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KRYSTYNA WARCHAŁ
University of Silesia
krystyna.warchal@us.edu.pl

THE PLACE OF THE PURPOSE STATEMENT IN LINGUISTICS ARTICLE INTRODUCTIONS: AN ENGLISH–POLISH PERSPECTIVE

This article discusses selected aspects of the organisation of the academic article introduction – a section of a central academic genre, recognised as both troublesome (Swales 1990) and strategically important, as it is at this stage that the reader forms the first, and often lasting, impressions of the whole text. Based on Swales' (1990) revised CARS model of article introductions and drawing on previous Polish–English contrastive studies (e.g., Duszak 1994; Golebiowski 1998, 1999), it looks into the placement, realisation, and role of the purpose statement in introductions to articles published in the years 2001-2006 in linguistics-related peer-reviewed English- and Polish-language journals. It seeks answers to the following questions: (i) Is the statement of purpose a typical/recurrent feature of introductions to Polish-language articles? (ii) If it does occur in Polish, in which part of the introduction is it usually made by Polish authors as compared to English writers? (iii) What is the preferred way of announcing it in both groups of texts? and (iv) Can any assessment be made of its prominence in both languages on the basis of what precedes and what follows it? Contrary to what might have been expected on the basis of previous studies, the article demonstrates that the statement of purpose is in fact a stable element of the introduction to a Polish-language linguistics article, although its prominence depends on the presence of other rhetorical moves.

Keywords: *English for Academic Purposes*, *genre analysis*, *rhetorical moves*, *research article, introduction*

1. Introduction

A written text can be seen as a structure composed of hierarchically and organically arranged functional segments, whose relative position is one of the factors shaping its global sense. The fact that one segment follows and

precedes others and that their order is not random or inconsequential but forms part of the author's strategy of interacting with his or her readership, making a point, or aligning with a specific genre or communicative tradition makes such concepts as place, arrangement, and distribution natural and useful in the analysis of text structure. Thus, for example, reflecting on the role of the title, Duszak (1998: 129) draws attention to the "strategic importance" of its position. While the role of the title and its placing as a signal of the text macrostructure (or global semantic structure; see, e.g., Tomlin et al. 1997) is incontestable, the placement of other text segments, of varied length and complexity, is also evidence of the author's strategy, of his or her planned line of communication. In choosing the strategy, the writer may take into consideration a variety of factors, such as the background knowledge of the readers and his or her main goals (e.g., of persuading, informing, or entertaining), and be constrained by a number of others, such as genre conventions or culture-based preferences.

Another applicable sense of place that comes to mind in the context of text organisation is that of "[t]he degree of priority given to something" (*Oxford Dictionaries* 2017) or "the relative importance of something or someone" (*Collins Cobuild* 1987). It seems natural to assume that in a complex, hierarchical structure, various segments will carry different weights. For instance, as pointed out by Duszak (1998), in terms of setting the reader's expectations towards the text and predisposing him or her to receive it in a particular way, the title provides a "situational frame" (p. 129) and facilitates interpretation. A poorly selected title may misguide the reader, lead to an interpretation which is at odds with the writer's intentions, and, in extreme cases, ruin the communication. The potential for enhancing and ruining the intended text effect is a measure of its importance, or place, in the text structure.

Some text segments tend to receive different degrees of prominence depending on the particular genre or target readership. For example, in the field of academic discourse, segments introducing methodology carry special weight in research grant proposals, where they are reported to occupy most space (Connor 2000; Feng and Shi 2004).[1] Similarly, a different degree of importance is likely to be attached to a closing segment presenting teaching implications in a research article directed specifically at teachers and in one targeted at a more varied audience. Finally, apparently equivalent segments coming from texts that instantiate the same genre may receive different degrees of prominence or occur at different text positions depending on the culture in which they originate. For example, Clyne (1987) observes that segments defining key terms are more likely to be found in academic articles by Anglophone writers than in those by German scholars, and that if German authors choose to define the main concepts, they tend to do so later in the text than their Anglophone colleagues,

[1] This is not to say that these segments are *distinctive* of research grant proposals, as is, for example, the compliance claim, identified by Connor and Mauranen (1999) as specific to EU research proposals.

who prefer positions close to the beginning of an article. This last-mentioned problem of cross-cultural differences in the placement and prominence of text segments is taken up in the present paper.

The paper discusses selected aspects of the organisation of the academic article introduction – a section of a central academic genre, recognised as both troublesome (Swales 1990) and strategically important, as it is at this stage that the reader forms the first, and often lasting, impressions of the whole text. More specifically, it looks into the placement, realisation, and role of the purpose statement in introductions to articles published in linguistics-related peer-reviewed English- and Polish-language journals. It seeks answers to the following questions: (i) Is the statement of purpose a typical/recurrent feature of introductions to Polish-language articles? (ii) If it does occur in Polish, in which part of the introduction is it usually made by Polish authors as compared to English writers? (iii) What is the preferred way of announcing it in both groups of texts? and (iv) Can any assessment be made of its prominence in both languages on the basis of what precedes and what follows it? The paper builds upon existing studies on Polish and English academic writing conventions (Duszak 1994; Golebiowski 1998, 1999), examining the situation on a more recent material (2001-2006) and on a larger corpus of texts. The results indicate that the statement of purpose may not be as peripheral a feature of Polish-language introductions to academic articles as could be expected on the basis of prior research.

