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## "Nagroda" and "nagradzanie" (reward and awarding a prize) in a semantic syntax model

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## ***Nagroda* and *nagradzanie* (reward and awarding a prize<sup>1</sup>) in a semantic syntax model**

### **Nagroda i nagradzanie w modelu składni semantycznej**

The article is a tentative attempt to reconstruct the functional-semantic model of *nagradzać* (Eng. award/reward) by analyzing its propositional structure, focusing on the predicate-argument structure. The research presents data gathered from a pilot study (120 sentence units) collected from NKJP – Narodowy Korpus Języka Polskiego (Eng. National Corpus of Polish). The analysis concentrates on the description of argument positions: subject, beneficiary, means and reason of awarding portraying the issues regarding each category. The article also depicts the so called explicative patterns isolated from *nagradzać* (Eng. reward) predicate, revealing not only dominant structures generated by users of Polish, but also the complexity and subtlety of that particular predicate.

**Słowa kluczowe:** semantyka, składnia semantyczna, struktura predykatowo-argumentowa, schematy eksplicycyjne, semantyka nagradzania/gratyfikacji

**Key words:** semantics, semantic syntax, predicate-argument structure, explication pattern, semantics of gratification

Describing the meaning of any linguistic unit is, to a certain extent, based on the reconstruction of the phenomena and situations (in a general sense – designatum), to which it relates. This article similarly attempts to identify the phenomenon of NAGRADZANIE (Eng. AWARDING/REWARDING) taking into account the way it is linguistically illustrated through sentence constructions, founded upon the predicator *nagradzać/nagrodzić* (Eng. *award/reward*). This article presents the results of a pilot study, the data for which was excerpted from

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<sup>1</sup> The nature of the semantic category of *nagroda* and *nagradzać* in Polish reveals its complexity and subtlety in relation to the translation and finding of an equivalent term in English. Due to the fact that *nagradzać* encompasses the English verbs *award*, *reward*, *receive a prize* – all these lexemes will be applied in the article.

the National Corpus of Polish (NKJP – Narodowy Korpus Języka Polskiego) and its analysis employs the syntax semantic model<sup>2</sup>.

The research corpus is based on 120 sentence units (simple and compound sentences) with the verb *nagradzać/nagrodzić* (Eng. *award/reward*) in a predicate position, i.e., having the semantic function of a nuclear predicate. The aim of the research – apart from the characteristics of propositional-semantic level excerpted from sentence constructions – is the analysis of the types of its formalization, the so called explicative patterns – according to the methodological procedure of interpretation expounded in the semantic syntax model by S. Karolak (2002: 153 et al.)<sup>3</sup>.

Modern semantics does not narrow itself to “a description of content assigned to formal symbols (linguistic expressions)” (Karolak 2002: 9) (transl. K.K.-G.). The methodological model of this article is based on the semantic-syntax theory, which posits the primacy of semantic structure (predicate-argument) of a sentence in relation to its formal structure – grammatically configured and lexically filled. This structure consists of argument positions, implicated by the predicate. Places opened by the predicate are usually realized through the application of 1) nominal groups founded on nouns; 2) infinitive forms or 3) subordinate clauses (Korytkowska, Małdziewa 2002: 19). The concept of explicative syntax presented here (for the review of its problems see Kiklewicz, Korytkowska 2013: 50-55) assumes a certain algorithm of ordering, emphasising and explaining “surface” structures. The basis of the analysis is not formal representations of syntactic relations then, but predicate-argument (conceptual) structures which form the objectives of operations carried out on information in linguistic communication (see Karolak 1984, 2002; Korytkowska, Małdziewa 2002; Kiklewicz, Korytkowska 2010, 2013; Zatorska 2013).

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<sup>2</sup> This research is part of a project carried out at the Institute of Journalism and Social Communication under the supervision of prof. dr hab. Aleksander Kiklewicz “Semantic category of gratification in English and Polish: systemic, cultural and realization aspects”, and involves the contrastive analysis of propositional structures, founded on the predicate *reward, award* in English and *nagradzać* in Polish. Preliminary research results have been presented in Kokot-Góra 2015.

