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Semantic Structure of the Sentence and its Realisations (Bulgarian *Axa* and its Polish Equivalents)

1. The Bulgarian lexeme *axa* draws attention because of its semantic peculiarities and syntactic features. In Bulgarian dictionary descriptions, it is classified in different ways due to its part of speech assignment and meaning.

A. The dictionary (РСБКЕ, 1955–1959) classifies this unit as an exclamation (междуметие), distinguishing the following meanings: 1. confirmation, an expression of agreement; also conjecture – *да*. 2. an expression of surprise, cf. *ax*. 3. [cited by MK] “за означаване на действие, което почти настъпва”; *a-a* [for marking an event that almost follows]; *a-a*.

B. The dictionary (РБЕ, 1997–2015) distinguishes the status of this unit as a particle (частица) in the following meanings: 1. confirmation, an expression of assent, *да*. 2. “за означаване, че действието почти настъпва; насмалко”. The dictionary also gives the status of an exclamation mark (междуметие): 1. in the sense

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of conjecture; 2. in the sense of surprise; 3. in the sense of threat; 4. in the sense of mockery; 5. in the version *Ixa, axa* – as an exclamation to encourage dancing *xopo*.

1.1. In the article, attention is focused on analysis of the semantic structure of the predicative use of *axa*. V. Maldjieva included this particle in an interesting study (Малджиева, 2021) in her classification of syntactic structures formed by a subclass of particles in Bulgarian, to which she attributes the ability to form sentence structures that do not contain a subject phrase. She also recognizes that in a sentence structure these particles perform the function of a predicate (сказуемо). The following diagram is a record of these structures (Малджиева, 2021, pp. 253, 426).

— — S

The symbol S is realized by a subordinate clause bound by the subjunctive mood ($\text{да}^{\wedge}S'$); less frequently, the subjunctive clause may contain future forms (S'_{fut} – hereinafter abbreviated p'), cf. e.g.:

*Пилотът включва на реверс, моторите **аха да избухнат**, но някак си издържат.
... кучетата хвърчали подире му, **аха-аха ще го хванат** за опашката!*

Analysing the collected material, one may have doubts about V. Maldjieva's decision to include the sentences with *axa* analysed here in the framework of subjectless structures. The structures containing *axa* in the collected examples are in the vast majority formed by the types of sentences to which the author attributes the presence of the NP_c phrase, cf. examples:

Временното правителство аха да посегне на Групировката, която парализира върху държавата.

Той гледа в земята, хапе устни и аха да заплаче.

*Като видя **някое** дете като теб, **което**, аха и да заплаче, небесният конец ми се къса и аз веднага се превръщам в малко бяло копче за пижамка...*

400 опасни сгради аха да паднат в София.

Истерия по “Перла” аха да обърне кораб в Босфора.

Путин аха ще умре от куп коварни болести.

Георги изглежда тъжен, **аха да заплаче**.

The last example above is interpreted in this text as a contextual zeroing out of the NP_c phrase to avoid repetition, cf: *Георги аха да заплаче*. The NP_c phrase is denotatively identical to the argument phrase in p', and the categories of number and person are realized in the predication from S'.

2. Leaving aside the already complicated problem of interpreting syntactic surface structures, this article focuses attention on the semantic features of the particle *axa* in the predicative function and on the problem of confrontative description of Bulgarian and Polish. The problems of translation practice are also outlined (they manifest themselves in some semantic losses noted in the analysis of the material in the process of translation).

2.1. In the structure of the meaning of the studied particle, it is necessary to distinguish the trait of potentiality, which is carried in surface sentence structures through the bond with the subordinate sentence by means of the $\partial a^{\wedge}V_{fin}$ construction, which is peculiar for the characterized Bulgarian sentences. Similar content is implied, as is known, by future forms. Such forms of subordinate sentences do not signal the component that is decisive for the analyzed unit, that is, the close succession of p' , i.e., the short segment of time between p' and the reference point, which in the case of current predication is the moment of communication, i.e., the so-called state of speech of the sender.

Both excerpted dictionaries (РБЕ, 1977–2015; РСБКЕ, 1955–1959) contain, as indicated above, the relevant characteristics of p' : “действието почти настъпва”. Standard expressions of potentiality, such as *може*, *може би*, *вероятно*, etc., also do not express this type of content – the moment of the possible occurrence of p' in the future is not specified in these cases.

