

## Abstract

### *Verbs referring to mental state as a reaction to the negatively evaluated action*

#### *Syntactic and semantic analysis*

The subject of the study in the thesis is a group of modern Polish verbs implying that someone experiences some state as a result of someone else's negatively evaluated actions. This group consists of the following lexical units: *coś<sub>p</sub> oburzyło kogoś<sub>x</sub>*, *coś<sub>p</sub> zbulwersowało kogoś<sub>x</sub>*, *coś<sub>p</sub> zgorszyło kogoś<sub>x</sub>*, *coś<sub>p</sub> zdemoralizowało kogoś<sub>x</sub>* and *coś<sub>p</sub> zdeprawowało kogoś<sub>x</sub>*. The primary aim of this thesis is to describe semantic and syntactic properties of the aforementioned expressions and to formulate paralogisms of their meanings.

The presented dissertation consists of seven parts. In the first chapter the semantic criteria for the examined group of lexical units are discussed as well as the scope of the research is defined. The structure of the thesis is also briefly presented.

The second chapter is dedicated to the methodological background of the thesis: the theory of language by Ferdinand de Saussure, the conception of lexical units and linguistic cognitive convention by Andrzej Bogusławski and the theory of thematic-rhematic structure by the same researcher. In this chapter the basic methods of discovering and describing the components of meanings of the expressions are depicted i.e. the contradiction test and the componential analysis. In addition, in this part there are presented difficulties caused by the adopted method of description of units' semantic structures as well as the use of the corpus data is explained.

The third chapter concerns syntactic contexts characteristic of the verbs: *oburzyć*, *zbulwersować*, *zgorszyć*, *zdemoralizować* and *zdeprawować*. In the first sub-chapter the properties of constructions with a "personal" subject organised around the aforementioned verbs are examined, in relation to Izabela Duraj-Nowosielska's conclusions presented in the study *Robić coś i coś powodować. Opozycja agentywności i kauzatywności w języku polskim*. There are also presented arguments for considering those constructions causative, not – as their form suggests – agentive. The second sub-chapter is dedicated to correlations between the analysed group of lexical units and corresponding expressions with the word *się*. Those correlations are claimed in the thesis to come down to different methods of organising thematic-rhematic structures of the sentences which are constituted by the aforementioned expressions.



The fourth chapter is dedicated the concept of 'zły' which is key to all examined lexical units. In this part of the dissertation the parolocution of the meaning of *bad* proposed by Andrzej Bogusławski in his study *Science as linguistic activity, linguistics as scientific activity* is discussed. The chapter also contains a brief presentation of the most important alternative conceptions to this proposal (e.g. by Anna Wierzbicka and Jadwiga Puzynina) as well as an explanation why the author of the thesis considers them unconvincing.

The fifth chapter is dedicated to those of the examined lexical units which imply that the reaction of the experiencer to what agent did was an emotion. Those units are: *coś<sub>p</sub> oburzyło kogoś<sub>x</sub>*, *coś<sub>p</sub> zbulwersowało kogoś<sub>x</sub>*, *coś<sub>p</sub> zgorszyło kogoś<sub>x</sub>*. In the first part there is a critical review of the most important conceptions of studying and describing meanings of emotional expressions and emotional concepts. There is also presented the state of research on the expressions with words *oburzyć*, *zbulwersować* and *zgorszyć*. The main part of the chapter contains the semantic-syntactic analysis of the aforementioned units and paralogutions of their meanings. The conducted tests have shown that expressions *coś<sub>p</sub> oburzyło kogoś<sub>x</sub>*, *coś<sub>p</sub> zbulwersowało kogoś<sub>x</sub>* and *coś<sub>p</sub> zgorszyło kogoś<sub>x</sub>* imply that the direct reason for experiencer's state was a thought that some person – other than the subject of the state – had done something (the examined units do not imply, however, whether such an incident had really happened or not). The actions of agent – if the neutral sentence intonation is applied – are the themes of the sentences constituted by the examined units while the information on experiencer's thought is included in their thematic dicta. Rhematic elements of *coś<sub>p</sub> oburzyło kogoś<sub>x</sub>*, *coś<sub>p</sub> zbulwersowało kogoś<sub>x</sub>* and *coś<sub>p</sub> zgorszyło kogoś<sub>x</sub>* are components depicting experiencer's state which consists of experiencer's opinions on the actions, knowledge and intentions of the agent as well as experiencer's sensations. All examined units imply that subject of the state evaluates the actions of the agent negatively, because they are not compatible with the convention adopted by the community to which, according to the experiencer, both the experiencer and the agent belong. In addition, the experiencer assumes that not only did the agent want to do what he/she did but he/she also had had the knowledge based on which he/she could have said while performing the act that his/her actions were bad according to the aforementioned community. The experiencer also assumes that the agent could have evaluated what actions would have corresponded to this knowledge. What differs *coś<sub>p</sub> zgorszyło kogoś<sub>x</sub>* from other examined emotional expressions is the information that the agent was able to express this knowledge, therefore he/she had been aware of the existing norms that were violated. The component of the semantic structure of *coś<sub>p</sub> zbulwersowało kogoś<sub>x</sub>* that does not exist in the meanings of other examined units is an implication that the action of the agent (the reason for experiencer's emotion) surprised the



