

ZYGMUNT GAŁECKI, *Studia z leksykologii regionalnej i historycznej (Regional and historic lexicology studies)*, Lublin: Wydawnictwo KUL 2014, ss. 272.

#### INTRODUCTION

Regional and historic lexicology studies is a collection of studies on the history and etymology of words, which are in the realm of interest of not professional linguist and literature writers but also of ordinary language users. The work in this book is the result of Author's research interests, didactic inspirations and the need to raise the status of the studies of the Podlasie region, situated in the eastern borderland of Poland. The relevance of the book lies in the fact that the presented studies are based on the comprehensive reference material gathered by the Author over the years of his research work. Ranging from old and new dictionaries of Slavic languages, which are considered to be the fullest collections of lexis, onomastic sources to excerpts from various types of texts such as literature, letters, diaries, magazines and nationwide and regional press, the research material covers "new" words, which are introduced into the academic area, reinterpretations and etymological adjustments of words studied before. Moreover, the Author uses a wide range of approved research methods such as the philological method, internal reconstruction method, morphological and word-formation analyses as well as linguistic geography analysis and historical-comparative analysis. In addition to that, the Author took into consideration the word meaning setting and changes, the specification of the place of a given word in the lexical system and borrowings from the Polish language in Ruthenian languages, which is required by the etymological research methodology when studies concern the borderland area.

The book has four sections. Part 1 addresses the analysis of the etymology of selected common words; Part 2 surveys the etymology of proper names; Part 3

deals with phraseology and Part 4 is the commentary on the Polish language in the Kiev area. The Author's introduction serves as a guideline throughout the book. As a starting point, it presents various definitions of the key term in lexicology i.e. the word. Next, it outlines the history and methodology of lexicological research and discusses the material basis of conducted research. The book closes with Author's conclusion and two indices (of localities and of used abbreviations and symbols).

#### GOALS AND CONTENTS OF THE BOOK

As etymological research needs to be detailed, the analyses of common words, proper names, phraseology and the commentary on the Polish language of the Kiev area are the subject of Author's separate studies.

Part 1 opens with the study on two expressive nouns *baldyga* and *szkulepa*. Used in the Podlasie and Mazovia regions to denote "a large awkward thing", the former is the formation based on *balda* stem which is of the Ruthenian or oriental, Turkish, origin. Structured sub-dialectal material indicated a characteristic geographic pattern of a loan word in Polish sub-dialects in the eastern periphery. A similar form i.e. *balda* is used in south-east Lesser Poland to mean "a lump; shapeless form of sth" and in sub-dialects of north-east Mazovia and Podlasie to mean "a sheaf". The form that differs by a stem vowel, slightly different base meanings and acquired figurative meanings, which could have been formed independently in two unadjoining areas, may give a clue so as to specify different directions of borrowing the base word. Strikingly, the occurrence of a common noun *baldyga* and the *Baldyga* surname is parallel geographically. The *Baldyga* surname is most frequent in the same area as the *baldyga* common word i.e. in the north-east Poland.

Poorly documented in the history of the Polish language, *szkulepa* "an old and ugly woman" is an old sub-dialectal word and consequently an eastern borderland regionalism (of Lithuanian and East Slavic area). Its origin and structural meaning remain unclear. Neither the dictionary definition nor contextual meanings quoted by the Author give grounds to etymological elaboration. Yet there are premises indicating that *szkulepa* can be motivated based on east Slavic languages, the Ukrainian language in particular. By conducting the comparative analysis of similar formations, the *-epa* affix, now unproductive and in the past used to make expressive formations, may be isolated in the analysed word. Three etymological hypotheses are presented to explain the meaning of the word, all of

them based on the Ukrainian language, deriving the meaning either from an external or an internal feature of a person.