2. Academic article introductions

Journal articles belong to central professional academic genres. They are published in large numbers, with their abstracts and principal findings often available in various professional data bases, and more and more frequently offered through open-access services. Because of their number and availability, they have a major influence on the development of individual disciplines and play an important role in the professional lives of scholars (Swales 1990, 2004). Their importance is also reflected in academic discourse studies, where they have received special attention and are probably the most frequently studied professional academic texts.[2] Of the standard sections of research articles, introductions have drawn special interest (e.g., Swales 1981; Duszak 1994; Golebiowski 1998, 1999; Samraj 2002; Warchał 2014). On the one hand, the introduction is a section where the authors introduce their research. In this respect, its function is informative – it presents the object of study and its context, often specifying the scope, methodology and key theoretical concepts involved. On the other hand, it aims at drawing the readership by promising

[2] For a modest review of English for Academic Purposes literature dealing with journal articles and their sections, see Warchał (2015).

something new and worth the time spent reading – a solution to a current research need, an original approach, new data, or important implications. It is supposed to attract the readers and provide motivation to read on (Pierson and Pierson 1997). Because of its multiple goals, writing the introduction is often perceived as "slow, difficult, and troublesome" (Swales and Feak 1994: 173).

Possibly the most popular and influential tool for the study of introductions to English-language research articles is the revised Create a Research Space model proposed by Swales (1990). It identifies major rhetorical moves, further analysed into steps, taken by academic authors to introduce their texts to the reader. Move 1, Establishing a Territory, introduces the topic and establishes its significance by Claiming Centrality (Step 1), Making Topic Generalizations (Step 2), and Reviewing Items of Previous Research (Step 3). Move 2, Establishing a Niche, indicates the need for the current research, usually emerging from some aspects of the problem being so far overlooked, underexplored, or misrepresented, and is realised by Counter-Claiming (Step 1A), Indicating a Gap (Step 1B), Question-Raising (Step 1C), or Continuing a Tradition (Step 1D). Finally, Move 3, Occupying the Niche, declares how the need indicated in Move 2 is going to be satisfied by the current research – a move consisting essentially in the thesis or purpose statement (e.g., Arnaudet and Barrett 1984). This is done by Outlining Purposes (Step 1A) or Announcing Present Research (Step 1B), Announcing Principal Findings (Step 2), and Indicating RA Structure (Step 3). Research that followed has shown that individual moves may sometimes be omitted, introduced in different order, or applied in cycles and that they may not be directly applicable to cross-cultural studies; nevertheless, Swales' model remains the most comprehensive and stimulating account of how academic authors introduce their research to their audience.

Contrastive Polish-English studies into the organisation of academic texts have been pioneered by Duszak (1994, 1997, 1998), whose Move Analysis of research article introductions indicates that Polish authors tend to downgrade Move 3 and be more tentative, indirect, and vague in its realisations, often preferring to say what they do not intend to do rather than what their intentions are. In her 1998 study, Golebiowski analyses introductions to psychology articles by Polish scholars writing in Polish and in English as an Additional Language. Focusing on such elements as linearity, definition of key concepts, and the amount of theoretical background, Golebiowski demonstrates that the texts contain many digressions, whose function is to provide extensive background knowledge, review relevant literature, consider various theoretical issues related to the problem analysed, develop key concepts, and justify methodological decisions. For this reason, she observes, article introductions by Polish authors "often resemble abbreviated statements of all available knowledge on a topic" (p. 82), which places them closer to Russian and German prose than to Anglo-American tradition of academic writing. Additionally, she points to the special role of recapitulations in academic articles by Polish writers: after a digression, Polish scholars tend to restate their main objectives to put the reader back on

the right track. Like Duszak in her 1994 study, Golebiowski (1999) attempts to implement Swales' model of research article introductions in her analysis of Polish-language academic texts. However, she concludes that the strategies applied by Polish authors appear so different from those preferred by their Anglophone colleagues that it is difficult to study them using the same model of analysis.

Rather than attempt to apply the CARS model of rhetorical moves in its entirety to a corpus of Polish-language linguistics articles, in this paper we will look at some realisations of Step 1, Move 3 – Outlining Purposes and Announcing Present Research, which here are referred to collectively as the statement of purpose (PS). Taking into consideration the earlier reports of the incompatibility of Swales' model of research article introductions with the strategies preferred by Polish writers, limiting the focus to this particular text segment may help to identify a point of reference for further analyses of introductory moves taken by Polish authors and for further cross-linguistic comparisons of rhetorical strategies. It is also worth noting that the articles included in the present corpus were published at least ten years after those which served as the basis for Duszak (1994) and Golebiowski (1999), in some cases the time distance growing to thirty years. Possible differences in the obtained results may then signal a change in the preferences of Polish writers (and readers) that took place over this very eventful period of time.

3. The analysis

3.1. The corpus

The material for this study was a two-part corpus of 100 introductions to journal articles – 50 in English and 50 in Polish – drawn at random from a larger corpus of 400 complete papers published between the years 2001-2006. The English-language part comprised introductions to articles published in five international linguistics journals: *Journal of Pragmatics*, *Language and Communication*, *Language Sciences*, *Lingua*, and *Linguistics and Philosophy*. The affiliation of the author of each article – or the first two authors in the case of multi-authored papers – was taken into consideration to confirm a native-like command of English, which was also ensured by the strict reviewing systems of the journals. The analysed material included 10 introductions from each journal. The size of the corpus was about 41 thousand running words, with the average length of somewhat over 800.[3] The length of individual introductions varied considerably from 154 words to 2,495. There was no direct relationship between

[3] All counts are made with WordSmith 5 (Scott 2008).

the length and the journal; actually the longest and the shortest introductions came from *Language Sciences*.

The Polish-language part of the corpus comprised introductions to articles published in the following journals (all of them included in the 2003 list of Polish scientific journals issued by the Polish Committee for Scientific Research): *Acta Baltico-Slavica, Biuletyn Polskiego Towarzystwa Językoznawczego, Etnolingwistyka, Język a Kultura, Onomastica, Poradnik Językowy, Slavia Meridionalis,* and *Studia z Filologii Polskiej i Słowiańskiej*. The size of the corpus was approximately 20 thousand running words, with the average length of about 390. The longest introduction comprised 1,214 words (from *Onomastica*), the shortest, 49 (from *Studia z Filologii Polskiej i Słowiańskiej*). As in the case of the English part of the corpus, no direct relationship was noticed between the length and the journal.

