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# LUBELSKIE MATERIALY NEOFILOLOGICZNE - 1978

Izabella M. Burdzanowska

# On Directives in Polish and English

Linguists working in the tradition of the transformational approach have always had difficulties deciding whether a sentence is grammatical or not. It has gradually become clear that it is not always possible to make such a decision without reference to the non-linguistic context. Linguists who wanted to be honest and precise often discovered that a given sentence might be acceptable under certain conditions - when uttered in certain circumstances, by certain people, to certain ends, etc. In other words, it has become obvious that two sentences, both grammatical, i.e. formed in accordance with phonological, morphonological, syntactic, and semantic principles, may differ as far as their acceptability is concerned. In a given context only one of them will be acceptable and appropriate. As the present analysis will deal with directives in Polish and English, let us have a closer look at some possible ways a simple request can be expressed in both languages:

# English

Shut the door, please.
Shut the door, please.
Shut the door, will you?
Can you shut the door?
Could you shut the door?
Do you mind shutting the door?
Let's shut the door.
Excuse me, could you by any chance shut the door?
You couldn't possibly shut the door, could you?

Shut the door, if I may ask you. Would you mind shutting the door, please? I don't suppose I could possibly ask you to shut the door. I'd be very much obliged if you'd shut the door. I have been wondering whether you would be so kind as to shut the I wondered if I might ask you to shut the door. I don't want to bother you, but could you shut the door? Would you shut the door, if you are so kind?

One should shut the door.

It's cold in here.

You haven't shut the door.

Przeprassam bardso, csy mógłbyś samknąć drawi? Nie samknąłbyć dzwi? Czy możesz samknąć drzwi? /Let's shut the door./ Zamknij drzwi, jeśli nie masz nic na przeciwko. Csy nie mógłbyś ewentualnie zamknąć drswi? Proszę o zamkniecie drzwi. Dobrze by było, gdybyś zamknął drzwi. /Would you be so kind as to shut the door?/ Ozy byłbyć tak uprzejmy zamknąć drzwi? /Shut the door, if you don't mind./ /Wouldn't you shut the door?/ /Can you shut the door?/ Zamknijmy drzwi. /lit.: I ask to shut the door./ Proszę zamknąć drzwi. /Shut the door./ Zamknij drzwi. Drzwi należy zamykać. /Couldn't you possibly shut the door?/ /lit.: I ask about shutting the door./ One should close the door./ /It would be good, if you'd shut the door., Excuse me, could you shut the door?/

> Byłbym bardzo wdzięczny, gdybyś zamknął drzwi. Hie bedsiemy sostaviali drzwi otwartych. /I'm cold./ /We won't ,leave the door open./ Nie samknateń drzwi. Zimno mi. /I would be very grateful, if you'd shut the door./

/You haven't shut the door./

point of view all our examples are correct, but some of them are not acceptable and appropriate in a given situation. Any naof both the speaker /S/ and the addressee /A/, the relationship degree of politeness, and that each of them will be used on difsay that the basic difference between those sentences is in the tive speaker of the language, making an intuitive judgement, will between them, the kind of feelings and attitudes S wants to express many contextual factors, such as the rank, age, relative power ferent occasions, i.e. the form of the request will depend on the aims he wants to achieve, etc. From the grammatical /phonological, syntactic, semantic/

rules. At the same time those judgements constitute a very imporate in a given situation or not; and in that case communicating ments, i.e. to decide whether a sentence is acceptable and appropriorganization and usage of directives. sible. Also we would not be able to detect any regularities in the tionship between the speaker and the addressee would not be posand understanding of feelings and attitudes concerning the relathe case, native speakers would not be able to make those judgetant part of every native speaker's competence. If this were not tures can be formalized in phonological, syntactic, and semantic speakers' intuinive judgements about the grammaticality of strucstated in a more rigorous way and formalized just as native It is believed that intuitive judgements of this kind can be

cally, it should be included in the structural description of some condition the applicability of many transformations. More specififind its place in the grammar of a language as 4t very often will Further, it seems indisputable that contextual information should

sion that both languages are very different, that is, in fact, a nal theories/, we will promptly come to the not unexpected concluof contrastive studies conducted in the tradition of transformatioguistic forms. When we compare them restricting our analysis to will be more meaningful. Consider once again our two sets of lintheoretical framework that allows for extra-linguistic references utterances that we begin to notice great similarities between the only when we start investigating the meanings and functions of the analysis on the level of phonology, morphology, and syntax. It is strained and unrevealing. This will hold true for contrastive few similarities that we have been able to observe are somewhat the structure of the code alone / as it has been done in the bulk Moreover, we assume that contrastive studies carried on in a

