

MIROŚŁAWA PODHAJECKA  
University of Opole  
mpodhajecka@uni.opole.pl  
ORCID: 0000-0002-1910-071X

## ERAZM RYKACZEWSKI'S *DOKŁADNY SŁOWNIK POLSKO-ANGIELSKI...* (1851) AND ITS EXAMPLES OF USAGE: INVERTING THE TRANSLATION PRINCIPLE

**Keywords:** dictionary, English, Polish, translation, examples of usage

### Abstract

Erazm Rykaczewski's *Dokładny słownik polsko-angielski...* (1851) was the first Polish-English dictionary. As well as English equivalents for Polish headwords, it offered a rich selection of Polish illustrative examples paired with their English counterparts to provide the user with information on the way the headwords are used in context. While making a bilingual dictionary requires fluency in both languages, Rykaczewski's knowledge of English was somewhat less than perfect. In the light of the above, how he compiled the volume's English side remains largely unresolved. This paper empirically tests the hypothesis that he drew on the works of other lexicographers. The research methodology was twofold. Firstly, Fleming and Tibbins's *Royal dictionary* (1844–1845) was examined to ascertain whether it formed a part of Rykaczewski's background material and, if so, to what extent. Secondly, English examples of usage unrecorded in the *Royal dictionary* were verified against Google Books, a gigantic corpus of texts, to identify potential sources.

### 1. Introduction

In metalexicographical literature, no distinction tends to be made between L1–L2 and L2–L1 dictionaries in terms of the compilation process.<sup>1</sup> Today, when lexicography is an acknowledged professional field and dictionaries are produced by teams

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<sup>1</sup> L1 is the target user's native language, whilst L2 is a second or foreign language.

of specialists, this needs to be reconsidered. Adamska-Sałaciak (2022: 196) outlines this issue as follows:

Whether a dictionary succeeds in meeting the expectations of its target users depends, to a large extent, on the skill of the lexicographer(s) who have compiled it. Most quality bilingual dictionaries are prepared by teams of people rather than single-handedly. When perfect bilinguals are not available (which is in most cases), the minimum requirement is that the prospective lexicographer should be a native speaker of one of the dictionary's languages and have a near-native command of the other. Some project managers insist that the lexicographers and editors working on a dictionary's Lx–Ly section should be native speakers of Ly (and vice versa), the assumption being that TL equivalents are easier to come by when one is translating into, rather than from, one's native language. As might be expected, it is not always possible to fulfil this last requirement, either.

Needless to say, the above description concerns modern lexicography, as the situation was markedly different even in the relatively recent past. If we examine the English-Polish and Polish-English dictionary-making tradition from the diachronic angle, two aspects come to the fore. Firstly, most dictionaries for both languages were compiled by native speakers of Polish. This should come as no surprise; after all, it was Poles who were interested in learning English and the number of foreigners wishing to learn Polish, for whatever reason, must have been relatively small.<sup>2</sup> Secondly, the dictionaries were, as a rule, made by single authors, so it was predominantly individual effort that lay behind the compilation. One might, therefore, wonder in exactly what way it was organized to ensure that the project be successfully completed.

In compiling English-Polish dictionaries, we take it for granted that lexicographers pair English headwords with their Polish equivalents on the basis of their expertise in the two languages.<sup>3</sup> Historically, however, this was not always the case. There is now solid evidence that some compilers turned to bilingual dictionaries for other language pairs, primarily English-French and English-German (Podhajecka 2016: 554). This stems from the fact that the knowledge of French and German among educated Poles was then widespread, while English began to grow in popularity only in the nineteenth century. In any case, translation from a foreign language (L2) into one's mother tongue (L1) is a direction least prone to error, inasmuch as translators may rely on their native speaker intuitions.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>2</sup> In the face of a lack of compelling evidence, we may only speculate about this fact. We know, for instance, that Maude Ashurst Biggs, an English translator of Polish literature (e.g. *Master Thaddeus or the Last Foray in Lithuania*, 1885), learnt Polish from Rykaczewski's grammar of Polish for French speakers (Budrewicz 2018: 25) rather than his bilingual dictionary.

<sup>3</sup> Fluency in two or more different languages is often, albeit wrongly, taken as tantamount to translation skills. Wilss (qtd. in Kiraly 1995: 26) tells us that translation competence subsumes three components: L1 competence, L2 competence, and "a supercompetence that allows mediation between the first two". The last component has been referred to, among other things, as "transfer competence" (Nord 2005: 12) and "translation competence" (Pietrzak 2015).

<sup>4</sup> The concept of "native speaker" is far less clear-cut today than it was in the past (e.g. Davies 2003: 1; cf. Whyatt 2012: 143–144). Lee (2005) notes, moreover, that one has to account for

By contrast, the task is more demanding in the case of Polish-English dictionaries, because translation from one's native tongue (L1) into a foreign language (L2) requires proficiency in the latter at a near-native level,<sup>5</sup> a requirement largely unmet at that time, since most Polish compilers were insufficiently familiar with English. Little wonder, they looked for alternative ways to achieve their objectives.

This paper offers an analysis of Erazm Rykaczewski's *Dokładny słownik polsko-angielski...* (1851), a monoscopal dictionary preceded by its sister volume, *A complete dictionary English and Polish...* (1849). It deserves attention for at least three reasons: it was the first, the largest, and the longest used Polish-English dictionary, available on the international market until the mid-twentieth century.<sup>6</sup> Its headwords were thoroughly treated lexicographically, at least in terms of nineteenth-century standards. Among other things, many entries contained Polish illustrative examples and their English versions. Given Rykaczewski's rather uncertain English (Podhajecka 2016: 69), this may be baffling. The aim of this paper, therefore, is to reassess how Rykaczewski arrived at his English examples of usage.