Another word analysed in Part 1 is an expressive noun *kudyś* “guzzler, lazy-bones, thief”, which is a relatively new word that started to occur in the reference material after 1970 primarily as the word used mostly by town or city residents. As a result of the Author’s thorough research it may be concluded that the history of the word, though short and broken in regional varieties of the Polish language, dates back to relatively old times and to the Russian language. Consequently, based on the grounded hypothesis it may be assumed that the word was borrowed in 19th century from Russian *kud(i)es*. Polish *kudyś* with raised articulation of the unaccented *e* to *y* and/or morphological attraction of the Polish words such as *kochaś* or *koleś* as well as with a change in its etymological meaning seems to be much older than it was originally assumed.

The four verbs presented in Part 1 are *zlechmanić* “to waste”, *ciargnąć* “to go numb”, *ciorzyć* “to flog or to rain heavily” and *chnieć* “to waste away” and they all are territorially limited to eastern borderland. The verb *zlechmanić* an Old Polish word (16<sup>th</sup> century), whose meaning is determined in the Old Polish Dictionary by the context of its use, occurred in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> century literature but was quickly forgotten. Nevertheless, the substitution (sound) method used in the book allowed the Author to positively verify the hypothesis that the Polish word *zlechmanić* is a borrowing from the Old Ukrainian *zlychomanyty*, quite distant phonetically, but perfectly corresponding structurally. As far as the verb *ciargnąć* is concerned, it is known in contemporary sub-dialects but it is probably not attested in any texts, which is a common problem relating to verbs. The word seems to pose certain difficulties while reconstructing, as it is not found in historic dictionaries. Yet based on historic records in the old Polish language sources, it was possible to conclude that *ciargnąć* is a formation used in the transition area between north Polish *ciarnieć* and south Polish *tarnieć*, which were morphologically attracted to verbs having *-na* suffix as part of a new morphological tendency. Another sub-dialectal verb, *ciorzyć*, attracting attention due to the fact that its use is known from oral tradition, is territorially limited to southern Podlasie and was not recorded in Karłowicz’s dictionary of Polish sub-dialects. It means “to lash, to whip” or, figuratively, “to rain heavily”. The figurative meaning results from its basic meaning, what consequently can constitute the basis for semantic relationship between *ciorzyć* and *trzeć* (to rub) reflected in such phrases as *dostać wciery/wcieranie* or *natrzeć komuś uszy*. A formal distinguishing feature of the relationship between *ciorzyć* and *trzeć* is apophonic alternation *or : er : r : ar : ře*. Finally, the Author discusses the verb

*chnieć* “to wilt, weaken, die” which seems to be semantically related to *chnera*, the noun meaning “a sickly person” and morphologically to the verb *tchnąć*. The etymology of *chnieć* can be explained by the need to add a clear durative verb to *tchnąć*, which generally is a two aspect verb. All analysed verbs represent specific language processes taking place in the field of phonetics, semantics or morphology.

Part 2 is devoted to the etymology of proper names of towns and localities reflecting the diversity of linguistic relations of the Polish-east Slavic borderland and preserving inhomogeneous systemic language features or entire structures characteristic of one or the other system.