As could be expected, the vast majority of Polish articles were not explicitly divided into sections. Actually, of the 50 articles considered, only 12 had sections – either with corresponding headings or merely numbered. In all the remaining cases, introductory sections had to be identified by actually reading the papers and deciding on the point of division on the basis of the content and metatextual clues.

The introductions were analysed manually to identify the position of the purpose statement (if present), its realisation, and its co-text, with particular reference to the statement of the need for the research (corresponding to various realisations of Move 2 in the CARS model), the announcement of findings and the outline of the article structure (both corresponding to optional steps within Move 3), and the definition or elaboration of key terms. Evaluation of the relative prominence of the statement was carried out taking into account the following parameters: the position, the length, and the association with the statement of the need for the research on the one hand, and with the announcement of principal findings, on the other.

3.2. Results and discussion

The analysis of the English part of the corpus has shown that, quite expectedly, the vast majority of the introductions comprise the statement of purpose, which was found to be missing in only 4 cases (Fig. 1a). Among the remaining 46 introductions, 12 announced the purpose of the study at the very beginning, with 7 of those 12 cases repeating or elaborating on it later in the section (Ex. 1, 2). In 11 introductions, the statement of purpose closed the section (in 5 of these cases, it was announced earlier, too; Ex. 3). Altogether, 19 English-language introductions opened and/or closed with the statement of purpose. Also in 19 cases, the statement of purpose could be identified at two or three points in the introduction (Figs. 2a and 3a, respectively).

(1) *This paper explores the mapping between syntax and pragmatic features in the domains of evidentiality and logophoricity.* (L2004-2)

(2) *In this paper I compare two different oratorical transformations in colonial America and contemporary Tamilnadu, India and the relationship between communicative practice and the emergence of democratic politics in each situation. Specifically, I examine here shifts in speech genres within emergent 'public' oratorical traditions associated with the two peoples' struggles for independence. ... I argue here that this move is not as counter-intuitive as it appears at first blush. ... This paper will interrogate the shifting subjectivities of political orators in both situations, as indexed by and embodied in new oratorical genres, as aspects of the culturally and historically specific forms of power in emergent democracies.* (LC2004-9)[4]

(3) *It will be argued that these differences between languages in coda prominence lead to differences in the overall phonetic prominence of CVC and ultimately to differences in the phonological weight of CVC.* (L2002-3)

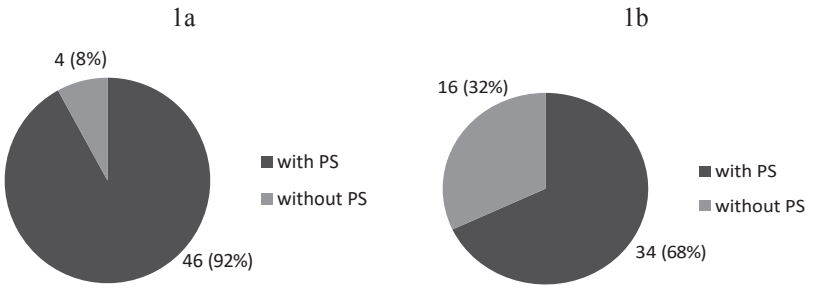


Figure 1. Introductions comprising the purpose statement:
a) in English; b) in Polish

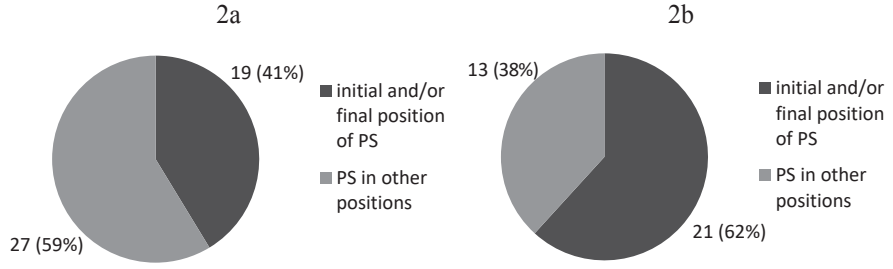


Figure 2. The position of the purpose statement:
a) in English; b) in Polish

[4] Multiple occurrences of the statement of purpose are separated with …; the symbol (…) means that part of the text has been omitted to save space.

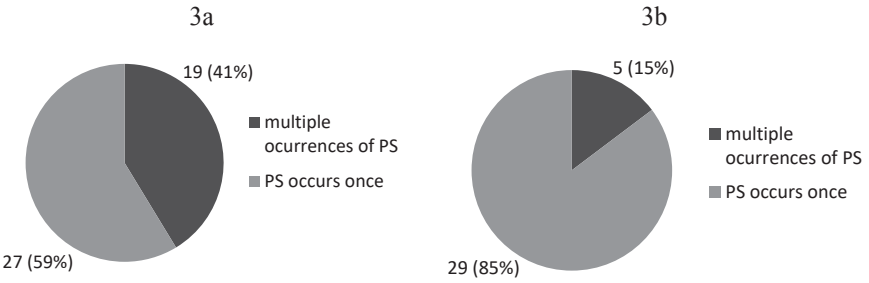


Figure 3. Multiple and single occurrences of the purpose statement: a) in English; b) in Polish

With regard to the Polish part of the corpus, the statement of purpose was found to be missing in 16 cases (Fig. 1b). Among the remaining 34 introductions, 15 opened with the purpose statement, and 2 of these 15 repeated or elaborated on it later in the section (Ex. 4, 5). In 8 cases, the purpose statement occurred at the final position (Ex. 6). Thus, in 21 Polish introductions, the statement of purpose was placed initially and/or at the end-position (Fig 2b). In only 5 introductions did the purpose statement occur more than once (Fig. 3b).

