

## MATERIAL MODIFIERS IN ENGLISH AND POLISH NOMINAL PHRASES

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### 1. *Introduction.*

In the present paper the term "material modifier" is used in reference to a class of modifiers which in English and Polish NP's denote material from which the head noun in the structure is made or constructed.

Formally, NP's under consideration are characterized by:

(a) a prenominal position of material modifiers in English as well as in Polish NP's,

(b) the {<sup>^</sup>+<sup>/'</sup>} stress superfix in English NP's,

which make it possible to distinguish English and Polish NP's with material modifiers from English nominal compounds and Polish adjectivo-nominal compounds containing nouns and denominal adjectives denoting material (for a formal description of NP's as different from nominal compounds in English and Polish see Fedorowicz-Bacz 1974). Consider some typical examples of NP's containing material modifiers:

*in English*

- (1) 1. *a wood floor* (drewniana podłoga) BUT NOT: *a wood-shed* (szopa na drewno)  
2. *a stone wall* (kamienny mur) *orange juice* (sok pomarańczowy)  
3. *a woollen 'sock* (wełniana skarpetka) *strawberry jam* (dżem truskawkowy)  
4. *milk punch* (poncz z mleka) *milkshake* (koktajl mleczny)

(for a list of nominal compounds containing nouns denoting material see Lees 1960:171),

## In Polish

- (2) 1. *słomkowy kapelusz* (straw hat) BUT NOT: *zupa pomidorowa* (tomato soup)  
 2. *szklane oko* (a glass eye) *wyroby szklane* (glass articles)  
 3. *gliniany kogucik* (a pottery cock) *ciastko czekoladowe* (a chocolate cake)  
 4. *żelazny most* (an iron bridge) *sok cytrynowy* (lemon juice)  
 5. *drewniana noga* (a wooden leg) *stek wołowy* (beefsteak).

Material modifiers considered in their surface NP's can be observed to exhibit different morphological and syntactic characteristics in English and in Polish. The aim of this paper is to account for these surface structure differences in terms of English-Polish contrastive description and to provide a TG interpretation of material modifiers in English and Polish NP's.

## 2. A morphological description of material modifiers.

2.1. Material modifiers in English are either (a) base forms of nouns denoting material, bearing the tertiary stress in their NP's, e. g.,

- (3) *a leather bag* — skórzana torba  
*a straw mat* — słomiana mata  
*a rubber tyre* — gumowa opona

or (b) denominal adjective derivatives characterized by the derivational suffix {-en} added to the base form of a noun denoting material, e. g.,

- wooden* — morphologically derived from *wood* — in *a wooden leg* (drewniana noga)  
*woollen* — morphologically derived from *wool* — in *a woollen sock* (wełniana skarpetka)  
*earthen* — „ „ „ „ *earth* — in *an earthen jug* (gliniany dzban)

Historically, the suffix {-en}, which is a remnant of the OE adjective suffix {-en}/coming from Gothic {-ino}, and corresponding to Gk {-ino}, and L {-ino}<sup>1</sup> (Jespersen 1965: 646) was "used especially to indicate material from which something is formed" — as in e. g.,

*gyldeu, liβeren, wexen*

In Mod. English, however, the suffix {-en} has ceased to be productive and adj. forms in {-en} are "steadily losing ground" in competition with uninflected forms of nouns used as material modifiers (see e. g. Schibsbyc 1967: 140;

<sup>1</sup> Cf. some relevant Latin examples: *aureus* — golden, *arboreus* — wooden but also *barbatus* — bearded and *marinus* — marine. Acc. to Marchand (1960: 270) Latin suffixes — *inus*, *-anus*, *-unus* denote appurtenance.

Zandvoort 1966:311) The following list gives examples with two coexisting forms of modifiers denoting materials:

- (4) *carthen/earth vessels* — naczynia gliniane  
*flaxen/flax thread* — llniana nić  
*hempen/hemp rope* — konopny sznur  
*wheaten/wheat bread* — pszenny chleb  
*wooden/wood ships* — drewniane statki  
*woollen/wool socks* — wełniane skarpetki (Fowles 1965:155).

