



American and British English - Polish - Russian semantic analysis of the automotive specialized lexicon

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Abstract

The article is devoted to investigating British English, American English, Polish and Russian automotive specialized lexicon. There are three main tasks to be accomplished: conducting componential analysis, comparing British and American versions, identifying automotive borrowings in Polish and Russian. The first one allowed to determine paradigmatic relations, designate thematic groups and systematize the microsystem. The second analysis revealed discrepancies between British and American sets, including different or partially different lexemes nominating the same real objects, as well as examples of compounds with various spelling rules being applied to. Finally, we have identified numerous automotive borrowings from English into Polish and Russian, which confirms the leading role of British and American English as source languages for Polish and Russian automotive lexicons.

1 Introduction

In this paper we explore the nature of a lexicon referring to the automotive subject field. According to J. Lukszyn, specialized lexicon is a structured set of language signs representing concepts as units of human knowledge¹. We choose four language versions of the microsystem, namely, British English, American English, Polish and Russian as a subject of investigation.

We try to accomplish three main tasks. The first one covers conducting semantic, componential, analysis of the automotive lexicon. The second one involves comparison of British and American versions. The last one is to emphasize the role of English borrowings in Polish and Russian automotive lexicons.

2 Practical material

To achieve these goals we analyze sales materials referring to a passenger car, precisely Volkswagen Golf. These materials were extracted from British, American, Polish and Russian official Volkswagen webpages. As far as British English is concerned, the source documents include *Price and Specification Guide*, *Accessories Brochure* and *Technical Specification*. In case of American English, the analyzed lexicon was found in *Trims and Specs* tab available at

¹ Lukszyn, J. (2005): *Wiedza zawodowa a leksykon specjalistyczny*. In M. Balowski, W. Chlebda (eds.): *Ogród nauk filologicznych. Księga jubileuszowa poświęcona Profesorowi Stanisławowi Kochmanowi* (p. 391). Opole.



Volkswagen Golf subpage. As for Polish, two documents have been used: *Pricelist - New 3-door Golf* and *Pricelist - New 5-door Golf*. Finally, for Russian the following materials have been chosen: *Новый Golf - Каталог* and lexis found in *Комплектация* tab available at Volkswagen Golf subpage.

How were the investigated lexical units chosen? The objective was to create a complementary, multilingual, comparison of all the lexemes used by car sellers to present their product features to a customer. The only units not included in the analysis were the ones that did not appear in all four language versions. Moreover British version is treated as a point of reference.

Why have we chosen materials referring to a Volkswagen Golf and not a different car? The vehicle has been produced for thirty eight years, and the manufacturer has already released six versions of it. It is the most popular passenger car in the world. That is why we may assume that the corresponding product information should be a relatively reliable and stable language source. Of course, it surely reflects idiosyncrasies of the analyzed texts authors, however I would like to stress that we compare four living specialized language versions² and not four sets of dictionary equivalents. Such a choice has been made on purpose, because as shown in the material, lexicon used by professionals, journalists and people interested in the automotive subject field may be quite distinct from standardized vocabulary sets. Please consider the following exemplifications: 'CD-чейнджер', 'CD-плеер', 'SD-слот' or 'Bi-Xenonowy'. Such an investigation might give us a chance, for example, to assess which forms that have already been normalized by linguists³ are still used incorrectly or we may observe how new language units interact with the 'normalized' ones, which however is not the objective of this paper.

3 Methodology

As already mentioned, first we are going to conduct a componential analysis⁴. At the beginning of the 1940s L. Hjelmslev made an assumption that language signs can be divided into smaller elements called semes. The corresponding methodology was evolving for tens of years and its main objective is to determine semes that cannot be further divided⁵. Nowadays componential analysis is one of the most frequently used methods of investigating word semantics. It is considered to be the basis of every semantic description⁶. Componential analysis gives a possibility of identifying the whole network of semes characteristic for a particular language sign, starting from major grammatical ones and ending with the smallest ones - potential⁷. It is worth adding here a few words about the concept versus meaning relation. According to N. A. Gunina "The meaning conveys certain cognitive features and components that make up the concept, but it is always only part of the semantic content of the

² LSP – Language for special purposes. This expression came into use in the 1970s and is understood as a part of a national language consisting of terminology and nomenclature. It is also considered to be highly active as far as meanings changes are concerned. Люциньски, К. (2009): *Система семантических параллелей в некоторых спецязыках*. In M. Kornacka, M. Górnicz (eds.): *Języki specjalistyczne 9. Wyraz – Tekst – Interpretacja* (p. 62). Warszawa.