(4) *Przedmiotem uwagi jest w niniejszym artykule zjawisko homonimii. Cel stawiamy sobie trojaki. Chcemy, po pierwsze, zaproponować pewną regulację terminologiczną ... Po drugie, poinformujemy o paru projektach naukowych, w jakie jesteśmy zaangażowani; projekty te podejmują między innymi, w aspekcie teoretycznym lub praktycznym, problematykę homonimii. Po trzecie, przedstawimy pewne obserwacje ilościowe tyczące homonimii w systemie języka polskiego i w tekście polskim.* (BPTJ2002-12) 'This article deals with the phenomenon of homonymy. We set three goals for ourselves. Firstly, we want to propose a certain terminological regulation … Secondly, we will provide information about several research projects in which we participate; these projects are concerned with the problem of homonymy – its theoretical or practical aspect. Thirdly, we will present some quantitative observations concerning homonymy in the system of Polish and in the Polish text.'

(5) *Niniejsze rozważania mają charakter zarówno teoretyczny, jak i badawczo-empiryczny. Część teoretyczna stanowi kontynuację badań nad statusem nazw własnych w różnych typach dyskursu i w różnych odmianach stylowych polszczyzny. ... Artykuł jest także opisem badań dotyczących statusu i funkcji nazw własnych w pewnym typie tekstów przynależących do współczesnego dyskursu religijnego. ... Dlatego szczególnie interesować mnie będzie taki typ dyskursu religijnego, w którym obie te rzeczywistości (transcendentna i ziemska) są ze sobą zespolone, oraz udział, rola nazw własnych w tym procesie.* (ON2003-3) 'The present considerations are both theoretical and analytical-empirical in character. The theoretical part is a continuation of investigations into the status of proper names in various types of discourse and in different stylistic varieties of the Polish langu-

age … The article also provides a description of the research into the status and function of proper names in a selected type of texts that belong to contemporary religious discourse. … This is why I will be especially interested in the type of religious discourse where both these realities (transcendent and earthly) are united and in the position or role of proper names in this process.'

(6) *W artykule tym zajmę się nazwami powstałymi od trzech typowych dialektyzmów kaszubskich: ostrów 'wyspa, wzniesienie', osuch 'piaszczyste pole', 'piaszczysta ławica w morzu', okół 'zakręt', 'łąka nad brzegiem krętej rzeki'*. (SFPS2004-3) 'In this article, I will deal with proper names that originate from three typical Kashubian dialectisms: ostrów 'island, hill'; osuch 'sandy area, sandy shoal in the sea'; and okół 'bend, meadow at the bank of a winding river.'

As can be seen in Fig. 1, the statement of purpose is a stable element of the English article introduction, occurring in more than 90% of the introductions examined. As for Polish introductions, the statement of purpose does occur in the majority of texts (68%) but is markedly less frequent than in English. However, as shown in Fig. 2, Polish introductions demonstrate stronger preference for the initial and/or end position of the statement of purpose: 62%, as contrasted with 41% in English. If we take the initial and end positions in the introductions as more salient than others, this may suggest that once they choose to announce their goals, Polish authors tend to do so in text positions which are strategically more important. Multiple realisations of the statement of purpose are generally rather dispreferred in Polish, attested only in 15% of the examined introductions. By contrast, in English, cyclical realisations were observed in 41% of the texts, which may suggest that English authors treat it as an axis and organising principle of the introduction rather than a single rhetorical move. This result corresponds closely with Duszak's (1994: 305) observation that English writers tend to introduce their goals in a spiral way. However, the findings for Polish texts do not quite tally with earlier reports.

The length of the statement of purpose varied widely in both corpora. The average length in English was 66 words and in Polish 42, which is a noticeable but not a huge difference taking into consideration the typological and structural differences between the two languages. However, the average number of words tells very little about the actual patterns observed in the corpora. The shortest statements of purpose were 13 and 6 words long in English and in Polish, respectively (Ex. 7 and 8). The longest purpose statement in the English part of the corpus was 217 words long – it occurred at the beginning of the introduction and took up two thirds of its space (Ex. 9). Interestingly, in this particular case, the goals were announced in a single text segment rather than cyclically. The longest and in this respect very untypical statement of purpose in Polish was 216 words long (Ex. 10). It is worth noting that it was one of the few cases where the goals were announced in three interspersed text segments. The longest single-segment statement of purpose in Polish was 66 words long (Ex. 4 above).[5]

[5] Indeed, the second longest cyclical realisation of the statement of purpose in Polish was 90 words long, which demonstrates the highly untypical nature of Example 10.

(7) *The goal of this paper is to uncover the source of these conditions.* (LP2001-9)

(8) *Temu zagadnieniu będzie poświęcony niniejszy artykuł.* (BPTJ2001-2) 'The present paper will be concerned with this particular issue.'

(9) *This essay provides a detailed account of the morphosyntax, semantics, and pragmatics of modal clitics in Q'eqchi'-Maya. It builds on previous arguments (Kockelman, 2002, 2003b, 2004) that status, or epistemic modality, is a shifter that marks the speaker's commitment to a narrated event relative to the speech event; and that commitment should be understood as a kind of participant role. It details the complicated types of commitment events that are encoded and implicated in various contexts. It shows the ways in which multiple commitment events—inhabited by the speaker, addressee, and actor—combine in various contexts to serve complex functions, ranging from satiatives and dubitives to bluffatives and suprisitives. And it shows the ways in which these complicated, overlapping commitment events may be understood in terms of intentional states—from desire and worry to belief and hope. In this way, it grounds the 'possible worlds' of logicians and the 'intentional worlds' of psychologists in terms of participant roles; and it thereby reinterprets logical and psychological presumptions in terms of social and semiotic practices. In short, it shows the ways in which we are merely minding language when we talk about mind. Finally, while focused on the forms and functions of Q'eqchi'-Maya, it provides an analytic typology that may be used to analyze other languages (and other minds).* (LC2006-2)