<sup>3</sup> As for the conceptual level of a sentence that is formed by “logical forms (predicates) symbolizing relational properties of predicates and immanent proposition structure, which they constitute” on the one hand, explicative patterns, on the other hand (called explicative patterns) symbolize “relational properties of predicate expressions and immanent phrase structure, which they constitute” (Karolak 2002: 153) (transl. K.K.-G.). The author of “Podstawowe struktury języka polskiego” (Fundamental structures of the Polish language) emphasises that explicative patterns are essential as they illustrate information about the realization or the lack of it, of certain argument positions, showing “the difference between the number of argument positions opened by predicates and the number of valence places opened for complements by its exponents” (ibidem, transl. K.K.-G.). Karolak (2002: 154) writes that “Logical forms (predicates) are then proposition forms, while explicative patterns are phrase forms” (transl. K.K.-G.).

Explicative syntax (as part of semantic syntax) makes it possible to interpret – in a propositional content aspect and in a grammatical form aspect – a set of sentences/phrases, generated (in a process of linguistic activity) to meet a specific situation semantics, implicated by the lexical meaning of the word or a linguistic unit with a predicative function. A well-known researcher J. D. Apresjan (2000: 103) states that in order to achieve a comprehensive analysis (represented in a sentence – through lexical meaning of a nuclear predicate) of a typical situation, it is necessary to specify its properties or activities of its participants and describe the relation between them.

Using the above mentioned methodology, in order to analyze the situation of *nagradzanie* (Eng. *awarding/rewarding*), in particular – its sentence nomination, the researcher has to draw a “frame” of that situation, and determine a set of obligatory participants. On those grounds, a set of arguments of a propositional structure of a sentence is established. I. A. Sag (2012: 79) argues that the feature of predicate-argument structure, inherently linked with its primary purpose, is to encode the combinatoric potential of a lexical unit – by naming its syntactico-semantic arguments. I assume the following structure of NAGRADZĄĆ (Eng. *award/reward*) situation:

**A person (or a group of people, institution etc.) (*x*) does something (*p*) in relation to another person (alternatively another live being, group of people, institution) (*y*) due to (for a reason) the fact that (*y*) has done something good for (*x*) or for somebody else (*q*).**

After Apresjan (2000: 133) we can presuppose that the predicator *nagradzać* (Eng. *award/reward*) has four arguments, i.e. it opens (or connotes) four obligatory arguments:

- *x* – first object predicate, describing the subject of the activity of rewarding (*who rewards*);
- *y* – second object predicate, describing the addressee/beneficiary of rewarding (who is rewarded);
- *p* – propositional argument describing means of rewarding (how, with what somebody is rewarded);
- *q* – propositional argument describing the reason or the basis of rewarding (why somebody is rewarded).

The representation of a predicate-argument structure with a of higher as well as lower order can be portrayed by complete predicate expressions (isosemic) and incomplete (nonisosemic). In the former ones, every position anticipated in the propositional-semantic structure is filled, it is manifested with a lexical unit

(nominal group)<sup>4</sup>, and in the latter, some positions remain empty (Karolak 1984: 79). This phenomenon can be depicted by sentence examples with the predicator *nagradzać* (Eng. *award/reward*). Illustrations with complete realizations – possibly due to a complex, in particular four-place character of a propositional-semantic structure – are rare:

- (1) „*Polityka*” *nagrodziła Sapkowskiego za jego twórczość prestiżowym Paszportem.*  
(“*Polityka*” awarded Sapkowski for his artistic work with a prestigious “*Paszport*”.)
- (2) *Kongres nagroził go złotym medalem za zwycięstwo w bitwie nad rzeką Thames.*  
(The Congress awarded him with a gold medal for winning in the battle on the River Thames.)
- (3) *M. Zamolska jest pierwszą osobą w Nowej Rudzie, którą samorządowcy finansowo nagrodzili za osiągnięte sukcesy sportowe.*  
(M. Zamolska is the first person in Nowa Ruda who has been financially awarded by the municipal authorities for the achieved sports successes.)

Despite the fact that in the afore-mentioned sentences each argument is properly represented (argument positions implicated by the predicate are lexically filled), it should be observed that propositional arguments have undergone certain condensation. For example in sentence (1) the propositional argument *p* is realized in the form of a nominal group *prestiżowy Paszport* (Eng. *prestigious Passport*), while a complete form would take the form of a subordinate clause: *w ten sposób, że wręczyła mu prestiżowy Paszport* (Eng. *in such a way, that he was given a prestigious Passport*). Similarly, the argument *q* is not verbalized in its complete form: *za to, że wytworzył znakomite dzieła literatury artystycznej* (Eng. *for the fact that he created outstanding works of artistic literature*), but in a condensed form – in a nominal group structure *for his artistic work*. A complete construction, I must state, would sound rather artificial:

- (4) „*Polityka*” *nagrodziła Sapkowskiego za to, że wytworzył znakomite dzieła literatury artystycznej, wręczając mu prestiżowy Paszport / w ten sposób, że wręczyła mu prestiżowy Paszport.*  
(“*Polityka* awarded Sapkowski for the fact that he created outstanding works of artistic literature, by giving him a prestigious Passport / in such a way, that he was given a prestigious Passport.)

or with a different word order:

<sup>4</sup> Lexical units in a particular syntactic position, realizing specific propositional-semantic roles, are treated (especially in Russian grammatical tradition) as syntactemes. In traditional syntax, they represent the category of sentence elements.

