C.1. POPSCIENTIFIC SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT

Is Polish *smutek* (Eng. *sadness*) the same as English *sadness*? Is the universal emotional state underlying those terms perceived as equally intensely negative and hard to control in both languages? We understand instinctively that the word *fist* denotes something much more concrete than the word *anger*. It is much easier to imagine the concept of a *fist* and the context in which one might clench it than it is to visualize the abstract notion of *anger*. However, is it possible that *disgust* may be somewhat more concrete and easier to imagine than *happiness*? In English, using the verb form of the noun *irritation*, that is *(to) irritate*, we convey the notion that the emotion is inflicted upon another. However, using a verb form like *enjoy*, we convey the notion that the emotion is experienced. The causality of the verb is thus semantically encoded in single words. In Polish, to shift the causal meaning from "experiencing" to "inflicting" one merely needs to add the reflective pronoun *się* (Eng. *self*). Is it possible, though, to measure differing causality of Polish verbs sans the reflective pronoun? What sorts of associations do we have upon hearing words such as: *disgusting*, *surprise*, *amuse*? Does it matter that each of the above belongs to a different part of speech?

Analyzing words we routinely use to name emotional states can speak to the nature of the psychophysiological states denoted by those words. The interest in this type of research, especially in the context of bilingualism, has been increasing over the past few years. Still, progress is slow coming in this field, mainly due to the lack of appropriate research tools. Heretofore, the research has been conducted based on lists of words created *ad hoc* to fit the researchers' arbitrary definitions of emotional states. As a result, the lists of words supposedly denoting emotions include words referring to physiological states (e.g. *weeping*), cognitive states (e.g. *bored*), character traits (e.g. *adventurous*), or behavioral patterns (e.g. *brutal*). The reason for this is, in part, the fact that there is no consensus in psychology on what an "emotion" is. In part, however, the reason is the arbitrary selection of emotion terms from dictionaries, previous literature, or affective corpora which are essentially collections of words with some emotional meaning. The only point of consistency throughout the existing research is the regular inclusion of basic emotion terms: *anger*, *disgust*, *fear*, *sadness*, *surprise*, and *happiness*. What is needed to make the research on emotion concepts through emotion terms both practical and systematic is a database of emotion terms. Such a database should be based on a widely accepted emotion theory, such as the universal basic emotions theory. It should also be modeled on affective corpora for maximum functionality. The aim of this project is to create such a database for the Polish and the English language. In the course of running this project, I will also provide answers to the questions posed above.

At the first stage of this project, basic emotion terms and their synonyms in the form of nouns, verbs, and adjectives in Polish and in English will be collected. Using dictionaries, each word will be annotated with word definitions, word origins and etymology, and phonetic transcriptions of pronunciation. This data will constitute the lexicographic portion of the database. Next, using linguistic corpora, each word will be annotated with word length and frequency data. This data will constitute the corpus portion of the database. Finally, in the course of five separate experiments conducted among native populations, psychometric data will be collected. This data will constitute the empirical portion of the database.

In the first experiment, participants will be evaluating words denoting basic emotions using three scales. These scales will reflect: how positive or negative the emotional states are (valence scale), how intensive the emotional states are (intensity scale), and how well can they be controlled (dominance scale). In the second experiment, participants will be evaluating words denoting basic emotions using one of three randomly assigned scales. These scales will reflect: whether the emotional states denoted are more abstract or concrete (concreteness scale), whether it is easy to imagine such a state (imagebility scale), or whether it is easy to recall a context in which such a state occurs (context availability scale). In the third experiment, participants will be evaluating the causality of emotional verbs (causality classification). In the fourth experiment, participants will be naming major associations for each of the emotion terms presented to them (free associations). In the fifth experiment, participants will be sorting the emotion words into categories that will make logical sense to them (categorization).

The complete set of lexicographic, corpus, and psychometric data will be added to the database as annotations for every emotion term included. A technical report covering basic statistics and user manual will be appended to the database for the benefit of future users. Additionally, a Polish-English basic emotion term dictionary will also be appended to the database. The finished database will be made available to the research community for the benefit of research on basic emotions in the context of bilingualism.