## 2. Research methodology

The article is based on the premise that, for a Polish lexicographer, compiling an L1–L2 dictionary involves more difficulties than would be the case with an L2–L1 reference work. Research was carried out on Polish multi-word expressions (MWEs) and their English equivalents (e.g. *uginać się pod ciężarem trosk* 'to be laden with cares'), as well as on Polish citations and their English translations (e.g. *bynajmniej nie czuję się lepiej po tej kuracji* 'I am none the better for the treatment'),<sup>7</sup> both of which provide the dictionary user with "implicit semantic information" (Adamska-Sałaciak 2006: 153).<sup>8</sup> Theoretically speaking, there is a sound rationale for such a distinction: MWEs cover a variety of lexical items from free combinations to fixed multiword expressions, whereas citations illustrate how the headwords are used in context. In bilingual dictionaries, the former are juxtaposed either with "functionally adequate equivalents" (Dobrovol'skij 2000: 169) or "explanatory paraphrases" (Zgusta

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"proficiency level differences among literate members of a language community", which may vary significantly.

<sup>5</sup> This view has recently been challenged. Pokorn (2005: 106) argues that the quality of translations depends not so much on the translators' status (native vs. non-native speakers) as their individual abilities, translation strategies, knowledge of the source language and culture, and the topic discussed (see also Mraček 2019: 23).

<sup>6</sup> The first edition appeared in Berlin and the last was published around 1950 by the Chicago-based Polish American Publishing Company.

<sup>7</sup> In Rykaczewski's dictionary, the Polish examples are italicized, while the English versions are in unmarked type.

<sup>8</sup> Adamska-Sałaciak (2006: 154) explains that "full interlingual equivalence is not as common as lexicographers and dictionary users might wish. Consequently, in addition to all the repair strategies which provide alternatives to non-existent equivalents or supplement imperfect ones (...), the meaning-elucidating potential of examples should not be neglected". Of course, it would be naïve to expect Rykaczewski to be aware of this modern *modus operandi*, but it needs to be emphasized that, as a translator, he must have appreciated contextual uses.

1984: 147), and the latter require non-literal translation. In practice, both types illustrate usage and are placed in Rykaczewski's entry in exactly the same way; hence, they are treated uniformly as examples of usage.<sup>9</sup>

The volume's title, *Dokładny słownik polsko-angielski i angielsko-polski, czerpany z najlepszych źródeł krajowych i obcych, a mianowicie ze słowników polskich Lindego, Mrongowiusa i Ropelewskiego; z angielskich Johnson, Webster, Walker, Fleming, Tibbins i in. Ten tom polsko-angielski, głównie przeznaczony dla pomocy Polaków zaczy-nających pisać i mówić po angielsku, zawiera pod każdym wyrazem przykłady jego użycia i zwroty powszechnie przyjęte tak w piśmiennictwie, jak i w potocznej rozmowie obu narodów*,<sup>10</sup> tells us that the compiler drew on renowned dictionaries of the day: Johnson's (1755), Webster's (1828), and Walker's (1791) for English, and Linde's (1807–1814) for Polish. This, however, remains doubtful. As monolingual dictionaries, their mention here is likely to have been a marketing device rather than actual sources of data. At the same time, Rykaczewski's use of Mrongovius's Polish-German (1837) and Ropelewski's Polish-French (1843–1847) dictionaries has been irrefutably confirmed (Podhajecka 2016: 91–100). As for Fleming and Tibbins, there are reasons for thinking that their names allude to the *Royal dictionary English and French...* (1841–1844), a revision of Abel Boyer's dictionary, the most elaborate work of English-French and French-English lexicography.<sup>11</sup> Rykaczewski's Polish-English volume was targeted at Poles learning English, so, to cater to their needs, it should have included natural and idiomatic English representative of the nineteenth century.

The research methodology was twofold. Firstly, Rykaczewski's English examples of usage were contrasted with Fleming and Tibbins's in order to ascertain any similarities between them. Since the French-English part of the *Royal dictionary* is a bulky volume of more than a thousand pages, a sample extracted from Rykaczewski's three letters of the alphabet was employed for this purpose. Secondly, English examples absent from the *Royal dictionary* were checked against Google Books, a gigantic corpus of texts, to identify other potential sources.<sup>12</sup> The study provides both quantitative and qualitative results.

<sup>9</sup> Neither this distinction nor the need to provide illustrative examples has been generally accepted in modern lexicographical literature (see Adamska-Sałaciak 2006: 158–185).

<sup>10</sup> The English translation reads as follows: *A complete dictionary Polish and English and English and Polish compiled from the best domestic and foreign sources, that is, the Polish lexicons of Linde, Mrongovius and Ropelewski, and the English dictionaries of Johnson, Webster, Walker, Fleming, Tibbins, etc. This Polish-English volume, aimed mainly at helping Poles beginning to read and write in English, includes for each headword examples of usage and phrases commonly used in the literature and colloquial speech of both nations.*

<sup>11</sup> According to Cormier and Fernandez (2005: 479–480), the magnum opus by Abel Boyer, a French Huguenot, was “one of the most important and innovative works of all time”. Cormier (2010: 174) adds that “Boyer strides through the eighteenth and nineteenth century history of bilingual English–French dictionaries as a conqueror. His *Royal dictionary* (...) held sway for nearly two hundred years. Indeed, from the first edition of the Royal Dictionary in 1699 until the Fleming–Tibbins dictionary (1841–1844, with the last edition dated 1889) 190 years passed”.

<sup>12</sup> The facility to limit the time-span to the required period, in this case preceding the publication date of Rykaczewski's Polish-English volume (1851), is one of the useful functionalities of Google Books.