(5) *Wręczając Sapkowskiemu prestiżowy Paszport, „Polityka” nagrodziła go za to, że wytworzył znakomite dzieła literatury artystycznej.*

(Giving Sapkowski a prestigious Passport, “Polityka” awarded him for the fact that he created outstanding works of artistic literature.)

Commonly occurring compressed sentence structures (especially found in colloquial style, and recently – also in journalistic style) do not, however, change the fact that at the foundation of utterances (as units of linguistic activity) lie certain conceptual structures, the realization of which may take on different forms. Even in cases of rare or potential forms (e.g. construed by scholars) it is necessary to note the realization of “language programme”, all the more so, because conceptual structures do not go, in these cases, hand in hand with pragmatic considerations. The fact that we are able to generate type (4) sentences, the functional status of which is rather possible, supports the claim that the language system has at its disposal rules that are, to a certain extent, independent of the realization processes (in a sphere of linguistic activity). This phenomenon may be explained by certain autonomy of mental categorization of reality (among others, in the form of propositional-semantic models) in relation to language pragmatics, i.e., the application of language units of various formats of human activity. This level is usually defined as a propositional component of a sentence.

Research focusing on the syntactic component activated by a fragment of the semantic structure component should be in some part abstracted. Thus, the aspect examined in the present article is the semantic function plane, in other words – predicate-argument structure, which is represented by a formal structure (see Fillmore 1968: 23–24; Karolak 1984: 28–30, Korytkowska 1992: 8–45).

Issues undertaken in this article closely relate to research initiated by Ch. J. Fillmore – deep case theory (see Fillmore 1968). This American scholar suggests a hypothesis about a componential meaning structure and supports (originating from the neopositivist philosophy of language) the view about argument predicate structure. Fillmore sees the aim of the semantic analysis of a sentence not only in indicating arguments associated with the predicate, but in presenting its semantic content. This approach popularized the notion of a semantic role as a virtual relation of syntactemes with participants of a described referential situation.

As it was mentioned before, the predicator *nagradzać* (Eng. award/reward) connotes four obligatory arguments  $P(x, y, p, q)$ , the description of which is indispensable. Argument position of ( $x$ ) needs to be assigned the category of agent: the situation of rewarding can be classified as actions/ activities which are instigated, caused and controlled by the individual<sup>5</sup>. The position of a rewarding

<sup>5</sup> To read more about the argument position of an agent/agentive see: Korytkowska 1992: chapter IV.

agent is represented by a single individual, or a group of individuals, or an institution consisting of a group of people. In nominalised constructions with the predicator *nagroda* (award, prize) (abstract noun, verb derivative) the position of (x) is sometimes exemplified as a verbal group naming an individual or institution, that initiated, established a certain kind of award, e.g.:

(6) *nagroda Kościelskich* (Kościelskis' prize)

(7) *nagroda Nobla* (the Nobel prize)

(8) *nagroda Pulitzera* (the Pulitzer prize)

It needs to be noted, however, that the border determining the identity of the agent category in the case of awarding /rewarding is fuzzy, due to the fact that the function of the awarding agent can be understood as giving, presenting and granting an award/reward. Theoretically, the awarding agent is also a decision-maker and a donor, the one who provides finances, although there are instances when these elements are separated, which makes the process of interpretation more complex and problematic. The act of awarding/rewarding may be virtual, yet the fact that the subject awards with its own funds, and the decision maker depends on other people's funds – seems essential and should not be disregarded in the course of the analysis. For example, the expression

(9) *nagroda publiczności* (audience award)

conveys the information that the audience decided to award one of the competitors of a contest, though it is not necessarily connected with an act of giving an award by the audience: the award was funded and granted by the jury. Thus, different subfunctions of an agent can be distinguished: the giving agent and decision-making agent, cf. the realization of these subfunctions in the following sentences:

(10) *Parlament Anglii nagrodził [...] szlachcica pięcioma tysiącami funtów.* (The parliament of England rewarded the [...] noble man with five thousand pounds.)

