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## **Investigating German-Polish contact-induced language change through the lens of Construction Grammar**

Work on German-Polish bilinguals' speech on the level of pattern replications has been carried out only fragmentally so far. Therefore, a larger international linguistic project aims at examining the language of two generations of German-Polish bilinguals through natural data gained from carried out fieldwork in Germany and Poland.

Within this project, the author's special interest lies in semantic replication from German to Polish and vice versa. Traditionally, typologies on replications due to language contact base on a division into phonetical, lexical and grammatical transfer. When investigating material gained within the project, it becomes visible, that this kind of division is not useful, but rather a hindrance. For example, Pelka (2006) classifies Dereflexivization into Grammatical Transfer, whereas it can be shown upon the example of

*na przykład uczyliśmy<sub>[we learned ∅ REFL]</sub> jedno słowo<sub>[one word NOM]</sub> po polsku w kościele*, instead of

*na przykład uczyliśmy się<sub>[we learned REFL]</sub> jednego słowa<sub>[one word GEN]</sub> po polsku w kościele*

'for example we learned one word Polish at church'

from our interviewee's speech, that, what is being replicated here is not the lack of a grammatical reflexive marker, but a lexical one. Still, there comes change in meaning with the transfer of lexical marker, or in this case it's lack of replication, based on the facultative reflexive use of the verb *uczyć* 'to learn' in Polish. This change becomes more visible when comparing the agent-patient structure of the reflexive and non-reflexive construction of the verb.

Therefore, the author proposes Construction Grammar as a theoretical model for deeper investigation on contact-induced change in German-Polish bilinguals' speech. Because of the usage-based approach to language, Construction Grammar suggests itself for this kind of studies, but so far, only little work has been done (e.g. Wasserscheidt 2016).

It is the aim of the talk to show the advantages and disadvantages of using Construction Grammar for a qualitative description of language change due to language contact based on some examples found in the interviewee's speech.

Pelka, Daniela (2006): Der deutsch-polnische Sprachkontakt in Oberschlesien am Beispiel der Gegend Oberglogau. Berlin: Trafo.

Wasserscheidt, Philipp (2016): Bilinguales Sprechen. Ein konstruktionsgrammatischer Ansatz. Berlin: Freie Universität Berlin Universitätsbibliothek.