According to Fowles, who is supposed to be a recognized British authority on the correct use of English, formations in {-en} are actually preferred only in the limited list of the examples quoted above. In other cases material {-en} adjectives are used only for poetic effect or with a purposeful touch of archaism. The form may still be found in such examples as:

- silken hose* (jedwabne rajstopy) BUT *silk pyjamas* (jedwabna piżama)  
*a golden crown* (złota korona) BUT *a gold watch* (złoty zegarek)  
*a leathern jerkin* (skórzany kaftan) BUT *a leather pouch* (skórzana torba)  
 (Fowler 1965: 155).

In southwestern English dialects material adjective formations in {-en} are still alive and the adjectives *paperen* (made of paper), *steel en* (made of steel), *linnen* (made of tin) are of common occurrence (Marchand 1961: 271; Jespersen 1965: 346).

Adjectives in {-en} are frequent in Mod. English when used figuratively (meaning "resembling, like material N") Consider some typical examples:

- (5) *a wooden smile* — "drewniany" (sztywny, wymuszony) uśmiech  
*a golden wedding* — złote gody  
*an ashen complexion* — cera jak popiół  
*silken hair* — włosy jak jedwab (jedwabiste włosy)

2.2. In Polish, material modifiers in NP's are only adjectives. Contrary to English, uninflected forms of nouns never occur in the attributive position to denote a material property of the head noun.<sup>2</sup> It may be observed, however, that base forms of material nouns are often found in prepositional phrases in Polish as well as in English, e.g.,

*dom z drzewa* — a house of wood, *suknia z jedwabiu* — a dress of silk

Polish material adjectives constitute a numerous group and their class is still open.<sup>3</sup> Consider such comparatively modern formations as:

<sup>2</sup> In Polish the structures of modification in which an uninflected noun functions as a modifier are rare but possible, cf. eg., *cuł dziewczyna*, *zuch chłopak*, *herod baba*, etc.

<sup>3</sup> In his classification of Polish adjectives Ułaszyn (1915) distinguished a separate group of material adjectives among the five main classes established on the basis of the meaning of adjectives. Polish grammar books discuss the group of adjectives considered here as a separate semantic class with the accepted name of "przymiotniki materialno" (see Bartnicka 1961:217; Kurkowska 1953).

*kauczukowy* (made of caoutchouc), *plastikowy* (made of plastic), *nylonowy* (made of nylon).

The characteristic derivational suffixes of the group are: {-*owy*} and {-*ny*}, the former seeming the more productive. Of the following coexisting formations in {-*ny*} and {-*owy*} only the {-*owy*} — adjectives have survived and are commonly used in Mod. Polish. Cf.,

- (6) *metalny* — metalowy  
*papierny* — papierowy  
*piaseczny* — piaskowy<sup>4</sup>

It cannot be said, however, that the adjective suffixes {-*owy*} and {-*ny*} carry the meaning of "made of" in Polish since they are the most productive denominal adjective suffixes in general, characteristic also of other types of adjectives derived from nouns. Cf.,

- metalowy* (of metal) but *ojcowy* (father's)  
*cytrynowy* (containing, or like lemon)  
*ogniowy* (referring to fire)  
*zaopatrzeniowy* (referring to supplies)

In her study on the morphological formation of Polish adjectives Kurkowska (1953) observes that the range of use of material adjectives was especially wide in older Polish (cf. such no longer used formations as *piaseczny*, *papierny*, *metalny*) and "has narrowed but slightly in the Polish of today" (Kurkowska 1953 : 61).

Like English material adjectives, Polish material adjectives may be used figuratively, and we find such typical NP's as:

- (7) *złote ręce* (hands of gold)  
*dębowe ucho* (an oaken ear)  
*słomiany zapal* (straw enthusiasm)  
*stalowe nerwy* (nerves of steel),

which naturally evoke different extra-linguistic associations in Polish and in English.

To wind up this morphological discussion of material modifiers it seems worth mentioning that Polish material adjectives often have corresponding nominalized formations. Kurkowska (1953 : 83) quotes two examples to this effect: *welniak* and *miedziak*, postulating that they are equivalent to:

- (8) *Coś jest z wełny* (something is made of wool) — *welniak*  
*Coś jest z miedzi* (something is made of brass) — *miedziak*

thus corresponding to material adjectives: *welniany* (woollen) and *miedziany* (brazen) Other examples that maybe added here are:

<sup>4</sup> Kurkowska quotes one exception in which the reverse process is observed — out of the two co-existing forms: *mosiężny* and *mosiądzowy* the form in {-*ny*} is used in Mod. Polish. There may be more examples of this type but the forms in {-*owy*} seem to predominate in number.

