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Introduction

The history of contrastive language studies dates back to ca. 1000 A.D. when Aelfric, an English abbot, wrote a grammar of Latin entitled *Grammatica*. Following his work, early contrastive studies were cross-linguistic comparisons, motivated pedagogically. An important change to this trend occurred in the 19th century when scholarly attention was focused on the development of languages, and hence, numerous contrastive studies were aimed at finding the common genetic background for groups of languages. In the 20th century, contrastive language studies started to aspire to the status of a scientific discipline, which led to the development of methodology and theory of the newly arising linguistic discipline. Importantly, modern contrastive studies are of varied nature, being of both inter- and cross-linguistic character, as well as relying on a number of methods allowing researchers to analyse numerous languages. This claim seems to be corroborated by contributions to this volume, including papers compiled on the basis of presentations held at the 55th *Linguistics Colloquium*, organised by the University of Rzeszów (Poland) in September 2021.

The volume opens with an article by **Jarochna Dąbrowska-Burghardt** and **Anna Hanus**, who aim at the comparison of war metaphors in German and Polish, emerging from the discourse between the European Union and Poland on the rule of law in Poland. The next paper serves as an example of an intralinguistic study, as **Bożena Cetnarowska** compares the meanings of related noun-noun compounds with adjective-noun combinations in English, trying to identify implicit semantic links between their constituents. In turn, **Andrzej Feret** and **Magdalena Feret** propose a contrastive, interlinguistic toponymic analysis. The authors contrast Polish-language street names from the time before World War II with the war-time German designations trying to show how the different names determine the perception of the surrounding reality and thus shape the linguistic image of the world. Furthermore, **Yaroslava Gnezdilova** applies the cognitive model of metacommunication to the analysis of English and Ukrainian everyday discourse, whereas **Anna Jaremkiewicz-Kwiatkowska** makes an attempt to prove that the German classification of particles can be applied to the classification of Polish particles of analogy. Both inter- and intralinguistic contrasts can be found in the cognitively-couched study co-authored by **Robert Kiełtyka** and **Agnieszka Grząsko**. The authors analyse English terms of Greek and Romance origin denoting in their literal meaning-thread body parts, looking for the motivation for the development of their non-literal senses. Importantly, they try to show that the analysed data enjoy a near-universal cross-linguistic status. Another cognitive analysis is offered by **Ewa Konieczna**, who discusses the phenomenon of inter-lexical polysemy taking place between different spatial expressions in Polish and English. In turn, **Marcin Kudła** puts forward a proposal for a novel classification of exonyms, with the aim of providing a

more accurate and unbiased description of the phenomenon of exonymy. Importantly, since the study is meant to be contrastive, the classification is tested on geographical names in five European languages. In the next paper, **John Odoom** and **Kwasi Adomako** present a contrastive analysis of vowel nasality in Akan, a Kwa language spoken in West Africa. The authors convincingly prove that nasal vowels contrast with their oral counterparts, and indicate disparities between the production and distribution of the oral, nasal and nasalized vowels. Furthermore, on the basis of a conducted survey, **Danuta Stanulewicz** and **Ewa Komorowska** compare and contrast associations with the colour *yellow* among speakers of Polish and of Russian, whereas **Konrad Szcześniak's** paper focuses on the conditions under which learners discover contrasts between newly learned language forms. The volume closes with the article authored by **Inna Zabuzhanska** and **Tamara Yamchynska** who, on the basis of presidential debates in Ukrainian and in English, discuss communication techniques and strategies, paying special attention to the communicative aspect of silence.

As emerging from the above brief presentation of the papers collected in this volume, the reader will find here analyses carried out by researchers speaking and studying different languages, and relying on varied methodologies. Undoubtedly, they all contribute to our understanding of languages as well as the non-linguistic culture-bound reality which inadvertently affects the shape and structure of languages.

Robert Kieltyka & Beata Kopecka,
Guest editors