³ Three procedures are meant here: unification, harmonization and normalization. Lukszyn, J. (2005): *Leksykon specjalistyczny jako nośnik wiedzy zawodowej*. In F. Grucza, W. Wiśniewski (eds.): *Teoria i praktyka upowszechniania nauki. Wczoraj i jutro* (p. 112). Warszawa.

⁴ General principles of the analysis methodology were first applied in my PhD thesis defended at the Kazimierz Wielki University in 2011.

⁵ Timoszuk, M. (2005): *Język a teoria lingwistyczna* (p. 130). Warszawa.

⁶ Grzegorzczukowa, R. (1995): *Wprowadzenie do semantyki językoznawczej* (p. 78). Warszawa.

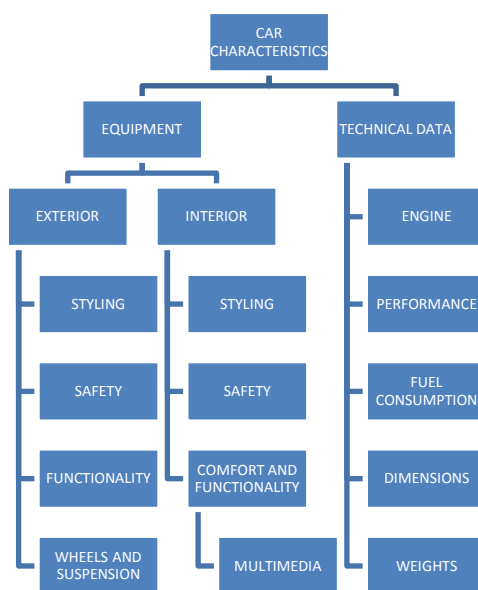
⁷ Кузнецова, Э. В. (1982): *Лексикология русского языка* (pp. 34-35). Москва.

concept. For the explication of the content of the concept numerous lexical items as well as experimental studies to complement the results of linguistic analysis are required. Thus, the meaning and the concept are correlated as communicatively relevant part and a mental whole”⁸. Theoretically, in this paper we are interested in meanings, however, are we able to operate on meanings and concepts separately? I believe they both use the same medium, which is human mind. Thus creating an ultimate set of features characteristic for a single concept or meaning seems to be impossible.

The first stage of our analysis involves determining an archiseme, a seme that is present in meanings of all the words in a particular group. Next we are going to identify semantic differential features that divide the material. They can be determined with the help of dictionary definitions or lexical material and intuition⁹. In case of our analysis there is no specialized definition that could describe such a complex phenomenon as a particular car characteristics, that is why semantic features are identified basing on the second method. Furthermore, in order to make the whole classification more comprehensible, I am introducing a division into groups based on a hyponym - hypernym opposition. We need to bear in mind that the same semantic feature can be an archiseme in one group and a differential feature in a different one. In our investigation numerous hyponyms (differential features) identified in the initial stage become hypernyms in further stages¹⁰.

4 Componential analysis

The below mentioned semantic tree presents relations occurring within the network of notions referring to the analyzed lexical units.



⁸ Gunina, N. A. (2011): Concept vs. meaning: cognitive approach. *Вестник Тамбовского Государственного Технического Университета*. Том 17. № 1: 249.

⁹ Посох, А. В. (1975): *Компонентный анализ семантики*. In А. Е. Супрун (ed.), *Методы изучения лексики* (р. 42). Минск.

