.)

As to the sentential objects introduced by prepositions, the Polish language obligatorily employs the pronoun *to* in an appropriate case, placed between the preposition and the complementizer. The type of sentential object in Polish is not limited to *wh*-clause, as is the case in English, but can be also *that*-clause:

- (31) He concentrated on the problem  
(31a) Skoncentrował się na tym problemie  
(32) He concentrated on that  
(32a) Skoncentrował się na tym  
(33) He concentrated on solving the problem  
(33a) Skoncentrował się na rozwiązywaniu tego problemu  
(34) He concentrated on how he should solve the problem  
(34a) Skoncentrował się na *tym*, {jak } ma rozwiązać ten problem  
  {że lit. *that*}

also

- (34b) Skoncentrował się na *tym*, jak rozwiązać ten problem

infinitival construction corresponding to:

- (34c) He concentrated on the fact (lit. on this) how to solve the problem

cf. also Polish *że*- complementation:

- (35) Słyszał o tym, że przyjechali

being equivalent to the English:

- (35a) He heard about the fact (lit. about this) that they arrived in both the languages identical to the corresponding nominal versions:

- (36) He heard about their arrival  
(36a) Słyszał o ich przyjeździe.

#### (B3) *Finite clause objects*

In both languages the finite clause objects are *that* and *wh*-clauses. In English, this subclass of monotransitive complementation may have, analogically to type (A5), three types of verb phrase: indicative and subjunctive verb, as well as the putative *should*. In Polish *that*- and *wh*-clauses with the indicative verb correspond most frequently to *że*- and *Q*-clauses, while the English *that*- complements with verbs taking putative *should* and subjunctive verbs are rendered into Polish as {*żeby*} — clauses in dependent mood, as in {*aby*}

the following examples:

- (37) I suppose that he will come  
(37a) Przypuszczam, że przyjedzie  
(38) I wonder if they are coming  
(38a) Jestem ciekawa, czy jada  
(39) I don't know why he left London

- (39a) Nie wiem, dlaczego opuścił Londyn  
 (40) I ask that she (should) go alone  
 (40a) Proszę, żeby poszła sama  
 (41) I suggest that we (should) stay here  
 (41a) Proponuję, żebyśmy tu zostali.

#### Non-finite clause objects

The criterion of differentiation between different subtypes of this class is the presence or absence of the overt subject of the non-finite object, as well as the distinction between infinitival and participial verb clauses:

#### (B4) To-infinitive without subject

(B5) *-ing* participle without subject (the term participle is used here informally).

Though both in English and Polish there are classes of verbs which take either only the infinitive, or only the participle, or else, either the infinitive or the participle, they do not always correspond to one another, hence demanding a separate extensive study based upon the contrastive principles (Lewandowska: the work in progress).

- (42) I managed to do it  
 (42a) Zdołałem to *zrobić* (infinitive)  
 (43) He wants to eat something  
 (43a) On chce coś *zjeść* (infinitive)  
 (44) Mary avoided meeting him  
 (44a) Maria unikała *spotkania* (go) (*-anie* form corresponding to *-ing*)  
 (45) Tom risked bringing the gun here  
 (45a) Tomek zaryzykował *przyniesienie* karabinu tutaj (*-enie* corresponding to *-ing*)

vs.

- (46) Stop talking (*-ing* form)  
 (46a) Przestańcie *rozmawiać*! (infinitive)  
 (47) She finished *washing up* (*-ing* form)  
 (47a) Skończyła *zmywanie* (naczyni) (*-anie* form)  
 (47b) Skończyła *zmywać* (naczynia) (infinitive)

There is a difference in meaning in the infinitive and participle constructions complementing the same verb. Most frequently the factor governing the choice of the complement is aspect: durative with participles and perfective with infinitives. The Polish language will use either  $\{-enie\}$  nominal or a  $\{-anie\}$

participial construction *sensu stricto* in the first case, and the same type of nominal though derived from perfective verb, or else a finite clause complement, in the latter. Cf:

- (48) I heard the door slamming all night long

- (48a) Słyszałem *trzaskanie* drzwiami całą noc (from durative or iterative verb *trzaskać*)  
 (49) I saw him crossing the street  
 (49a) Widziałam go *przechodzącego* ulicę (Present Prt. with Case Gender and Number agreement with the object *go*)  
 (50) I heard the door slam just after the midnight  
 (50a) Usłyszałam *trzaśnięcie* drzwi zaraz po północy (from perfective *trzasnąć*)  
 (50b) Usłyszałam,  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{że} \\ \text{jak} \end{array} \right\}$  drzwi trzasnęły zaraz po północy  
 (lit. I heard  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{that} \\ \text{how} \end{array} \right\}$  the door slammed...)