(10) *Włączając się jako językoznawcy do badań współczesnego wizerunku Rosjanina w oczach Polaków, wizerunku zmieniającego się dziś pod naporem doniosłych wydarzeń historycznych, chcemy zarazem na tym jednym wyrazistym przykładzie sprawdzić różne możliwości i sposoby ustalania treści stereotypu za pomocą metod praktykowanych przez etnolingwistów. ... i to jest istotny punkt naszego programu – bliżej przeanalizować sposoby operowania poznawczą treścią stereotypu. ... Dokonamy próby zestawienia cech Rosjanina przypisywanych mu przez Polaków, najpierw cech najsilniej utrwalonych w samym systemie języka, potem tych, które mają pozycję słabszą, należą do sfery społecznej konwencji i są dostępne głównie na drodze specjalnych badań ankietowych, a w kolejności cech pojawiających się w konkretnych tekstach; sięgniemy do wybranych gatunków mowy: współczesnych kawałów o narodach, do wypowiedzi publicystycznych, do poezji i prozy artystycznej. Zasygnalizujemy typowe konfiguracje tych cech w postaci syndromów i poszukamy w literaturze pięknej reprezentatywnych dla tych syndromów postaci. Jako zwieńczenie dokonanych analiz zostanie podjęta próba przedstawienia sposobu funkcjonowania bazowego stereotypu na poziomie dyskursu, czyli pokazania, jak społeczny obraz Rosjanina jest profilowany, z jakich cech i ich zespołów (syndromów) jest budowany, jak jest wewnętrznie ustrukturowany, jakim dominantom i intencjom podporządkowywany. Postawimy (podobnie jak w przypadku stereotypu Niemca, por. Bartmiński 1994) pytanie o to, jaki społeczny podmiot jest w Polsce kreatorem określonego profilu i jest potencjalnym partnerem w dialogu ze wschodnim sąsiadem.* (EL2002-3) 'By joining the investigations into the contemporary image of the Russian as seen by Poles – an image that is now changing as a result of momentous historical events – as linguists, on the basis of this single salient example, we also want to test

various possibilities and ways of determining the content of a stereotype using methods applied by ethnolinguists. … and this is an important element of our programme, to analyse more closely the ways in which the cognitive content of a stereotype is used. … We will attempt to juxtapose the features of the Russian ascribed to them by Poles; first, the features which are the most strongly based in the system of language itself; next, those whose position is weaker, which belong to the field of social conventions and are retrievable mainly through surveys; and finally, features which emerge in concrete texts; we will refer to selected speech genres: contemporary jokes about nations, journalism, poetry, and artistic prose. We will point out typical configurations of these features in the form of syndromes and we will look for characters that represent those syndromes in literature. To crown the analysis, an attempt will be made to present the functioning of the base stereotype on the discourse level, that is, to demonstrate how the social image of the Russian is profiled, from which features and syndromes it is built, what is its internal structure, and to what dominants and intentions it is subordinated. We will ask (as in the case of the stereotype of the German, cf. Bartmiński 1994) the question of the social agent which in Poland creates a particular profile and is a potential partner in the dialogue with the eastern neighbour.'

As for the preferred realisation of the segment, the results show that neither English nor Polish authors favour negative statements of goals. In the English part of the corpus, the authors indicated what they did not mean or intend to do in only 5 of the 46 cases (Ex. 11); among the 34 Polish introductions, only 3 such cases were identified (Ex. 12), giving the proportion of 11% and 9%, respectively (see Fig. 4). In all these instances, a negative formulation of goals concurred with a positive declaration, so none of the statements was actually limited to this defensive position. This observation contradicts the view that compared to their Anglophone colleagues, Polish writers have a propensity for negative purpose statements.

(11) *My purpose in this piece is not to provide detailed empirical arguments for or against any particular conception of this (although I will not try to hide what I believe – or at least hope – is correct). Rather, my purpose is to make the point that acceptance of a complex view does need to be argued for if a simpler view is available. ... It might seem to make little difference – but I will argue below that indeed it does make a difference. ... I will, however, not deal the overall view of the organization of the grammar in the Minimalist Program since this has not (yet) had any major effect on the semantics literature.* (LP2002-8)

(12) *W artykule tym nie zamierzam dociekać wszystkich przyczyn obserwowanego stanu rzeczy. Uwidocznię jednak niektóre niedorzeczności na temat języka litewskiego zaobserwowane w grupie młodych absolwentów filologii słowiańskich (w tym polonistyki).* (ABAS2005-1) 'In this article, I do not intend to look into all the reasons for the existing state of affairs. Still, I will point out some misconceptions about the Lithuanian language observed among young graduates of Slavonic philologies (including Polish philology).'

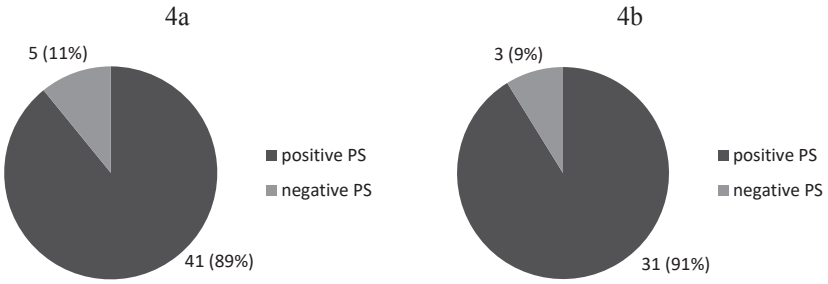


Figure 4. Positive and negative realisations of the statement of purpose: a) in English; b) in Polish

Apart from such rare negative formulations, some statements appeared considerably weaker than others. In the English part of the corpus, there were 4 such cases, with the purpose signalled in a subordinate clause, as a parenthetical, or implicitly (Ex. 13 and 14). As for Polish introductions, also 4 cases were identified. In these sections, the authors focused on the object of analysis, referring to the actual goals only indirectly, or indicated their purpose implicitly, as in Examples 15 and 16.