- (9) *gumiaki* — buty z gumy (rubber boots)  
*nylony* — pończochy z nylonu (nylon stockings)  
*metalki* — narty z metalu (metal skis)  
*dederony* — wyroby z dederonu (articles made of dederon fabric)

The existence of these nominalized forms of material adjectives denoting NP's containing material adjectives seems to suggest that in NP's under consideration the lexical meaning of material modifiers is more important than the lexical meaning of the head nouns they modify.

### 3. A semantic description of material modifiers in NP's.

It is believed that the same semantic relation of an object and the material from which this object is made underlies structures of modification consisting of a material modifier and a head noun in English and Polish. Consider some typical examples of such structures:

in English:

- (10) *a wooden leg* (*drewniana noga*) — leg made of wood  
*a woollen sock* (*wełniana skarpetka*) — a sock made of wool  
*wheat bread* (*pszenny chleb*) — bread made of wheat  
*a stone floor* (*kamienna podłoga* — *posadzka*) — a floor made of stone  
*an iron bridge* (*żelazny most*) — a bridge made of iron;

in Polish:

- (11) *szklane oko* (a glass eye) — *oko zrobione ze szkła*  
*gliniany kogucik* (a pottery cock) — *kogucik zrobiony z gliny*  
*kamienny mur* (a stone wall) — *mur zrobiony (zbudowany) z kamienia*  
*drewniany dom* (a wooden house) — *dom zrobiony (zbudowany) z drzewa*  
*papierowa torba* (a paper bag) — *torba zrobiona z papieru*

Some informal semantic remarks concerning the relation between material modifiers and their head nouns in the NP's under consideration may be made at this point.

3.1. It may be noted that material modifiers describe a *fundamental* property of the nouns they modify, essential for the meaning of the NP's considered. The objects denoted by these NP's simply do not exist without this property, e.g., if wood is taken away from an object called *a wooden leg*, the object as such ceases to exist.<sup>5</sup> It may be said that the material adjective modifier is responsible for the lexical meaning of the whole NP, influencing the meaning of the head noun in some essential way.

<sup>5</sup> Szlifarsztajnowa (1960 : 35) mentions the NP's *mur kamienny* and *kraciasta chusta* as examples of phrases from which modifiers cannot be removed since the property they describe is essential for the meaning of the objects they define. "If the modifying adjective is removed the general picture of the object will change" ("tu nie można usunąć przydawki ponieważ cecha, którą ona uwydatnia wchodzi niezmiennie w skład obrazu określanego przedmiotu. Usunięcie przymiotnika zmienia ogólne wyobrażenie o przedmiocie").

The property expressed by the adjectives under consideration does not increase the load of semantic information about the head noun automatically by adding another descriptive feature [+material] to the set of features defining N.<sup>6</sup> The insertion of a material modifier into a NP can change the syntactic feature specification of the head noun, and so in a sense influence its lexical meaning. For example, in terms of Chomsky's syntactic features (Chomsky 1965: 83) the noun *horse* (koń) would be given the following feature specification: [+common], [+countable], [+animate], [-human]. If a modifier *wooden* (drewniany) is added to form the NP *a wooden horse* (drewniany koń), the feature [+animate] of the noun *horse* will change into [-animate]. Cf.,

- (12) a horse — koń                      a wooden horse — drewniany koń<sup>7</sup>
- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| $\langle +N \rangle$<br>$\langle +common \rangle$<br>$\langle +count \rangle$<br>$\langle +animate \rangle$<br>$\langle -human \rangle$ | : | $\langle +N \rangle$<br>$\langle +common \rangle$<br>$\langle +count \rangle$<br>$\langle -animate \rangle$<br>$\langle -human \rangle$ |
|---|---|---|

This juxtaposition explains what is understood here by the formulation "a material modifier can change the lexical meaning of the head noun it modifies" and it may partially account for the semantic integrity of material modifiers and their head nouns.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>6</sup> If the meaning of the adjectives under discussion was considered from the point of view of their ability to specify the possible referents of their head nouns they could be said to narrow the range of referents of N. In terms of the set theory this fact may be represented in the following manner: the set of objects denoted by NP's of the form: Material Adj-N  $\subset$  the set of objects denoted by N e. g., the set of wooden houses  $\subset$  the set of houses.

