

Metalanguage of comments on communication activities in the Polish language corpus in comparison with data from other languages

The natural metalanguage of comments on human behavior is actually analyzed especially in studies on (im)politeness, c.f. Culpeper (1996, 2009, 2010, 2011a, 2011b, 2012, 2021), Culpeper et al. (2010), Culpeper, & Hardaker (2017), Culpeper, O'Driscoll, & Hardaker (2019), Watts (2003), Fukushima (2004), Gupta et al. (2007), Giles et al. (2019), Haugh, & Chang (2019), Haugh, & Culpeper (2020). Hence, little is known about commenting on other aspects of human interactions and the metalanguage used for defining and evaluating communicative actions. Simultaneously, the theoretical and methodological studies proved that the corpus-based analysis of natural metalanguage provides the most reliable confirmation of hypotheses on the human perception of language activity, c.f. Jaworski et al. (2004), Culpeper, & Haugh (2014), Haugh (2018), Verschueren (2021).

Therefore, the current study expands the scope of research by exploring the variety of spontaneous comments on communication activities and the metalanguage of such comments. The analyzed comments were excerpted from the national corpus of Polish language (NKJP). They represent the various genres of texts, including posts, journalistic texts and fiction. The study has covered the analysis of the collocations of verbs and adverbs as well as adjectives and nouns used in the comments on communicative actions.

As a result of the study, it has been proved that the speakers reporting communication activities tend to evaluate not only (im)politeness of the actions but also such aspects of them as their overall rating (good or bad), intensiveness, emotional expressivity, impression made on recipient or observer (including the aesthetic impact), mode of physical realization, manifestation of speaker's attitude to the recipient and others. As the adverbials (c.f. Greenbaum, 1969; Austin et al., 2004), the terms concerning these categories can be used to evaluate the fact of action performance or the mode of performance. Some of them can be used in both of these ways. The signals of usage type are the position and accentuation of verb and adverb, for example *grzecznie poprosił o sól* 'he behaved politely and asked for a salt (not for example took it by himself)' vs. *poprosił grzecznie o sól* 'he asked for a salt in a polite mode (not for example patronizingly)'.

Also, the corpus analysis showed that the choice of evaluative term made by the speaker and the frequency of such choices depends on the verb in collocation. So that, for example, the Polish language speakers tend to evaluate being silent in interaction or passing over something with a word *taktownie* 'with a tact, considerably' (never with the opposite word: *nietaktownie*) and to evaluate mainly the nonverbal communication activities as the manifestations of friendliness described with a word *przyjaźnie* 'friendly'.

Moreover, as part of the study, the set of Polish evaluative adverbs and adjectives has been compared with the parallel sets of terms, excerpted from the corpora of other languages as well as described earlier in (im)politeness literature, c. f. Wierzbicka (2003[1991]), Culpeper et al. (2010), Schneider (2012), Taylor (2016), Su (2019). The comparative analysis revealed some differences between sets of terms used to evaluate communication activities, for example the Polish language users distinctively tend to comment on interactions using words *pięknie* 'beautifully' or *ładnie* 'almost beautifully, prettily' that imply aesthetic evaluation.