¹⁰ Карвовски, С. (2008): *Названия средств дорожного транспорта (парадигматический аспект)*. In Т. А. Лисицына (ed.), *Язык и образование: Межвузовский сборник научных трудов* (р. 47). Великий Новгород.

As illustrated on the above chart, 'car characteristics' would be an archiseme for a group of lexical units referring to the chosen car specification. Basing on the catalogue of collected language units and intuition we can identify two differential semantic features (hyponyms): 'equipment' and 'technical data'. These features become archisemes (hypernyms) of the corresponding thematic groups. 'Equipment' is further differentiated by two semes (hyponyms): 'exterior' and 'interior'. 'Exterior' becomes an archiseme (hypernym) of a lexical set divided by four differential features (hyponyms): 'styling', 'safety', 'functionality', 'wheels and suspension'. At this point we may ascribe lexical units to the first differential feature, namely 'styling', as it becomes a hypernym of the below-mentioned signs:

	American English	British English	Polish	Russian
	Styling	Styling	Stylistyka	Дизайн
1.	Non-metallic paint	Non-metallic paint	Lakier uniwersalny	Цвет кузова стандарт
2.	Metallic paint	Mettalic paint	Lakier metaliczny	Цвет кузова металллик
3.	Pearl paint	Pearl effect paint	Lakier perłowy	Цвет кузова перламутр
4.	Galvanized sheet metal	Galvanised body	Galwanizowane nadwozie	Оцинкованный кузов
5.	Body color / Body-colored door handles	Body-coloured door handles	Klamki lakierowane w kolorze nadwozia	Корпус ручки дверей в цвет кузова
6.	Body color / Body-colored front grille	Body-coloured front grille	Listwy na osłonie chłodnicy w kolorze nadwozia	Решётка радиатора в цвет кузова
7.	Body color / Body-colored bumpers	Body-coloured bumpers	Zderzaki lakierowane w kolorze nadwozia	Бамперы спереди и сзади, окрашенные в цвет кузова
8.	Body color / Body-colored side mirrors with integrated turn signals	Body-coloured door mirrors with integrated indicators	Obudowy lusterek z kierunkowskazami bocznymi lakierowane w kolorze nadwozia	Корпуса зеркал с интегрированными показателями поворота в цвет кузова
9.	Chrome trimmed radiator grille	Chrome trimmed radiator grille	Listwy na osłonie chłodnicy chromowane	Хромированная решётка радиатора
10.	Rear diffuser	Rear diffuser	Tylny dyfuzor	Задний диффузор
11.	Unique badging	Unique badging	Emblematy	Логотипы
12.	Red brake calipers	Red brake calipers	Obudowa zacisku hamulcowego w kolorze czerwonym	Тормозные суппорта окрашенные в красный цвет
13.	Front spoiler	Front spoiler	Spojler przedni	Передний спойлер
14.	Side skirts	Side skirt set	Komplet spojlerów progowych	Комплект накладок на пороги
15.	Rear spoiler	Rear spoiler	Spojler tylny	Задний спойлер
16.	Roof edge spoiler	Rear roof spoiler	Spojler dachowy	Задний спойлер крыши

The second differential feature, that is 'safety', has become a hypernym of the following language units:

	American English	British English	Polish	Russian
	Safety	Safety and security	Bezpieczeństwo	Безопасность
1.	Brake pad wear indicator	Brake pad wear indicator	Czujnik zużycia klocków hamulcowych	Индикация износа тормозных колодок
2.	Front and rear disc brakes	Front and rear disc brakes	Hamulce tarczowe z przodu i z tyłu	Дисковые тормозные механизмы спереди и сзади
3.	Brake light in top center of rear hatch	High level 3rd brake light	Trzecie światło "Stop"	Стоп-сигнал

The third feature 'functionality' has changed its status to a hypernym of these language sings:

	American English	British English	Polish	Russian
	Functionality	Functionality	Funkcjonalność	Функциональность
1.	Power tilting / sliding tinted sunroof	Electric tilt / sliding glass sunroof	Dach szklany, sterowany elektrycznie	Панорамная подъемно-сдвижная крыша с электроприводом и шторкой
2.	LED license plate lighting	Rear number plate lights incorporating LED technology	Oświetlenie tylnej tablicy rejestracyjnej w technologii LED	Светодиодная подсветка номерного знака
3.	Side mirrors with integrated turn signals	Door mirrors with integrated indicators	Obudowy lusterek z kierunkowskazami bocznymi	Корпуса зеркал с интегрированными показателями поворота
4.	Halogen headlights	Halogen headlights	Światła halogenowe	Галогеновые фары
5.	Heat-insulating glass	Heat insulating glass	Termoizolacyjne szyby	Атермальное остекление
6.	Rear window wiper and washer system	Rear screen wash / wipe	Wycieraczka szyby tylnej ze spryskiwaczem	Очиститель / омыватель заднего стекла
7.	Foglights	Front fog lights	Reflektory przeciwmgielne	Передние противотуманные фары
8.	Rear LED lights	Rear lights incorporating LED tech	Światła tylne wykonane w technologii LED	Светодиодные задние фонари
9.	Bi-Xenon high-intensity headlights with LED daytime running lights and adaptive front-lighting system	Bi-xenon headlights with automatic range adjustment, dynamic curve lighting	Reflektory Bi-Xenonowe (bi-ksenonowe / biksenonowe) z funkcją doświetlania zakrętów, regulacją zasięgu, światłami LED do jazdy dziennej	Биксеноновые фары с адаптивным, динамическим поворотным светом и светодиодными ходовыми огнями
10.	Daytime running lights	LED daytime running lights	Światła do jazdy dziennej	Режим дневного света фар
11.	Coming home and leaving home feature	Automatic coming / leaving home lighting function	Coming Home / Leaving Home – funkcja automatycznego włączania światel oświetlających otoczenie	Функция "Coming home" / "Leaving home"
12.	Roof box	Roof box	Bagażnik dachowy	Бокс-багажник
13.	Base carrier bars	Roof bars	Belki bagażnika dachowego	Поперечины на крышу
14.	Bike holder attachment	Bicycle holder	Uchwyt na rower	Крепление для велосипеда
15.	Trailer hitch	Towbar	Hak holowniczy	Тягово-сцепное устройство
16.	Hitch mount bike attachment	Bicycle carrier for the towbar	Bagażnik na rowery do samochodów z hakiem holowniczym	Дополнительное крепление для третьего велосипеда
17.	Kayak holder attachment	Kayak holder	Uchwyt na kajak	Крепление для перевозки лодок
18.	Sliding ski /snowboard attachment	Ski and snowboard holder	Uchwyt na narty i deskę snowboardową	Крепление для лыж или сноубордов
19.	Splash guards	Mudflaps	Chlapacze tylne	Брызговики
20.	Body side moldings	Door side mouldings	Listwy ochronne boczne	Боковые молдинги

The fourth differential semantic feature 'wheels and suspension' becoming a hypernym, unites such lexemes as:

	American English	British English	Polish	Russian
	Wheel and suspension	Wheel and suspension	Koła i zawieszenie	Колеса и подвеска
1.	Anti-theft wheel locks	Anti-theft wheel bolts	Śruby kół z zabezpieczeniem antykradzieżowym	Болты-секретки
2.	Alloy wheels	Alloy wheels	Obręcze aluminiowe	Легкосплавные диски
3.	Steel wheels	Steel wheels	Obręcze stalowe	Литые диски
4.	Low rolling resistance tires	Low rolling resistance tyres	Opony o zmniejszonym oporze toczenia	Шины с низким сопротивлением качению
5.	Wheel covers	Wheel trims	Kołpaki	Колпаки
6.	Temporary-use spare tire	Steel space saver spare wheel	Koło zapasowe, dojazdowe	Аварийное колесо
7.	All-season / All weather tires	All-season tyres	Opony całoroczne / wielosezonowe	Всесезонные шины
8.	Sport suspension	Sports suspension	Zawieszenie sportowe	Спортивная подвеска