<sup>7</sup> For the purposes of the argument presented the syntactic features have been specified for NP's not analyzed into their ultimate constituents. In this section of the paper NP's of the type *a wooden horse* are treated as single lexical items.

<sup>8</sup> A [+animate] — to — [-animate] change in the semantic feature characteristics of NP's under consideration seems to provide an argument for treating NP's containing material modifiers as lexical wholes. This proposal, however, might be objected to on the grounds of Polish syntax, where [-animate] masculine nouns in the function of the direct object retain the case ending of the Nominative whereas [+animate] masculine nouns used in this function acquire the ending of the Genitive, cf:

- a) *Stół* (NOM) (a table) — *Widzę stół* (ACC=NOM) (I see a table)  
 [-animate]                      \**stolu* (GEN)
- but: *Chłopiec* (NOM) (a boy) — *Widzę chłopca* (ACC=GEN) (I see a boy)  
 [+human]                      \**chłopiec* (NOM)
- Pies* (NOM) (a dog) — *Widzę psa* (ACC=GEN) (I see a dog)  
 [+animate]                      \**pies* (NOM)

This generalization does not apply to [-animate] NP's containing material modifiers such as our *drewniany koń* / *a wooden horse* in the pair: *koń* [+animate] — *drewniany koń* [-animate], Cf:

- b) *Widzę konia* (GEN)

The semantic feature of material modifiers discussed here finds a very good contrastive illustration in lexicons of Polish and English, where the difference between the noun *wall* and the noun *wall* in the NP *a stone wall* containing the material modifier *stone*, is rendered by two different lexical items in Polish translation equivalents. Cf.,

- (13) *a wall* — ściana  
*a stone wall* — (kamienny) mur

The same contrastive observation applies also to the pair: *floor-stone floor*. Cf:

- (14) *floor* — podłoga  
*stone floor* — (kamienna) posadzka

Whereas the primary Polish equivalents of the English words *wall*, *floor* are *ściana*, *podłoga* respectively, the primary equivalents of the English phrases *a stone wall*, *a stone floor* are (kamienny) mur and (kamienna) posadzka.

The ability of material modifiers to influence the meaning of the head nouns they modify differentiates them from other modifiers, e. g., adjectival modifiers denoting colour. Consider the syntactic features of the noun *horse* in the following examples:

- (15) *a horse* — koń                      :                      *a white horse* — biały koń
- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| $\langle +N \rangle$<br>$\langle +common \rangle$<br>$\langle +count \rangle$<br>$\langle +animate \rangle$<br>$\langle -human \rangle$ | : | $\langle +N \rangle$<br>$\langle +common \rangle$<br>$\langle +count \rangle$<br>$\langle +animate \rangle$<br>$\langle -human \rangle$ |
|---|---|---|

The property expressed by adjectival modifiers denoting colour does not change the syntactic feature specification of the head nouns they modify (as shown in the example above). Adjectival modifiers of colour and modifiers denoting material may be treated as the carriers of the semantic features [+colour] and [+material] respectively. On the basis of the evidence given here it may be claimed that the feature [+material] should be specified before the feature [+colour] in the semantic description of every noun.<sup>9</sup>

*Widzę drewnianego konia* (GEN)

\**drewniany koń* (NOM)

There are, however, examples of one-word lexical items in Polish which do not confirm this generalization, e. g., the [-animate] masculine noun *trup* (a corpse), Cf.

- c) *Trup* (NOM) — *Znalazłem trupa* (GEN)  
 [-animate]                      \**trup* (NOM)

These data suggest two solutions: either the syntactic generalization requiring the Nominative Case ending on [-animate] masculine nouns has to be abandoned or constrained to account for examples such as those quoted above, or NP's containing material modifiers cannot be treated as single nouns with the characteristics [-animate] and the feature specification of nouns such as *trup* has to be reconsidered.

