

Polish aspectual prefixes and prefix combinations (with reference to the National Corpus of Polish)

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Polish and Slavic aspectual prefixes, coming usually from old prepositions, are numerous, but not all prefixes are equally salient in the aspect system. The paper presents the statistics of Polish aspectual prefixes and prefix combinations such as *wz-* based on computer bilingual dictionaries. Special attention is paid to prefixes which form perfective partners of imperfective simplicia in aspectual pairs, but have not been mentioned by aspectologists as aspect prefixes before, eg. *przy-* in *przy-witać* or *pod-* in *podżyrować*.

An important part of the paper is the presentation of the search program of Narodowy Korpus Języka Polskiego (NKJP) ‘The National Corpus of Polish’ and possibilities of search for prefixes (although the prefixes and suffixes are not tagged as separate linguistic unit). The NKJP is a new Polish corpus project, founded by the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education and uniting the four partners who constructed the most important Polish corpora in the past.

The dedicated search program of NKJP makes it possible to search for any grammatical category or any string of characters. Searching for perfective verbs (tagged as a grammatical category) beginning with a given prefix (as a string of characters) in a direct neighborhood of the homonymous preposition makes it possible to analyze how much is the prefix meaning still combined with the meaning of the preposition.

Searching for aspectual suffixes is more complicated, since the inflectional endings of verbs change the form of a suffix, eg. *-iwa-/-uje-* or *-ną-/-nie-*. Anyhow the NKJP allows for comparing the contexts influencing the choice of a prefix or suffix as a mean of perfectivisation, eg. *za-pukać* vs. almost synonymous *puk-ną-ć*.