(11) *Internauci przyznali nagrody w kategoriach tematycznych, natomiast o przyznaniu nagrody głównej zdecydowała Kapituła Konkursu Blog Roku 2007 zorganizowanego po raz trzeci przez Grupę Onet.*

(The Internet users gave prizes in thematic categories, whereas the decision about awarding the main prize was made by the Chapter of the Year 2007 Blog Competition organized for the third time by the Onet Group.)

Although in the “Uniwersalny słownik języka polskiego” (Universal dictionary of the Polish language) (Dubisz 2008: 793) the verb *nagradzać/nagrodzić* (Eng. to award/ to reward) has two meanings 1. ‘give an award/reward, to stand sb out

by granting an award/reward, to endue sth as an award/reward’; 2. ‘recompensate (compensate) sb for loss, damage (harm), to redress’<sup>6</sup> (transl. K.K-G), we encounter the third type of the semantic usage of that word, e.g. in the sentence:

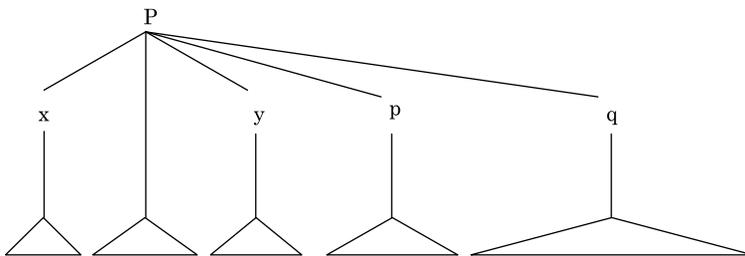
- (12) *Los nagrodził go szczególnym talentem.*  
 (Fate awarded him with a special talent.)

The difference lies in the fact that – first of all – in the position of the first argument there is an abstract noun, although possibly undergoing personification. In the second case – the verb *nagrodził* (Eng. *awarded*) illustrates the meaning of ‘it gave sb sth valuable’; thus, it is a synonym of the verb *endue*. Metaphorical and metonymical usage of awarding/rewarding predicators shall not be investigated in the present article.

The awarding category of an addressee seems to be as broad-ranging as the subject of awarding. In relation to the argument (*y*) we can adopt a hypothesis that it is ‘a live being (usually a person, but it can also be an animal), that has done something good for (*x*) (or for somebody from (*x*’s) surrounding or from their point of view), and has been appreciated by them in the form of a granted award, due to (*y*) doing something to their benefit’. Internet corpus of Polish proves that the beneficiaries of awarding are, in most cases, individual people. Other forms of addressee nominations, e.g. collective or institutional are much rarer, as in the example:

- (13) *nagroda dla Orkiestry Sinfonia Viva* (a prize for the Sinfonia Viva Orchestra)

From a conceptual point of view, the borderline between an addressee and the reason for awarding is apparent, which is expressed by different forms of representation of this knowledge in a structure of a sentence.



- (14) *W latach 70. władza nagrodziła Maciejów za estetykę obejść i domów.*  
 (In the 70s the authorities awarded Maciejów for aesthetics around farmyards and houses.)

<sup>6</sup> In Polish: 1. ‘dać (dawać) nagrodę, wyróżnić (wyróżniać) przez przyznanie nagrody, obdarzyć (obdarzać czymś w nagrodę)’; 2. ‘zrekompensować (kompensować) komuś straty, krzywdy, naprawić (naprawiać)’ (Dubisz 2008: 793).

The current study has established that in the realization aspect, a specific syncretism has been observed with relation to the functioning of different semantic functions. Therefore, one interesting linguistic finding<sup>7</sup> is the fact that the argument variable (*y*) is very often jointed with a variable (*q*), producing a peculiar semantic blend. In the surface-syntactic layer, the users award ‘the reason’, e.g. występ (*performance*), postawę (*conduct*), poczucie humour (*sense of humour*) etc., completing this kind of statement with the information about the subject of the activity, cf.:

(15) [...] *Grupa pensjonariuszy Zakładu Karnego gromkimi brawami nagrodziła występ popularnej piosenkarki Violetty Villas.*

(A group of inmates of a penal institution rewarded with a thunderous applause the performance of a popular singer Violetta Villas.)

(16) *Kibice nagrodzili postawę zawodniczek oklaskami.*

(Fans rewarded the conduct of the players with applause.)

(17) [...] *fantastyczny humor pani profesor gości nagrodzili burzą oklasków.*

(Fantastic sense of humour of a professor was rewarded by the guests with a storm of applause.)