Now we are getting back to the second-level differential semantic feature, that is 'interior'. This feature becomes a hypernym of a numerous thematic group, divided by the following differential features: 'styling', 'safety', 'comfort and functionality'. 'Styling' as a hypernym now can be found in meanings of the following signs:

	American English	British English	Polish	Russian
	Styling	Styling	Stylistyka	Дизайн
1.	Leather-wrapped, multi-function steering wheel	Leather trimmed three-spoke steering wheel	Kierownica multifunkcyjna, trójramienna, obszyta skórą	3-спицевое рулевое колесо с кожаной отделкой
2.	Decorative accents	Decorative inserts	Aplikacje dekoracyjne	Декоративные вставки
3.	Front and rear carpet floor mats	Carpet mats, front and rear	Dywaniki materiałowe z przodu i z tyłu	Тканевые коврики спереди и сзади
4.	Brushed aluminum appearance footrest and pedal covers	Aluminium-look pedals, clutch, brake and accelerator	Pedały hamulca, sprzęgła i gazu wykończone aluminium	Металлические накладки на педали
5.	Chrome trimmed surrounds	Chrome-plated surrounds	Chromowane elementy wykończeniowe przełączników	Хромированная окантовка приборов
6.	Cloth seating surfaces	Cloth upholstery	Tapicerka siedzeń materiałowa	Тканевая обивка сидений
7.	Leather seating surfaces	Leather upholstery	Tapicerka siedzeń skórzana	Кожаная обивка сидений
8.	Leather-wrapped shift knob and brake handle	Leather trimmed gear knob and handbrake grip	Dźwignie zmiany biegów i hamulca ręcznego obszyte skórą	Рукоятки рычага КП и ручного тормоза отделаны кожей
9.	Door sill protectors	Door sill trim	Chromowane listwy na progach	Алюминиевые накладки на порогах

The second differential feature, that is 'safety' has become a hypernym of the below-presented lexemes:

	American English	British English	Polish	Russian
	Safety	Safety and security	Bezpieczeństwo	Безопасность
1.	Side airbags	Side airbag system	Poduszki powietrzne boczne	Боковые подушки безопасности
2.	Electronic Stability Control (ESC)	ESP (Electronic Stabilisation Programme)	ESP (elektroniczny system stabilizacji toru jazdy)	Электронная система курсовой устойчивости (ESP)
3.	Anti-lock Braking System (ABS)	ABS (Anti-lock Braking System)	System antypoślizgowy ABS	Антиблокировочная система (ABS)
4.	Anti-theft alarm system	Alarm	Autoalarm	Противоугонная система
5.	Side curtain protection head airbags	Curtain airbag system	Kurtyny powietrzne	Шторки безопасности для защиты головы
6.	Optimized head restraints (driver and front passenger)	Driver's and front passenger's optimized head restraints	Zagłówki z przodu, z regulacją wysokości	Травмобезопасные подголовники на передних сиденьях
7.	Driver's side knee airbag	Driver's knee airbag	Poduszka kolanowa dla kierowcy	Подушка безопасности для защиты коленей водителя
8.	Immobilizer	Electronic engine immobiliser	Immobiliser	Электронный иммобилайзер
9.	Anti-Slip Regulation (ASR)	ASR (Traction Control)	ASR (system przeciwdziałający ślizganiu się kół przy przyspieszaniu)	Антипробуксовочная система (ASR)
10.	Height-adjustable, 3-point, front safety belts	Height-adjustable front three-point seat belts with tensioners	Pasy bezpieczeństwa, bezwładnościowe, 3-punktowe, z regulacją wysokości dla foteli przednich	3-точечные ремни безопасности спереди, с преднатяжителями и регулировкой по высоте
11.	Dual tone horns	Two-tone horn	Sygnal dźwiękowy, dwutonowy	Двухтональный звуковой сигнал
12.	Seat belt reminder, visual and audible	Warning buzzer and light for front seat belts if unfastened	Sygnalizator niezapiętych pasów bezpieczeństwa dla kierowcy i pasażera z przodu, akustyczny	Звуковая и визуальная сигнализация о непристегнутых передних ремнях безопасности
13.	Rear seat head restraints	3 rear head restraints	3 zagłówki z tyłu	3 подголовника на задних сиденьях
14.	Electronic differential lock	Electronic differential lock	Blokada mechanizmu różnicowego	Электронная блокировка дифференциала
15.	LATCH (Lower Anchors and Tethers for children) child seat anchor points	Isofix child seat preparation	Isofix - mocowanie fotelika dziecięcego	Крепления Isofix
16.	First aid kit	First-aid kit	Apteczka samochodowa	Аптечка