<sup>9</sup> The feature [+material] might in fact be treated as an equivalent or substitute of

3.2. It may be observed that the feature of material expressed by material modifiers in NP's discussed constitutes *permanent* characteristics of the nouns modified. Consider the following pairs of examples:

- (16) (a) *a wooden bridge* (drewniany most) : *an iron bridge* (żelazny most)  
           Mod<sub>1</sub>—N<sub>1</sub>    Mod<sub>2</sub>—N<sub>2</sub>  
 (b) *a white bridge* (biały most) : *a black bridge* (czarny most)  
           Mod<sub>1</sub>—N<sub>1</sub>    Mod<sub>2</sub>—N<sub>2</sub>

In (16a) N<sub>1</sub> and N<sub>2</sub> have two different referents in reality. Substitution of one material modifier by another material modifier always denotes a change of referential meaning of the head N — the change of material from which the bridge is made into another material means in practice the substitution of the bridge by another bridge. In (16b) N<sub>1</sub> and N<sub>2</sub> may point to the same referent in reality. Substitution of a modifying adjective denoting colour by another adjective denoting colour in an NP does not have to imply the change in the referential meaning of the head noun — in example (16b) the bridge may easily be painted black and it will still remain the same bridge. The property expressed by material modifiers seems to be always an inalienable feature of their head nouns.<sup>10</sup>

To sum up the semantic description of material modifiers in NP's the following features may be taken as characteristic:

1. material modifiers are integrally connected with the meaning of the head nouns they modify; they are able to change the lexical meaning of their head nouns;
2. they always express an inalienable (permanent) property of their head nouns.

The informal observations made here are believed to underlie both English and Polish structures of modification with material modifiers. A thorough semantic research is needed to account for them in terms of a complete formalized description.

#### 4. Possibilities of semantic-syntactic interpretation of NP's containing material modifiers

Following the semantic description of material modifiers in the nominal

the feature [—animate] since all [—animate] physical objects are made or composed of some material and there are no [—animate] objects that would not have the feature [+material]. Cf. Rysiewicz (1937: 126): "pojęcie materii szybko ulega ewolucji i może być pojmowane jako stała, wyróżniająca cecha przedmiotu" ("the notion of matter has been changing rapidly and it may be understood as a permanent distinctive feature of any object").

<sup>10</sup> Szlifersztejnowa uses the feature of alienable characteristics as the main criterion to identify the class of possessive adjectives in Polish (e. g., *ojcowy*, *lisi*) (Szlifersztejnowa 1960).

structure of modification, given in the preceding section of this paper, it may be said that the semantic concept:

SOMETHING is made of MATERIAL

underlies all NP's containing material modifiers in English and in Polish. Thus,

- (17) (a) *a wooden leg = a leg is made of wood* — in English  
 (b) *drewniana noga = noga jest zrobiona z drzewa* — in Polish

In order to account for the syntactic derivation of NP's (17a) and (17b) the following transformational processes are postulated:

*In English:*

- (18) (a) *Somebody made a leg (out) of wood* → (b) *the leg is made of wood* → (c) *the leg is of wood* → (d) *the leg is wood* → (e) *a wooden leg*