### 3. Facts concerning Rykaczewski's dictionary

#### 3.1. Rykaczewski's biography

Erazm Rykaczewski (1803–1873) was born in Włodzimierz Wołyński (in what is today Ukraine). Orphaned in childhood, he was raised by family friends. After matriculating from the Krzemieniec Lyceum, the best Polish educational facility at that time, he continued his education at Wilno University, from which he graduated in law and philosophy in 1825. He was a polyglot; in the words of his biographer, he had a superb knowledge of Latin, French, Italian, and English, and was also fluent in Greek, Russian, German, and Spanish (Polkowski 1873: 98). To pursue a professional career, he moved to Warsaw. In 1830, he took part in the November Uprising and, once it collapsed, was forced to emigrate. He settled in Paris but was soon expelled from France for his revolutionary activity within the National Polish Committee.<sup>13</sup> He left for Scotland, where he remained for the next ten years, and where he compiled the English-Polish and Polish-English dictionary, published anonymously by B. Behr, a German publisher.<sup>14</sup> After returning to France, Rykaczewski participated in the Springtime of Nations (1848) as a soldier in the so-called Mickiewicz Legion fighting in Italy. Back in France, he became a teacher at the Polish school at Batignolles. It was in Paris that he compiled a Polish-Italian and Italian-Polish dictionary (1856–1857), and a monolingual dictionary of Polish (1866). He also wrote English (1849), Italian (1859), and Polish grammars (1861), and worked, in addition, as a translator. He is known to have rendered the Latin works of Cicero into Polish and Joachim Lelewel's Polish historical writings into French. He spent the last years of his life on the estate of his former student in Lubostron. He died of cancer of the mouth in July 1873 and was buried at the parish cemetery in Łabiszyn (Podhajecka 2016: 70–72).

#### 3.2. *A complete English-Polish dictionary*... (1849)

This paper addresses Rykaczewski's Polish-English volume, but it is worth commenting briefly on the English-Polish volume, if only for comparative purposes. Encompassing over 26,000 entries, it was given a long and informative title: *A complete dictionary English and Polish, and Polish and English compiled from the dictionaries of Johnson, Webster, Walker, Fleming and Tibbins, etc., from the Polish lexicon of Linde and the Polish German dictionary by Mrongovius. This volume English and Polish*... (1849). Contrary to what the title suggests, Rykaczewski borrowed heavily from English-French and English-German dictionaries, of which Johann Gottfried Flügel's *A complete dictionary of the English and German*... (1830) was the major source (Podhajecka 2016: 105). This gives rise to the claim that Rykaczewski's proficiency in French and German greatly surpassed his knowledge of English. Resorting to bilingual dictionaries guaranteed that he might avoid mistakes due to misreading or misinterpreting the lexicographical material.

<sup>13</sup> It was one of the first Polish organizations of the Great Emigration in France.

<sup>14</sup> Both volumes, carefully proofread by Rykaczewski, were printed by L. Martinet in Paris.

Establishing the scope of borrowing is fraught with difficulty, but practically every element of Rykaczewski's microstructure was either borrowed, adapted, or translated into Polish (Podhajecka 2016: 78). The translation principle held sway; what was rendered into English were not only French or German equivalents, but also metalinguistic information such as usage labels (e.g. *chanticleer* '(joc.) kogut') and explanatory glosses (e.g. *mantiger* 'pawian (rodzaj małpy)'). That said, Rykaczewski was clearly no mere imitator, but also an innovator. His lexical creativity, in particular, contributed to an impressive range of Polish equivalents. Running the full gamut of register from elevated to colloquial, they expressed different shades of the headword's meanings (e.g. *buxom* 'krotochwilny, hoży, dziarski, żwawy, rześki'; *jabber* 'szwargotać, belkotać, trzepotać, klekotać, pleść'; *rag* 'gałgan, łachman, szmata; szuja, hołota'; *to tighten* 'ścisnąć, zacieśnić, skrępować, zasznurować'). Similarly to his predecessors, Rykaczewski also admitted a plethora of illustrative examples to help the user unravel the intricacies of L1–L2 meaning relations.

### 3.3. *Dokładny słownik polsko-angielski...* (1851)

The Polish-English volume, containing almost 30,000 entries, appeared two years after the English-Polish one. The back matter includes a warning for those learning English without a teacher's guidance, underlining the main advantage of the dictionary: examples of usage, which are so numerous that "this dictionary may well replace a chrestomathy" [M.P.], that is, a book of readings.

The headwords are arranged alphabetically, even though, in line with nineteenth-century spelling principles, Polish diacritics (e.g. *ą, ę, ś, ż*) are treated as unmarked types, thus violating the strictly alphabetical order. Rykaczewski numbers senses, but usually no more than two are distinguished (e.g. *apel* '1) call or beat of drum; 2) roll-call'). At the same time, he offers a wide choice of English equivalents and Polish illustrative examples paired with their English counterparts. A review of the MWEs in Rykaczewski's dictionary, of which only proverbs and figurative uses are explicitly labelled, has been conducted by Rychlicka (2019). She indicates that we may encounter idioms: *Między młotem a kowadłem* 'Between the hammer and anvil' (*a*),<sup>15</sup> similes: *Różne jak niebo od ziemi* 'As different as heaven and earth, as day and night' (*niebo*), compounds: *Niebieskie migdały* 'The blissful regions, the joys of paradise' (*migdał*), and proverbs: *Pomieniał się stryjek na siekierkę kijek* 'To change for the worse; to make one's condition worse, by endeavouring to amend it' (*kijek*).

In the discussion of Rykaczewski's working practice in the Polish-English volume, Podhajecka's findings (2016: 91–100) are somewhat inconclusive. Her analysis suggests that Rykaczewski borrowed some Polish material from Mrongovius's and Ropelewski's dictionaries, but she failed to identify other sources that came into play. She offers a cautious hypothesis that the Polish examples of usage might have been modified to "fit ready-made English counterparts" (Podhajecka 2016: 99),

<sup>15</sup> Upon closer scrutiny, Rykaczewski's choice of MWEs for different headwords is uneven. Under *kowadło*, the same Polish proverb appears with two additional English paraphrases: 'to be in a sad dilemma' and 'to be pressed on all sides with difficulties'.

implying that Rykaczewski's examples were not rendered from Polish into English, but the other way round. Yet, the way he arrived at his English counterparts remains obscure.

Let us adumbrate the process of creating a Polish-English dictionary. First and foremost, the lexicographer would need a list of L1 headwords, for which he would have to discriminate the senses. The next step would be to collect word combinations and citations illustrating the headwords' combinatorial and contextual behaviour. The final decision would concern what L2 equivalents to provide for L1 headwords and how to translate L1 examples of usage into L2. This sounds like a task for a team of lexicographers rather than a single author. Faced with manifest problems, Rykaczewski had to devise an effective method to carry out his project to fruition. One might argue that he lived in Scotland, an English-speaking country, and that this would have helped him attain a level of proficiency. He also had the English-Polish volume which he could use – or reverse, in technical terms – in order to accrue English material. A comparative analysis of the two volumes, however, shows little resemblance, suggesting that reversing the English-Polish volume, even if it crossed Rykaczewski's mind, never materialized.