In case of the third differential feature - 'comfort and functionality', there is a clear lexical subgroup that can be separated. That is why apart from 'comfort and functionality' we are going to consider a 'multimedia' feature. 'Comfort and functionality' playing the role of a hypernym, unites the below-mentioned units:



	American English	British English	Polish	Russian
	Comfort and functionality	Comfort and functionality	Komfort i funkcjonalność	Комфорт и функциональность
1.	2 front cupholders	Cup holders, front x 2	2 uchwyty na napoje	2 подстаканника спереди
2.	Driver's seat height-adjustable	Driver's seat height adjustment	Fotel kierowcy, z regulacją wysokości	Водительское сиденье с регулировкой по высоте
3.	Easy entry system	Easy entry sliding seats	System Easy Entry dla foteli przednich	Функция Easy Entry для передних сидений
4.	Glovebox illuminated, lockable, with adjustable cooling feature	Glovebox, illuminated, cooled and lockable	Schówek pasażera, zamykany, klimatyzowany i podświetlany	Перчаточный ящик, запираемый с подсветкой и функцией охлаждения
5.	Height-adjustable and telescopic steering column	Height and reach adjustable steering wheel	Kolumna kierownicy z możliwością regulacji w dwóch płaszczyznach	Рулевая колонка, регулируемая по высоте и вылету
6.	Luggage compartment light	Luggage compartment light	Oświetlenie bagażnika	Освещение багажника
7.	Two front reading lights	Reading lights, front x 2	Lampki do czytania z przodu	2 светильника для чтения спереди
8.	60/40-split folding rear seat	Split folding rear seat backrest 60:40	Oparcie tylnej kanapy składane w proporcji 40:60	Спинка заднего сиденья складная с ассиметричным разделением
9.	Roof console with integrated sunglasses holder	Storage compartment in roof console	Konsola dachowa z przykrywanym schowkiem	Ниша в потолочной консоли с крышкой
10.	Front door storage pockets	Storage compartments in front doors	Schowki w drzwiach	Карманы в дверях
11.	Vanity mirrors, illuminated	Vanity mirrors, illuminated	Podświetlane lusterka "make-up" w osłonach przeciwsłonecznych po stronie kierowcy i pasażera	Макияжные зеркала слева и справа
12.	Remote central power locking system	Remote central locking	Centralny zamek sterowany drogą radiową	Центральный замок с дистанционным управлением
13.	Climatic air-conditioning	Air conditioning, 'Climatic' semi-automatic control	Klimatyzacja z regulacją manualną "Climatic"	Кондиционер полуавтоматический «Climatic»
14.	Power windows	Electric windows	Szyby sterowane elektrycznie	Электростеклоподъёмники
15.	Power-operated, heated side mirrors	Electrically heated and adjustable door mirrors	Lusterka boczne, elektrycznie ustawiane i podgrzewane	Наружные зеркала - с электроуправлением и подогревом
16.	Multi-function trip computer	Multifunction computer	Komputer pokładowy	Многофункциональный индикатор / путевой компьютер
17.	Electromechanical power steering with variable assistance	Power-assisted steering, speed-sensitive	Wspomaganie układu kierowniczego, elektromechaniczne, regulowane w zależności od prędkości samochodu	Электромеханический усилитель рулевого управления с переменной эффективностью в зависимости от скорости
18.	2 tie-down hooks in trunk	Bag hooks in luggage compartment x 2	Uchwyty do mocowania bagażu w przestrzeni bagażowej	Крючок для сумок в багажнике
19.	Front center armrest with storage compartment	Front centre armrest, with storage compartment	Podłokietnik z przodu ze schowkiem	Центральный подлокотник спереди с вещевым отсеком
20.	Lumbar support for	Front comfort seats	Fotele komfortowe z	Регулировка поясничного

