

STRESZCZENIE ROZPRAWY DOKTORSKIEJ

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pt. *Rozmowy osób w wieku senioralnym – studium pragmatylingwistyczne*

Conversations of Senior Citizens – A Pragmalinguistic Study

SUMMARY

In the doctoral thesis, entitled *Conversations of Senior Citizens – A Pragmalinguistic Study*, examples of direct interactions between seniors aging physiologically were examined. The choice of the dissertation topic was determined by the doctoral student's scientific interests, focused on gerontolinguistics, pragmalinguistics and gerontologopedics. The author, using her competencies as a graduate of logopaedics and neurologopaedics studies, assessed the cognitive state of the seniors and excluded the presence of cognitive disorders (e.g. Alzheimer's disease). It was confirmed that the study group consists of people aging in a non-pathological (physiological) way.

The methods selected for analysis were text linguistics, conversational analysis, and genre analysis. The main objective of the study was to examine the characteristics of conversations between seniors undergoing physiological aging from the perspective of pragmatic linguistic analysis. Material consisting of direct conversations between seniors was collected. Their structure, function, and subject matter were examined, taking into account stylistic and genre levels.

In the empirical part the components of the structure of conversation were described. The components of the textual frame (signals of beginning and end), sets of replies, as well as turning points at the juncture of exchanges were analyzed too. The study also focused on functional diversity of linguistic valuing means present in seniors' conversations which include lexical and word-formation means or a group of non-verbal means with an evaluative function. The next analytical chapter was devoted to simple and complex speech acts. The last analytical chapter was focused on the topics of the collected conversations. On the one hand, the thematic fields occurring in the material were described, and on the other hand - the thematic dimension of the conversations was compared with stereotypes about old age and aging. The results obtained illustrate the heterogeneity of conversation, both in terms of genre and typology.

The analyses conducted as part of the dissertation fill a gap in domestic linguistic research, while also demonstrating social and practical value. There are no Polish linguistic studies that provide a multifaceted description of senior language interactions, including the issue of simple and complex speech acts. Contemporary demographic trends clearly indicate that the number of seniors in our society will gradually grow. Consequently, there will be also a growing demand for professionals working with seniors - activating them, diagnosing them and providing their therapy. It makes a scientific challenge connected with the need for expanding the research paradigm of linguistics to include the specific linguistic and communicative abilities of seniors. Research focused on this social group represents an important challenge of our time.

KEY WORDS

conversation, speech acts, pragmalinguistics, seniors, gerontolinguistics