#### 4. Research findings

Examples of usage felt to be important to foreign learners of English appeared in all the major dictionary-making traditions in Europe. Unsurprisingly, a significant number of English constructions recorded by Rykaczewski may be found in other bilingual dictionaries. These comprise works for English and French (e.g. Miege 1699; Boyer 1771; Chambaud 1815; Wilson 1833); English and German (e.g. Ebers 1799; Küttner and Nicholson 1805; Flügel 1830); English and Italian (e.g. Altieri 1726; Baretti 1813); English and Spanish (e.g. Neumann and Baretti 1831); and English and Portuguese (e.g. Vieyra 1773). A few hits from Google Books are shown in Figure 1.

Such a range of dictionaries is a disadvantage in a research project of this kind, inasmuch as it burdens Rykaczewski's sources with a margin of error. I came to the conclusion that Fleming and Tibbins's *Royal dictionary*, a revised, enlarged, and fully updated work, was most likely Rykaczewski's background material. This was difficult to establish with Google Books, however. On the one hand, only a proportion of the sources are sought in each query and, on the other, the metadata is often incorrect.<sup>16</sup> For example, 'The cupidity of men is insatiable' is found in various editions of the *Royal dictionary* (e.g. 1841, 1845, 1857, and 1866), of which only the 1845 edition is identified as the work of both lexicographers. Implementing a fully rigorous search procedure was thus out of the question.

Serendipity came to the rescue. Last year, I came across full-text versions of both volumes of Fleming and Tibbins's dictionary (1844–1845) in HathiTrust, a digital

<sup>16</sup> Some of the difficulties of doing research with Google Books are outlined in Podhajecka (2018: 37–43).



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## The Short French Dictionary ... The Fourth Edition, with ... - Tom 1

Guy Miegé · 1699

### ZNALAZIONO W KSIĄŻCE

Keep off your hands , **To \* go halves with one** , main à l'œuvre . To go ( om'y touchez pas , gardez vous être de moitié avec quelcun ; fall ) in hand with it , la bien d'y toucher . avoir part à tous ses profits . commencer .



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## A Dictionary of the Portuguese and English Languages, in Two ...

Antonio Vieyra · 1773

### ZNALAZIONO W KSIĄŻCE

See PAGEIRAS . bleating of Meep ; so they also call a Fazer , ou bir de meas , ou meyas com alMAXIMA , f . f . a maxim , an axiom , Jew , and a Mulatto . quem , **to go halves with one** , to go a proposition or principle generally Me ...



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## Boyer's Royal Dictionary Abridged: In Two Parts. French and ...

Abel Boyer · 1797

### ZNALAZIONO W KSIĄŻCE – STRONA 462

**To go halves with one** , faire de him as I go along , j'irai l'ap , tinous , a , collant , gluant . moitié , ou être de moitié avec peler en passant . To go smoothly ted , a . ( from to glut ) gorgé , quelqu'un .



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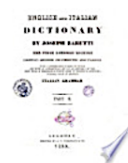
## Vollständiges Wörterbuch Der Englischen Sprache Für Die

Johann Ebers · 1798

### ZNALAZIONO W KSIĄŻCE – STRONA 875

Part , der , die , a Part ; fee Theil . für meine Part , for my Part . halbe Part mit einem gehen , **to go Halves with one** , to go equal Shares with one . Parirung , die , ( in Fencing ) the Parrying or Putting by . die Parirung , ( Term ...





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## Dizionario Italiano Ed Inglese Di Giuseppe Baretta - Tom 1 - Strona 222

1829

### ZNALEZIONO W KSIĄŻCE – STRONA 222

**To go halves with one** andare di upon silk, cloth, ec. lustrì, liscio \* To write itulo di queste cose . To glut one with meal, metà, o spartire con uno . The bell goes, la a gloss upon a text, far la glosa ad un le- satullare uno ...



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## Neuman and Baretta's Dictionary of the Spanish and English

1831

### ZNALEZIONO W KSIĄŻCE – STRONA 564

Ir á medias, **To go halves with one** . Medianîl, sm. ( Agr. ) Middle - piece of ground . Médio, sm. 1. Middle, the part equally distant Meclianista, sm. Student of the fourth class in from the extremities . 2.



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## Royal Dictionary English and French and French and English: ...

Fleming - 1841

### ZNALEZIONO W KSIĄŻCE – STRONA 681

Grand Dictionnaire Français-anglais Et Anglais-français **Fleming**. 1. -S - 3 to mow . 3 une, but one ... Confitures --es, mouldy sweetmeats . et le gain par moitié ] , **to go halves with one** . De que demande la négative ne devant son ...



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## Dokładny słownik polsko-angielski i angielsko-polski, ... - Strona 238

1851

### ZNALEZIONO W KSIĄŻCE – STRONA 238

Iść z kim do -y, dzielić się z kim bas - po - ie, **to go halves with one** . lata, midsummer . Jesteśmy wie lata, we are in the middle of the summer . Wie czerwca, sierpnia, in the middle of June, August .

Figure 1: Screenshots of selected search results for the expression “to go halves with one” in the domain <https://books.google.com>, last accessed: 15 June 2023<sup>17</sup>

<sup>17</sup> According to OED<sup>3</sup>, the expression *to go halves* ‘to share equally (with a person)’ came into use in 1678. As can be seen above, it was soon thereafter admitted into bilingual dictionaries.

library. This was not the original edition, but since we have no way of knowing which edition Rykaczewski consulted and whether there were any discrepancies between them, it became my research tool. It should be explained that the constructions sought, if opened and closed with double quotation marks, are treated as Boolean expressions, in which each element is marked in a different colour. In this way, the results are not only gratifying, but also visually attractive (Figure 2).