(13) *But things are not always so clear cut, for frequently, as I will show, erotic desires expressed in speech can conflate, confuse, and contradict this neatness*. (LC2003-4)

(14) *In recent years, however, other linguists have offered alternative accounts of the language myth, and it may well be timely to explain precisely where and how these rival versions of the myth differ from the integrationist position*. (LC2005-2)

(15) *Przedmiotem mojego opisu są nazwy papierosów*. (PORJ2006-10) 'The object of my description are names of cigarettes.'

(16) *Warto zaproponować przyjrzenie się tym różnicom z perspektywy synchronicznej i historycznej, funkcjonalnej, stylistycznej itp*. (JK2003-1) 'It is worth proposing an analysis of these differences from such perspectives as synchronic, historical, functional, stylistic, etc.'

The statement of purpose was occasionally accompanied with a reservation or another face-saving expression. In the English set of introductions, only 2 such cases have been found (Ex. 17); in Polish, 5 such uses were attested (Ex. 18 and 19).

(17) *In this paper, I will explore the issue of whether the distinction between tacit and non-tacit awareness of linguistic features is correlated with the distinction between syntactic and semantic features of language. ... Although I am sympathetic to the methodology that supports this latter view, in this paper I will argue that the former view may in fact be correct in some important respects. ... I will suggest that this underlying semantic structure is accessible by us.* (LP2004-2)

(18) *Właśnie takimi konstrukcjami chciałabym się zająć w swoim szkicu. Oczywiście ramy artykułu nie pozwalają na wyczerpujące omówienie tematu, pragnę jedynie na kilkunastu przykładach pokazać sposoby operowania kategorią przypadka, odbiegające od obowiązującej normy i uzusu* (BPTJ2001-10) 'It is such constructions that I would like to deal with in this short paper. Of course, the scope of the article does not permit an exhaustive discussion of the topic; my intention is only to demonstrate on the basis of a number of examples the ways of operating the category of case which depart from the norm and usage.'

(19) *Celem niniejszego artykułu jest przedstawienie leksyki z zakresu terminologii anatomicznej w języku serbskim i chorwackim, a dokładniej pokazanie różnic istniejących współcześnie pomiędzy tymi językami. Jest to zagadnienie bardzo szerokie, dlatego w tym krótkim artykule nie sposób przedstawić całości problemu, toteż z konieczności ograniczę się do analizy kilku wybranych przykładów z tego zakresu słownictwa*. (SFPS2001-11) 'The purpose of this article is to present the lexis from the field of anatomy in Serbian and Croatian, and more specifically, to demonstrate the differences which are now present between these two languages. This problem is very broad; therefore, in this short paper it is impossible to present it in its entirety; thus, out of necessity, I will confine myself to an analysis of several selected examples drawn from this area of lexis.'

In Example 17, the concessive remark mitigating the expression of disagreement coincides with the verb *suggest*, which additionally reduces the force of the statement. In Examples 18 and 19, the authors emphasise the complexity of the problem considered and the space limitations imposed by the genre. In 18, the statement of purpose is further weakened by the conditional form of the main verb *chciałabym* 'I would like to.' Figure 5 below presents a comparison of the weaker realisations of the statement of purpose in English and in Polish, with "weak" forms comprising negative purpose statements, indirect, parenthetical or implicit realisations, and mitigated statements.

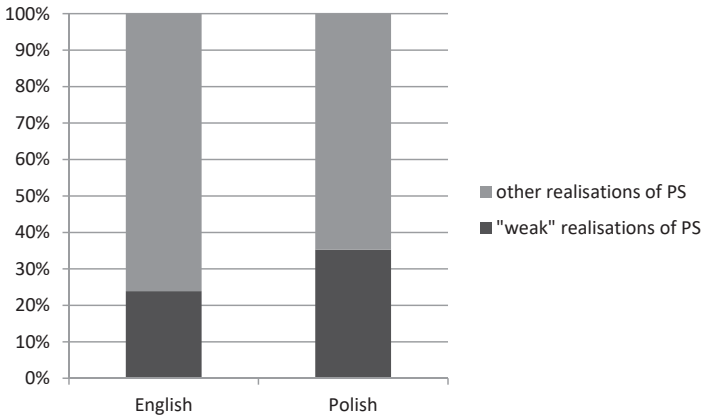


Figure 5. Weak realisations of the statement of purpose in English and in Polish

Another element taken into consideration in this analysis is the concurrence of the statement of purpose and the explicit signal of research need – an indication of a gap in the existing knowledge, an error in former approaches, or the need to provide more data. This proved a major point of difference between English- and Polish-language introductory moves. Move 2 Establish a Niche was found in 29 of the 46 English-language introductions which involved the statement of purpose. In the majority of cases (16), it preceded the statement, sometimes taking a very elaborate and cyclical form (Ex. 20); in 4 instances, it followed the announcement of goals (Ex. 21), and in another 2, it occurred between multiple realisations of the purpose statement. Of particular interest are 9 introductions where the statement of purpose is virtually integrated with the indication of a gap (Ex. 22). By contrast, in Polish introductions, Move 2 was found to accompany the statement of purpose in only 13 texts, preceding it in 7 cases and following in 5 (Ex. 23 and 24, respectively). In one introduction, the indication of a gap in knowledge was integrated with the purpose statement (25). The difference between the English and Polish texts is shown in Fig. 6.