directives common to both languages, and possibly common, i.e. unial source of social origin of the diversity and organization of versal, to all languages. We shall assume and try to demonstrate that there is a function-

hand, to communicate it in the clearest and most efficient way, so organization, and, as we shall see, is often expressed by a deviamight say that politeness is a functional source of grammatical directive form with regard to the degree of politeness. So we latter wish will be reflected and will determine the choice of a the speech situation and his relations with the addressee. The other hand, he wants to express his assumptions about his role in tion from clarity and efficiency. that he gets the addressee to perform a desired action, and on the Every speaker making a request or a command wants, on the one

urgency. Compare: "Help!" and the non-urgent "Please help me, if you'd be so kind. " important, a polite form would actually decrease the communicated great urgency or desperation, when maximum efficiency is very But sometimes clarity is of utmost importance. In cases of

Watch out!

Your hair is on fire!

Uważaj! Prossę uważać! Niech (Pani) uważa!

/Watch out!/

Pomóż mi! Proszę mi pomóc! Niech mi Pani pomoże!

/Help me!/

more formal than English, requires that any adult, unfamiliar of forms of address, which in turn will be conditioned by many in English//cf. Burdzanowska, Sociolinguistic Bules of Address in person be addressed by "Pan/Panis /corresponding to "Sir/Madam" "Proszę" /Please/ + Infinitive, e.g. "Proszę uważać!". such as nouns: "Uwaga!" /Attention!/, "Ratunku!" /Help!/, or tendency to avoid any forms of address by using impersonal forms, in circumstances, where efficiency is most important, there is a Polish and English / even in very urgent situations. That is why distance between them, etc. The Polish system of address, being factors, such as S's and A's age, sex, rank, position, the social corresponding to one form in English, differing in the employment In Polish we will have three different forms of the imperative

role-sets, e.g. manager/employee, parent/child, rather than to ding on situational context, it should be attached to roles or physical force, or psychological control over the actions of others. not want to choose a polite form. / "Power" is understood here as individuals/. Because an individual can have a different value of power depenthe degree of material control over economic distribution or Also when S has much greater relative power than A, he might

Stop it at once./e.g. to a child# Bring me wine, Jeeves. /e.g. to a servant/

Umyj rece./eg. to a child/ /Wash your hands./

/Type this for me./ Przepisz mi to na maszynie. Proszę przepisać mi to na maszynie.

Similarly, when a request or a command is primarily in A's interest, the imposition is very small and simple imperative forms are used:

# English

Have some more cake.

Don't worry about me.

Come in. Sit down.

## Polish

Weź jeszcze jeden kaważek ciasta.
/Take one more piece of cake./
Nie martw się o mnie.
/Don't worry about me./
Wejdź. Proszę wejść. Niech Pan wejdzie.
/Come in./

But when S and A are on very familiar terms simple imperative forms /with the possible addition of "please", "will you" in English, and "proszę"/please/ in Polish/ are felt to be more polite than the more elaborate, conventionally polite forms. Compare:

# English

Take your bag from the table, will you? and would you mind taking your bag from the table?

# Polish

Zabierz ze stożu swoją teczkę.
and
Czy byżbyś tak łaskaw zdjąć se stożu swoją teczkę?
/Would you be so kind as to take your bag from the table?/

That is why we have to make a distinction between two kinds of politeness on the grounds of the degree of familiarity that obtains between S and A:

- 1. familiar politeness
- 2. formal politeness.

Familiar politeness will be employed typically in closed groups, e.g. family, circle of friends, people working together, etc., where social distance between members is very small and/or there

is no big difference in power. It expresses a friendly attitude and is intended to make A feel good. Formal politeness, on the other hand, will be used when there is a relatively large social distance between S and A and/or A has greater power /as defined above/. Its main aims are: not to impose on A, and to give him options. Both kinds of politeness will be realized by means of aifferent strategies.

Familiar politeness as used in speaking to an "outsider" conveys the message that he is considered a friend, a member of the group. This is most often achieved by using in-group identity markers, such as in-group forms of address, the employment of a specific language, dialect, or slang.

Here we would like to point out that the usage of such in-group forms of address in Polish is restricted to familiar persons, while in English it is quite widely employed even when addressing strangers. Also the number of possible address forms is biger in English.

Another strategy of familiar politeness is to include both S and A in the activity:

# English

Let's stop for a bite.