*In Polish:*

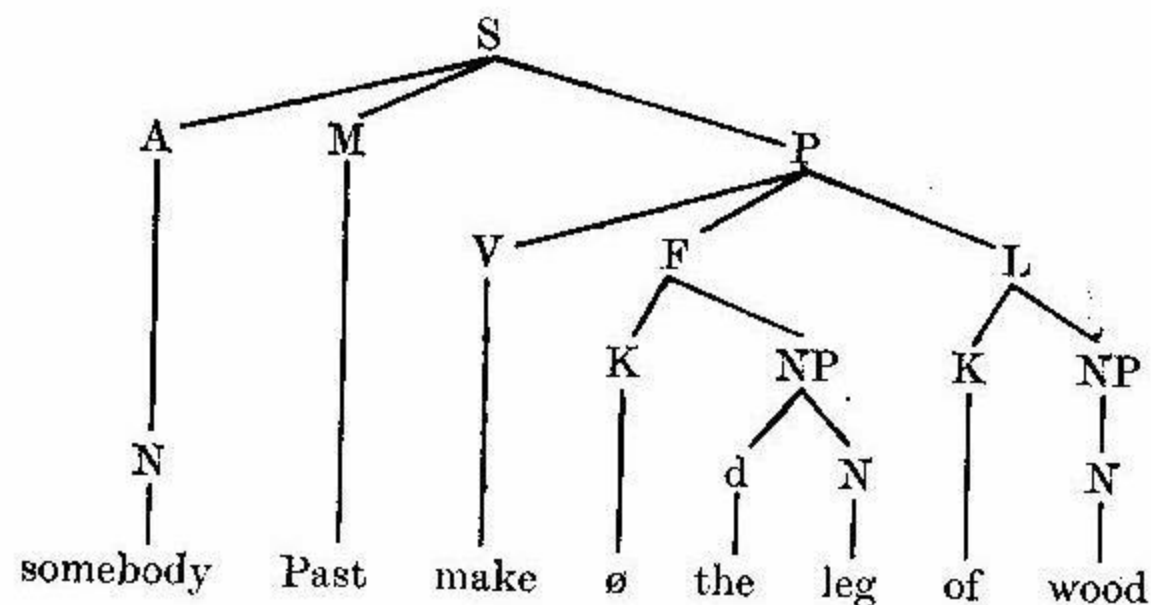
- (19) (a) *Ktoś zrobił nogę z drzewa* → (b) *noga jest zrobiona z drzewa* → (c) *noga jest z drzewa* → (d) *noga jest drewniana* → (e) *drewniana noga*.

4.1. An interpretation of the underlying sentences (18a) and (19a) respectively, may be attempted in terms of Fillmore's (1968) case-grammar. By the term 'case' Fillmore (1968: 58) understands "the syntactic-semantic relationships underlying every sentence". In his theory case relationships are "primitive concepts present in the base component of the grammar of every language" and "a designated set of case categories is provided for every language, with more or less specific syntactic, lexical and semantic consequences" (1968: 2). In Fillmore's grammar (1968: 33) verbs are described in terms of case-frames which specify their possible syntactic-semantic relations with nouns, and the prepositions (as well as postpositions and case affixes) present in the surface sentences "are in fact realizations of the underlying element K (for Kasus)". In the rules suggested for English prepositions, however (Fillmore 1968: 32), the preposition *of*, which is of interest to us since it appears in the structure under consideration (18a) is not mentioned as typical of any of the main cases specified, and the Genitive Case, traditionally associated with this preposition in English, is not included among Fillmore's basic concepts (see Fillmore 1968: 24). Thus, strictly in terms of Fillmore's grammar, the *of*-phrase *made of wood* might be interpreted as expressing the relationship of the Locative, "the case which identifies the location or spacial orientation of the state or action identified by the verb" (Fillmore 1968: 25). The deep structure of the sentences in question could be represented as follows:

*in English*

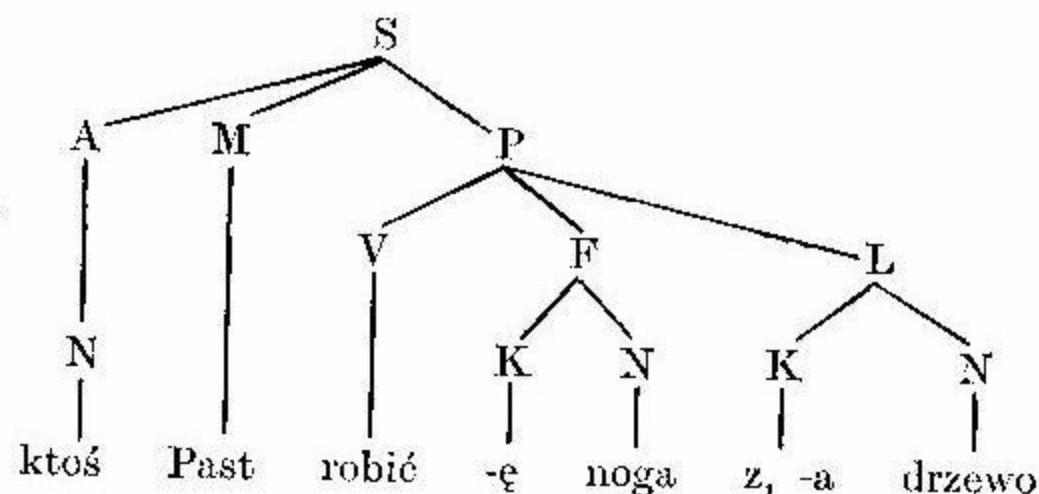
- (20) *Somebody made a leg of wood (with the case-frame of*  
           MAKE+[—A,+F,+L])<sup>11</sup>