(20) *However, sociolinguistic research has rarely addressed the question of how medical knowledge is constituted (Sarangi and Roberts, 1999: 22). ... the linguistic processes by which medical judgment is developed and exercised have rarely been subjected to fine-grained analysis (but see Pettinari, 1988). ... oral physician–patient communications are over-represented in the literature, while physician–physician communications, including the medical record itself, have been largely ignored (but see Hobbs, 2003, 2002; Atkinson, 1999; Cicourel, 1999, 1983; Erickson, 1999; Anspach, 1988; Rees, 1981). (JP2004-3)*

(21) *Other researchers have come to the same conclusion about Chamorro (Chung, 1998), Madurese (Davies, 2000), Malay (Cole et al., to appear (henceforth WA)), Maori (Bauer, 1991), Palauan (Georgopoulos, 1991) and Tagalog (Kroeger, 1993; Richards, 1998): What has not been previously noted is the connection between the syntactic structure and interpretation*. (L2001-5)

(22) *This paper addresses the so-called 'linking problem': the problem of discovering and explaining the regularities which govern the syntactic realization of a verb's arguments. ... In this paper, I focus on dative case as a place where the mapping between the morphosyntax and semantics is often assumed to be particularly regular. In Romance languages, for example, it has been claimed that dative case is assigned to any verbal argument that is thematically a goal (Alsina, 1996: 175). We shall see, however, that the mapping is not so predictable, at least in Germanic. I show that not only are goal arguments not necessarily marked dative, but dative can be mapped to theme arguments as well as goals*. (L2001-1)

(23) *Choć problem nie doczekał się do tej pory gruntownego opracowania, już na podstawie istniejących studiów wolno twierdzić, że lista zjawisk fleksyjnych w interesujący sposób wykorzystywanych w utworach artystycznych, zwłaszcza zaś poetyckich, jest zdecydowanie bogatsza niż sporządzona przez wspomnianych badaczy*. (BPTJ2001-10) 'Although so far the problem has not been studied in great detail, even on the basis of the existing studies, it is possible to

state that the list of inflectional phenomena which are exploited in interesting ways in artistic works is considerably longer than that offered by the above--mentioned scholars.'

(24) *Antroponimia mieszkańców polskiego pochodzenia w Mołdawii nie była dotąd obiektem badań językoznawców*. (ON2003-7) 'Antroponymy of Polish-origin inhabitants of Moldova has so far not been studied by linguists.'

(25) *W niniejszej pracy przedstawiam niektóre spostrzeżenia dotyczące nieżyczliwych zachowań językowych na przykładzie polskich oraz rosyjskich listów i liścików anonimowych, a także relacji o takich anonimach. Zamierzam w ten sposób wprowadzić do opisu pragmatyczno-językowego nowy materiał badawczy niebędący dotychczas przedmiotem szerszych dociekań lingwistycznych, a także podjąć próbę spojrzenia na ten materiał w kontekście Bachtinowskiej koncepcji gatunków mowy*. (JK2005-18) 'In this work, I present some observations concerning unfriendly verbal behaviours on the basis of Polish and Russian anonymous letters and notices, as well as reports on such anonymous texts. In this way, I intend to extend the pragmatic-linguistic description with new research material, which so far has not been studied linguistically in greater detail, and to make an attempt to look at this material in the context of the Bakhtinian conception of speech genres.'

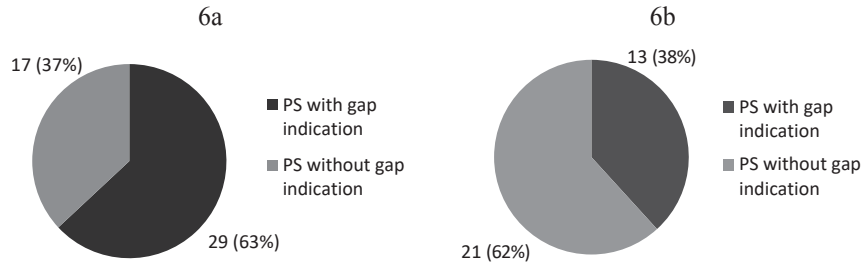


Figure 6. Concurrence of the statement of purpose and the indication of a gap in the existing knowledge: a) in English; b) in Polish

As for the concurrence with the announcement of principal findings (Fig. 7), in English, it proved much less common than the association with the indication of the gap. In the English material, 11 such cases were recorded. In 7 introductions, the announcement of findings followed the purpose statement (Ex. 26); in 3, it occurred between its multiple realisations, and in one case, it was closely integrated with it (Ex. 27). In Polish, the announcement of principal findings was present in 7 of the 34 introductions which involved the statement of purpose, always following it (Ex. 28).

(26) *The aim of the paper is to compare the approaches to focus taken in the three theories. ... We shall find that in general FG and RRG have more in common than either does with SFG.* (LS2005-4)

(27) *The present paper is concerned with respects in which semantic properties of expressions referring to these entities depend on the semantic type of the entity and the corresponding ontology of its domain (...) It will be observed that clausal and nominal expressions referring to what is, ostensibly, the same kind of entity can have divergent semantic behavior, implicating different semantic types associated with the different syntactic categories, and correspondingly, different semantic ontologies, specifically, denotation domains with different mathematical structures.* (L2003-3)

(28) *W odróżnieniu od tego języka – co stwierdzono na podstawie analizy wymienionych w tytule niniejszej pracy środków językowych – język prasy rosyjskich wyborów prezydenckich jest wysoce emocjonalny i wartościujący, bez trudu dostrzegamy w nim polaryzację stanowisk, a znaczną rolę w kreowaniu wizerunku kandydatów odgrywają w nim stereotypy*. (JK2003-13) 'In contrast to this language – as has been established on the basis of an analysis of the linguistic resources enumerated in the title of this article – the language of the press concerned with the Russian presidential election is highly emotional and evaluative; we can easily see a polarisation of opinions in it and a significant role in the shaping of the candidates' images is played by stereotypes.'