From the semantic point of view we are dealing with two kinds of information: e.g. in the sentence (15) – about teachers and pupils who were awarded, as well as about the reason for rewarding, which is a significant effect of work of both teachers and pupils. One of these categories (namely the addressee) is omitted in the formal level of a sentence, and more specifically – incorporated into the meaning of another category. The syncretism being discussed here is a result of the fact that the semantic content of the addressee – taking into consideration the specificity of the situation of awarding – is encoded in the content of ‘reason’: after all, somebody is awarded because they have done something socially valuable. Such a case of coreference conditions the fact that determining the reason to a certain degree, implicates information about the addressee, which does not automatically mean that these pieces of information “merge” into one semantic category.

Although awarding is commonly associated with giving a valuable object, in reality, the third argument of this position has a situational character: it refers to the activity of an agent towards the addressee. This means that, even in a situation when

(18) *Widownia nagrodziła wspaniałych artystów baletu na lodzie rzucanymi pod ich nogi kwiatami.*

(The public rewarded the amazing ballet artists on ice with flowers thrown at their feet.)

<sup>7</sup> The findings have been obtained from linguistic structures in the Polish language. Further research into English structures will be undertaken.

namely, when an object noun (concrete) is in the (*p*) position: *nagrodziła kwiatami* (Eng. *awarded with flowers*), in reality, the object of awarding lies in the activity of throwing flowers, which is clearly depicted in a paraphrase:

- (19) *Widownia nagrodziła wspinających artystów baletu na lodzie tym, że rzuciła pod ich nogi kwiaty.*  
 (The public rewarded amazing ballet artists on ice in such a way that it threw flowers at their feet.)

Therefore, there are not only concrete nouns in (*p*) position, as in the sentences:

- (20) *Król Anglii [...] nagrodził miłośnika nieba [...] pięknym domem nieopodal Windsoru.*  
 (The king of England rewarded [...] the fan of the sky with a beautiful house near Windsor.)
- (21) *Organizatorzy nagrodzili zwycięzców talonami na zakup książek i przyborów szkolnych.*  
 (The organizers awarded the winners with book and school equipment vouchers.)
- (22) *Prezydent Żuk nagrodził lublinianki medalami.*  
 (President Żuk rewarded the female citizens of Lublin with medals.)

but there are also abstract nouns, manifesting predicates of indirect proposition:

- (23) *Widzowie nagrodzili ich gromkimi brawami.*  
 (Spectators rewarded them with thunderous applause.)
- (24) *Radni nagrodzili go owacją na stojąco i odśpiewaniem „Sto lat”.*  
 (Councillors rewarded him with a standing ovation and singing a Happy Birthday song.)
- (25) *Skrzynecka nagrodziła paparazzi szerokim uśmiechem.*  
 (Skrzynecka awarded paparazzis with a wide smile.)

Quantitative corpus analysis has demonstrated that, the second form of awarding dominates, especially in journalistic discourse, where the subjects are rewarded with *bravos*, *applause*, *ovation* etc. However, it needs to be noted that the occurrence of complete, isosemic forms of representation of means/object of awarding (in a subordinate clause form) is infrequent, cf.:

- (26) *Nagrodziła mnie tylko tym, że uśmiechnęła się do mnie.*  
 (She rewarded me in such a way, that she smiled at me.)
- (27) *Dzieci nagrodzono tym, że mogły zjeść deser.*  
 (Children were rewarded in such a way, that they were allowed to eat dessert.)

The fourth argument connoted by the predicator of awarding/rewarding ( $q$ ) concerns the reason, the motive for gratification. The realization of the ( $q$ ) argument may take on various forms: subordinate sentence, abstract noun (especially verbal, concrete noun) or a null, empty form. The following sentences exemplify this situation:

- (28) *Nie obawiaj się nagrodzić siebie za to, że jesteś kobietą.*  
(Don't be afraid to reward yourself for being a woman.)
- (29) *Stróże prawa nagrodzili studenta za obezwładnienie przestępcy.*  
(The guardians of public order rewarded a student for incapacitating a criminal.)
- (30) *Domosławskiego nagrodzono za książkę „Zbuntowana Ameryka”.*  
(Domosławski was awarded for a book “Zbuntowana Ameryka”).
- (31) *Kogo nagrodzili blogerzy?*  
(Who was awarded by bloggers?)