	driver and front passenger	with height and lumbar adjustment	przodu, z regulacją podparcia odcinka lędźwiowego kręgosłupa	подпора на передних сиденьях
21.	Footwell lighting	Front footwell illumination	Oświetlenie przestrzeni wokół nóg z przodu	Подсветка пространства для ног
22.	Pass-through	Load-through provision	Wnęka do przewożenia długich przedmiotów	Лючок в заднем сиденьи
23.	12V power outlet in rear	12V socket in luggage compartment	Gniazdo 12V w bagażniku	Розетка 12В в багажнике
24.	Rain sensor and self-dimming rearview mirror	Rain sensor and automatic dimming interior rear-view mirror	Czujnik deszczu z automatycznie przyciemnianym lusterkiem wstecznym	Датчик дождя и зеркало заднего вида с автотемнением
25.	Cruise control	Cruise control	Tempomat	Круиз-контроль
26.	Heated front seats	Heated front seats	Podgrzewane fotele przednie	Электроподогрев передних сидений
27.	Shifter paddles	Steering wheel including paddle shift	Łopatkę do zmiany biegów pod kierownicą	Подрулевые клавиши переключения передач
28.	Climatronic, dual-zone automatic climate control system	2-zone electronic climate control	Klimatyzacja dwustrefowa, z regulacją automatyczną "Climatronic"	Климат-контроль двухзонный Climatronic
29.	Park Distance Control	Park Assist	System wspomagający parkowanie "Park Assist"	Park Assist
30.	Rearview camera	Rear-view camera	Kamera cofania "Rear Assist"	Камера заднего вида Rear Assist
31.	Parking sensors	Parking sensors, front and rear	Czujniki parkowania z przodu i z tyłu	Парковочные датчики спереди и сзади
32.	Hill Descent Assist	Hill hold function	Asystent podjazdu	Система Hill Hold Control
33.	Cargo net	Luggage net	Siatka do mocowania bagażu	Багажная сетка
34.	Sun shields	Sunblinds	Ośłony przeciwsłoneczne	Солнцезащитные шторки
35.	Cooler	Cool / warm box	Lodówka – termos samochodowy	Холодильник-термос
36.	Trunk mat	Floor mats	Mata bagażnika	Напольное покрытие для багажного отделения

The 'multimedia' feature has changed its status to a hypernym of such language signs as:

	American English	British English	Polish	Russian
	Technology	In-car entertainment	Multimedia	Мультимедиа
1.	8-speaker sound system with MP3 compatible in-dash CD player, AM/FM radio and AUX-in for portable audio players	Radio system / MP 3 compatible CD player with 8 speakers and AUX-in socket for connection to an external multimedia	System radiowy, z odtwarzaczem CD, MP3, 8 głośnikami, gniazdem AUX-IN	Радиосистема с встроенным CD-MP3-плеером, 8 динамиками, разъемом для подключения внешних аудио-устройств
2.	Bluetooth with audio streaming	Bluetooth telephone connection	Instalacja telefonu Bluetooth	Беспроводное подключение через Bluetooth для мобильных телефонов
3.	Media Device Interface (MDI) with iPod cable	MDI (Multi Device Interface) with USB and iPod connection cables	Złącze multimedialne - Media-In dla iPod / iPhone	Media-IN с разъемом USB
4.	CD changer	CD autochanger	Zmieniarka CD	CD-чейнджер
5.	Touchscreen navigation system	Touch-screen navigation system	System nawigacji satelitarnej z dotykowym wyświetlaczem	Навигационная система с сенсорным дисплеем



