

Pátrovics Péter PhD  
university lecturer  
ELTE University, Budapest  
Institute for Slavic and Baltic Studies, Polish Department

## Polish Lexicography in a Nutshell

### Polish-Hungarian / Hungarian Polish Bilingual Dictionaries

**Abstract:** Munkánk a Lengyelországban, illetve a Magyarországon megjelent lengyel-magyar/ magyar-lengyel kétnyelvű szótárakat vonja vizsgálat alá, különös tekintettel a második világháború után megjelent művekre. Bár a kétnyelvű szótárak története lengyel-magyar vonatkozásban nem nyúlik olyan régre vissza, mint a két nép barátságának a története, a kulturális és a gazdasági kapcsolatok elmélyítése érdekében már régtől fogva állandó igényként jelentkezik a megfelelő szótárak kidolgozása. Az első ilyen irányú kísérletek a 16. században megjelent két vagy többnyelvű szótárak voltak. Ezután a magyar-lengyel/lengyel-magyar szótárírásban hosszú szünet következett, s csak nem sokkal a második világháború előtt, 1936-ban jelent meg a varsói egyetem lektorának, a tragikus sorsú Korompay Emánuelnek első *Magyar-lengyel szótára*. Több kisebb lélegzetű - és részben sikertelen - próbálkozást nem számítva, csak a háború után, 1958-ban (és később, 1966-ig még három kiadásban) jelent meg Varsányi István *Lengyel-magyar*, majd egy évre rá *Magyar-lengyel szótára*, amely már joggal tartható komolyabb munkának. Az egyre jobban fejlődő magyar-lengyel gazdasági és kulturális kapcsolatok, s a két ország közötti műszaki-tudományos és irodalmi, illetve művészeti téren tapasztalható együttműködés azonban szükségessé tette egy nagyobb terjedelmű szótár elkészítését. A Lengyel és a Magyar Tudományos Akadémia közötti együttműködés eredményeként a *Lengyel-magyar szótár* már 1958-ban napvilágot látott, ennek *Magyar-lengyel* része azonban csak mintegy tíz évvel később, 1968-ban jelenhetett meg. Bár lengyel-magyar vonatkozásban létezik még néhány más, kisebb vagy speciális (pl. tematikus, frazeológiai, közgazdasági) szótár is, összességében az mondható el, hogy a ma rendelkezésre álló szótárak szóanyaga jelentős részben elavult és hiányos, valamint (ami az igeállomány feldolgozását illeti) nem mentes bizonyos következtelenségektől sem. Mindez hangsúlyosan veti fel egy új, a mai kor igényeihez igazodó és annak megfelelő magyar-lengyel/lengyel-magyar nagyszótár elkészítésének a szükségességét.

1. The history of Polish-Hungarian / Hungarian-Polish bilingual dictionaries does not extend back as far as the proverbial friendship of the two nations. Before World War II there appeared several bilingual Hungarian-Polish dictionaries but only some of them are worth mentioning. Facts show that the first separate dictionary containing Hungarian words entitled *Diccionarius latine, germanice, polonice et ungarice* came out in Cracow in 1531. Ambrosius Calepinus' famous work entitled *Dictionarium undecim linguarum* which was published in Basel in 1590 also contained some Polish and Hungarian words and phrases. After that a long pause followed.

A two volume work, known as „Pierwszy słownik”, was published in 1936 by Emánuel Korompay, the Hungarian lector of the Warsaw University of that time. This dictionary contained over 2800 words. It was a remarkable pioneering work, based on detailed research into aspects of Polish usage. Hiador Sztripszky, a Ruthenian bibliographer, ethnographer, translator, linguist and literary historian, also compiled a pocket-size Polish-Hungarian dictionary which contained the essential 1500 words of the Hungarian language. Sztripszky's dictionary, meant for the Polish refugees, came out in Budapest in 1939 (Sztripszky 1939). György Radó's Hungarian-Polish

dictionary edited by the then Polish lector of the University of Debrecen also appeared during the war. This dictionary had 18 000 entries. Valuable work was done by W. Kłafaczyński but his attempt to publish the dictionary failed because of the occupation of Hungary by German troops in 1944. Unfortunately, Kłafaczyński's dictionary-project was halted and it was never completed. For further information about Polish lexicography see the foreword of Reychman's „great” Hungarian-Polish Dictionary (Reychman 1980: VII-VIII), Udvari (2000: 361-378) and Pátrovics (2004: 174-197).