Let's get on with dinner, eh? /i.e. you/
Give us a break. /i.e. me/

# Polish

Zróbmy soble herbaty. /1.e. you/ /Let's make some tea./

Stańmy rozprostować kości. /i.e. me/ /Let's make some tea/ /Let's stop to stretch our bones/

ally indirect. In this strategy the speaker wants, on the one hand, ings /by wirtue of conventionalization/ which are different from to be efficient and clear. Conventionally indirect phrases and sento give A an out by being indirect, and on the other hand, he wants avoiding imposition on A. One way of doing this is to be convention-It is, generally speaking, avoidance based, giving A "outs" and tences satisfy both wants by having contextually unambiguous meanto ask for information but to request: their literal meanings. In this way indirect questions are not used Formal politeness is what is commonly understood by politeness.

Can you /please/ pass the salt?

literal meaning, i.e. direct illocutionary force of a question. Here "please" marks the utterance so that it cannot have its

Czy możesz zamknąć okno? Can you shut the window?/

him to do. He can convey this doubt even more clearly by using the by not assuming that A is able or willing to do any act S wants gubjunctive mood: Generally speaking, S, using indirect questions, gives A an out

Could you pass the salt, please?

/Could you shut the window?/ Czy mógłbyś zamknąć okno?

willing or able to do any act S wants him to do: S may also be pessimistic, i.e. assume that A is unlikely to be

Couldn't you hold it for a minute?

I don't suppose there'd be any chance of you helping me with this.

Czy nie orientuje się Pan gdzie jest najbliżazy bank? Czy nie mógłbyś posunąć się trochę? /Don't you know where the nearest bank is?/ Couldn't you move over a little?/

ary force of a speech act, that is, again, not assuming A is able/ willing to perform any action: Another way of not imposing is to make hedges on the illocution-

Polish
Czy nie mógłbyś ewentualnie może przypadkiem You couldn't Gouldn't you { perhaps by any chance} (posmibly by any chance perhaps pass the salt, could you? lend me.one hundred zloty?/ pożyczyć mi sto złotych?

are quite common: "If" clauses which also hedge the illocutionary force of directives

Close the window, Polish English if you can
if you want
if Imay ask you
if you don t mind

Help me move that table, Pomóż mi przestawić ten stół, jeśli masz ochotę jeśli masz ochotę jeśli mogę cię prosić jeśli nie masz nic na przeciwko if you can
if you want
if I may ask you
if you don t mind

formal politeness: Making apologies for imposition is still another strategy of

I'm sure you must be very busy, but... I'm sorry to bother you, but could you...

Nie chciałbym przeszkadzać, ale czy mógłbyś...

/I wouldn't like to interrupt, but could you .../ /I know you are busy, but .../ Wiem, że jesteś zajęty, ale ...

were other than A, or not only A. This is achieved by impersonalization, that is, avoidance of the pronouns "I" and "you". Gramdefinities, stating the imposition as a general rule: matical means that serve this purpose are: the passive voice, inthat the agent were other than S, or not S alone, and the addressee A directive may be also stated in such a way as if to indicate

Passangers will please refrain from flushing the toilets on the Further details should be sent to ... One shouldn't do things like that. It would be appreciated, if you ...

Dokładne informacje należy przesłać ... Nie należy robić takich rzeczy. Pasażerowie proszeni są o przejście na peron drugi. One shouldn't do things like that/ /It would be good, if .../ Dobrze by było, gdyby ... /Passangers are requested to go over to platform two/ /Precise information should be sent .../

achieved by means of nominalization: The same goal, that is, that of impersonalization, can be

Your cooperation is urgently requested

Proszę o podliczenie rachunku. /I ask for summing up the bill/

Similar effect is achieved by point-of-view distancing:

| hoped | wondered whether | I might ask you ... | thought

Histen nadsieje, te mógłbyć mi pomóc. Nysladem

I thought that you might help me/

more polite he will sound. That is why it is commonly felt that: tegies he employs /e.g. hedges, indirect questions, vessimism/, the expends in avoiding imposition, i.e. the greater the mumber of stra-Generally speaking, we might say that the more effort the speaker

I was wondering whether there might be any possibility of my borrowing your car.

is more polite than: .

would it be possible for me to borrow your car?

which is in turn more polite than:

I'd like to borrow your car, if you don't mind.

