

# On Signs Incapacitated: The Latest Polish and Bulgarian No-Affix Compounds in Public Media Discourse: A Cognitive and Communicative Approach

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## Summary

The dissertation analyzes the issue of compound series, which are highly productive in contemporary Polish and Bulgarian. In both cases these are no-affix compounds. Above all, in such compounds the initial element is a foreign word that in both languages has a tendency to gain currency as an adjectival element. The compound series with the following initial elements were analyzed: *eko-*, *euro-* and *homo-* in Polish, and *eko-*, *евро-* and *хомо-* in Bulgarian. Furthermore, the research also covers compounds built, without the use of a conjunction, from two nominal elements, each functioning as a lexeme in its own right. This group is comprised of compounds constructed from the following elements: *gej-* in Polish, and *гей-*, *чалга-* and *менте-/менте* in Bulgarian. The aim is to describe the construction paradigms followed by word formation derivatives, and to present the semantic fields of the repetitive elements of such compounds. On the basis of use, semantic fields of such elements are presented in both languages. Similarities and differences are analyzed in the way of the same word formation model functions. The data gathered allow for showing similarities and differences in the functioning of the compound series in Polish and Bulgarian.

The analysis of the linguistic material is conducted with the use of an integrated cognitive and communicative methodology, permitting a dynamic presentation of the nature of the word formation structures. Derivatives are analyzed in the context of actual language use, including a variety of aspects connected to a given utterance. I arrived at this methodology by employing insights developed by the linguists mentioned below. I employ Ronald Langacker's construction paradigm for describing word formation models and types, alongside Elena Kubriakova's model of cognitive and discourse analysis. Furthermore, I also fall back on the synthetic cognitive definition in the sense developed by the Lublin School of ethnolinguistic research in order to explicate the

meanings of the derivatives analyzed. Also of import for the analysis is Aleksander Kiklewicz's assumption on semantic diffusion and ambisemy in word formation.

The monograph is comprised of an introduction, three chapters that constitute the analysis, a conclusion, a bibliography and two abstracts in Bulgarian and English. Furthermore, each analytical section in the three aforementioned chapters is appended with the list of references used for research, alongside an index of compound derivative.

Chapter One is devoted to a systematic presentation of what is known on compounds and their construction in Polish and Bulgarian word formation. Special attention is paid to the normative and pragmatic aspects of compounds, alongside the necessity of making terminological decisions in order to facilitate scholarly discussion on the topic. What is more, word formation analogy is investigated as an especially productive method of compound construction.

Chapter Two presents the methodological assumptions, alongside the key terms, concepts and issues. I focus on the ways in which discourse and context are understood. Basing my analysis on the work of various linguistics in this respect, I propose my own definitions of both concepts. Furthermore, I draw attention to the ambisemic character of many compound construction structures, and also to the role played by interference in the process of conceptualization as determining a given linguistic form of concepts.

Chapter Three is analytical, divided into five sections, each devoted to a given compound series. In the analysis particular consideration is given to those derivatives which are currently used in a given form of discourse, but which retain, however, their unmediated character. Often these are structures that have become permanent in users' speech, but still cannot be accorded the status of autonomous linguistic units. I focus especially on the possibility of semantic modification both in the case of repetitive compounds and entire word formation structures, when they occur in atypical contexts. The role of metaphorization is emphasized in determining the meaning of numerous compound linguistic forms. At the end of each section, the construction paradigm and semantic profiles of components are discussed in the cases of the Polish and Bulgarian languages. Special attention is paid to the similarities and differences in how compound derivatives function in the public media discourse in both languages.

In the Conclusion a hypothesis is proposed on the causes of the popularity of these compounds in the mass media in Poland and Bulgaria.

*Translated by Tomasz Kamusella*