#### (B6) To-infinitive with subject

A few subclasses of complementation can be distinguished in this type in English:

- (51) I allowed him to come  
 (52) I expected him to come  
 (53) I believe him to be an honest man

Some of the constructions of this type in Polish are in the strict equivalence relation to their English versions. Cf.:

- (51a) Pozwoliłam mu przyjść

Quite a numerous group of verbs in both languages enters the same pattern. Compare:

- (54) I (advised, forbade, ordered, taught) him to read English fiction  
 (54a)  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{(Poradziłam, zabroniłam, rozkazałam) mu (Dat.)} \\ \text{nauczyłam go (Acc.)} \end{array} \right\}$  czytać powieści angielskie

While the class represented by examples (51) and (54) has a strict equivalence pattern in Polish, sentences with verbs such as in (52) would be translated into Polish as constructions with finite (*that*) *że*-clause complements:

- (52a) Oczekiwałam, *że* przyjdzie

constructions with  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{aby} \\ \text{żeby} \end{array} \right\}$ -clause complements in dependent mood:

- (55) I wanted him to come  
 (55a) Chciałam,  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{aby} \\ \text{żeby} \end{array} \right\}$  przyszedł

constructions with  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{aby} \\ \text{żeby} \end{array} \right\}$  clause, preceded by a direct object taken by the

main verb:

- (56) I persuaded him to come  
 (56a) Przekonałam *go*, aby przyszedł,

or prepositional NP with gerundial nominals:

(57) I forced him to come

(57a) Zmusiłem go *do przyścia*

being strictly equivalent to:

(57b) I forced him into coming

Class of constructions compatible with such verbs as *believe* in (53) is paraphrased in Polish as *że*-clause complements with the finite verb:

(58a) Wierzę, że jest uczciwym człowiekiem

(58) He imagines himself to be a linguist

(58a) Wyobraża sobie, że jest językoznawcą

There is another type of infinitive complementation in English, where the subject of the infinitive is marked with *for*. Some such constructions will have loosely equivalent versions in Polish, as in:

(59) It's a tragedy for her to live like that

(59a) Jest tragedią dla niej żyć w ten sposób

more on infinitives in Polish and English see Lewandowska (this volume), or paraphrase relation only:

(60) He hoped for Mary to come

(60a) Miał nadzieję, że Maria przyjdzie

with *że*-clause in indicative mood, or:

(61) They telephoned for a doctor to come

(61a) Zatelefonowali, aby przyszedł lekarz

with *aby*-clause in dependent mood without a prepositional object, (They telephoned that a doctor come- lit.) or with a prepositional phrase following the main verb:

(61b) Zatelefonowali po lekarza, aby przyszedł

(lit. They telephoned for a doctor that he come).

#### (B7) Bare infinitive with subject

The regular occurrence of bare infinitive after verbs of perception in English has no strict equivalence in Polish. Therefore the discussion of (B7) as well as (B8), *-ing participle with subject*, can be limited in this sketchy work to those few remarks on the subject given on p. 222 in the description of (B4) and (B5).

#### (B8) *-ed participle with subject*

No strict equivalents are to be found in Polish, either. This subtype of complementation is expressed in Polish either as a finite clause complement of *że*- or *jak*-type, or a nominalized item (expressing a fact or a product of an action):

(62) He reported the watch stolen — He reported that the watch was stolen

(62a) Doniósł, że skradziono zegarek

(62b) Doniósł o kradzieży zegarka

(lit. He reported about the theft of the watch)

(63) He heard the vase broken — He heard that the vase  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{got} \\ \text{was} \end{array} \right\}$  broken

(63a) Słyszał,  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{że} \\ \text{jak} \end{array} \right\}$  wazon rozbił się

No general rule can be postulated in Polish for this construction introduced by such verbs as: *have*, *keep*, *want*, etc.:

(64) I had my hair cut

(64a) Ścięłam sobie włosy

being ambiguous between (64) and (65):

(65) I have cut my hair

(66) I wanted two tickets reserved

(66a) Chciałam zarezerwować dwa bilety

with two readings again, one equivalent to (66), the other to (67):

(67) I wanted to reserve two tickets. Another construction with *aby*-clause is possible as well:

(66b) Chciałam, aby zarezerwowano mi dwa bilety, corresponding to:

(66c) I wanted that two tickets (should) be reserved for me.