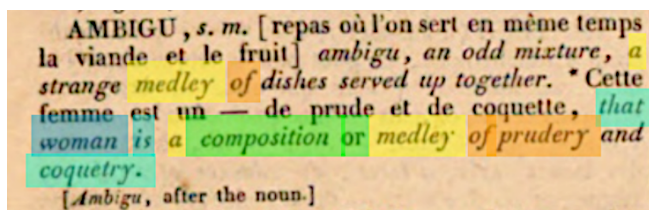


Figure 2: A hit in the *Royal dictionary* for a citation recorded by Rykaczewski (<https://www.hathitrust.org>; last accessed: 15 June 2023)

It is worthy of mention that the search results occasionally proved to be flawed. This stemmed from the erroneous ways in which the characters had been read optically. Some constructions, divided into shorter pieces, therefore, had to be retrieved more than once. Aware that Rykaczewski could alter the form, I also searched for selected elements. For instance, in the case of ‘His tears move, touch or soften my heart’ (*Jego łzy miękczą moje serce*), I took into account the Boolean expression “tear” AND “soften” AND “heart” only to discover that Fleming and Tibbins had chosen ‘His tears have softened my heart’. Even such seemingly minuscule changes may hinder the retrieval process.

The wording of the English version is sometimes a clue. More precisely, a number of Rykaczewski’s L2 textual examples look more natural than their putative L1 originals, such as Fleming and Tibbins’s *Il faut user avec sobriété des plaisirs de la vie* ‘We must indulge in the pleasures of life with sobriety’ and its Polish counterpart *Winniśmy zachować mierność w używaniu rozkoszy*. In the Polish context, *umiær* or *trzeźwość* would have been more fitting equivalents for *sobriété* ‘sobriety’, but Rykaczewski needed an illustration for the headword *mierność*. While it was presumably the French side that constituted Rykaczewski’s source text, in what follows, it will be omitted for the sake of brevity.

#### 4.1. Quantitative data

To establish whether Rykaczewski used Fleming and Tibbins’s *Royal dictionary* and, if so, to what extent, I collected samples from three letters of the alphabet: C (*celnie-ciec*), M (*miejsce-mokry*), and S (*spieniony-sprzymierzony*), corresponding roughly to the beginning, the middle, and the end of the volume. The quantitative data are shown in Table 1. The sample for the letter C includes 343 entries, of which illustrative examples are only to be found in 86. Since one entry in Rykaczewski’s dictionary often provides more than one example, the sample covers 255 examples. The same methodology was applied to the letters M and S. The research material consisted of 839 English examples of usage.

Letter of alphabet	Entries in sample	Entries with examples of usage	Examples of usage in sample
C	343	86	255
M	256	96	326
S	302	81	258
<b>Total</b>	<b>901</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>839</b>

Table 1: Quantitative results of the sampling process

Table 2 summarizes the results of the comparative analysis. Of the 839 English examples of usage recorded by Rykaczewski, as many as 491 have been found, in identical form, in Fleming and Tibbins's dictionary, accounting for more than 58% of the sample. Less frequent are modified constructions, which occur in approximately 20% of the sample. Together, the English material taken from the *Royal dictionary* accounts for 78.3% of the sample, ranging from over 72% in the letter C to 82.5% in the letter S. This might demonstrate that Rykaczewski borrowed more data as he advanced through the alphabet, but we clearly have no way of telling whether he compiled the dictionary in alphabetical order.

Letter of alphabet	Examples of usage	Examples of usage in the <i>Royal dictionary</i>		
		Identical (%)	Modified (%)	Total (%)
C	255	139 (53.7)	45 (17.6)	184 (72.1)
M	326	192 (58.9)	68 (20.8)	260 (79.8)
S	258	160 (62.0)	53 (20.5)	213 (82.5)
<b>Total</b>	<b>839</b>	<b>491 (58.4)</b>	<b>166 (19.8)</b>	<b>657 (78.3)</b>

Table 2: Quantitative results of the search procedure

#### 4.2. Qualitative data

As has been mentioned, in the majority of cases, Rykaczewski copied Fleming and Tibbins's English examples of usage verbatim. In others, he adapted the original material by extending or abridging it, replacing lexical items, changing impersonal constructions into personal constructions or vice versa, swapping the order of elements, and implementing various configurations of the above techniques.<sup>18</sup> Table 3 below displays the typology of changes supported by selected examples.

The English constructions, reproduced either word for word or in slightly modified forms, come from the French-English volume, that is, volume 2. Intriguingly, 73 examples of usage in the sample were borrowed from the English-French volume, that is, volume 1.<sup>19</sup> This suggests that Rykaczewski was familiar with the entire dictionary. A handful of examples found in volume 1 are listed in Table 4.

<sup>18</sup> To provide a suitable example of the last type, Rykaczewski's equivalents 'To cry for mercy, to cry out for help, to cry Lord, God of mercy' (*Miłosierdzia wołać, wzywać*) accompany two French phrases in the *Royal dictionary*: *crier miséricorde* and *crier Seigneur Dieu de miséricorde*.

<sup>19</sup> As many as 55 examples come from the sample under the letter S.