Thus, the semantic structure of sentences with *axa* and a present reference can be presented on the example of the sentence *Той аха да падне от клона*. in the form of a paraphrase containing overt expressions of close succession, such as: *за кратко време / подир малко / ей сега*, cf:

p' (= това, че той ще падне от клона) ще стане (/ може да стане) за кратко време (/ подир малко / за малко / ей сега)

or structured differently:

След кратко време (/ подир малко / ей сега / веднага) p' (това, че той ще падне от клона ще стане (/ може да стане)).

In sentences referring to the past, where p' expresses an event potentially subsequent to another event, the Bulgarian paraphrase may also contain *насмалко*. The important point is that it is often clear from the context that the possible event p' has not occurred and that this is the semantic feature

that *насмалко* realizes, just like *без малко*. Cf. the dictionary definition of *насмалко* from РБЕ (1977–2015): “За посочване, че действието е било пред непосредствено осъществяване, но не се е осъществило; без малко.

... той дружил с Кремена още в града и уж **насмалко щял да я вземе за жена.**”

Cf. Therefore possibly:

*тя тогава [...] аха да припадне от щастие. –
Тя тогава [...] **насмалко** не припадна от щастие.*

The particle *аха*, in addition to the verbs mentioned above, can also be substituted in paraphrases by other predicative idiomatic expressions, such as *на косъм съм*, cf.:

article text: ... бях на косъм да падна на пръвия концерт.
title of the article: Христиана Лоизу аха да падне в спектакъла.

The sentences with *аха* discussed here are semantically close to those with Bulgarian futurum exactum temporal forms:

Тя тогава [...] аха да припадне от щастие. – тя тогава [...] ще е да припадне от щастие (но не припадна). – cf. below.

2.2. In the absence of the ability of the particle to express temporal relations, the setting of the predication in the past is determined by the context; in these cases, the temporal past context of other sentences (e.g., with the presence in the context of the forms of минало свършено or минало несвършено време – aorist or imperfectum) and p' refers to these points; it can also be the situational context. As mentioned above, the content of this type of predication is reminiscent of sentences in which the Bulgarian forms бъдеще време в миналото of the type *ще е да падне* (futurum exactum) appear in the sentence. The use of these forms, however, does not mean that the direct (/ close) succession of p' is built into the meaning of the sentences, which is, as indicated, an essential component of the content of sentences with *аха*. Therefore, in analytic paraphrases, sentences with *аха* referring to the past must contain such a component, so, for example, the lexemes *насмалко / за малко*, cf. e.g.:

*Че като почна [Старецът] една борба за ваденето на рибата, лодката **аха да се обърне.** – Че като почна [Старецът] една борба за ваденето на рибата, лодката **за малко да се обърне.***

Cf.: (*Че като почна [Старецът] една борба за ваденето на рибата, лодката **за малко ще е да се обърне.***)

Строител спечели 105 милиона, аха да полуучи инфаркт. – Строител спечели 105 милиона, за малко да получи инфаркт.

Cf.: (*Строител спечели 105 милиона, за малко щеше да получи инфаркт.*)

2.3. The particle discussed here has variants:

- A. most often occurs as reduplicated: ***аха-аха***;
- B. in spoken texts it also occurs as ***а-а***;
- C. it is also encountered with an elongated articulation ***ахааа***.

These types of variants of *аха* bring to the sentence structure modified information about the period in which the occurrence of p' can take place. The doubling of the lexeme raises comparisons with examples of reduplication of adverbs of the *бързо-бързо* type, and also, for example, with the doubling of the subject in adjectival structures of the *нов-новеничък* type. Such forms are sometimes interpreted in dictionary sources as expressions of ‘reinforcement’ (‘за усилване’), but such terms are not very precise. The designation of a phenomenon as ‘reinforcement’ in relation to a feature, using current research, should also in this case be interpreted as belonging to issues covered by the semantic category of degree. This refers to the placement of a feature on a scale that determines the position for the maximum / minimum value of the feature, as well as to the norm. For example, the expression *бързо-бързо* can be paraphrased as *извънредно бързо по отношението на “нито бързо нито бавно”* (Петрова-Вашилевич & Чоролеева, 1994, pp. 271–273). This phenomenon is a feature of Balkan languages (Bulgarian, Macedonian, Romanian, Albanian), cf. e.g. Lafe (1980); also Bojar and Korytkowska (1989). In Bulgarian, the range of this phenomenon is wide and includes adjectives and adverbs (e.g., *важен-важен, големи-големи; бързо-бързо, много-много*), also verbs, such as. [той] *почака-почака, [ковчегът] ...да се обточи-обточи със златни кенари по ръбовете*. In the uses of the reduplicated verbal forms analyzed here, the additional information is an indication of an even shorter stretch of time than ‘quickly’, which can be paraphrased as *извънредно бързо* and also refers to a timeline on which the occurrence of the event p' is almost tangent to the reference point. Sentences with variants of *аха* also contain some expressive surplus (e.g., warning of imminent danger, surprise, etc.).

