

Innovative word formation processes in the Kashubian spoken language

Introduction. Kashubians as a specific cultural and ethnical phenomenon in the region of north Poland still cause controversy among researchers. Given the fact that the standardized form of Kashubian language is *in statu nascendi* the focus of interest among researchers is mainly concentrated on the need to codify it. On the basis of the gathered emotionally loaded vocabulary and highlighted morphological and semantic innovations the author argues that the colloquial speech in a language that is still subjected to a standardization process does exist and is evolving as fast as the colloquial speech in the non-endangered languages. **Analysis.** The basis material for the analysis are results of the field research carried out among young Kashubs, which consisted of interviews with young people (18-25 years old) identifying with a minority culture. Kashubian emotionally loaded vocabulary is internally diverse and due to the localization of Kashubian language exposed to various external cultural influences. It contains a number of features that are specific for other languages, such as Polish, German and colloquial English. Despite the heavy foreign influences on the Kashubian language, it developed and retained its own characteristics and lexical innovations such as neologisms, compounding and semantic extensions, which not only reflect the reality of a culture and its categorization and perception of the world but are also a carrier of ethnic minority identification. One of the inherent elements of emotionally loaded words is a valuation made by a man, a bearer of values, who in his tries to perceive a reality, is bound to evaluate it (Grabias, 1981). The research is based on the analysis of specific forms according to different aspects. One of the purposes of the novel research in the Kashubian and Polish scientific community is also to present and organize the material in such a way that it could be used as a topic for a broader, multilateral discussion. The specific questions in this research are (i) what kind of word formation processes are used in creating emotionally loaded words? (ii) can we find suffixes with negative prosody that are specific only for Kashubian colloquial speech? and (iii) how do the speakers evaluate a specific person or an object? The research is based on the analysis of specific forms according to the following aspects: subject of the lexical borrowing, its origin, the degree to which a foreign word is adapted and how it entered the recipient language. One part of the paper is also devoted to linguistic inventiveness, especially among the young people, who in their quest to rename subjects, ideas in spoken Kashubian language differ from “traditional” word-formative processes, making the language creative.

Key words: emotionally loaded words, Kashubian language, colloquial speech, linguistic inventiveness, minority culture

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