Typology of changes	Examples of usage
Identical constructions	<p>'A person who never thinks for himself but always adopts the opinions of those present' (<i>Ciapu groch, ciapu kapusta</i>)</p> <p>'To become virtuous requires only a sincere desire of being so' (<i>Trzeba tylko chcieć szczerze, a będziesz cnotliwym</i>)</p> <p>'A great lump of flesh, a dull heavy body' (<i>To kwiat mięsa</i> (sic))</p> <p>'We are past the danger, the danger is over' (<i>Minęliśmy niebezpieczeństwo</i>)</p> <p>'That woman is a composition or medley of prudery and coquetry' (<i>Ta kobieta jest mieszaniną zbytniej skromności i przytem kokieterii</i>)</p> <p>'Homer sung the wrath of Achilles' (<i>Homer śpiewał gniew Achillesa</i>)</p> <p>'You have done a fine piece of work on't' (<i>Pięknieś się spisał!</i>)</p>
Abridged constructions	<p>'To breed cattle' &lt; 'To breed black cattle' (<i>Chować bydło</i>)</p> <p>'To play a trick' &lt; 'To play or serve one a trick' (<i>Splatać figla</i>)</p> <p>'To afford one an opportunity' &lt; 'To afford one's enemies the means or an opportunity of hurting us' (<i>Podać komu sposobność</i>)</p> <p>'Imbrued in blood' &lt; 'Imbrued with blood, imbrued with the Christian blood' (<i>Spryskany krwią</i>)</p>
Extended constructions	<p>'To miss the mark in shooting' &lt; 'To miss the mark' (<i>Chybiać do celu</i>)</p> <p>'The passage or migration of birds' &lt; 'The migrations of birds' (<i>Ciąg czyli przelatywanie ptaków</i>)</p> <p>'To pay one's addresses to a girl, to court or woo her, to talk amorous nonsense' &lt; 'To pay one's addresses to a girl, to talk amorous nonsense' (<i>Cholewki smalić do dziewczyny</i>)</p> <p>'What the deuce! damnation!' &lt; 'What the deuce!' (<i>Cóż u miliona diabłów!</i>)</p> <p>'You cannot fly from justice, there is no escape from the punishment you deserve' &lt; 'To fly from justice' (<i>Nie minie cię zasłużona kara</i>)</p> <p>'He or she has a lively rosy complexion' &lt; 'A rosy complexion' (<i>Wygląda jako krew z mlekiem</i>)</p> <p>'The earth is flattened or oblate towards the poles' &lt; 'The earth is oblate towards the poles' (<i>Ziemia jest spłaszczona u biegunów</i>)</p>
Constructions with different lexical items	<p>'That mother takes great care of her daughter' (&lt; 'children')' (<i>Ta matka chucha nad swoją córką</i>)</p> <p>'That leather (&lt; 'linen') has been soaking in the water for these two days' (<i>Ta skóra od dwóch dni mięknie w wodzie</i>)</p> <p>'To tell one the plain (&lt; 'naked') truth' (<i>ciąć komu prawdę</i>)</p> <p>'A ship (&lt; 'vessel') tossed by the tempest' (<i>Okręt miotany burzą</i>)</p> <p>'It is beating the air; these are fruitless endeavours, it is lost labour' (&lt; 'labour in vain')' (<i>Próżno słomę młócić, or darmo wodę młócić</i>)</p>

Typology of changes	Examples of usage
Constructions with different lexical items	<p>'They have disgusted him (&lt; 'me') with fish, by making him (&lt; 'me') eat of it so often' (<i>Mierzi sobie or brzydzi się rybą</i>)</p> <p>'That is contrary to or clashes with reason' (&lt; 'common sense')' (<i>To się sprzeciwia rozumowi</i>)</p>
Constructions with syntactic changes	<p>'His hair was flowing or hanging down his shoulders' &lt; 'His hair dangles or floats upon his shoulders' (<i>Włosy mu spływały po ramionach</i>)</p> <p>'His tears move, touch or soften my heart' &lt; 'His tears have softened my heart' (<i>Jego łzy miękczą moje serce</i>)</p> <p>'The ground begins to soften' &lt; 'The ground is beginning to soften' (<i>Ziemia zaczyna mięknąć</i>)</p> <p>'He was the chief mover or author of that undertaking' &lt; 'He was neither the author nor the adviser of the undertaking' (<i>On był główną sprężyną tego przedsięwzięcia</i>)</p>
Personal/impersonal constructions	<p>'He has a steady soul in danger' &lt; 'To have a steady soul in danger' (<i>Ma mocną duszę</i>)</p> <p>'Why do you keep aloof from me' &lt; 'To keep aloof from' (<i>Dłaczego mnie mijasz?</i>)</p> <p>'It makes my skin creep' &lt; 'To make one's skin creep' (<i>Aż mię ciarki przechodzą</i>)</p> <p>'To have the power of life and death' &lt; 'The Romans had the power of life and death over their slaves' (<i>Mieć moc na śmierć i życie</i>)</p>

Table 3: A typology of changes between the *Royal dictionary* and Rykaczewski's dictionary

It is interesting that he copied not only grammatically complex constructions, but also rather uncomplicated constructions, too (e.g. *Chodzić z dzieckiem* 'To be pregnant'). This allows one to hypothesize that the *Royal dictionary* compensated for his lack of full bilingualism throughout the compilation. While producing an English-Polish volume, on the one hand, and acquiring some practical competence through immersion in the English-speaking environment, on the other, should have sufficed in giving him ample experience in linguistic matters, both evidently turned out to be inadequate.

In the case of examples unrecorded in the *Royal dictionary*, I searched Google Books to discover their provenance. The results indicate that there are three basic sources of such textual illustrations: (1) English literature, (2) teaching materials, mainly grammars of English, and (3) other dictionaries, almost exclusively German-English. Be that as it may, since Fleming and Tibbins's work was the best that French-English lexicography had to offer, there was surely no point in consulting other dictionaries for that language pair.

It may be safely assumed that Rykaczewski took the literary examples from his reading of English books and magazines, the daily routine of an educated man.

Polish examples of usage	English examples in the <i>Royal dictionary</i> (vol. 1)
<i>Chcesz abym ci odkrył przyczyny tych nieporządków?</i>	'Shall I lay before thee the occasion of all these disorders?'
<i>Chciało mu się jechać do Rzymu, a dziś już się nie chce</i>	'The fancy or humour took him to go to Rome, but now his longing is over'
<i>Nie radzi się rozsądku, lecz chimery</i>	'He is more guided by caprice, by whim, than by reason'
<i>Chodzić z dzieckiem</i>	'To be pregnant'
<i>Trzymać dziecię do chrztu</i>	'To stand God-father, or God-mother to a Child'
<i>Chuchnąć warcaba</i>	'To huff a man at draughts'
<i>Codzień mizernieje</i>	'He falls away every day'
<i>Wyjść z mody</i>	'To grow out of fashion'
<i>Dzieci spółzone w prawem małżeństwie</i>	'Lawfully begotten children'
<i>Nie spodziewałem się takiej stałości, takiego uporu</i>	'I did not expect such firmness, such obstinacy'
<i>Ma sporo pieniędzy</i>	'Money is plenty with him'
<i>Mieć sposób do życia</i>	'To have a competency to live on'
<i>Jeżeli by mnie spotkało nieszczęście</i>	'Should a misfortune befall me'
<i>Dobrocią więcej sprawisz niż gwałtem</i>	'You will do more by fair than by foul means'
<i>Oddawać sprawiedliwość zasłudze, odwadze</i>	'To render justice to one's merit, bravery'
<i>Piękne twoje sprawy</i>	'You make fine doings'
<i>Sprośnie gadać</i>	'To hold bawdy discourses'
<i>Sprzeczne wieści</i>	'Contradictory intelligence'

