

mgr Stanisław Powąła-Niedźwiecki
Wydział Filologiczny
Uniwersytet Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej w Lublinie

The language of Polish rugby players against the background of environmental languages

Summary of doctoral dissertation

The aim of the doctoral dissertation is to describe the language of Polish rugby players and to characterize the lingual image of the world of rugby players as an environmental group. The dissertation is part of the trend of linguistic research, which treats language as a source of knowledge about human, his mentality, the way he perceives the world and the system of values professed by the community. The linguistic research I have conducted allows me to conclude that Polish rugby players, as a communicative environmental group, use a specific, self-created variety of language—sociolect—in which the group's image of the world, as well as the system of declared and professed values, is consolidated.

The dissertation consists of seven chapters preceded by an introduction. The text ends with a conclusion, bibliography and an annex.

In the first chapter, I describe sociolect from the point of view of linguistic research. I focus especially on the research approach of Aleksander Wilkoń (1987) and Stanisław Grabias (1993) by presenting the division of sociolects and providing a classification of sociolectal categories, which include *professionalism*, *secrecy* and *expressiveness*. I also describe the most important types of sociolects: *dialects*, *jargons* and *slangs*.

In the second chapter, I present the varieties of contemporary Polish and their internal differentiation. I refer to the research and typology of Zenon Klemensiewicz (1953), Antoni Furdal (1973), Danuta Buttler (1973), Teresa Skubalanka (1976), Walery Pisarek (EWJP 1978; Pisarek 1994), Stanisław Urbańczyk (1979), Stanisław Gajda (1982), Stanisław Kania (1978, 1995), Aleksander Wilkoń (1987). In addition, I present research on environmental languages in Poland—from the 1970s to the 2020s, paying particular attention to descriptions of youth languages, languages of criminal environments, professional and hobby groups, etc. I also focus on works on the sociolects of sports groups.

In the third chapter, I present the origins of rugby as a sport. Then I focus on the history of rugby in Poland. I also provide general characteristics of the discipline and compare

it with the most popular team games. Finally, I present the image of Polish rugby presented in the media.

In the fourth chapter—in accordance with the methodology adopted by the team of Lublin ethnolinguists—I reconstruct the heterostereotype of rugby players based on the statements of university students. The survey I conducted allowed me to indicate how young people, not in any way related to rugby, perceive this sport and people playing it. Then, also based on survey research, I present the results of the reconstruction of the self-stereotype, showing how Polish rugby players perceive themselves. Finally, I present the conclusions from both analyses and compare them, pointing out common and different features.

Chapter five contains two extensive dictionaries. The collected material is very rich, containing 1,643 lexemes with 1,797 meanings. The lexical resource is presented in a semasiological dictionary (in alphabetical order) and onomasiological dictionary (in the form of lexical-semantic fields), which has been divided into three main thematic sections: I. Man: a) Body parts, b) Social life, stimulants, c) Physiological needs, d) Psychological features of a person, e) Person, gender, age, f) Physical features of a person, g) Sexual life, h) Clothes, i) Way of moving; II. Match: a) Elements of sports gameplay, b) Elements of the game, c) Match uniform, d) Set pieces; III. Training: a) Training process, b) Training equipment and facilities, c) Weather.

In the sixth chapter, I make an extensive analysis of the collected lexical resources and indicate the etymology or source of a given lexeme in the vocabulary of rugby players. This analysis allowed me to demonstrate great diversity of the discussed sociolect. The recorded vocabulary draws from many varieties of the general language, primarily youth slang, but also prison and criminal dialects, folk dialects, slangs and several foreign languages. I also note here numerous neologisms related to the professional activity of the group.

The attitude to reality became the basis for the description in chapter seven. I describe the conceptualization of the world of rugby players present in the language and the canon of values recognized by rugby players, which took the form of a conventional “rugby player's decalogue”. This canon contains the values postulated by members of the discussed environmental group within it, but also outside it. Values are also present in texts created by rugby players themselves, as well as people not associated with rugby daily. Their main carrier are pre-match speeches given by coaches and captains, lyrics of songs and slogans, and pre-match briefings in which coaches discuss tactical matters. The chapter also describes non-verbal means of manifesting distinctiveness, which can also be a way to show one's attitude towards the world and evaluate it.

In conclusion, I summarize the entire work and present the results of the analyses carried out in the dissertation. I draw attention to the breadth of the analysed material and the lexical richness collected in dictionaries. I confirm that Polish rugby players are an interesting group, both linguistically and subculturally.

The work ends with a bibliography and an extensive annex in which I included the texts of all motivational speeches, songs, poems and slogans quoted in the dissertation.

Keywords: sociolect, stereotypes, values, rugby, community group

LUBLIN dn. 28.06.2024

Stanisław Pawłak-Nisankiewicz