<sup>11</sup> The symbols F and A stand for Factitive and Agentive case notions (Fillmore 1968: 24).



in Polish

(21) Ktoś zrobił nogę z drzewa (with the case-frame of ROBIĆ+[-A, +F, +L])



This Locative interpretation of the *of*-phrase in question may find some support in:

1. the historical interpretation of the relation of an object and the material from which the object was made as the actual *ablative* relation rendered by the Ablative or the Genitive Cases in Indo-European languages (see Heinz 1955 : 77, 97)<sup>12</sup>
2. the historical development of the preposition *of* which originally meant "from" (Nagucka 1971 : 58)
3. the historical, though now discredited, "localistic" theory of cases (see

<sup>12</sup> Cf. "Stosunek wyrobu do materiału jest właściwie stosunkiem ablatywnym (por. *signum ex aere*, itp), stąd w językach, w których nastąpił synkretyzm genetiwu i ablatiwu, trudno przeprowadzić rozgraniczenie w tego rodzaju wypadkach" (Heinz 1955 : 77)

"Co się tyczy stosunku materiału i wytworu, to polega on właściwie na stosunku ablatywnym, tak iż różnica między genetiwem a ablatiwem jest tutaj różnicą stosunku mniej i bardziej sprecyzowanego ale o tej samej zasadniczej treści" (Heinz 1955 : 97).

Heinz 1955:18 - 22) according to which the Genitive Case (including the traditional *Genetivus materiae*) was defined as "the case of movement from" (see Fillmore 1968 : 9)

4. in terms of Fillmore's "relational nouns" the phrase 'a leg of wood' might perhaps be interpreted as "locational", i.e. expressing the L relationship typical of relational nouns which do not have a specifically personal reference and "sometimes name parts of associated objects" (see Fillmore 1968:81).

4.2. Another and perhaps more acceptable and simpler interpretation of the structures under discussion could be furnished if Nagucka's proposed modification of Fillmore's case grammar, suggesting the inclusion of the generic  $N \subset N$  Genitive relation into the basic case concepts, is adopted (see Nagucka 1971). The verbs MAKE and ROBIĆ could then be assigned the case frame  $+[-A, +F, (+G)]$  with the feature  $[+G]$  instead of  $[+L]$ . Semantically, this approach would seem more convincing and it finds serious justification in the traditional concept of *Genetivus materiae*, expressing the relations of material and objects made from this material. In his work on the Genitive in the Indo-European case system, Heinz discusses this type of Genitive stressing its partitive function (Heinz 1955 : 77, 97, table 2).<sup>13</sup> Consider some examples of *Genetivus materiae*:

(22) *lactis imber* in Latin

*aukso žiedas* (a ring of gold) in Lithuanian

The genitival interpretation of the structures discussed here agrees with the semantic description of material modifiers given in section 3 of this paper, where it was assumed that the meaning of the head nouns in NP's containing material modifiers is integrally connected with the lexical meaning of their modifiers.

In Polish grammars material modifiers (*przymiotniki materialne*) are often interpreted as morphological realizations of the function of the Genitive of Material (see Bartnicka 1961 : 217; Kurkowska 1953 : 84).

In view of these traditional considerations based on numerous semantic studies of the relations between adjectives (material adjectives included) and the system of cases, the Genitive interpretation of material modifiers proposed here seems more convincing than the approach through the Locative case, for English as well as for Polish.

#### 5. An interpretation of the syntactic differences observed in English and Polish NP's containing material modifiers.

When considered on their surface structure level, material modifiers in English and Polish may be said to differ in two ways (in Fedorowicz-Bacz

<sup>13</sup> In Finnish the relation of an object and its material is expressed by means of the Partitive Case, e. g., *Ovi on tammea* — the door is of oak; *Pullo on keltaista lasia* — the bottle is of yellow glass.

1974 material adjectives were quoted as an example of uneven distribution of typical syntactic features in English and Polish).