Cf. cases of the occurrence of *аха* variants in examples:

Сънливият съсел вече беше успял да заминжи и – аха-аха да задреме пак.

...аха-аха да наднат прецъфтелите листенци...

Под тези знамена могат да се сложат постоянните надежди, че Путин аха-аха ще умре от куп коварни болести.

...на всички ни са ни опънати нервите, аха-аха да се скъсат.

Той усети, че дъхът му съвсем секва и аха, аха да припадне.

...кучетата хвърчали подире му, аха-аха ще го хванат за опашката!

Краят на октомври бясно наближава, а ноември и декември чакат ахада да дойдат и да си отидат и те.

По едно време доста го бях загледал [Sony] и ахада да го взема, но не прочетох кой знае какви добри отзиви за него.

[бронираните машини] стигнаха до Киев и аха-ахада да го превземат.

3. The Polish language lacks a verb that corresponds to the Bulgarian particle *аха* in the predicative function. It is possible (after some translation tests) to pick out some other categorial units. However, this requires a comment.

A. Attention should be paid here to the predicative use of *gotów* (/ *gotowy*) / *gotowa...* (*jest*) in sentences with the following syntactic structure

NP_{nom} ----- V_{infP} e.g.:
Adam gotów (jest) się przeziębić.

Examples such as:

Nie jestem zachwycona tym, że nasz kuzyn Piotr gotów nas znów odwiedzić za rok.

testify, however, that the distribution of this predicate is not limited to the context of direct succession, and it expresses only potentiality.

Such a conclusion, moreover, is confirmed by the dictionary definition, cf. SJP (1978–1981) “*gotów, gotowa...*: w połączeniu z bezokolicznikiem lub rzecznikiem o charakterze czynnościowym wyraża możliwość dokonania się czynności określonej przez czasownik lub rzecznik. Ściana gotowa lada chwila runąć. Gotów nie wiadomo co pomyśleć.”

Thus, the full expression of the content of the Bulgarian *аха* also in this case requires the use of a unit specifying the sequence of events:

Dziecko gotowe było zaraz się rozplakać.

Cf. examples of Polish equivalents of Bulgarian sentences with *аха*:

*Опасна тераса **аха да падне** върху минуващите в центъра на Варна. – Niebezpieczny taras **gotów zaraz spaść** na przechodniów w centrum Warny.*

*Вълнението на певицата достигна такива висоти, че гласът ѝ се разтрепера в неуправляемо треполо и **аха да заплаче**. – Ekscytacja śpiewaczki osiągnęła takie wyżyny, że jej głos drżała w niekontrolowanym tremolo i **gotowa była zaraz się rozpłakać**.*

B. The unit clarifying the interval separating the occurrence of p', which is characterized by a wide distribution – possible in predication with present and past references – is thus pol. *zaraz*, located in the adverbial position. Cf. examples, including those with the context of predicative units expressing potentiality, such as *móc*, *gotów*, etc.:

*Linka podtrzymująca ciężar **zaraz się zerwie**. / Linka podtrzymująca ciężar **może się zaraz zerwać**. / Linka gotowa się **zaraz zerwać**. / Linka mogła się **zaraz zerwać**.*

*Ona **zaraz się rozpłacze**. / Ona **może się zaraz rozpłakać**. / Ona **gotowa się zaraz rozpłakać**. / Ona **gotowa była zaraz się rozpłakać**.*

*Chory **zaraz zemdleje**. / Chory **może zaraz zemdleć**. / Chory **gotów zaraz zemdleć**. / Chory **mógl zaraz zemdleć**.¹*

The dictionary definitions of *zaraz* in the meaning sought are clear here, cf. (ISJP): “Jeśli jedno zdarzenie lub miejsce następuje lub znajduje się **zaraz** przy drugim, to odległość między nimi w czasie lub przestrzeni jest bardzo mała, por.:

Orkiestra zjawiła się zaraz po apelu ...”

