

Project:

Polish Vocabulary in the 15th-Century Latin Dictionaries Called "Rosarii": a Comparative Study

Popular science summary

One of the problems in research on the oldest Polish language is lack of source materials. Since relatively few Polish texts from before 1500 have been preserved, Polish words scattered in Latin texts (the so-called glosses) are an important source of knowledge about vocabulary of the Medieval Polish language. Latin dictionaries, e.g. *rosarii* contained encyclopaedic information. Polish words were written into them to facilitate the understanding of Latin texts for the Poles who were studying the Holy Bible and scientific works from various areas, such as theology, law, and medicine. Owing to the popularity of these dictionaries, they were often copied and in consecutive copies modifications were introduced. Often both the text in Latin and Polish glosses are not identical in particular copies. The aim of the project is to examine Polish words in seventeen copies of the 15th-century *rosarii*. The analysis of similarities and differences between the manuscripts will be useful for determination of the degree of relation (filiation). The research is focused on finding all glosses and subjecting them to regular language analyses.

The project combines the philological method with modern IT tools. The implementation of the project is possible as a result of medievalists' cooperation, among others, palaeographers, historians of the Polish language, latinists, historians, etc. The result of the use of their knowledge and competences is a complex collection of language relics that so far have not been subjected to a comprehensive discussion.

The comparative analysis of Polish glosses written on sheets of particular copies of *rosarii* will make it possible to learn more about the method of adjusting Latin lexicographical studies to the needs of the users at that time. It will also contribute to enriching and systematizing knowledge about structure and meaning of the oldest Polish words and will provide new data on vocabulary poorly documented in other sources. The Polish glosses found in *rosarii* will enrich the language material used in linguistic studies. Glosses, along with contexts, will form the first database containing material illustration of medieval Polish vocabulary dispersed in Latin encyclopaedic dictionaries available on the Internet. It will become the foundations of an electronic base of sources useful in research on the medieval Polish language. IT tools applied in the project to conduct an effective comparison of the material included in particular *rosarii* may be used for archiving and presenting other language relics preserved in more than one copy. The project is compatible with large-scale research on the development of the Polish language throughout the centuries, facilitating learning and popularization of the national heritage.