Table 4: Rykaczewski's examples of usage and their English versions borrowed from the *Royal dictionary* (vol. 1)

As a teacher of foreign languages in Scotland (Polkowski 1873: 97), he must also have used both teaching aids and bilingual dictionaries. Of course, it would be difficult to confirm with any degree of certainty that the examples in Table 5 were taken from these and not other sources, but one thing is clear: Rykaczewski did not create them himself.

As already remarked, some Polish illustrative examples were borrowed from Mrongovius's and Ropelewski's dictionaries. Whenever they matched no ready-made English semantic patterns, Rykaczewski was forced to give his own renditions. This, it seems, he did somewhat reluctantly, restricting his intervention mainly to entries describing culture-bound terms. Table 6 shows a selection of Polish examples of usage and their English translations, including the phrase *Gęba jak cholewa*, which denotes someone who is unreliable. Rykaczewski's literal equivalent 'His mouth is like the leg of a boot', by failing to convey the metaphorical meaning, is inappropriate.

Once the English versions were incorporated in the dictionary, they had to be paired with Polish translations. Whatever may be said about Rykaczewski's L1

<sup>20</sup> This may have been modelled on Michael Ross's 'At Oriza is a castle situated at the confluence of the Oresa and the Dneiper' (sic) (Ross 1835).

Type of sources	Examples
Literary sources	<p><i>The miscellaneous works of Tobias Smollett</i> (1824) by T. Smollett: 'The new-married couple' (<i>Młoda para</i>)</p> <p><i>Mercedes of Castile</i> (1841) by J.F. Cooper: 'The excellence of that mind' (<i>Celność tego umysłu</i>)</p> <p><i>Memoirs of the life of Sir Walter Scott</i> (1843) by J.G. Lockhart: 'He boasts that he shot fifteen times without a miss' (<i>Chwali się, że na piętnastu strzałach, ani razu nie chybił</i>)</p> <p><i>The novels of Walter Scott...</i> (1850) by W. Scott: 'The coronet of a duke' (<i>Mitra książęca</i>)</p> <p><i>The writings of George Washington...</i> (1834) by J. Sparks: 'He has been disappointed in his expectations' (<i>Chybiła go nadzieja</i>)</p> <p><i>Thirty-three sermons</i> (1832) by T. Wilson: 'Death will overtake you when you think least of it' (<i>Ani się niespodziewiesz jak śmierć przyjdzie</i>)</p> <p><i>The works of Daniel Defoe...</i> (1840) by D. Defoe: 'I live in such a street' (<i>Mieszkam przy takiej ulicy</i>)</p> <p><i>The Irish heiress: A comedy, in five acts</i> (1842) by D. Boucicault: 'What a lovely spot!' (<i>Co za lube miejsce!</i>)</p> <p><i>Memoirs of a physician, Joseph Balsamo</i> (1847) by A. Dumas: 'You'll be in no humour for laughing' (<i>Będziesz tu miał chchy</i>)</p>
Teaching materials	<p><i>Mentoria: or, the young ladies instructor, in familiar...</i> (1787) by A. Murry: 'The comforts or conveniences of life' (<i>Dobre mienie</i>)</p> <p><i>Grammaire pratique de la langue anglaise ou méthode facile...</i> (1835) by P. Sadler: 'The plague has carried off many people' (<i>Zaraza wiele bardzo ludzi sprzątnęła</i>)</p> <p><i>The book of the chronicles; or, winter evening tales...</i> (1842) by J. Close: 'He has played many a mad prank in his youth' (<i>Hulał za młodu</i>)</p> <p><i>A new English grammar</i> (1845) by A. Allen and J. Cornwell: 'The census is now taken in England every ten years' (<i>Spis ludności odbywa się teraz w Anglii co dziesięć lat</i>)</p> <p><i>Praktičeskaja anglijskaja grammatika dlja Ruskix</i> (1846) by E. Glasko: 'The rain has washed away the mud' (<i>Deszcz spłókał błoto</i>)</p> <p><i>A practical grammar of the German language</i> (1847) by J.G. Tiarks: 'I cannot do it, unless you help me' (<i>Nie mogę tego zrobić, chyba że mi pomożesz</i>)</p>
Other dictionaries	<p><i>Complete dictionary, English and German...</i> (1808) by C. Ludwig: 'To court or woo her' (<i>Cholewki smalić do dziewczyny</i>)</p> <p><i>The new and complete dictionary of the German and English languages...</i> (1799) by J. Ebers: 'To stand a tiptoe' (<i>Spinać się na palce</i>)</p> <p><i>A new and complete dictionary of the English and German...</i> (1837) by J. Kaltschmidt: 'Pancreas of the calf, sweetbread' (<i>Mleczko cielęce</i>)</p> <p><i>New and complete dictionary of the German language for Englishmen</i> (1805) by C. Küttner and W. Nicholson: 'This child cannot yet walk' (<i>To dziecko nie umie jeszcze chodzić</i>)</p> <p><i>A new law dictionary and glossary</i> (1851) by A. Burrill: 'To see justice done' (<i>Kazać wymierzyć komu sprawiedliwość</i>)</p>