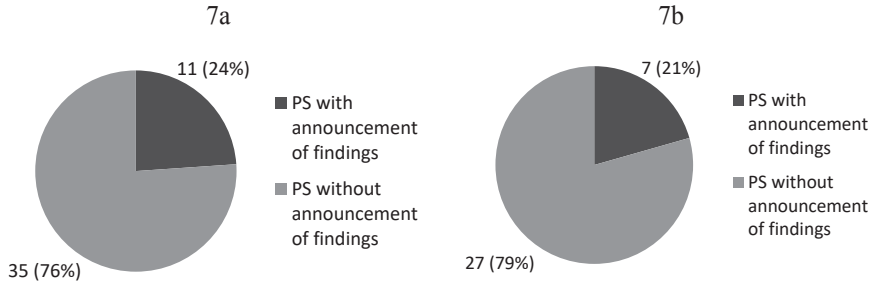


Figure 7. Concurrence of the statement of purpose and the announcement of principal findings: a) in English; b) in Polish

Segments elaborating on the key concepts more often accompanied the statement of purpose in Polish introductions than in English, but the difference, while well visible, was less distinct than it might have been expected on the basis of earlier reports (Golebiowski 1999): there were 7 such instances in the English corpus and 12 in the Polish batch of texts (Fig. 8).

The last element taken into account in the analysis was the indication of the article structure. As shown in Fig. 9, this turned out to be an important point of contrast between English- and Polish-language introductions. The structure of the article was introduced at the end of the introduction in 16 cases in English and only in two Polish texts containing the statement of purpose. This provides a clear indication of the peripheral status of this text segment in Polish.

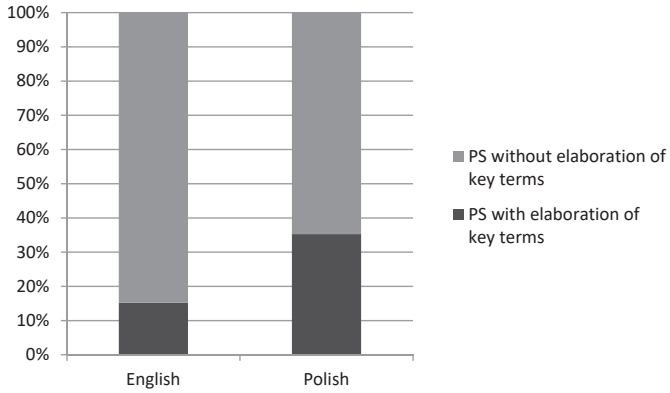


Figure 8. Concurrence of the statement of purpose and the elaboration of key terms

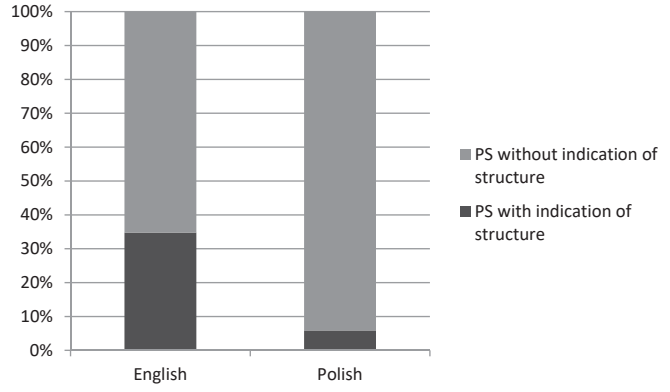


Figure 9. Concurrence of the statement of purpose and the indication of the article structure

4. Summary of the results and concluding remarks

The findings indicate that the statement of purpose is a recurrent feature of introductions to Polish-language linguistics articles. Although markedly rarer than in English, it appears in Polish texts quite regularly. The space of text it usually takes in Polish tends to be smaller than in an average English-language introduction, but taking into account the variability of this feature in English, it does not seem to be an important point of contrast. An interesting point of difference is the preference for multiple occurrences of the statement of purpose in English introductions, a result which tallies with Duszak's observations

concerning the cyclical realisation of Move 3 by Anglophone writers. By contrast, Polish writers tend to announce their purpose once and do so in salient text positions – at the beginning or at the end of the introduction. This may mean that in English, the statement of purpose is more often treated as a structural axis of the text, an idea the authors come back to as the introduction unfolds in order to elaborate on it or to make the research appear more timely or necessary.

In contrast to earlier reports on the preferred realisation patterns in Polish, the results show that neither English nor Polish writers tend to formulate their research goals negatively. However, a closer look at the way research purposes are announced in both languages shows that Polish authors more often mitigate their statements or apply indirect, implicit forms than their Anglophone colleagues. As for the key concepts, Polish authors tend to elaborate on them more frequently than their Anglophone colleagues, but the difference is more modest than it might have been expected on the basis of prior research.

Perhaps the most salient points of contrast between Polish and English purpose statements concern the association with the statement of research need and the indication of the article structure. In English, the indication of a gap in knowledge is tightly connected with the purpose statement, providing justification for the research and legitimising its goals. Often elaborate, this rhetorical move can be realised in more than one text segment. The association between the purpose statement and establishing a niche is considerably less pronounced in Polish, which means that, in general, the statement of purpose is less explicitly motivated, as if the task of finding the justification for the research rested with the reader. The indication of the article structure proved to be a peripheral feature of Polish introductions; by contrast, it is a well-established feature of English texts, often acting as a road map which ensures proper realisation of the announced goals. Both the statement of research need and the indication of the article structure additionally highlight the purpose statement – the former by explicitly justifying it and the latter by choosing it as a point of reference. This highlighting effect is further enhanced by indicating principal findings; this practice, however, was only slightly more common in English than in Polish.

In sum, it would seem that the major difference between the purpose statements in introductions to linguistics journal articles in English and in Polish lies in the degree of prominence these statements receive, especially as a result of an explicit statement of the research need and the indication of the article structure. Other differences concern the frequency of occurrence and the proportion of weak, implicit realisations, but these seem considerably less pronounced. Some discrepancies between the findings of this research and the results of prior analyses may suggest a certain change that took or, possibly, has been taking place in the rhetorical patterns favoured by Polish scholars and in the expectations of Polish readers.

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