

## RECENZJE

Anna Stasienko, *ZJAWISKO PARCELACJI WE WSPÓŁCZESNYM JĘZYKU ROSYJSKIM I POLSKIM*, Rzeszów, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Rzeszowskiego: 2024, ss. 240.

The subject of Anna Stasienko's monograph is the phenomenon of parceling in contemporary Russian and Polish. Parceling can be considered a feature of expressive syntax, used to stylise spontaneous spoken language and to emphasise parts of the text that the writer considers important. This topic should be regarded as significant, as the criteria for distinguishing instances of parceling remain unclear and ambiguous. Although the phenomenon has been described in some detail within Russian linguistics, the term itself is not included in Polish linguistic terminology dictionaries. This may be due to the fact that, under the influence of spoken language, new issues continually emerge in the literary language that require scholarly description and analysis. Stasienko's monograph offers such an examination and interpretation.

Stasienko conducts a comprehensive analysis of parceling, i.e., the intentional division of a statement into independent phrases separated by a full stop (or another sentence-final punctuation mark), in two Slavic languages: Russian and Polish. The parceled structure consists of a primary (main or parent) component and a secondary element called a parcellator. The main component is a syntactically and semantically complete sentence that serves as the structural core of the entire utterance, including the parcellator. The parcellator follows a pause, typically marked by a full stop, and is syntactically dependent on the parent clause. Although it is closely connected to the main clause, it cannot function independently as a self-contained communicative unit. The dissertation aligns with contemporary research trends in systemic-structural, pragmalinguistic, and comparative linguistics, aiming to provide a functional and contrastive analysis of the phenomenon. The author demonstrates well-developed analytical skills. A detailed analysis of the collected material enabled the formulation of original insights and conclusions, presented in a clear and unambiguous manner.

In Polish linguistic literature, various terms have been used to describe the unit known in Russian linguistics as *парцеллам* (a parcellator), including: *wyodrębniony interpunkcyjnie człon* (a punctuated clause), *usamodzielniony człon* (an independent clause), *usamodzielnione zdanie* (an independent sentence), *człon wyodrębniony*

(a clause separated as an utterance). However, it should be emphasised that these terms have not been the subject of dedicated studies, but appear only marginally in discussions of other syntactic issues. Moreover, none of the aforementioned terms has become firmly established in Polish linguistic terminology. Due to this terminological ambiguity, the author faced the challenging task of identifying the key features of the phenomenon of parceling based on existing theoretical literature in the field of linguistics. Consequently, Stasienko distinguishes between the presence of a base part and a parceled part, which are separated by a full stop or other punctuation mark that ends the sentence (referred to as a parcellator). Other features include the placement of the parcellator after the main part – in postposition – and the possibility of replacing the divided construction with its undivided, semantically equivalent version, devoid of expressive value.

The work stands out for its clear and well-considered structure. The sequence of the chapters reflects a coherent and logically organised framework. The monograph comprises an introduction (pp. 7–15), four main chapters subdivided into detailed sections, a conclusion (pp. 203–209), a list of sources (pp. 210–211), and a bibliography (pp. 212–223). The introduction defines the phenomenon of parceling and outlines its linguistic and pragmatic context. Chapter 1 (pp. 16–57) systematises existing knowledge of the phenomenon, drawing on Russian and Polish linguistic literature. Chapter 2 (pp. 58–147) is devoted to the analysis of parceling in simple sentences, while Chapter 3 (pp. 148–178) discusses parceling in complex sentences, both coordinate and subordinate. The fourth chapter (pp. 179–202) examines the semantic and pragmatic determinants of the phenomenon. Chapter 4 is particularly noteworthy and valuable, as the author identifies the following semantic-pragmatic types of parceling: explanation, specification, extension, generalisation, distinction, reinforcement and intensification, and correction. These relationships are illustrated using clear yet vivid diagrams, and the author's ability to perceive and differentiate such subtle nuances of meaning reflects a remarkable degree of linguistic sensitivity. The thesis also includes an index of graphic elements (p. 224), as well as summaries in both Russian (pp. 225–233) and English (pp. 234–240).

The research material is drawn from original, untranslated Russian and Polish literary works from the 20th and 21st centuries. Both languages are accorded equal status in the analysis, with neither serving as the default or primary language. The order of presentation – Russian followed by Polish – has been adopted solely for the sake of organisational clarity. The total volume of analysed texts, from which examples of parceling were extracted, amounts to approximately 7,000 pages in each language (including contemporary novels, novellas, and short stories). It should be emphasised that extracting examples from such a corpus was not a straightforward task, as it required careful, ongoing evaluation of individual constructions in terms of their syntactic properties, often in relation to a broader context. However, no information is provided regarding the total number of examples collected. More comprehensive statistical data would enable an assessment of the extent to which parceling constitutes a common phenomenon in the two languages compared, and would facilitate a compar-

ison of its frequency across texts in both languages. It would also be beneficial to supplement the analysis with data on the number of examples extracted from individual texts. This would make it possible to determine whether parceling might be a feature of a particular writer's idiolect.

The bibliography comprises of approximately 200 items. These include monographs and scholarly articles, as well as dictionaries and encyclopaedias, primarily in Russian and Polish. The extensive subject literature has made it possible to create a comprehensive account of the phenomenon of parceling, reflecting a range of theoretical and empirical perspectives.

The analysis conducted by Stasienko has demonstrated that parceling, as a means of expressive syntax, plays an important role in the structure of utterances in Russian and Polish. It frequently co-occurs with other stylistic devices and serves to stylise spontaneous spoken language. Parceling can occur in both simple and complex sentences but does not function independently; it is only comprehensible in connection with the parent clause. It may take various forms, ranging from a single word to more or less complex word combinations, and even parts of complex sentences. Parceling enables the author to expressively highlight a fragment of speech, prevents syntactic monotony, enhances textual clarity, promotes its conciseness and fulfils a range of pragmatic functions.

The analysis confirms that this unconventional use of full stops is associated with a tendency to reflect spoken language in writing, reproducing its characteristic intonation and pauses, which enable the speaker to revise their utterance or consider what to say next. Parceling also serves as a means of compressing the text: the message is divided into less complex segments, allowing each element to stand out and enabling the recipient to focus their attention on each part separately.

The functioning of parceling in Russian and Polish exhibits many similarities. Nevertheless, this phenomenon has not previously been described in a contrastive context, making the presented monograph a valuable contribution to linguistics.

In summary, it should be noted that the monograph addresses a relevant and timely issue, given that the phenomenon of parceling has not yet been examined in a comparative Russian-Polish context. While Russian linguistics has a relatively rich body of literature on this subject, Polish linguistic scholarship has not yet developed a comprehensive and consistent approach to parceling, as evidenced by the lack of a uniform terminology in earlier attempts to define and describe it. There was, therefore, a clear need for a systematic account – one which this monograph successfully provides. It may serve both as a source of inspiration and a foundation for further inquiry. This study represents a significant contribution to the fields of contrastive linguistics and expressive syntax. It proposes a standardised terminology and a descriptive model of parceling that may prove valuable in both linguistic and didactic research. The publication offers primarily cognitive value, while also serving as an example of the effective application of the methodological apparatus of comparative syntax, semantics, and linguistic pragmatics. The most significant achievement of Anna Stasienko's monograph lies in its focus on the phenomenon that has transitioned from colloquial

speech into literary language. The comparative analysis of Slavic languages enables the identification of both similarities and differences in the segmentation of simple and complex sentences, as well as in the semantic and pragmatic conditioning of this phenomenon in Russian and Polish.

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