Part 2 opens with the study devoted to the etymology of *Płosodrza*, a village in the east of Poland, which seems to be an interesting subject of study owing to the base words of this compound and to the fact that it was not described linguistically. The etymology of the word, uncovered by reconstructing its primary meaning and linking it with *\*płos-o-drza*, i.e. *drżące płośo* “slosh swamp”, is formally and semantically coherent, but with time it became unclear due to the complex development of a consonantal group *-drż*. The study of *Harachwosty* rejects the restitution and etymology of this word linking it with *Hołochwosty* and with the two element appellativum consisting of 1. *hara* and 2. *chwost*. The noun seems to be motivated by East Slavic, Ukrainian and Belorussian appellative *harychwostka* “*Motacilla phoenicurus* bird” used probably figuratively to denote “a too active person”, confirmed by the meaning of *garichwostka* preserved in the Russian language. Another article discusses etymologically unclear locality name, *Kanabród*, which was significantly formally transformed. It derives from the old philologically witnessed combination of *\*Kamiony* || *Kamienny Bród* “a ford with a stony bed” further reduced to *Kanobród* - *Kanabród*. The next article dedicated to the name *Ceranów* is a polemic discourse rejecting both scientific and naïve folk etymology of this name; the former linking the locality name with *Cyryl*, *Ceran*, the names of people, and the latter deriving it from the name of the duck. The conducted linguistic analysis proved that the name developed from an earlier form *Czerenowo* and its variation *C(z)eranowo*, which were witnessed in 16<sup>th</sup> century with the direct base being the name of a person, *\*Czeren* in its Ruthenian phonetic form. It goes back to an Old Ruthenian appellative meaning “a grip, handle” preserved in East Slavic languages not only in its base meaning but also in many colloquial and figurative meanings. The next study is devoted to intuitive restitution in the meaning of restoring primary lingual forms to the names of localities which at the first sight researchers may consider to be damaged or twisted, as they have a ridiculing nature. The analysed localities in question in-

clude such names as *Wyrozęby* and *Krzywośnity* previously restored to *\*Wyrwizęby* and *Krzwośniki*, respectively. However, in the opinion of the Author the findings seem to be ungrounded when the results of the philological and linguistic analyses are taken into account. The analyses derive both names from appellative forms that are rooted in the Ruthenian language in the case of *Krzywośnity* and in the Ukrainian and Polish language in the case of *Wyrozęby*. Consequently, the restitution may be an accepted method in linguistic research only if it is based on comprehensive philological documentation. The next article investigates microtoponymic traces of Polish and Ruthenian linguistic relationships illustrated by the example of names of forests *Puharka* and *Pużarnica*, both having non-etymological spelling variants. Based on sub-dialectal material, as the names are not recorded in any historical sources, it can be assumed that the names were formed in the area of the Polish and Ruthenian language contact as they demonstrate morphological alternation *h* : *ž* and the alternation of the main morpheme *har-* / *hor-* : *žar*. Additionally, the names go back to verbs related by vocalic apophony, meaning “a burned forest”. The conducted analysis of the two names and problems related to them proves that contemporary sub-dialectal sources may occasionally constitute the only basis for proper etymological elaboration of microtoponyms not recorded in historical sources. Furthermore, proper names of a given area are closely connected with the language and its users, now or in the past. The final subsection of Part 2 reflects on proper names in the southern Podlasie area such as *Terebela* and *Choroszczyńska*, which retained their full vocalization, one of the most prominent phonetic features of East Slavic languages and sub-dialects, being the evidence of the geographical range of a given Ruthenian sub-dialect in the past. To show the evolution of the phenomena, proper names are compared, both the contemporary and the very old ones, with each name having its own documentation, where the entry is the name of the locality accompanied by the information on its nature and present location. The names are divided and analysed in three main categories: names which retained full vocalization, names which changed their phonetic form and names with metathesis. Research material is also presented in form of a map covering the southern part of Podlasie province and western borderland of Brześć district, which in 18<sup>th</sup> century were almost entirely within the Podlasie province. The arrangement of toponymic names suggests that Ruthenian sub-dialects in the western part of the analysed area blended with Polish sub-dialects before they were scientifically recognized and described, and names displaying full vocalization are just marks of the history frozen in phonetic forms. Interestingly, Russian

sub-dialectal features present in proper names of the area may be used by linguists to reconstruct these dialects and subtract lexical material.

Part 3 of the studies focuses on the history and etymology of selected fixed phrases used nationwide (*język ojczysty, podróżny do Rygi*), sub-dialectally (*Boże, daj zdrowiczko!*) or regionally (*zginąć jak Berek pod Kockiem, udać się jak soloducha w poście, wystroić się jak diabeł na świętki, gonić wesz za Bug*).

