

Multiple shades of *się*. From accusative to reflexive marker

Polish *się* (as its equivalents in other Slavic languages) is a polysemous linguistic unit. In modern language, at least reflexive proper, impersonal, passive, middle, reciprocal, anticausative and facilitative (cf. 1-8) functions compose this polysemy. Morphosyntactic disambiguation leads to the conclusion that these functions divide into two pronominal lexemes (cf. 1-5, 7, 8), a word formative (cf. 6 and 10) and the semantically and grammatically empty substring of some verbs (cf. 9). The latter is historically the lexicalized argument of some verbs (Pisarkowa, 1984). Word-formative is characteristic among others for reciprocals and deadjectival lexical derivatives (cf. 6 and 10; Grzegorzczkova, Laskowski, and Wróbel 1998). One of the two homonymous pronouns declines in all cases except for nominative; *się* is accusative and genitive clitic form, alternating with orthotonic *sobie* (cf. 1; Saloni 1975). It is the object in reflexives proper. We need to mention that the dative form of the pronoun (*sobie*) is also homonymous with a word-forming morpheme (cf. 11; Grzegorzczkova, Laskowski, and Wróbel 1998). The other pronoun, characteristic for impersonal construction is the expletive of the deep subject and therefore has the unique (nominative) form (cf. 2 and 3; Saloni 1975). Nevertheless the position in the contemporary lexicon, any RM comes from the accusative of the pronoun. The presentation aims to examine and trace the historical development of empty, morphemic and pronominal RM. First, we examine what development certain formations underwent, and then we determine conditions of their evolution. In the next part, we look closer to formations and constructions that declined or were substituted, such as reflexive passives (cf. 3 and 12), that rose in popularity in 19c only to go out of use in a hundred years (Szlifersztajnowa, 1968). Finally, we focus on examples of verbs losing reflexive marker (cf. 13 instead of standard *DOPYTYWAĆ SIĘ*) in contemporary Polish.

Examples

- (1) Chłopak goli się/siebie.
boy.SB.M.N.SG RM (=self.PR.A.CLIT/-CLIT shave.V.PRES.3.SG
'The boy is shaving himself.'
- (2) Na śniadanie je się tam warzywa.
on breakfast eat.V.PRES.3.SG RM (=self.PR.N) there vegetables.SBST.NEUT.A.PL.
'Cooked vegetables are eaten for breakfast there.'
- (3) Dobrze mi się mieszka w Krakowie.
well I.PR.D live.V.PRES.3.SG in Kraków.SBST.L
'I am well in Kraków.'
- (4) Zespoły tworzą się według potrzeb.
team.SBST.M.N.PL make_up.V.PRES.3.PL RM according need.SBST.F.G.PL
'Teams are made up when the need arises.'
- (5) Siostra się urządza w Gdańsku.
sister.SBST.MASC.NOM.SG self.PR.A furnish.V.PRES.3.SG in Gdańsk
'My siste is furnishing an appartment for herself in Gdańsk.'
- (6) Jan i Maria się kochają.
Jan.SBST.M.N and Maria.SBST.F.N.SG RM love.V.PRES.3.PL
'John and Mary love each other.'
- (7) Ołówek się złamał.
pencil.SUBST.NOM.SG RM break.V.PAST.3.SG
'The pencil broke.'

- (8) Ona czesze się u fryzjera.
 she.PR.N dress.V.PRES.3.SG RM at hairdresser
 ‘She has her hair done at a hairdresser.’
- (9) Dziecko *boi/ boi się ciemności.
 child.SB.NEUT.N.SG be_afraid.V.PRES.3.SG RM darkness.SB.PLT.G
 ‘The child is afraid of the darkness.’
- (10) Ludzie się starzeją.
 people.SB.PLT.N RM_get_older.V.PRES.3.PL
 ‘People are getting older.’
- (11) Pospałem sobie.
 sleep_on.V.PAST.1.SG.M myself.D
 ‘I slept on long.’
- (12) Sukienki dobrze się sprzedają.
 dress.SBST.F.N.PL well RM sell.V.PRES.3.PL
 ‘Dresses sell well.’
- (13)?Chcę tylko dopytać, kto przyszedł.
 want.V.PRES.1.SG only ask.INF who.PR.N come.V.PAST.3.SG.M
 ‘I only want to ask who has come.’

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