
Language Contact between PJM and Spoken Polish – a Corpus-based Study

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This paper explores the issue of language contact between spoken Polish (sP) and Polish Sign Language (PJM). We analyze a subset of the PJM Corpus (Rutkowski et al., 2017), featuring recordings of native PJM signers. Our sample consists of 2 tasks performed by 10 participants (179 min). Data is tokenized and glossed (N=8.200), tagged for clause-like units (CLUs) (Johnston, 2019), argument structure and semantic functions. 3.032 CLU tags were identified and analyzed for potential influence of sP. 7% of CLUs (N=214) were tagged as containing calques from sP and divided into three groups:

- syntactic structures calques;
- idiomatic sP constructions calques;
- different occurrences of code-blending.

77% of all observed cases of sP influence were identified as belonging to the first group and divided further into four categories:

- copying whole phrases from sP;
- overtly articulating sP functional elements;
- conveying sP functional elements by mouthing;
- copying word order of sP sentences.

50% of the syntactic borrowings were identified as overt markings of pronouns, prepositions or conjunctions. We hypothesize that PJM clauses adopt those sP elements when there is a need to concatenatively express spatial, temporal and causal relations without the use of the signing space.

Our talk provides examples and detailed analysis of the described dataset. The observations can be explained by the natural language contact phenomena such as codeswitching, code-mixing, code-blending (Herbert & Pires). Corpus data shows that PJM, even when used by competent native signers, is influenced by sP, since its users are bimodal bilinguals.

References: • Rutkowski, P., A. Kuder, J. Filipczak, P. Mostowski, J. Łacheta & S. Łozińska, (2017). The design and compilation of the Polish Sign Language (PJM) Corpus. In P. Rutkowski (ed.), *Different faces of sign language research*. University of Warsaw: Faculty of Polish Studies. 125–151. • Johnston, T. (2019). *Auslan Corpus Annotation Guidelines*. August 2019 version, manuscript, Macquarie University, Australia. • Herbert, M. & A. Pires (2017). Bilingualism and bimodal code-blending among deaf ASL-English bilinguals. *Proceedings of the Linguistic Society of America* 2 (14).