(SJP, 1978–1981): “tuż, bezpośrednio po czymś lub po kimś, wkrótce:

Wrócić zaraz po pracy. Wejdźiesz zaraz po nim.”

Cf. parallel Bulgarian and Polish examples:

*Туп **аха да помете** колата на певицата, озова се на косъм от камасстрофа. – Tir mógł **zaraz zmieść** z drogi samochód pieśniarki, znaleźli się o włos od katastrofy.*

*Демето гледа в земята, хане устни и **аха да заплаче**. –*

*Dziecko patrzy w ziemię, zagryza wargi i **zaraz się rozpłacze** / może się rozpłakać.*

¹ Other meanings of *gotów* / *gotowa*..., especially the context of verbs referring to actions and the agentive phrase in the subject, can sometimes cause ambiguity in sentences since the meaning analyzed here can overlap with the meaning ‘to be prepared’, e.g., *Alina gotowa (jest) wyjść na spacer*. 1. ‘jest przygotowana’; 2. ‘może’.

3.1. The Polish language also has means that express degrees in relation to the parameter of the length of the interval separating the moment of speaking / the moment of another event p' from the reference point.

A. The particle *już* can be indicated here, and this intuition seems close to the dictionary interpretation (ISJP, 2000) of *już*, although the sequence *już zaraz* is not present in the description, cf:

meaning 5. *już*: "Mówimy, że coś zdarzyło się lub zdarzy się już w jakimś czasie lub miejscu, aby podkreślić, że zdarzyło się lub zdarzy się stosunkowo wcześnie – wcześniej, niż można się było spodziewać. [highlighted by MK]. *Już w połowie listopada spadł śnieg.*"

Cf. parallel Bulgarian and Polish examples:

*Отбор Черно море **аха-аха да спечели** първа награда в НБЛ, но рухна в началото на втората половина на мача. –*

*Zespół Morze Czarne **już zaraz miał / mógł** zdobyć pierwszą nagrodę w NBL, ale poległ na początku drugiej połowy meczu.*

*Замръзват ми прасковите, **ахаа / аха-аха да изфниат.** –*

*Zamarzają mi brzoskwinie, **już zaraz mają / mogą zakwitnąć / już zaraz zakwitną.***

B. The adverb *natychmiast* also must be considered as a lexeme close to the variants of *axa*. Cf. the definition ISJP (2000): "Jeśli coś następuje natychmiast, to następuje bez zwłoki – w danym momencie lub bezpośrednio po nim. *Odpowiadał natychmiast na zadane pytanie. Zasnąłem prawie natychmiast po położeniu się do łóżka...*"; SJP (1978–1981): "w tej samej chwili, bezpośrednio po czymś, bez zwłocznie, momentalnie" *Natychmiast po obiedzie wyszedł. Położyła się i natychmiast zasnęła.* As in the case of *zaraz*, potentiality can be a component expressed in the sentence (obligatory in sentences referring to the past), cf. for example:

Ona może / mogła się natychmiast rozpłakać.

Cf. examples of sentences equivalent to Bulgarian with *axa* and *natychmiast*:

*Он толкова скандали фирмата **аха да фалира.** –*

*Od tyłu skandali firma **natychmiast może zbankrutować.***

*Старият спор **аха да избухне** наново, ако не се беше появил Джордж. –*

*Stary spór **natychmiast mógł natychmiast wybuchnąć** na nowo, gdyby się nie pojawił Dżordż.*

The semantic specificity of *natychmiast* is evidenced by the fact that the context *już* seems flawed (redundant), cf. ?*Od tyłu skandali firma już natychmiast może zbankrutować.*

4. The description of the translation practice of Bulgarian sentences with the predicate *axa* is limited by the difficulty of obtaining language material. Sentences with *axa* in texts are not common. The picture presented below is only an attempt to present this problem. A detailed description of the semantic structure of the studied type of sentences allows us to indicate the obligatory elements that should be included in an ideal translation (which seems important for assessing the adequacy of the translation effects). As is well known, the extended contexts of the studied units may contain or may in some way imply some elements of the structure of the translated sentence. In such cases the translator's decision to omit an element from the translation may result from a decision to dispense with redundancy of content. However, analysing contextual dependencies for the phenomenon of omission of certain elements in translation requires more extensive research.