Let me borrow your car, will you?

utterance. nity, say, agreeing or disagreeing with the direct meaning of the meant to say; he is free to ignore the indirect request with impuof reasons or motives, or of the situations that provided the moan indirect way of makin a request by giving hints, i.e. statements imposition or to give options. It is up to A to infer what S really intention, i.e. illocationary force. The aim is still to avoid tives. These statements will have more than one clear communicative they stated explicately what S wanted A to do. But there is also All directives discussed so far were direct in the sense that

I need some more nails. It's cold in here. /i.e. shut the window/

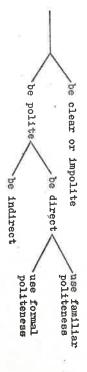
This soup is a bit bland.

I am hungry.

Duszno tu. /i.e. open the window/ It's stuffy in here/

/Ith stuffy in here/
Nie mam zapażek.
/I have no matches/
Zóżko jest nie pościelone.
/The bed is not made/
Pić mi się chce.
/Ih thirsty/

We may tentatively sum up the main strategies for making a directive in both languages in the following diagram:



We believe that these strategies are universal, and, of course, might be carried out differently in different languages by means of lexical, phonological, and syntactic devices specific to these languages. We have tried to demonstrate that they are observed in Polish and English.

Furthermore, languages, or rather, cultures may differ in the choice and the extent of the employment of certain strategies. It seems that speakers of Polish, in contrast to speakers of English, make limited use of familiar politeness which is restricted to closed groups. These observations coincide with the conclusions following from the comparison of Polish and English rules of address /Burdzanowska, ibid./. But in order to make them valid we would have to distinguish, first of all, between Eritish and American cultures, and then between different social classes and

## Notes

in order to substantiate this casual remark we would have to specify which speech community we are talking about.

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# Streszezenie

Przedmiotem analizy kontrastywnej są dyrektywy /akty nowy posiadające moc ilokucyjną, t.j., funkcję komunikatywną, rozkazu lub prośby/ w języku polskim i angielskim. Porównanie przeprowadzone jest w ramach modelu funkcjonalnego - źródła zróżnicowania form językowych mających tę sąmą moc ilokucyjną upatruje się w spo-zecznej funkcji jaką spełnia dana wypowiedź. Osoba wypowiadająca polecenie pragnie z jednej strony osiągnąć swój cel, t.j. skłonić adresata do działania, w sposób jak najbardziej efektywny, a z drugiej strony, poprzez wybór odpowiedniej formy językowej, wyraża ocenę swojej pozycji oraz stosunku do adresata. Czyni to poprzez wybór formy językowej o odpowiednie stopniu uprzejmości. A więc w przypadku dyrektywów, funkcjonalnym źródłem zróżnicowania formy jest uprzejmość. Biorąc pod uwagę stopień i rodsaj uprzejmości wyróżniono sześć głównych strategii będących do dyspozycji wypowiadającego polecenie. Strategie te są wspólne dla obu języków.

# LUBELSKIE MÁTERIAŁY NEOFILOLOGICZNE — 1978

Grażyna Kryszczuk

# Czy istnieje język nauki i techniki

Ze zjawiskiem badań języka nauki i techniki spotykamy się stosumkowo późno, z tego też względu rozwój tych badań jest ciągle jeszcze niedostateczny. W niektórych krajach europejskich literatura piękma w językach narodowych rozwijała się już w X-XII wieku. W dziedzinie nauki natomiast językiem obowiązującym aż do Odrodzenia pozostawała łacina. Małe zróżnicowanie poszczególnych dziedzin wiedzy i jej niski poziom rozwoju oraz niezbyt rozwinięta terminologia spowodowały, że o języku nauki można mówić dopiero w okresie Odrodzenia. Powstanie języka nauki i techniki nie przebiegało też w całej Europie równocześnie. Punktem zwrotnym w kształtowaniu się języka fachowego był rok 1665. W tym czasie założono w Londynie czasopismo naukowe "Philosophical transactions", a w Paryżu ukazał się po raz pierwszy "Journal de Savants".

O języku nauki w Polsce możemy mówić dopiero w XVI wieku, chociaż do tego czasu były używane pojedyncze wyrazy fachowe w zakresie mp. górnictwa, czego potwierdzenie znajdujemy w licznych dokumentach pisanych, pochodzących z okresu wcześniejszego.Polskie słownictwo specjalistyczne rozwinęło się dopiero w wieku XVIII, kiedy to powstają pierwsze książki naukowe z dziedziny fizyki i chemii.Duże zasługi w tym zakresie położyli S.Solski, J.Rogaliński, S.Grzebski.

Jednymi z pierwszych, którzy podjęli się badań języka naukowego był angielski przyrodnik Th. Sawery - autor książki "The language