Conceptual structure of thought is gramaticallized in a particular way through the employment of things (representing categories) of a certain language. In this respect explicative patterns, as objects of description, are given utmost importance, where particular positions in the propositional-semantic structure are assigned their grammatical representation forms (see Karolak 2002: 153–163). Notation of explicative patterns is based on quite arbitrary conventions, which are found on the terminology of grammatical (word) classes (see Kiklewicz 2008: 164–170; Kiklewicz, Korytkowska 2010: 23–33). Linguistic data excerpted for the analysis (sentence constructions with gratification predicate) was interpreted using this methodology. The results obtained from the preliminary analysis are shown in the table below illustrating explicative patterns, that realize the afore-described propositional structure  $P(x, y, p, q)$ .

The research has demonstrated the complexity and subtlety of linguistic nominations of the situation of *nagradzać* (Eng. award/reward) in Polish: the above list consists of twenty-three explicative patterns. A thorough discussion of each of them is beyond the scope of this article – I will only examine some of them. The table indicates that all four argument positions (complete or compressed) are present at the same time only in 2.5% of sentences. These findings, while preliminary, suggest a high level of intensity of structural reduction phenomena.

It has been estimated that 27.5% represent constructions with explicative pattern  $V N_x N_y NV_p \emptyset_q$  that exemplifies sentences with a missing ‘reason’ argument and an object argument in the form of an abstract noun. In general, therefore, it seems that the above pattern depicts the most prevalent form of linguistic structuralization of the situation of gratifying present in the language usage of modern Polish speakers. First of all, the subject, the addressee and means

**Table 1.** Types and quantity of data of explicative patterns of the predicator nagradzać (Eng. award/reward)

No.	Explicative pattern	No. of examples		Illustrations
1	2	3		4
1.	$V N_x N_y NV_p NV_q$	1	0.8%	<i>M. Zamolska jest pierwszą osobą w Nowej Rudzie, którą samorządowcy finansowo nagrodzili za osiągnięte sukcesy sportowe.</i> [M. Zamolska is the first person in Nowa Ruda to have been financially rewarded by municipal authorities for achieved sport successes.]
2.	$V N_x N_y N_{ap} \emptyset_p NV_q$	2	1.7%	<i>Kongres nagrodził go złotym medalem za zwycięstwo w bitwie.</i> [The Congress awarded him with a gold medal for winning the battle.]
3.	$V N_x N_y N_{ap} \emptyset_p \emptyset_q$	6	5.0%	<i>Organizatorzy nagrodzili zwycięzców talonami na zakup książek.</i> [The organizers awarded the winners with book vouchers.]
4.	$V N_x N_y \emptyset_p NV_q$	8	6.7%	<i>Stróże prawa nagrodzili studenta za obezwładnienie przestępcy.</i> [The guardians of public order rewarded a student for incapacitating a criminal.]
5.	$V N_x N_y NV_p \emptyset_q$	33	27.5%	<i>Radni nagrodzili go owacją na stojąco.</i> [Councillors rewarded him with a standing ovation.]
6.	$V N_x N_y \emptyset_p \emptyset_q$	10	8.3%	<i>[Oni] Nagrodzili nie tylko aktorów.</i> [They awarded not only actors.]
7.	$V N_x \emptyset_y \emptyset_p \emptyset_q$	2	1.7%	<i>[Oni] Docenili, nagrodzili.</i> [They appreciated and rewarded].
8.	$V \emptyset_x N_y NV_p \emptyset_q$	1	0.8%	<i>Samego Sekwoję [...] nagrodzono roczną rentą pięciuset dolarów [...].</i> [Sekwoja was awarded a one-year pension of five hundred dollars.]
9.	$V N_x [NV_q > N_y] NV_p \emptyset_q$	18	15%	<i>Kibice nagrodzili postawę zawodniczek oklaskami.</i> [Fans rewarded the conduct of players with applause.]
10.	$V N_x [N_{aq} > N_y] \emptyset_p \emptyset_q$	2	1.7%	<i>Organizatorzy nagrodzili wiersze Radosława Wiśniewskiego [...]</i> [The organizers awarded Radosław Wiśniewski's poems.]
11.	$V N_x [N_{aq} \emptyset_y] \emptyset_p \emptyset_q$	17	14.2%	<i>Jurorzy nagrodzili rzeźbę [...].</i> [A sculpture received a prize awarded by the jury.]

