

## PhD dissertation summary

title: *Grammaticalization processes of selected negative structures in history of Polish language*

(*Procesy gramatyzacyjne wybranych struktur negujących w historii języka polskiego*)

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Aim of the thesis is to study diachronic relationships between selected non-standard (i.e. emphatic) and standard (i.e. neutral) negative sentential constructions. To achieve this goal I used a well-known linguistic concept of *Jespersen's Cycle (Cycles)* – the main survey focuses on finding traces of this process in the history of Polish language. Dissertation consists of four chapters and has 94 pages in total.

Chapter 1 serves as an introductory part. It contains details of research interest, motivations and goals of the thesis and provides information about its structure. Also it presents theoretical framework of the survey by defining basic concepts and terminology (what is *grammaticalization*, *emphasis*, *standard negation* etc.). Essentially I base on structural understanding of language (mostly related to works as Grochowski 1986, Horn 1989, Lehmann 2002, Miestamo 2005, Wajszczuk 2005, Kleszczowa 2015). Thus I can capture Jespersen's Cycle in general as a complex process of three subsequent development stages, that can be identify through their synchronic reflections. In this way presented analyses are to connect together two aspects of language (synchronic and diachronic) in accordance with R. Jakobson's (1971: 721) postulate.

Chapter 2 deals with Jespersen's cycle(s) as a linguistic phenomenon. The literature on the subject is dominated by two opposed perspectives: formal and functional. Researchers, who use the first one, are interested in observing formal changes of negation exponents and thus refer to the original concepts of the evolutionary cycle (see Jespersen 1917: 4-11). The functional understanding highlights the transformation of the functions of negation constructions in the direction from non-standard (emphatic) to standard (neutral). This is the perspective, which I take as a ground for my further considerations. In the second part of the

chapter, I propose synchronic characteristic of stages in the cycle and suggest ways of identifying them in non-contemporary material.

Chapter 3 provides detailed examination of five case-studies: lexical units: *bynajmniej, w ogóle, wcale*, the genitive following a negated transitive verb, and the extinguished MPol. *ni 'nie'*. Also it briefly describes the mechanisms constituting a potential starting point in Polish (i.e. emphatic negation strategies). The chapter is thus divided into seven sections preceded by an introduction. Each of these sections consist of four parts: an etymological description, an analysis of the development of the discussed unit, the conclusions and evolutionary forecasts.

In chapter 4 I present the findings derived from the analysis and propose directions of potential further research. The general conclusion of the study is the confirmation of at least a partial occurrence of the process called Jespersen's cycle in Polish. Proposals for further research include e.g. the analysis of the diachronic aspect of the phenomenon of the so-called "double negation" in Polish (and other Slavonic languages) through the use of an apparatus constructed for the purpose of the study.

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