(a) English material modifiers do not always appear in the structure of predication whereas Polish material adjectives do, e.g.,

\**this leg is wooden* is ungrammatical in English whereas  
*ta noga jest drewniana* is perfectly acceptable Polish

(b) English material modifiers cannot be separated from their head nouns whereas Polish material modifiers admit of an intervening element (for examples see Marton 1970 and Fedorowicz-Bacz 1974), e.g.,

\**this wooden dirty leg* is ungrammatical in English but  
*ta drewniana, brudna noga* is acceptable in Polish.

Since it is claimed in the present paper that English and Polish material modifiers in equivalent NP's have the same semantic-syntactic interpretation, a few words of explanation are needed to account for the differences observed.

5.1. Ad. (a). In accordance with the transformational processes postulated for English and Polish NP's containing material modifiers (section 4 of this paper) it is assumed that the intermediate structures *the leg is wood* (18d) and *ta noga jest drewniana* (19d) are equivalent, and that Polish material modifiers in the predicative position are rendered by English material noun modifiers in this position. Thus, English sentences of the type:

- (23) a. this furniture is oak  
b. this table is marble  
c. this leg is wood

which are more and more frequent in Mod. English (see Hill 1958 : 235, and Marchand 1966) (cf. even such typically adjectival structures as *these houses are more stone than wood* — Hill 1958 : 236n) should be rendered in Polish by the structure "N jest Material Adj", and not "N jest Material N", which is unacceptable here, i.e.

- (24) a. *te meble są dębowe* NOT \* *te meble są dębem*  
b. *ten stół jest marmurowy* NOT \* *ten stół jest marmurem*  
c. *ta noga jest drewniana* NOT \* *ta noga jest drzewem* (or *drewnem*)

English material forms in {-en} should be treated as morphological variants of formations without {-en} in this case, and since the form without {-en} can appear in the predicative position after the copula English material adjective modifiers may be included into the large group of "copulative adjectives" (Fedorowicz-Bacz 1974).

Ad. (b). The possibility of an intervening element between a Mat. modifier and its head N in Polish seems very strongly connected with the question of modifier order in multiple modifier NP's (see Fedorowicz-Bacz 1974 for multiple adj. phrases) which is much freer in Polish than in English. The problem badly needs investigation in terms of semantics and style. At the moment it may merely be observed that not all modifiers can really intervene and occupy

the position between a material modifier and its head noun in NEUTRAL Polish, cf.,

(29) a. *ten skórzany zniszczony but*

or b. *ten skórzany bardzo zniszczony but*,

but not readily: c.?\**ten skórzany stary but*, d.?\**ten skórzany żółty but*, or e.  
\* *ten skórzany duży but*

and that the structures with the same intervening element placed before material modifier are always grammatical, and sometimes definitely preferred, e.g.,

(26) a) *ten skórzany zniszczony but* OR b) *ten zniszczony skórzany but*.

In both cases here the element "zniszczony" describes the material from which the noun "but" is made (i.e. it may be claimed to modify the material adjective in the phrase) and its position seems to be a question of emphasis. Thus the difference outlined in (b) may be dispensed with in the present paper since it really belongs to the province of English-Polish contrastive stylistics.

#### 6. Contrastive conclusions

(a) A contrastive conclusion following the Genitive interpretation suggested here for English and Polish material modifiers corroborates an earlier suggestion of the author (Fedorowicz-Bacz 1974) that all denominal modifying adjectives (mat. adjs. included) in English and Polish should be discussed under the heading "Noun modification in English-Polish contrastive studies", since they are nothing but different surface realizations of the semantico-syntactic case relations of their base nouns, and the interpretive approach through the theory of case may prove successful here.

(b) It is believed that some observations discussed in this paper will help further research on the order of adjectives in multiple adjective NP's in English and Polish. The semantic and syntactic features of material modifiers outlined here may be used to account for the next-to-noun position of material adjectives in English and Polish NP's containing a prenominal string of modifying adjectives unmarked stylistically.

(c) The lexical observations made here might prove helpful in a detailed contrastive study on the lexicons of Polish and English (cf. the interpretation of the difference between *wall* — *ściana* and *a stone wall* — *kamienny mur*; also the explanation of the high frequency formations of the type *welniak* in Polish).

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