2. In 1958 (3<sup>rd</sup> edition 1966) István Varsányi published his Polish-Hungarian Dictionary. This was the first Polish-Hungarian dictionary after World War II. So a new period in the history of the Polish-Hungarian/Hungarian-Polish bilingual dictionaries has begun. Varsányi's dictionary contained 32 000 entries and 8 000 idiomatic expressions and was one year later followed by its Hungarian-Polish part which also ran into three editions (Varsányi 1966). The attention of their compiler focused them on the most useful words and expressions. This Polish-Hungarian bilingual dictionary gives the exact equivalent in Hungarian for each usage of each entry, often with examples of usage. Since Varsányi's bilingual dictionaries were the first ones after World War II, they certainly contributed to the advancement of Hungarian-speaking people who wanted to learn Polish as a second foreign language. I would like to point out, however, that these dictionaries contain some older and obsolescent words and meanings. One of them is *siłownia* which in contemporary Polish does not translate *erőmű* 'power station'. It only can translate *edzőterem* or *konditerem* 'gym' (see Varsányi 1966: 475). Often the Hungarian word *erőmű* is best translated into Polish by *elektrownia*, however, in certain attributive constructions *siłownia* can occur in the meaning of 'power station' (cf. *siłownia wodna* 'hydroelectric power plant') as well.

Varsányi's another work edited by the Polish *Wiedza Powszechna* and the Hungarian *Terra* which came out in 1977 was based on his first two dictionaries mentioned above (Varsányi 1977). It was a new bilingual dictionary consisting of a Hungarian-Polish and a Polish-Hungarian part. The aim of this dictionary was to give a selection of words and phrases the tourist is bound to need when visiting Hungary and/or Poland. Varsányi's work is not just a word list, but combines essential vocabulary with a phrase book in dictionary form, for the quickest reference possible. To mention just a few of the situations covered: bookings, travelling by train, bus or plane, driving, car repairs, changing money, customs, formalities, asking one's way, finding accommodation, eating and drinking, shopping, camping, sightseeing, holiday by Lake Balaton or by the Baltic Sea, going to the theatre or concerts, attending congresses, sporting events, and the like. Varsányi presents in his dictionary short sentences and idioms taken from actual life in a simple way which enables any user with little or no knowledge of Hungarian and/or Polish to make him/herself understood. As far as grammar is concerned, however, I should mention that in the Polish-Hungarian part of the dictionary all verbs have been given in their infinitive form. Inflected forms of verbs as well as nouns occur mainly in the phrases or sentences (cf. *kosztować kerülni; ile to ~uje? mennyibe kerül?* In: Varsányi 1977: 104).

Since the Hungarian-Polish part and the Polish-Hungarian part of the dictionary is intended for Hungarian and Polish speakers respectively, the pronunciation of Polish and/or Hungarian words and phrases has been given (where necessary) in a form that enables the user to *say* what is required.

Varsányi's little dictionary, one of the best of its series, is limited to some 16 000 words and phrases. Numerals and international car registrations together with countries are given in the Appendix.

3. As mentioned above, the third edition of Varányi's Polish-Hungarian and Hungarian-Polish Dictionary came out in 1966. It soon became obvious that what they offered was not enough and that the publication of a newer (and a greater) Polish-Hungarian (and a Hungarian-Polish) dictionary was to be impatiently awaited. However the first edition of the so called „great” or „academic” Polish-Hungarian Dictionary came out in Budapest in the same year (ie. in 1958) as Varsányi's work, one had to wait for the second, i.e. for the Hungarian-Polish part of the dictionary good ten years; it was only published in Warsaw in 1968. The so-called „great” Polish-Hungarian Dictionary edited by T. Csorba and revised by W. Doroszewski has about 80 000, whereas its Hungarian-Polish counterpart edited by J. Reychman has 140 000 entries. Their forewords, however, do not inform the user about the approximate number of their idiomatic expressions. Both of the dictionaries mentioned ran into two editions. The second edition of the „great” Polish-Hungarian Dictionary which appeared in 1985 came with a valuable supplement containing 9000 new entries, such as *aut - out* 'out', *bagażownia - csomagmegőrző* 'left luggage office', *biznesmen - üzletember* 'businessman', *czarnowidz - pesszimista* 'pessimist', 'doomster', *farma - kis gazdaság, farm* 'farm' *fobia - fóbia* 'phobia', *introwertyk - introvertált ember* 'introverted person', *mikser - mixer*, 1. 'bartender', 2. 'blender', *nieatrakcyjny - érdektelen* 'dull', 'uninteresting', *polibuda - műszaki (egyetem)* 'institute of technology', *sesja - időszak, ülészak* 'session', *wahadłowiec - űrrepülőgép* 'space shuttle' etc.

