

INTRODUCTION

The existence of specialist languages (or Languages for Specific Purposes - LSP) is an objective fact, of which users of a general language may become convinced for example by establishing contacts with representatives of various professional groups such as doctors, lawyers, or IT specialists. This fact is well illustrated by the conversation between a client and an expert in a well-known short story by Julian Tuwim entitled *Ślusarz*.

The definition, or even the existence, of LSP is no longer obvious when we compare the terms such as *specialist language* or *Fachsprache* with the term of *Language for Specific Purposes (LSP)*. Franciszek Grucza, citing the research by John Swales (1992), writes that “on the European continent (...) more attention is paid to specialist languages as such, whereas in the UK rather to specific purposes which these languages are used for” (1994: 19).¹ This may lead to far-reaching conclusions that a continental approach presupposes the existence of a specialist language as a language variant that must be defined, that its distinctive features must be identified and that the dividing line separating it from general language must be drawn. The English term implies that it is not the language but the purpose of its use that is specific. It can therefore be assumed that by using the language for specific purposes we select and modify resources provided by the general language.

The problem is rather theoretical and researchers of specialist languages dealing with them in practical terms focus on the issues such as the distinctive features of specialist discourses, mainly in the field of their registers, styles and genres as well as the challenges they pose to specialist language translators and teachers. It is worth noting that this examination of specialist languages brings together researchers in different language areas, regardless of whether they use the term *specialist (specific) purpose* or *specialist (specific) language*.

These issues and concerns are reflected in the content of this monograph consisting of 13 chapters. In his chapter - *In Search of a Theory of Business English*, Marcin Grygiel refers to problems with defining language for specific purposes, which is business language in this case. The relationship between LGP and LSP is described in chapters by Beata Kopecka, *Aeroplane, Airplane, Aircraft, Plane - on the Borderline between LGP – Aviation English* and by Olga Jakubiak, *Language for Special Purposes versus Language for General Purposes – their Similarities and Differences*.

The monograph also includes the study of selected features of specialist discourses. The medical discourse is analyzed by Adam Pluszczyk and Artur Świątek in the chapter entitled *The Analysis of the Features of English for Specific Purposes based on Hospital Slang*. This variant of discourse is also discussed in the chapter by Magdalena Zabielska and Magda Żelazowska entitled *Disease Entities in Case Reports from Otolaryngology from the Perspective of Polish, English and Russian Translation Studies*.

¹ Translation by Barbara Borkowska-Kępska

Translation issues occupy a position of significance in the monograph. The issues discussed are of a more general nature, which a specialist language translator must be aware of, and are also related to the translation of specialist texts. In the chapter entitled *Why Localize? From Translation to Localization. An Overview*, Katarzyna Bąk discusses localization as a challenge and task for translators. In the chapter entitled *Parallel Corpora, Multilingual Equivalents and Digital Translations*, Wojciech Sosnowski writes about using parallel corpora as tools in traditional and digital translation. Bartosz Sebastian Warzycki points out that translators need to be born artists to deal with certain types of texts; but in his chapter entitled *Sovereignty of Translators vs Translation Theory*, he emphasizes that they need to know the translation theory. The issues of legal discourse appear in the chapter entitled *Judicial Translation - Problems with Translating Judicial Decisions in German* by Ida Skubis.

The issue of specialist language teaching is extensively represented in the monograph. In the chapter entitled *Using Literature in the Context of Teaching English for Academic Purposes (EAP): the Discussion of the Most Educationally Lucrative Teaching Techniques*, Marcin Gliński reflects on the use of literature compared to the techniques of teaching academic language. Medical discourse appears again in the chapter titled *Authentic Materials in teaching English for Medical Purposes - a Practical Approach* by Iwona Choryń and Renata Sowińska-Mitas on the use of authentic materials in Teaching English for Medical Purposes. Agata Leśniczek writes about teaching a different variant of LSP, namely Language for Technical (aviation) Purposes, in her chapter titled *Teaching English for Specific Purposes (ESP) – AVIATION. English for Aircraft Maintenance Engineers*. Finally, the three authors, Barbara Borkowska-Kępska, Renata Pikiewicz and Grzegorz Gwóźdź, share their experience and knowledge of LSP teaching, using the University of Dąbrowa Górnicza as an example, in the chapter entitled *An Approach to ESP Teaching at the Tertiary Level - the Case Study of the University of Dąbrowa Górnicza*.

Leaving the monograph in the hands of readers, we hope that it represents a valuable contribution to the discussion and research on languages for specific purposes, from both a theoretical and practical perspective.

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References:

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