

**The phenomenon of parcelling
in contemporary Russian and Polish:
A review of the monograph
*Zjawisko parcelacji we współczesnym języku
rosyjskim i polskim* by Anna Stasienko**

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1. Introduction

At the end of 2024, Anna Stasienko published a monograph devoted to the phenomenon of parcelling in Russian and Polish.¹ This book addresses a significant gap in the existing scholarly literature, as the topic receives minimal attention in Polish linguistics and is not widely studied by Russian researchers (Komorowska 2001: 9). In its four main chapters, the book presents a comprehensive theoretical framework and offers syntactic and pragmalinguistic analyses of the phenomenon.

2. Parcellation in Russian linguistics

First, the explication of parcellation is presented from the point of view of Russian linguistics, with a rich bibliography being consulted and analyzed in the search for a current definition

¹ Stasienko, Anna (2024). *Zjawisko parcelacji we współczesnym języku rosyjskim i polskim*. Rzeszów: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Rzeszowskiego. 240 pages. ISBN 978-83-8277-180-0.

mainly as the stylistic notion (Dobrycheva 2012, Petrenko 2007). The phenomenon was initially attributed to the features of spoken language, mainly due to the unambiguous role of the full stop in separating subsequent sentences or was described from the point of view of stylistics (Vinogradov 1981). In the middle of the 20th century, such statements were interpreted in a broad category of detachments (Skovorodnikov 1978). At the end of the 1960s, the concept of parcelling as a unit belonging to the functional and communication plan (Beloshapkova 1967), present in written texts (Maksimov 2011) began to crystallize, until it reached a generally accepted definition: the separation of an utterance into any number of constituent parts, between which analogous relations and forms of connection take place, as in the corresponding non-parcelled construction (Babaytseva 2000). Establishing such an interpretation did not end the discussion on the nature of parcellation. Some researchers consider it to be a phenomenon characteristic only of spoken, others – only of written language (Vaulina 2003). The problem of interpreting parcellation as an example of detachments returned in contemporary Russian linguistic considerations (Vaulina 2003).

3. Parcellation in Polish linguistics

The next subchapter is more complex, as the author analyzes the state of Polish terminology in this field. It turns out that *parcelling* does not appear in Polish encyclopaedic dictionaries (Polański 1993, Urbańczyk and Kucała 1978), but it is present in bilingual lexicography, e.g. in the Russian-Polish dictionary of linguistic terms (Alekseenko 2003) and in the works of linguists referring to Russian literature on the subject (Angelowa 1985, Komorowska 1995). The phenomenon itself has been considered in various ways – from linguistic errors (Saloni 1971, Pisarkowa 1975, Pospiszyłowa 1973), through deviation from the norm or a feature of an author's peculiar style (Angelowa 1985: 59), incomplete sentence equivalents (Musiołek 1978), to

a deliberate procedure aimed at emphasizing the importance of the extracted element in postposition (Łuczyński 1999). Parcellation is used to strengthen the emotional character of a statement, therefore it also appears in works devoted to structures expressing emotions, but under the name of separation (Grzebiuk 1995). In the interpretation of a sentence as a bilateral (grammatical-referential) unit, there is room for fitting parcellation as a coherent element of the system, because in this approach the textual realization of a sentence is not always a single utterance (Wiśniewski 1994). As far the phenomenon is referred to under numerous terms that concentrate on its various aspects, the need to express it with one clear and explicit name is stated by the author with the suggestion to choose *parcelacja* as pertaining to the labels in other languages (like Russian *парцелляция* [*parcellâciâ*] or English *parcellation*).

4. Analytical chapters of the monograph

The following two chapters unveil the nature of parcellation in simple (Chapter 2) and compound sentences (Chapter 3), introducing the reader to nuances of syntactic analysis and revealing the complexity of the phenomenon. The factual material for the study was excerpted from literary works, approximately 7000 pages per language. Only original texts were analyzed to avoid any influence the translation processes could have on the output wording; thus, both languages are treated equally, and neither has the status of the source language.

As the introduction to the study the author's model of interpreting the material is proposed. The most important distinctive features of utterances with parcellation include:

- (a) the parcellator – a base part and a dependent part separated by a full stop (or another punctuation mark ending a sentence),
- (b) the postposition of the parcellator,

- (c) the possibility of replacing a parcelled construction with a version without parcelling which is semantically equivalent, but devoid of expressiveness.

The first empirical chapter carries the analysis of sentences with parcelling occurring in individual clauses of a simple sentence. The material is divided into three groups: (a) with a modifier excerpted from the main part and included into the second as a parcellator; (b) with a part of the parent clause repeated in the parcellator; (c) with a modifier from the main part repeated for several times in the series of parcelling phrases. In the material gathered for the study, if the elements form a more complex structure, various semantic relations are observed between the components, namely: inclusion, junction, disjunction, opposition, simultaneity, succession, result, enumeration, generalization and gradation. It is also possible for the relations to coexist in one structure.

The second substantive chapter discusses the division of compound coordinate and subordinate sentences. The Author divided the material due to the type of components of these sentences separated as the parcellator. The relationship between the main clause and the parcelled clause is determined by the conjunctions in the initial part of the parcellator. Junction and inclusion relations are signalled by the indicators *i* [и] / *i* 'and', opposition – *no* [но] / *ale* 'but', *a* / *a* 'while', disjunction – *ili* [или] / *albo, lub* 'or', result (only in the Polish-language material) – *a, więc* 'therefore'.

Chapter 4 examines the semantic and pragmatic determinants of parcelling in Russian and Polish, concentrating on functional aspects of the phenomenon and focusing on its leading pragmatic functions: clarification, detailing, broadening, generalisation, highlighting, strengthening, intensification, and correcting the utterances.

5. A final word

The monograph concludes by summarising findings, comparing Russian and Polish examples of parcellation, and suggesting proposals for further research in the area. In the case of Russian linguistics, it offers a critical review of existing theoretical foundations, whereas in Polish, it provides a much-needed explanation, filling gaps in terminology. The problem of parcellation is comprehensively presented with detailed analysis of the collected data. The monograph is a valuable contribution to the field of linguistics.

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