In the Appendix of the Polish-Hungarian and that of the Hungarian-Polish Dictionary the user finds a list of abbreviations and more detailed information on Polish and Hungarian phonetics, grammar and style respectively, and there is also a list of Polish or/and Hungarian regular and irregular verbs and nouns. The headword is followed by an abbreviation describing a part of speech, by nouns an abbreviation in italics shows the gender (*h* - masc., *n* - fem., *s* - neutr.) of the noun, verb entries are always provided with an abbreviation in italics *bef* - *nbef* distinguishing perfective and imperfective verbs.<sup>1</sup>

The various meanings of the headword are subdivided by means of bold Arabic numerals. Information on usage and Hungarian guide words or Polish examples are printed in italics after the Arabic numerals and before the equivalents (translations) or their synonyms. Multi-word lexical units (set phrases or examples of usage) are entered under the various numbered senses following the translations of the headword, in italics.

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1. We should not forget that in Polish the issue of perfectivity vs. imperfectivity is very complicated because of mutual connections between verbal morphology and the grammatical category of aspect. In practice it means that the learner has to master the ability to distinguish which among many derivatives of a simple verbal base, usually created by means of prefixes, yet sometimes realized through the replacement of thematic suffixes, is an aspectual partner of the initial simplicium, and which, on the other hand, shows changes of lexical meanings.

However the team of editors sincerely hoped that these „great” Polish-Hungarian and Hungarian-Polish dictionaries would indeed help their users, the years that have passed since their last edition in 1985 and 1980 respectively, have wrought many changes in our daily lives, changes that have reflected in both languages. New fields of knowledge have brought many new terms into existence which, along with new words and expressions new lifestyles, have rapidly filtered through

into both languages. Therefore, as I see it, the texts of both dictionaries need to be completely revised and considerably expanded.

Speaking of Polish-Hungarian dictionaries, we should not forget about the Polish-Hungarian Business Dictionary edited by Barbara Sipos Kawecka (1992) which came out in Budapest in 1992. This completely new dictionary of Business Polish has been specially written to be of practical use for translators and business people who need to read, write and speak Polish in their work. The dictionary contains more than 8 000 lexical items taken from various sources such as the business sections of newspapers, business journals and textbooks, and interviews with business people. I would like to point out, however, that no grammar information or examples that would show how a term is used in typical contexts have been included. Besides, for terms that appear in the dictionary there is no information about collocation, for example verbs that can be used with a particular noun.

4. Various Polish dictionaries are being evaluated not only in relation to the up-to-dateness of the lexical stock they provide but also, sometimes first of all, in relation to the degree to which the idiomatic aspect of the language is taken into consideration. Often, even dictionaries labeled as „great” prove useless when their potential user is confronted with an idiom s/he cannot cope with - then the „greatness” of a dictionary brings about but irritation. As even the „greatest” among non-specialistic dictionaries<sup>2</sup> can take into account but a limited amount of idiomatic data, linguists, to meet the needs, invented special phraseological dictionaries and dictionaries of proverbs which gradually become an indispensable tool for anyone seriously involved in the study of particular languages.

At present, one has a plenty of dictionaries of proverbs, English-to-Hungarian, German-to-Hungarian, Hungarian-to-Hungarian as well as bilingual (or polylingual) at his disposal. Nevertheless, the appearance of any new lexicon of this kind is welcomed with enthusiasm. In 2009 the Kossuth Kiadó published a collection of proverbs entitled *A Polylingual Dictionary of Proverbs* edited by D. Świerczyńska and A. Świerczyński. The „Kossuth” publishing house has attempted to model this collection of proverbs on the work entitled *Dictionary of proverbs in eight languages* by D. Świerczyńska and A. Świerczyński which came out in Warsaw in 1998. According to the compilers this „comparative collection of proverbs and proverbial phrases in eight languages comprises over 600 Polish expressions arranged in the headword order with equivalents in seven languages: A-English, F-French, S-Spanish, N-German, Or-Russian, Ol-Italian, La-Latin”. They add furthermore that „it was not always possible to find Latin equivalents” (Świerczyńscy A., D. 2009: 15). The authors point out that after World War II there came out several bilingual collections of proverbs, however, none of those publications included reference to Polish collections of proverbs.

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2. On the problems of specialistic dictionaries see Kiss 2008: 73-88.