The examples extracted from the internet are partly from translated literary texts, while some are the result of translations through machine translators. The quality of the latter varies, with some of them failing to recognize the unit under study, being grammatically incorrect (evidently due to simplifications), containing errors, and showing the inadequacy of the translator's model (the algorithm used), i.e., the assumed lack of competence of its authors. Thus, for example, $\text{да}^{\wedge}\text{V}_{\text{fin}}$ is sometimes automatically translated as Polish infinitive (regardless of its function in the sentence), and *axa* remains in the text as *aha*, which makes no sense, cf:

*Вълнението на певицата достигна такива висоти, че гласът ѝ се разтрепера в неуправляемо треполо и **аха-аха да заплаче**. – ...podekscytowanie piosenkarki osiągnęło takie wyżyny, że jej głos drżała w niekontrolowanym tremolo i **aha - płakać**.*

*Журналистка **аха да падне** в краката на Борисов! – Dziennikarzu, **aha spaść u stóp Borisowa!***

*Атанаска **аха да отрови** комката си. – Atanaska **aha zatruci kota.***

Of course, such examples remain beyond the scope of analysis.

However, it seems that the analysis of the remaining material is worthwhile despite some imperfections in the translations. It can be assumed with some probability that such material illustrates (to some extent) the difficulties of translation by people whose competence in Bulgarian is not sufficient. Undoubtedly, this process is not facilitated by the difference in the lexical resources of

the two languages shown in the article (no predicative lexical equivalent in Polish) and the different syntax of Bulgarian and Polish sentences.

4.1. The lack of identification of the meaning of *axa* results in it being translated with the Polish *aha* in the sense of confirmation / consent; another result of this process is the translation of the particle by the Polish *zgodzić się*, cf.

Под този знаменател могат да се сложат и постоянните надежди, че Путин **аха ще умре** от кун коварни болести... – Pod tym mianownikiem można również umieścić nieustanną nadzieję, że Putin **aha, umrze** na kilka podstępnych chorób... [? tak, tak, umrze... (?)]

Тоест – временното правителство **аха да посегне** на Групировката, която паразитира върху държавата. – Oznacza to, że rzqd tymczasowy **zgodził się zaatakować** Grupę, która jest pasożytem państwa. (the government's decision is presented as a fact – cf. 4.2.)

4.2. In some of the Polish examples, *axa* is omitted and the potential event from p' is expressed as having occurred in the past. This significantly changes the content of the sentence, cf:

Кога **аха да падне** в дере в Бургас. – Samochód **wpadł** do wąwozu w Burgas.

При него все **аха, аха, аха да стане много интересно**, а прелива от пусто в празно... – Uniego wszystko **staje się bardzo interesujące** i przelewa się z pustego w przόne.

Хари [...] **аха да я** [съпруга Меган Маркъл] **разплаче** пред всички. – Harry sprawił, że Meghan **plakała** na oczach wszystkich.

Истерия по “Перла” **аха да обврне** кораб в Босфора. – Histeria wokół “Perły” **spowodowała wywrócenie się** statku na Bosforze.

4.3. However, potentiality is expressed in some of the examples. An element belonging to the semantic structure of the predicate *axa*, such as *mówić*, *mieć*, *powinno*, is included, but the essential component of the close succession of the potential event is missing:

Тролейбусна жица **аха да падне** на ул. Васил Априлов. – Drut trolejbusowy [sic!] **może spaść** na ul. Wasil Aprilow.

Опасна тераса **аха да падне** върху минувачите в центъра на Варна. – Niebezpieczny taras **może spaść** na przechodniów w centrum Warny.

*През 2018 **аха да има** MOTOEXPO. – W 2018 roku **miało się odbyć** MOTOEXPO.*

*Он толкова скандали **аха да се счупи** клонът [sformułowanie przenośne – wykorzystane zostało dwojakie znaczenie bułg. **клон** – jako ‘gałąź’ oraz ‘oddział urzędu’]. – Od tylu skandali gałąź powinna się złamać.*

4.4. It is interesting to note that translations expressing the direct succession of p' are an exception in the collected material. Cf. the example with *zaraz*:

*Георги изглежда тъжен, **аха да заплаче**. – George wygląda na smutnego, **aha zaraz się rozplacze**.* (However, the inclusion of *aha* in the translation shows that the Bulgarian *аха* was not properly understood).