The chapter opens with the article devoted to the phrase *język ojczysty* “mother tongue”, which was formed as part of the literary language in 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century. The phrase contains the adjective *ojczysty* “fatherly” derived from the stem *ojciec* “father”, but the whole phrase related to *ojczyzna* “fatherland”, originally meaning “sth inherited from the father/ ancestors” and then evolving, probably due to intellectualization of the Polish lexis that occurred in 16<sup>th</sup> century, to a broader, more abstract meaning relating to “the fatherland of the Polish community having distinct national awareness and its own historic and cultural tradition”. The article compares the phrase with Slavic and other European equivalents of the term “*ojczyzna*” and “*język ojczysty*” and the Author explains their meaning taking into consideration the nature of the nation and the degree of its civilization, projecting facts arising from the linguistic analysis onto the history and culture of 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century Poland. Another article discusses the origins and etymology of the euphemistic phrase *podróżny do Rygi*, meaning “to vomit”, that is known from 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 19<sup>th</sup> century and is probably a loan from the Russian language by means of the Belorussian. The next article analyses the optative phrase *Boże, daj zdrowiczko!* containing the diminutive expressive sub-dialectal noun *zdrowiczko* used in the Podlasie area and Cieszyn Silesia. The origins of the word *zdrowiczko* are not clear. It may not be ruled out that it is related to east Slavic formations (in the case of the Podlasie usage) and Czech and Slovak formations in the case of the Silesian *zdrowiczko*. The last study in this chapter, *Z frazeologii regionalnej* “Regional phraseology”, is devoted to research on regional phraseology, which is still a relative novelty, in its preliminary stage in Poland. Whereas the etymology of some regional fixed phrases may seem to be unclear when compared to present day reality, it can be understood when we refer to historic sources and literature as these phrasemes frequently preserve old customs or events, political or social relationships. Bearing this in mind, the Author elaborated on the history and etymology of such, previously not analysed, phrases as *zginąć jak Berek pod Kockiem, udać się jak soloducha w poście, wystroić się jak diabeł na świętki, gonić wesz za Bug*.

Part 4 *Glosa do polszczyzny kijowskiej* The commentary on the Polish language of the Kiev area, constituting an interesting addition to the studies presented

in the first three chapters, focuses on onomatopoeic verbs imitating the voice and trilling of the nightingale in the Polish language used by the Polish community living in Ukraine and in general Polish. The sketch is based on the source material extracted from “Dziennik Kijowski”, a periodical devoting much of its attention to linguistic issues and publishing children’s stories in Polish, naturally. It is pointed out accurately that the nightingale in the story *Zazdrosna sowa* (Envious owl) by Jan Kozłow displays some features which are not associated with nightingales in the Polish tradition. These discrepancies in the perception of the bird may be the result of folk east Slavic conception of the nightingale used by the story writer.

### CONCLUSION

The book is primarily aimed at linguists but would also be a valuable source of information for those interested in lexicology of the eastern borderland of Poland. A positive attribute of the book is the fact that it offers a fresh insight into “new” lexical units, which were not analyzed linguistically before, or provides etymological reinterpretations and adjustments to previously studied words or phrases, with regional lexicology itself being a relatively new research area in the field of Polish linguistics. An important quality is that it also offers a valuable and detailed introduction to etymological research history and methodology, including a rich list of reference sources, which helps to fully comprehend the studies presented in the four chapters of the book. The aforementioned introduction offering background knowledge partially eliminates a slight drawback of the book i.e. the fact that some of the ideas are presented at the level that is suitable solely for expert audience and at the same time they are inaccessible to non-experts.

All in all, the book is inspiring and insightful. It makes a significant contribution to the field of regional lexicology and the Author is to be congratulated for collecting and presenting such a wide range of new linguistic material and analyses, in particular in view of the fact that tracking back etymology is an extremely painstaking task, which may be compared to following a zigzagging route with a couple of twists and bends erased and lost to history.

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