5. The attribute „pocket” in relation to dictionaries in most cases concerns both the size of a dictionary as well as its contents: it indicates not only that such a dictionary is a book you can slip into your pocket but it also allows you to expect that the dictionary contains 8 000 - 20 000 not very elaborated entries. In fact, these are the characteristic features of most pocket-size dictionaries published all over the world. The dictionary which I am presenting here is said to be one of the first volumes of a new series of compact reference books designed especially for the learner of Polish. With the size 140 × 100 × 30 mm and 487 pages of the main text, the dictionary

comprises a general vocabulary of more than 10 000 items (Hargitai 2002). Particular entries are well designed and the provided information is sufficient though given very concisely. The entries do not offer idiomatic expressions or sentences exemplifying the usage of entry words. They do not indicate the gender of nouns and neither do they inform the user about which part of speech a word belongs to. In comparison, however, the above-mentioned Varsányi dictionary (Varsányi 1977) of almost exactly the same size may provide almost twice as much material on over 340 pages in incommensurably more elaborated entries. The dictionary under concern has been designed for everybody who is interested in Polish. The publishers of the dictionary have stated that, for lack of space, they could not cover more specialized areas of the vocabulary. The problem, however, remains: a pocket-size Polish-Hungarian / Hungarian-Polish dictionary cannot substitute for a one-volume comprehensive bilingual dictionary that could accompany you in any circumstances. The latter one is urgently needed.

6. The authors of the next dictionary under review have been teaching Hungarian linguistics and literature for many years in the Department of Hungarian, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań. Dr. Etelka Kamocka, one of the consultants, is lecturer of the Department of Hungarian, Jagellonian University, Cracow. She specializes in the Hungarian literature. Márta Gedeon a lecturer of the Department of Hungarian, Warsaw University and a native speaker of Hungarian published several articles on the Polish - Hungarian interference.

The dictionary which we are presenting here is said to be the first Hungarian-Polish contextualized dictionary in the history of lexicography (Prof. Jerzy Bańcerowski in the "Preface"). The attribute "contextualized" concerns not as much the contents of a dictionary as its construction: it indicates that the vocabulary is classified by everyday topics. The dictionary under review contains a preface, an introduction and a selected bibliography of dictionaries of various types.

With the 437 pages of the main text the dictionary comprises a general vocabulary of 28000 items which are divided into 16+3 chapters according to topics such as: Man - The Human Body; Family & Society; Clothing & Body Care; Flat & Our Environment; Meals & Food; Health & Illness; Science & Work; Transport; Sports & Free Time; Culture; State - Law - Politics; Industry & Undertaking; Business & Finances; Nature - Environment - Agriculture; Science & Other Branches of Learning; Communication. Miscellaneous Others: a) Greetings & Civilities; b) List of Geographical Names and Given Names; c) Abbreviations.

Each of these chapters has 5-10 subdivisions which contain the entries. An entry e.g. *út* - *ulica* (road/street) can be broken down into four (or less according to the given topic) distinct sections each marked with different signs: l in the first group the most important synonyms of the

headword are enumerated e.g. *körút* - *bulwar* 'boulevard' ♦ *köz* - *zaulek*, *malá ulica* 'lane'; *rakpart* - *nabrzeże* 'wharf'; *sétány* - *aleja* 'promenade'; the second group contains the most useful verbal expressions with the headword e.g. *az ~ vezet valahová* - *ulica prowadzi dokądś* 'the road leads to'; *~on/ utcában lakik* - *mieszkać przy ulicy* 'to live at...,...road/street' ■ the typical attributes of the headword are to be found in the third group e.g. *csendes/zajos* - *cicha/hálaśliwa* 'quiet/noisy'; *kanyargós /zegzugos* - *zygzakowata* (winding) □ the fourth group contains the words which can be connected with the headword associatively e.g. *járda* - *chodnik* 'pavement, sidewalk'.

The entries are not arranged in alphabetical but in logical order, i.e. from a general concept to the more special one or from a remote place to the nearer one e.g. *country* - *countryside* - *town* -

*district - housing estate - road - building*. Particular entries are well designed and the provided information is sufficient. Many entries offer also idiomatic expressions or sentences exemplifying the usage of entry words e.g. *kerítés - plot, ogrodzenie* ‘fence, fencing’ → *kerítést húz a kert köré, kerítéssel veszi körül a kertet - ogradzać/otaczać ogród plotem* ‘fence in, enclose the garden’; *bankszámla - konto bankowe* ‘bank account’ → *bankszámlát nyit - otwierać/otworzyć konto bankowe* ‘open an account /with a bank/’ (p. 61, 279).

The dictionary under concern is primarily intended for students up to intermediate and upper-intermediate level but it can be a great help for everybody who is studying for a state examination in Polish and/or Hungarian or is interested in these languages for any other reason. While contextualized dictionaries are well known and very popular in Poland, they are known in Hungary only to a lesser degree.

In conclusion, considered all that was outlined above, this latter dictionary must be hailed as a publication event. It certainly merits the attention of both teachers of Polish and students (for the latter it is most certainly a must) and last but not least also contrastive linguists. This dictionary is an extremely interesting, informative and valuable book and as such is highly recommendable to all those who have some interest in or contact with the Polish and/or Hungarian language. The fact that the Polish-Hungarian and the Hungarian-Polish bilingual dictionaries today in use can be regarded mostly as obsolete also stressed the urgent need for such a dictionary.

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