cont. table 1

1	2	3	4	5
12.	V Ø <sub>x</sub> [N <sub>aq</sub> Ø <sub>y</sub> ] Ø <sub>p</sub> Ø <sub>q</sub>	1	0.8%	<i>Tom wierszy został nagrodzony na corocznym jarmarku poezji.</i> [A volume of poems received a prize during an annual poetry fair.]
13.	V N <sub>x</sub> [N <sub>aq</sub> Ø <sub>y</sub> ] NV <sub>p</sub> Ø <sub>q</sub>	1	0.8%	<i>Żadnego ze zdjęć jurorzy nie nagrodzili nagrodą główną.</i> [The jury awarded none of the pictures with the main prize.]
14.	V N <sub>x</sub> [N <sub>aq</sub> Ø <sub>y</sub> ] N <sub>ap</sub> Ø <sub>p</sub> Ø <sub>q</sub>	1	0.8%	<i>Minister nagrodził produkty Vitala 14 dyplomami uznania.</i> [[...] the minister rewarded the Vital products with 14 diplomas of recognition.]
15.	V N <sub>x</sub> [NV <sub>aq</sub> Ø <sub>y</sub> ] NV <sub>p</sub> Ø <sub>q</sub>	3	2.5%	<i>Publiczność nagrodziła ten nowy trick spontanicznym brawem.</i> [[...] the audience rewarded that new trick with spontaneous applause.]
16.	V N <sub>x</sub> [Adj <sub>q</sub> < Ø <sub>y</sub> ] Ø <sub>p</sub> Ø <sub>q</sub>	3	2.5%	<i>[Oni] Nagrodzili najlepszych.</i> [They awarded the best.]
17.	V N <sub>x</sub> [Adj <sub>q</sub> < N <sub>y</sub> ] Ø <sub>p</sub> Ø <sub>q</sub>	2	1.7%	<i>[Oni] Nagrodzili najlepszych wykonawców.</i> [[...] they awarded the best performers].
18.	V N <sub>x</sub> [Adj <sub>q</sub> < N <sub>y</sub> ] NV <sub>p</sub> Ø <sub>q</sub>	1	0.8%	<i>Król nagrodził bohaterskiego sołtysa licznymi nadaniami.</i> [The King [...] rewarded a brave village leader with numerous endowments.]
19.	V N <sub>x</sub> [Adj <sub>y</sub> , q < N <sub>aq</sub> ] Ø <sub>p</sub> Ø <sub>q</sub>	1	0.8%	<i>Nagrodzili mój najlepszy film.</i> [They awarded my best film.]
20.	V N <sub>x</sub> N <sub>y</sub> Ø <sub>p</sub> Ø <sub>q</sub>	2	1.7%	<i>Nagrodzę cię dobrze.</i> [I will reward you well.]
21.	V N <sub>x</sub> [N <sub>y</sub> > V <sub>q</sub> ] Ø <sub>p</sub> Ø <sub>q</sub>	3	2.5%	<i>Warszawa nagrodziła pisarzy, których naród czyta.</i> [Warsaw awarded writers, whom the nation reads.]
22.	V N <sub>x</sub> [N <sub>y</sub> > V <sub>q</sub> ] N <sub>ap</sub> Ø <sub>p</sub> Ø <sub>q</sub>	1	0.8%	<i>Jak mam nagrodzić tych, którzy polegli – cenotafami?</i> [How can I reward those who died – with cenotaphs?]
23.	V N <sub>x</sub> [N <sub>y</sub> > V <sub>q</sub> ] NV <sub>p</sub> Ø <sub>q</sub>	1	0.8%	<i>Jak mam nagrodzić tych, którzy polegli – napisami kutymi na obeliskach?</i> [How can I reward those who died – with inscriptions carved in obelisks?]

of awarding are exhibited, namely the activity that was done for the addressee (words of appreciation, applause, a smile etc.). In the second case, the present study raises the possibility that the reason or the basis for awarding/rewarding is a marginal element, due to the fact that it regularly remains outside the profiled fragment of social relations.

Two more explicative patterns merit reflection in this respect. Syntactic structure in the form of  $V N_x [NV_q > N_y] NV_p \emptyset_q$  is present in sentences with a syncretic realization of two arguments: addressee and the reason. As mentioned before, this structure exemplifies the integration of information about those two semantic functions in one sentence constituent. From a formal point of view, we are dealing with one nominal group, which is in fact ambiguous – the notation being:  $NV > N$ . From a semantic point of view, the information encoded in such a way represents two different semantic functions. Therefore, constructions

