

Summary

The primary aim of the doctoral dissertation *The Human Being and the World of Objects. The Lexis of the Material Culture and Its Social Aspects in 20th-Century Memoirs of Podhale Highlanders* was to present, analyse and describe the lexical items referring to material culture and the related social aspects of human existence, as reflected in fourteen memoirs depicting everyday realities, mostly from the first half of the 20th century. The study also sought to reconstruct the conceptual framework embedded in the collected vocabulary and to identify the elements of the linguistic worldview (LWV). To this end, the theory of lexical fields and the method of reconstructing the LWV were applied. An additional objective of the author was to compare the vocabulary found in the memoirs with the lexicon recorded in dialect dictionaries in order to indicate the similarities and differences between the language of the memoirs and the lexical resources documented in the dictionaries.

The dissertation consists of two major sections: theoretical and analytical. The first section contains chapters which focus on characterising the sources, including the language of the source texts. It provides the historical background, discusses previous research on the Podhale dialect, as well as outlines the methodological framework and the criteria applied in organising and analysing the material within the individual lexical fields.

The second section presents the lexical material collected for analysis. The words and word combinations extracted from the Highlanders' memoirs were organised into seven major lexical fields (seven chapters) and grouped under two main categories. The first category, "The Human Being in Relation to Their Material Circumstances," includes the fields "The Human Being" and "Attitudes Towards Material Circumstances." The second category, "Aspects of People's Material Circumstances," comprises the fields "Circumstances," "Food," "Clothing," "Household" and "Homestead." Each of the principal fields is further divided into smaller subfields.

Each of the seven chapters includes not only a demonstration of the lexical material, but also commentary on the semantic relations within the field and the historical-cultural aspects of the vocabulary examined.

The first field, "The Human Being," includes terms denoting both poor and wealthy individuals. These constitute antonyms (e.g. *biedak* and *bogacz*) and synonyms that vary in connotation (*biedak*, *nędzarz*, *dziad*) and semantic range (*bogacz*, *dziedzic*, *gazda*). Apart from nominal phrases, this field also includes adjectival phrases that portray individuals through the

lens of their possessions (e.g. *chudobny, dziadowski, honorny, lepszy*). The analysis of this field reveals insights into the social hierarchy of the rural community and the individual's position within it, shaped by material circumstances.

The other field within the section "The Human Being ..." comprises words and expressions referring to attitudes towards material circumstances. They include terms denoting an active stance (e.g. *nie dać się biedzie, wypędzać nędzę i głód*), as well as those reflecting passivity and acceptance of hardship (e.g. *biedzić, biedować, biedzić jako tako*). The lexis in this field offers valuable insight into the traits of individuals experiencing material deprivation.

The second category, "Aspects of People's Material Circumstances," opens with the field "Circumstances." Similar to the "Human Being" field, it contains terms referring to both favourable and unfavourable material conditions. These include single words (e.g. *bieda, bogactwo, dobrobyt*) and multi-word expressions (e.g. *bez dachu nad głową, zejść na dziady, mieć co do gęby włożyć*) that shed light on the conceptualisation of poverty and wealth, as well as on various aspects of deprivation (e.g. hunger, homelessness).

The following lexical field, "Food," is more extensive, encompassing headwords which refer to general food terms (e.g. *jedzenie, strawa*), names of dishes, including sweets, beverages and stimulants (e.g. *warmuz, kukielka, żętyca, bimber*), as well as ingredients (e.g. *mleko, mąka, sadło*) and types of meals consumed (e.g. *juzyna, wieczerza*). The lexical items collected within this field confirm that the diet of the Highlanders was modest and typically monotonous.

The lexical items from the "Clothing" field play an important role in the memoirs. It consists of five subfields. The largest of these is "Elements of Highland Dress" (e.g. *barankula, fartuch, kierpiec*), but the field also includes general names for garments (e.g. *ubranie, przyodziewek, strój*), names of accessories (e.g. *korale, spinka, pasek*) and types of materials (e.g. *sukno, płótno, wełna*). The elements of this field, including adjectives accompanying the headwords (e.g. *połatany, wyszywany, haftowany*), show that clothing served as a clear marker of both material status and cultural identity.

The "Household" field comprises vocabulary related to residential buildings (e.g. *chłupa, dom, dwór*), living spaces (e.g. *izba, ganek, sień*), building materials and structural elements or installations (e.g. *plaza, gont, studnia*). It also provides a rich picture of the furnishings of Highlander homes: tools, furniture, dishes, containers (e.g. *skrzynia, stęпка, puciera*) and items used for specific purposes such as hygiene or childcare. The field additionally contains terms denoting monetary units (e.g. *dudki, pieniądz*). Many of the collected lexical items are linked by relations of holonymy and meronymy (e.g. *chłupa, izba, dom, dach*). The analysis of this field offers insights into the appearance and functioning of

Highlander households, as well as into the self-sufficiency and ingenuity of their inhabitants, who often produced many everyday items themselves.

The last semantic field, “Homestead,” comprises subfields such as general terms referring to the homestead (e.g. *gazdówka*, *gospodarka*, *majątek*), names of land and land measurements (e.g. *mlaka*, *rola*, *mórg*, *ośmina*), names of farm buildings (e.g. *bacówka*, *stajnia*, *szopa*) and tools, with the latter categorised according to their function (e.g. cultivation and animal husbandry, woodworking, flax processing, sheep herding). The field also includes names of farm animals (e.g. *krowa*, *koń*, *owca*), vehicles (e.g. *wóz*, *furmanka*, *gnatki*), as well as names of crops and resources (e.g. *sloma*, *siano*, *snopek*). This chapter provides insights into the landscape, size and functioning of rural homesteads.

The analysis of the collected material makes it possible to reconstruct elements of the linguistic worldview that reflect the modest living conditions of the Highlanders in the first half of the 20th century. The arrangement, content and structure of the lexical fields mirror the perception of the everyday reality closest to human life, in which material culture plays a particularly significant role.

A comparison of the extracted lexical items with dictionary data shows that the collected vocabulary represents a stable component of the Podhale lexis from the mid-twentieth century.