

BEATA JAROSZ (2023): *JĘZYK ZAWODOWY POLSKICH DZIENNIKARZY PRASOWYCH (XIX–XXI W.) [PROFESSIONAL LANGUAGE OF THE POLISH PRINT PRESS JOURNALISTS (19TH-21ST CENTURY)]*, LUBLIN: MARIA CURIE-SKŁODOWSKA UNIVERSITY PRESS, PP. 951, ISBN: 9788322797174

As a reviewer of various scholarly books, I have often employed the term „scientific monograph” in my evaluations. Yet, perhaps for the first time, I am presenting a review of a publication that occupies a privileged, central, prototypical position within the semantic field of humanities and social science research—a place reserved for what constitutes a proper scientific monograph. Such is the monumental work of Beata Jarosz, recently published by the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University Press.

With such an introduction, it is easy to deduce that I regard this publication as exceptional and rate it extremely highly. Its merits are numerous, but above all there is the logical, thoughtful, and rational organization of the vast analytical material covering two centuries of the development of journalistic jargon. Although, as the author herself states in the book’s Introduction, the monograph contains classical compositional elements: “this introduction, a conclusion, a bibliographic listing, and two indices – of surnames and names mentioned in the book” (p. 13). Other elements are a classical Theoretical Introduction, the aims and subject of research. The most significant that lies in the first part of the book is the research concept, or rather, the author’s research procedure employed in her work. The author does not reach for new and unknown methods in linguistics or textology, but the sequence and methodological consistency she proposes to guarantee the quality of her research. The procedure comprises six stages: source selection, identification, definition, verification, confrontation, and presentation. Each stage represents many hours the author spent in libraries, editorial offices, printing houses, on websites, and within corpora and dictionaries of the Polish language. The aim of this effort was to ascertain with precision and responsibility that the journalistic jargon is multi-layered, variably dependent, influenced by the general Polish language, but also, and perhaps most importantly, by various foreign languages.

These countless hours of material exploration, recordings, and interviews with press creators, after overcoming all the stages of the methodological procedure presented in the research part, enabled Beata Jarosz to write three extensive analytical chapters amounting to about 600 pages). I refer to them as lexicographic-lexical, for they concern lexical units from the jargon of press journalism, forming a unique kind of specialized dictionary with descriptive definitions. Still, such terms must fully reveal the richness of information they contain. The constant scheme of each of these chapters: Periodicals, The Structure of a Periodical, Textual and Graphic Materials, People, Places, Actions, Irregularities, Instrumentarium, Units of Measure, and Others are essentially the titles of sections in a thematic dictionary. But the monograph under these section reveals not only the entries but also their detailed lexicographic description. Beata Jarosz has selected these areas as titles of specific semantic fields created by the vocabulary of press journalism. Reading each section in turn is a true pleasure and an immensely educational intellectual adventure for any linguist, media studies scholar, or communication theorist. The final chapter complements this pleasure - Selected Linguistic Phenomena, where the author points out further leads, dependencies, and connections she has observed in the analysis of press journalism over the past two hundred years.

I need help to point out any gaps, defects, or shortcomings in this work. It is undoubtedly a „Benedictine task,” where nothing is too little or superficially described. However, I see various perspectives from which this rich material could be defined differently and ideally by Beata Jarosz or those who will benefit from her experience. First, it would be interesting to apply cognitive methodology to this material and the analyses and interpretations conducted and to create a conceptual network, or rather integrate the concepts already described in this monograph. Second, as the author writes, contemporary media is a time of convergence at various levels and in different places. Thus, the methodology developed in this work is ripe for transfer to other media – radio, television, or the Internet. The latter area, contrary to the author’s concerns, could be the most interesting due to its contemporaneity and would complement her already comprehensive research. Third, this book is an excellent textbook for journalism and other related professions. Still, it begs for publication in another form – not as one bulky volume with which one could inflict harm, but rather as a multi-volume set locating the theoretical part, each analytical chapter, and the linguistic phenomena in separate volumes. Indeed, the latter could indeed be expanded into a stand-alone book). If this is not deemed a good idea, I propose publishing it in a simplified version as a handbook or dictionary of press journalism terms.

Every reader of this monograph faces a daunting task – reading nearly a thousand pages of densely written text. I will not claim that the book is unputdownable, but I assure you that authentic and unforced cognitive and scientific satisfaction will accompany every reader during and after reading.

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