

# Polish and English *emotional* Event-Linking Devices of *negativity* clusters in spoken language – a contrastive study

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## Introduction

The paper is part of a larger project on *Event-Linking Devices* (ELDes), and aims to look into one category of Event-Linking phenomena, the concepts including *negativity* in *emotional* contexts. The study is based on empirical data derived from spoken materials in the referential corpora of Polish (nkjp.pl), as well as the spoken component of the British National Corpus, accompanied by relevant recordings and pitch profiles. To analyse the contrasts more broadly translational (parallel) English-to-Polish and Polish-to-English corpora (Cartoni et al., 2013) are consulted, available at <http://pelcra.clarin-pl.eu/>. The focal research questions refer to the identification of the negativity elements in the linking devices, particularly those which convey higher *emotional arousal* as proposed by Dziwirek & Lewandowska-Tomaszczyk (2010) and Lewandowska-Tomaszczyk & Wilson (2011).

## Negativity & emotions

Negativity is understood here as the presence of some elements of truth-conditional negation either in terms of direct negative markers (*no, not, Pol. nie*, affixal markers) or as indirectly conveyed negative meanings (presupposition or implicative, evaluative). It was proposed before (Lewandowska-Tomaszczyk, 1996, 2004) that elements which possess such properties are both a cognitively more conspicuous, more salient as well as more powerful rhetorical device in discourse than less marked corresponding positive forms. Negative emotions are also less controllable and potentially more revealing with regard to the mental state and stance expression than positive emotions. Therefore the tracing of the elements of negativity in discourse markers can contribute to the emotion and negation research as well as uncover new vistas in the analysis of discourse markers, also contrastively.

## Research methodology

The research methods used are both quantitative, i.e., considering the frequencies of use of particular forms, as well as qualitative, i.e., involving the cognitive frame-based linguistic and discourse perspectives.

The study presents an analysis of Polish corpus data of one of the *negativity clusters* for spoken discourse relations such as *not that* (e.g., *it's not that he didn't take it seriously*), usually followed by the adversative *but* clause, *otherwise* (*You have to see the light you know, otherwise you won't see it!*), *oh no, not at all*, and *by no means* as contrasted to Pol. *co(ś) ty*, present exclusively in conversational materials (*przecież Bali to nie jest w Chinach no co ty gadasz* lit. 'but Bali is not in China so what are you talking about'), in many contexts followed by vulgarisms, and (*no*) *nie*, displaying a whole range of polysemously linked senses. The stress-pitch patterns are also investigated for these uses (see Figure 1) to identify their prosodic structure and determine properties characteristic for emotional utterances. English-to-Polish and Polish-to-English parallel corpus data and their functional interpretation are also analysed to contrast inter-language equivalence clusters (compare Cartoni et al., 2013).

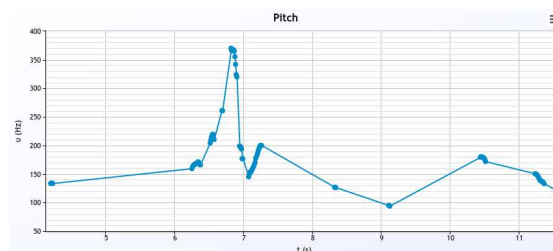


Figure 1: Pitch pattern chart

## Frame switching, frequencies & typology

A range of emotional negativity senses is argued to evolve through *frame-switching* (Fillmore, 1982) of the content represented in the presupposed part of the utterance, typically preceding the negative marker. All categories of the relevant constructions and uses are identified in the Polish and English spoken corpora (<http://spokes.clarin-pl.eu/>) and their criterial properties and cross-linguistic typology proposed in order to provide some more explicit ELDes *annotation clues* for this type of ELDes.

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## References

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