- (32) *nagrodzić występ piosenkarki* (to reward the performance of a singer)
- (33) *nagrodzić postawę zawodniczek* (to reward the conduct of the players)
- (34) *nagrodzić inicjatywy edukacyjne urzędników* (to reward the educational initiatives of office workers)

on the one hand, denote the reason: *nagrodzić występ piosenkarki* (Eng. *to reward the performance of a singer*), (namely *for the fact that, the performance of the singer met expectations*) on the other hand, the beneficiary: reward a singer. A comparison of compressed structures with their complete equivalents

- (35) *\*reward a singer for the performance of the singer* → reward a singer for her performance
- (36) *\*reward the players for the conduct of the players* → reward the players for their conduct
- (37) *\*reward clerks for educational initiatives of the clerks* → reward clerks for their educational initiatives

shows that the syntactic structure  $V N_x [NV_q > N_y] NV_p \emptyset_q$  is the result of avoiding redundancy of sentence elements of the same referential meaning.

In linguistic practices, as has been observed, one of the most frequently encountered syntactic structures is  $V N_x [N_{aq} \emptyset_y] \emptyset_p \emptyset_q$  – approx. 14% of occurrences with the predicator *nagradzać/nagrodzić* (Eng. *award/reward*). The following sentences serve as examples:

- (38) *Jurorzy nagrodzili rzeźbę.*  
(A sculpture received a prize awarded by the jury.)

- (39) *Nagrodzili film prosty i intrygujący.*  
(A simple but intriguing film received a prize (awarded by them).)
- (40) *Kapituła nagrodziła zestaw sztućców Gerlacha.*  
(A Gerlach cutlery set received a prize awarded by the Chapter.)

The position of the second, as well the position of the third argument has been eliminated, however the fourth argument (causal) is realized in a condensed form – represented by a concrete noun (*sculpture, film, cutlery*). The specificity of this construction lies in the fact that the causal argument takes on an uncommon syntactic position – direct object (where we typically expect a syntactem indicating an addressee), which in the notation system has been shown with appropriate symbols directly after the agent. The same set of grammatical exponents of agent and reason might be – theoretically speculating – configured differently:  $V N_x \emptyset_y \emptyset_p N_{aq} \emptyset_q$ . The difference between these two explicative patterns lies in the fact that the second one can be characterised by standard positioning of the causal argument, realized e.g. in a noun-prepositional form, cf. expositions of such examples:

- (41) *Nie nagradza się za każdą dobrze zrobioną rzecz.*  
(One is not rewarded for every good thing one has done.)
- (42) *W każdej firmie nagradza się za realizację celów.*  
(In each company, one is rewarded for the completion of targets.)

It should be mentioned that the above examples have not been noted down in the analyzed corpus, which does not exclude the possibility of taking them into account when gathering larger amounts of resource material (which the proper research project includes).

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I would like to conclude that the findings of this research provide rich insights for what is called corpus analysis. Despite the fact that corpora include tremendous amounts of linguistic facts, in the practice of linguistic analysis, they may be insufficient and thus flawed, because they do not exhaust all possible realizations, programmed in the system of language. W. Chlebda points out that “corpus data constitute only subjectively compiled series of approximations to liguo-textual reality” (2013: 9) (transl. K.K-G). This is probably due to the fact that many language corpora are limited in terms of functional-stylistic aspects – they usually fail to include (at least in an adequate number), e.g. technical texts, formal, official texts, scientific texts, specialist texts etc. For this reason, explicative forms of conceptual structures need to incorporate additional sources, sometimes even appealing to language intuition. In the case of semantic studies, such ambivalence

of sources is essential because it allows researchers to liberate themselves from the pragmatic pressure (especially communicative one) and exhibit in language material a characteristic algorithm of linguistic activity – something that bears ambivalent character in relation to the so-called situation of usage.

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### Streszczenie

Artykuł ukazuje tentatywną próbę rekonstrukcji funkcjonalno-semantycznego modelu *nagradzania* poprzez zbadanie jego struktury propozycjonalnej ze szczególnym uwzględnieniem struktury predykatowo-argumentowej. Praca przedstawia wyniki badania pilotażowego, u podstaw którego leży ekscepcja (ok. 120 jednostek zdaniowych) materiału źródłowego z Narodowego Korpusu Języka Polskiego (NKJP). Badanie skupia się na charakterystyce poszczególnych miejsc argumentowych: agenta, przedmiotu, sposobu i przyczyny nagradzania, ukazując problematykę poszczególnych kategorii. Artykuł przedstawia również tzw. schematy eksplikacyjne wyodrębnione przy predykcji nagradzania, ukazując oprócz dominujących struktur generowanych przez użytkowników języka polskiego także złożoność i subtelnosc owego predykatu.