The replacement of Bulgarian *аха да заплаче* by information about a symptom that foreshadows the possibility of x crying in the near future (instead of stating that *x is about to cry*) is an interesting example:

*Йоу-цин се хвана за зачервеното ухо, разкриви уста, **аха да заплаче**. Обаче не посмя. – You-sing zlapała się za zaczernione ucho, **otworzyła usta do płaczu**, ale nie odważyła się.*

5. In conclusion, a close equivalent to Bulgarian *аха* that is semantically and syntactically analogous and is in the form of a lexeme performing the function of a predicate in a sentence is not found in Polish. The Bulgarian lexeme is characterized by the embedding of potentiality and temporality into its semantic structure, which is unique in the case of an element performing the predicative function in a sentence. Temporal content (T), as well as modal content (M), and locative content (L) in elementary sentences of semantic syntax are situated outside the Dictum. The Dictum symbol, to which arguments are subordinated, “dominates the pre-terminal symbols” (Karolak, 1984, p. 39). The temporal variable “represents as a whole the content of expressions known from traditional grammar as temporal adverbials and temporal morphemes included in personal forms of verbs or whole personal forms of verbs” (Karolak, 1984, p. 28). The content embedded in the lexeme *аха* clarifies the temporal information, which in the case under analysis remains in relation to the moment of speaking (conveying information) or to another past moment when p' is to follow immediately after them. The closest Polish sentence equivalents contain a temporal clarification (e.g., *zaraz*) in the position of the temporal adverbial. As a result of condensation processes in the lexeme *аха*, the possibly close semantic and syntactic equivalents in both languages are in the form of sentences with analytic features, which can be approximated in the form of a para-

phrase containing an overtly expressed (and constituting the semantic specificity of the sentences) component of possibility and ‘direct succession’. The condensed content of Bulgarian sentences with *axa* is difficult for a Polish native speaker to grasp and requires recognition of the features of the semantic structure of the sentence in language A, which determine the correct ‘translation’ of the structure of such predicates into a different formal structure in language B.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

- ISJP – *Inny słownik języka polskiego PWN* (Bańko, 2000).
SJP – *Słownik języka polskiego* (Szymczak, 1978–1981).
РБЕ – *Речник на български език* (1977–2015).
РСБКЕ – *Речник на съвременния български книжовен език* (1955–1959).

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Struktura semantyczna zdania i jej realizacje (bułg. *axa* i polskie ekwiwalenty)

Celem artykułu jest ustalenie relevantnych cech semantycznych partykuły bułgarskiej *axa* o funkcji orzeczenia. Przyjęto, że struktura semantyczna zawiera element potencjalności oraz decydujący o znaczeniu leksemu element temporalny. Funkcja badanej partykuły jest więc specyficznym efektem kondensacji semantycznej. Wskazano możliwości tworzenia semantycznych ekwiwalentów zdań bułgarskich w języku polskim. W polskim brak tożsamego odpowiednika leksykalnego, więc struktura synonimicznych zdań ma cechy parafrazy analitycznej. W semantycznym modelu struktury zdań elementarnych komponenty M (modalność) i L (lokalizacja) nie należą do Dictum, które dominuje nad P – predykatem i jego argumentami. Tak więc w obu językach strukturze semantycznej omawianych jednostek odpowiadają odmienne realizacje formalne.

Słowa kluczowe: semantyka; kondensacja semantyczna; semantyczna kategoria stopnia; konfrontacja semantyczna; język bułgarski; język polski

Semantic structure of the sentence and its realisations (Bulgarian *axa* and its Polish equivalents)

The aim of the paper is to establish the relevant semantic features of the Bulgarian particle *axa* in the predicative function. It is thought that its semantic structure includes a potential and a temporal component. Hence, the function of the analysed particle is a specific result of semantic condensation. Possibilities to form Polish semantic equivalents of Bulgarian sentences with *axa* are indicated. Polish language does not have any synonymous lexical unit with the Bulgarian *axa*, so equivalent sentences have the form of an analytical paraphrase. According to the model of semantic syntax, the categories of modality (M) and temporality (T) are not parts of the Dictum (D), which dominates the predicate (P) and its arguments (in the model of the elementary sentence structure). Therefore, the same semantic structures are realized as different formal structures in both languages.

Keywords: semantics; semantic condensation; semantic category of degree; semantic confrontation; Bulgarian language; Polish language; translation

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