

Bogdan Szymanek. *A Panorama of Polish Word-Formation*. Lublin: Wydawnictwo KUL, 2010. pp. 326, ISBN 978-83-7702-097-5.

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After a period of relatively little scholarly activity in the field,² studies in word-formation came back with a vengeance in the early 1960s, the new morphological trend being launched by Marchand's (1960) *Categories and Types of Present-Day English Word-Formation* acclaimed as a *truly monumental work* (Zandvoort 1961: 120) and a *milestone in the development of the methods of approach to the vast subject of word-formation* (Pennanen 1971: 9). Soon after, a considerable number of academically influential works saw the light of day thus contributing to our better understanding of the intricacies of issues concerning word derivation, compounding and conversion, i.e. word formation in general. It is no exaggeration to say that Prof. Szymanek's book *A Panorama of Polish Word-Formation* is yet another seminal work and represents a milestone in the development of Polish morphologically-oriented studies and, as such, it is part of the now solidly established and widely pursued morphological tradition where *word-formation is a linguistic discipline of its own* (Stekauer 2000: 29).

The front matter of the book consists of *Contents* (pp. 5–7), *Abbreviations and Symbols* (pp. 9–10), *Preface and Acknowledgements* (p. 11). This is followed by the main body of four chapters (pp. 13–268), *References* (pp. 267–283) and finally an *Index of Polish words* (pp. 285–326). The objectives to be pursued in the book are carefully delineated in Chapter One (*Preliminaries*), where the author enlightens the reader as to the use of citation forms, sources of vocabulary, types of morphological processes as well as data classification and categorization. Chapter Two, entitled *Derivation* (pp. 27–215) constituting the longest and simultaneously the most valuable part of the monograph, is an exhaustive discussion of derived nouns, adjectives, verbs and adverbs as well as expressive and evaluative developments. The following chapter (*Compounding*) is devoted to the nature of compound nouns and adjectives, while Chapter Four focuses on a variety of puzzles and conundrums encountered during the analysis of lexical material.

The overriding impression cast by Szymanek's monograph is that it provides a comprehensive and up-to-date survey of the word-formation processes operative in Polish. In fact, up-to-dateness is one of the author's key criteria for data selection. One factor which undoubtedly lends weight to both the comprehensiveness and the up-to-dateness of the research carried out in the study is the plethora of representative lexicographic works listed in the *References* (pp. 269–283), as well as the comprehensive body of linguistic material analysed throughout the book which is neatly assembled in the form of *Index of Polish words* (pp. 285–326). Thus one may reasonably and justifiably venture a claim that the criterion set up by the author is met in full.

Not only is the book I have the pleasure of reviewing comprehensive and up-to-date, but is also clear, easy to follow and, more importantly, written in a student-friendly language. One of its unquestionable advantages is that all of the patterns and mechanisms discussed are amply supported and accompanied by carefully selected illustrative material designed to elaborate on the theoretical background so carefully introduced beforehand.

One may venture so much as to argue that the book has been written in part to satisfy specific academic needs as there is a significant dearth of publications written in English devoted to the issues of Polish linguistics. For the last few years phonologists have been able to appreciate the merit of Gussmann's (2007) seminal *The Phonology of Polish* and now morphologists have an opportunity to delve into the morphological meanderings and *to have a feel of the patterns of Polish word-formation* (p. 13). Thus the author's intention is to introduce enthusiasts of broadly understood morphological analysis to the intricacies of the field. This goal being achieved in full, the reviewed book may be said to fill in a gap in the Polish anglicist publishing market.

The study under review is a result of Szymanek's long-lasting interest in the morphological structure of words which, over a span of more than twenty years, has witnessed the production of such excellent publications as *English and Polish Adjectives. A Study in Lexicalist Word-Formation* (1985), *Categories and Categorization in Morphology* (1988), *Introduction to Morphological Analysis* (1989) (which due to its popularity with readers and an outstanding academic merit celebrated its third edition published in 1998) and, last but not least, *A Panorama of Polish Word-Formation* (2010). The research carried out throughout the book emanates the mature expertise of a distinguished scholar and a renowned expert in the field.

Thanks to Szymanek's surpassing academic excellence, amazingly clear style and an excellent command of English, the book is not only a pleasurable read but, first and foremost, it stands out as an unparalleled source of information on Polish word-formation patterns to be appreciated by both hardened morphologists and genuine enthusiasts of the internal structure of words.

One has to admit that the author's coverage of manuals and word-formation books written in Polish is not only impressive and deserves a word of praise, but, first and foremost, testifies to Prof. Szymanek's endeavour to come to grips with the requirements of high quality academic research. However, judging by the scope of the book, one may wonder why its author decided not to mention such recent and groundbreaking developments in the field of word-formation presented by such scholarly productions as Plag (2003) or Štekauer and Lieber (2005); especially the latter, which has already established itself as a bible and must-read for enthusiasts of word-formation patterns. Whether this decision was intentional or accidental is of no relevance, yet given the fact that the author dedicates the book to the English-bound reader, be it *the communicatively minded student of Polish as a foreign language* or [...] *the linguist [...] who wants to glean some facts about Polish derivational morphology*, as is indicated in the *Preliminaries* (p. 13), one might be just a little surprised not to have found any of the above publications among the *References*.

Given the excellence of the author and his editorial perfection (the book is scrupulously edited in all possible respects) one is surprised to notice that the text is occasionally marred with a few typographic misfires of negligible nature and easily

correctable in its future editions. Namely, a careful reader will instantly observe that in Chapter Three the order of footnotes gets confused in that on page 231 footnote 1 follows footnote 14 from page 229. Understandably, this editorial shortcoming has no bearing on the quality of this outstanding work but might at first sight be a bit misleading.

As far as I am able to judge, one of the strongest points of the book is the author's decision to devote time to the issues of expressive and evaluative derivation, especially given the fact that this aspect of word-formation usually fails to receive considerable attention, not to say that it is often utterly neglected and, as a result, discussions of productive patterns of evaluative morphology are widely dispersed throughout various chapters or sections of a huge number of manuals on word-formation.

In a similar vein, one has to appreciate the importance of the concluding chapter (*Puzzles and Problems*) which, as one may easily infer, presents a whole bunch of vexing problems whose nature is inextricably linked to the intricacies of Polish word-formation patterns. The reader may, for example, learn that the issue of bracketing paradoxes, although never raised before with due attention in the research on Polish morphological structures, may be amply exemplified and said to mirror some of *the well known English instances* (p. 246). What is more the problem of double motivation and, especially, double diminutives together with its phonological constraints, limitations and intricate morphological nature is satisfactorily dealt with although, as the author points out, *the picture of the situation would be more complete if further consideration was given to the semantic and pragmatic aspects of the process* (p. 265).

With all due responsibility, I highly recommend *A Panorama of Polish Word-Formation* to anyone interested in the issues of morphological investigation. It remains to be hoped that the reader will appreciate the unquestionable merit of this book and it will soon become one of cornerstones or groundbreaking publications in the field of Polish word-formation studies. I myself am already eagerly anticipating this moment.

Notes

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² See also Štekauer and Lieber (2005: xvii) and the references therein.

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