#### (C) Ditransitive complementation

##### (C1) Indirect + direct noun phrase object

This type of ditransitive complementation occurs with verbs like *give* and *buy* in English, which can take two objects: direct and indirect. The indirect object can be sometimes omitted, it can also appear as a prepositional paraphrase.

(68) He gave the girl a doll

(69) He gave a doll

(70) He gave a doll to the girl

(71) He bought the girl a white hat

(72) He bought a white hat

(73) He bought a white hat for the girl

In Polish, type (C1) occurs with the equivalent verbs such as *dać* or *kupić*, though the order of the two objects is not fixed, because of the inflectional endings of both the objects: direct object-Accusative, indirect object-Dative:

(68a) Dał dziewczynce lalkę — Dał lalkę dziewczynce

(71a) Kupił dziewczynce biały kapelusz — Kupił biały kapelusz dziewczynce

The indirect object can be also omitted: in self — explaining contexts:

(69a) Dał lalkę

(72a) Kupił biały kapelusz

while only in some cases the indirect object can take a prepositional paraphrase without changing the basic meaning:

(73a) Kupił biały kapelusz dla dziewczynki

vs.

(74) Dał lalkę dla dziewczynki

which is not an equivalent of (70) but rather of:

(75) He gave a doll (to somebody) for a girl.

Another subtype of verbs with ditransitive complementation includes such verbs as: *ask*-*pytać*, *teach*-*uczyć*, *tell*-*powiedzieć/opowiadać*, *pay*-*placić*, *show*-*pokazywać*. Basically, either object can be omitted both in English and Polish, though the prepositional paraphrase is possible only in English:

(76) I paid John a bill

(76a) Zapłaciłam Jankowi rachunek

(77) I paid John

(77a) Zapłaciłam Jankowi

(78) I paid a bill

(78a) Zapłaciłam rachunek

(79) I paid a bill to John—no Polish equivalent.

#### (C2) *Direct+prepositional object*

Type (C2), similarly to all classes including prepositional objects, contains many idiosyncratic syntactic features of verbs taking non-equivalent prepositions in either of the two contrasted languages. To discover all the similarities and differences within this type then, it would be worthwhile to compare particular subtypes of constructions in one language with the set of equivalent structures in the other. In our brief sketch, however, it will be only possible to point out certain specific cases. Cf.:

(80) We compare Polish with English

(80a) Porównujemy polski z angielskim

(81) The government supplied food for the homeless

(81a) Rząd dostarczył żywność dla bezdomnych

(82) The government supplied the homeless with food — no strict equivalent in Polish

(83) Rząd dostarczył żywność bezdomnym (Dat.) — no strict equivalent in English

(84) We reminded him of the agreement

(84a) Przypomnieliśmy mu o umowie (lit. *about* the agreement)

In some cases however the alternatives do not seem to be strict paraphrases (81–82).

A special subtype of complex objects can be mentioned in connection with sentence elements of the following order: Verb+noun phrase+prepositional phrase idioms. Naturally, this class of complementation types will

be still more language specific, hence deserving a separate extensive study.

To stress the problem, let's compare:

(85) I lost sight of him

(85a) Straciłam go z oczu (lit. I lost him from my eyes)

(86) I didn't pay attention to it

(86a) Nie zwracałam na to uwagi (lit. I didn't turn my attention on it)

vs. almost strictly equivalent:

(87) He lost touch with me

(87a) Stracił kontakt ze mną (He lost contact with me).

#### (C3) *Noun phrase+finite clause object*

The finite clause object in both languages may be either *that/że*- clause or *Wh/Q*- clause:

(88) John convinced me (that) he was right

(88a) Janek przekonał mnie, że miał rację

(89) Tom asked me if I was coming

(89a) Tomek zapytał mnie, czy przyjdę

Some of the verbs admit the noun phrase deletion:

(90) Peter showed me that he was honest —

Peter showed that he was honest

(90a) Piotr pokazał mi, że jest uczciwy —

Piotr pokazał, że jest uczciwy.