experiencer. As far as an implied non-rational reaction of the subject of the state is concerned, it is identical in all expressions: lexical units *coś<sub>p</sub> oburzyło kogoś<sub>x</sub>*, *coś<sub>p</sub> zbulwersowało kogoś<sub>x</sub>* and *coś<sub>p</sub> zgorszyło kogoś<sub>x</sub>* imply that as a result of agent's actions, the experiencer experienced something that he/she knew about.

The sixth chapter contains the semantic-syntactic analysis of lexical units which do not imply experiencer's emotional reaction such as *coś<sub>p</sub> zdemoralizowało kogoś<sub>x</sub>* and *coś<sub>p</sub> zdeprawowało kogoś<sub>x</sub>*. The analysis is preceded by the critical review of the state of research on verbs *zdemoralizować* and *zdeprawować*, while finished with proposals of paralogisms of the meanings of the aforementioned lexical units. The analysis indicates that if the neutral sentence intonation is applied, similarly to the lexical units from the first group, the themes of the sentences organised around *coś<sub>p</sub> zdemoralizowało kogoś<sub>x</sub>* and *coś<sub>p</sub> zdeprawowało kogoś<sub>x</sub>* are usually reasons for the given states – in this case the sequences of the agent's acts evaluated by the speaker negatively. Interestingly, those actions may not be performed consciously – the demoralising or corrupting impact may have also those deeds which were performed by the agent unconsciously while performing other actions. Described components and information that the experiencer knows about actions performed by the agent are depicted in thematic dicta of *coś<sub>p</sub> zdemoralizowało kogoś<sub>x</sub>* and *coś<sub>p</sub> zdeprawowało kogoś<sub>x</sub>*. Rhematic elements of those lexical units are components expressing the state of the experiencer. Investigated expressions imply that as a result of agent's actions the experiencer changes: the subject of the state is willing to do what he/she had not been willing to do earlier, before the agent did what he did. The experiencer is willing to perform the action which is evaluated negatively as it remains in conflict with the norms adopted by the community to which the subject of the state belongs. The component of the semantic structure of *coś<sub>p</sub> zdemoralizowało kogoś<sub>x</sub>* which brings this lexical unit to the semantic opposition to *coś<sub>p</sub> zdeprawowało kogoś<sub>x</sub>* is the information on experiencer's consciousness: although both lexical units imply that the subject of state may know that his/her potential actions are incompatible with the norms existing in the community and he/she also may know what actions would correspond to this knowledge, only *coś<sub>p</sub> zdemoralizowało kogoś<sub>x</sub>* implies that this knowledge is explicit to the experiencer which means that he/she is able and willing to express it.

The final, seventh chapter includes the summary of the results of the conducted analyses and the indication of the research capacities offered by the lexical area of the investigated units.

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