



Show me your vocabulary, and I'll tell you who you are: How linguistics supports self-knowledge

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The topic of my presentation belongs to the domain of language and meaning, and was inspired by the recently published *Washing the brain: Metaphor and hidden ideology* by Andrew Goatly. In accordance with the leading theme of the conference, the ultimate aim of my paper is to exhibit one of the multifaceted applications of linguistic theory: its potential for entering our private lives by supporting self-awareness. Drawing on the insights from Cognitive Discourse Analysis, I will attempt to exhibit the ways in which the vocabulary items which we use or are exposed to influence our perception, conceptualization and shaping of reality. The presentation will be based on selected examples from an informally gathered corpus of Polish and English texts of different styles and registers, elucidating the ways in which we talk and think about such private spheres as relationships and religious faith. I hope I will be able to encourage the audience to risk a better insight into "the words they live by" (to paraphrase Lakoff) and allow the results to work for themselves. The presentation should be treated as a proposition for a more extensive research.

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