#### (C4) *Prepositional phrase+that-clause object*

This class is distinctive only in English: verbs included here take the preposition *to* and allow omitting the prepositional object:

(91) John mentioned to me that he had been sick —

John mentioned that he had been sick

In Polish, the majority of equivalent verbs will belong to type (C3), where the object is marked by an appropriate inflectional ending:

(91a) Janek wspomniął mi (Dat.), że był chory,

admitting also the omission of the object:

(91b) Janek wspomniął, że był chory

Some of the verbs entering this construction, however, can take either the object with the case marking alone, or the object preceded by a preposition:

(92) Kasia powiedziała mi, że przyjdzie —

✓ Kasia powiedziała do mnie, że przyjdzie

(92a) Kate told me that she would come —

Kate said to me that she would come

— the English language uses a different verb in this case.

(93) She complained (to me) that she couldn't do it

(93a) Narzekała (do mnie), że nie może tego zrobić

Sentences (93, 93a) are the example of a rare case of a complete equivalence in this type of complementation.

(D) *Complex transitive complementation*

(D1) *Object+noun phrase complement*

Though this type of complementation occurs both in English and Polish, not all instances of its occurrence are equivalent. Cf.:

(94) The king made him a duke

(94a) Król mianował go księciem (also:... zrobił go...)

The second object in Polish is marked with the Instrumental case with the appropriate inflectional ending (the categories of gender and number are overtly marked too).

Compare, however:

(95) We considered him  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{a genius (D1)} \\ \text{as a genius (D2)} \\ \text{to be a genius (B6)} \end{array} \right.$

whose equivalent structure in Polish would be only:

(D2) *Object+preposition+noun phrase complement*

(95a) Uznaliśmy go za geniusza

The most frequent preposition in English appearing in this pattern is *as*, rarely *for*:

(96) He took me for a fool

The equivalent Polish preposition will be *za*, mentioned above, corresponding either to *as* (95a) or *for*:

(96a) Wziął mnie za głupca.

In some cases the prepositions *jako* or *jak*, are used:

(97) He took these words as evidence

(97a) Przyjął te słowa jako dowód (also: za dowód)

(98) He treated me as a king (ambiguous between *asking=I* and *a king=he*)

(98a) Traktował mnie jak króla. (*a king=I*) and (98b)... jak król (*a king=he*)

(D3) *Object+adjective phrase complement*

(99) We painted the house white

(100) We imagined the house pink

(101) We considered the house beautiful

(102) We made the house beautiful

Most of the equivalent constructions in Polish will belong to (D4):

(99a) Pomalowaliśmy dom na biało (lit. on white)

(100a) Wyobraziliśmy sobie ten dom jako różowy (lit. as pink)

(101a) Uważaliśmy ten dom za piękny (lit. as/for beautiful)

The strict equivalence pattern is very rare. Cf. (102):

(102a) Uczyniliśmy dom pięknym,

where the adjective agrees with the preceding NP in Gender and Number, and is assigned the Instrumental case marking.

(D4) *Object+prepositional adjective phrase complement*

As was mentioned above, the majority of Polish constructions equivalent to (D3) will have to be classified as belonging to (D4)—ex. (99a, 100a, 101a). The preposition most frequently occurring in this type in English, is *as*, being equivalent to the Polish *jako*:

(103) The teacher described him as hopeless

(103a) Nauczyciel określił go jako beznadziejnego

(the adjective in agreement with the preceding NP in Gender and Number, with the Acc. case marking)

Much more often, however, such a complementation in Polish will contain a NP following the Adj P:

(104) Nauczyciel określił go jako beznadziejnego ucznia

(104a) The teacher described him as a hopeless pupil.

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This short survey of verb complementation types in English and Polish has not been meant to be either original or exhaustive. It can only signal those non-equivalent structures in both the languages which should be especially taken care of in the process of teaching, because of their contrasts, as well as the equivalent constructions, which are not likely to cause so much trouble. The next stage in contrastive analysis of verb complementation should be an attempt at a similar classification with the Polish language taken as an  $L_1$  and the English language as an  $L_2$ , which, as it seems, would allow to grasp some more important generalizations about equivalent and non-equivalent structures across languages.

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