Table 5: English examples of usage borrowed from other sources

Rykaczewski's examples of usage	Rykaczewski's own translations
<i>Celować futro</i>	'To fit up, to set in order the different pieces of a fur'
<i>Chińszczyzna</i>	'Articles of China'
<i>Gęba jak cholewa</i>	'His mouth is like the leg of a boot'
<i>Tnie mazura</i>	'He dances the mazurka'
<i>Miejscowe obyczaje, okoliczności</i>	'The local customs, circumstances'
<i>Mieni się</i>	'It changes colour according to the different aspects'
<i>Pan milionowy</i>	'An extremely rich person, a Croesus'
<i>Samemu na siebie miotłę przynieść</i>	'To fetch rods for one's own back, to undergo a voluntary punishment'
<i>Modlin jest zbudowany nad spływem or u spływu Narwy i Wisły</i>	'Modlin is situated at the confluence of the Narwa and the Vistula' <sup>20</sup>
<i>Pan N. i spółka</i>	'Mr N. and company'
<i>Sprawa narodowa</i>	'The national cause'

Table 6: English examples of usage in Rykaczewski's own translation

skills, he was an erudite scholar, which explains why he often succeeded in choosing natural-sounding examples of usage. In a proportion of cases, he might have made better choices, but many of his preferences, albeit unfamiliar to the contemporary eye (e.g. *Bić ofiary*), are nonetheless found in nineteenth-century Polish texts.<sup>21</sup>

## 5. Conclusions

When dealing with the problems of explaining meaning, the lexicographer may "opt for either defining the meaning of the lemma in L2 ('explanatory principle'), or providing equivalent lexical units in L1 ('translation principle')" (Fuertes-Olivera and Arribas-Baño 2008: 82). This framework could well be extended to the other type of bilingual dictionary, in which the explanatory principle is used for defining L1 headwords, while the application of the translation principle provides L2 equivalents.<sup>22</sup>

My research reveals that, to ensure equivalence between the Polish examples of usage and their English versions through the medium of French, Rykaczewski inverted the translation principle. In other words, his L1 constructions, instead of representing authentic Polish ways of speaking, were authorial renditions of L2 examples. Over 58% of the English counterparts they were paired with transpire to have been borrowed from Fleming and Tibbins's *Royal dictionary* without any change, whereas nearly 20% were adapted in various ways. The remaining examples come from literary, didactic, and dictionary sources, and just a few were created by Rykaczewski himself. His reliance upon the languages in which he was truly accomplished helped

<sup>21</sup> This refers to the subcorpus of Polish texts in Google Books.

<sup>22</sup> The fact that Fuertes-Olivera and Arribas-Baño deal with a specialized dictionary does not detract from the general outlook.



Rykaczewski's examples of usage	Suggestions	English versions
<i>Jeszcze z ust nie otarł mleka, or mleko ma jeszcze pod nosem</i>		'He is still so young that if you were to wring his nose, the milk would ooze out'
<i>W starym piecu diabeł pali</i>		'Old people sometimes fall in love'
<i>Wolę gnój wozic niż się podobnym sposobem dorabiać chleba</i>		'I had rather pick a dunghill for my bread, than work on those terms'
<i>Chudy jak szczep, jak deska, jak śledź</i>		'As lean as a church mouse, as a whipping post'
<i>Popamiętasz ty ruski miesiąc</i>		'You'll have reason to remember it long'
<i>Zamieniał konia na obraz</i>	→ <i>Zamienił konia na obraz</i>	'He has changed his horse for a picture'
<i>To nam nic dobrego nie zapowiada</i>	→ <i>To nam niczego dobrego nie wróży</i>	'This betokens no good'
<i>Idź do diabłów!</i>	→ <i>Idź do diabła!</i>	'The deuce take you; the devil, the deuce'
	→ <i>Idź do stu diabłów!</i>	
<i>Gadać jak z gorączki</i>	→ <i>Gadać (brednie) jak w gorączce</i>	'To rave, to talk at random' <sup>23</sup>
<i>Bić ofiary</i>	→ <i>Sklądać ofiary</i>	'Sacrifice victims'
<i>Wyssać co z mlekiem</i>	→ <i>Wyssać coś z mlekiem matki</i>	'Suck in an error or passion with one's mother's milk'
<i>Chodzić po francuzku</i> <sup>24</sup>	→ <i>Ubierać się po francusku</i>	'To dress after the french (sic) fashion'
	→ <i>Ubierać się z francuska</i>	

Table 7: Rykaczewski's Polish examples of usage and suggested improvements

<sup>23</sup> *To talk at random* can also be found in the entry for *gadać* (*Gadać co ślina przyniesie* 'To talk at random'), *koszałka* (*Pieść koszałki opałki* 'To talk at random, to talk nonsense'), *nic* (*Prawić nic do rzeczy* 'To talk at random'), and *opacznie* (*Gadać opacznie* 'To talk at random, rashly, inconsiderately').

<sup>24</sup> In this instance, Rykaczewski used a nineteenth-century spelling variant.

him circumvent the problems faced, minimizing the risk of errors in the compilation process.<sup>25</sup>

It is necessary to ask at this juncture whether Rykaczewski's methodology was a satisfactory solution. To answer the question, one needs to take cognisance of the dictionary's target usership, that is, Poles learning to speak and write English. From the perspective of their language needs, which focused on production in, rather than reception from, L2, the English side was the key one. Natural-sounding English constructions, serving as direct models for the users' active skills, should thus be seen as a merit of Rykaczewski's volume. As for the Polish translations, they were not always exemplary, but most seem to have been sufficiently comprehensible to native speakers of Polish.

As soon as the dictionary was perceived as "a vehicle for linguistic refinement" (Benson 2002: 87), a great deal of imitation and borrowing between lexicographical works of the same lineage and, perhaps more importantly, those representing different traditions took place (see, e.g., Steiner 1970; Osselton 1997: 161–163; Cormier and Fernandez 2004, 2005; Mac Coinnigh 2013). This clarifies the reason why the same (or comparable) English illustrative material may be found in various dictionaries for English and French, German, Italian, and Spanish, to mention but a few. By drawing on Fleming and Tibbins's *Royal dictionary* and other bilingual resources of the day, Rykaczewski's dictionary was no doubt deeply rooted in European lexicography.

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<sup>25</sup> Today, there is undoubtedly a "constant give-and-take between translation and lexicography" (Hartmann 2001: 141). This historically-oriented analysis displays interdependence between the two fields from a quite unexpected angle.

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