6.	Multi-function color display	Multi-function colour display	Wielofunkcyjny kolorowy wyświetlacz	Многофункциональный дисплей
7.	SD card reader	SD card reader	Czytnik kart SD	SD-слот

Finally, we will focus our attention on the first-level differential feature - 'technical data', which changes its status to a hypernym of a thematic group divided by five differential features: 'engine', 'performance', 'fuel consumption', 'dimensions' and 'weights'. The first one unites the following lexemes:

	American English	British English	Polish	Russian
	Engine	Engine	Silnik	Двигатель
1.	Engine displacement	Cubic capacity	Pojemność, l/cm ³	Рабочий объем л/куб. см
2.	Horsepower (SAE) @ rpm	Max. output, PS (01)/kW at rpm	Moc maksymalna, kW(KM) przy obr./min.	Макс. мощность кВт/л.с. /при оборотах/мин.
3.	Maximum torque, lbs - ft @ rpm	Max. torque, lbs.ft/Nm at rpm	Maks. moment obr., Nm przy obr./min.	Макс. крутящий момент Нм/при оборотах/мин.

The second feature 'performance', being a hypernym now, may be found in meanings of such units as:

	American English	British English	Polish	Russian
	Performance	Performance	Osiągi	Динамика
1.	Top speed	Top speed	Prędkość maksymalna	Макс. скорость
2.	Acceleration	Acceleration	Przyspieszenie	Время разгона

The third differential feature, namely 'safety', as a hypernym takes the superordinate position in the following group:

	American English	British English	Polish	Russian
	Fuel consumption	Fuel consumption	Zużycie paliwa	Расход топлива
1.	City	Urban	Cykl miejski	Городской цикл
2.	Highway	Extra-urban	Cykl pozamiejski	Загородный цикл
3.	Combined	Combined	Średnio	Смешанный цикл

As far as the fourth feature is concerned, we may qualify this group of subordinate units:

	American English	British English	Polish	Russian
	Dimensions	Dimensions	Wymiary	Размеры
1.	Length	Length	Długość	Длина
2.	Width	Width	Szerokość	Ширина
3.	Height	Height	Wysokość	Высота
4.	Wheelbase	Wheelbase	Rozstaw osi	Колесная база
5.	Turning circle	Turning circle	Średnica zawracania	Диаметр разворота
6.	Cargo volume (with rear seats folded down)	Maximum luggage capacity with rear seats upright, folded	Objętość bagażnika, siedzenia złożone / rozłożone	Объем багажного отделения (при сложенных задних сиденьях)
7.	Head room	Effective headroom	Odległość od siedzenia do dachu z przodu / z tyłu	Высота салона
8.	Shoulder room	Elbow width	Szerokość wnętrza z przodu / z tyłu	Ширина салона на уровне плеч

The last feature 'weights' is a part of the following lexemes meanings:

	American English	British English	Polish	Russian
	Weights	Weights	Waga	Масса
1.	Unloaded weight	Unladen weight	Masa własna pojazdu	Снаряженная масса
2.	GVWR (gross vehicle weight rating)	Gross vehicle weight	Dopuszczalna masa całkowita	Полная масса
3.	Payload	Payload	Ładowność	Полезная нагрузка
4.	Front and rear axle weight rating	Axle load limit: front and rear	Dopuszczalny nacisk na oś przednią / tylną	Допуст. нагрузка на ось переднюю / заднюю
5.	Towing capacity	Trailer load limits	Dopuszczalna masa holowanej przyczepy	Макс. масса прицепа
6.	Maximum roof cargo weight	Maximum roof load	Dopuszczalne obciążenie dachu	Макс. нагрузка на крышу

5 Comparison of British and American versions

At this point we will focus our attention on comparing British and American language versions. British lexical system exists side by side with the American one. There are numerous British - American word pairs referring to the automotive subject field. But are they interchangeable in all the contexts they might appear in? Words change in meaning according to time, place and circumstance. Word pairs may differ, for example, in the degree of abstraction or formality of discourse. Let us consider the following ones: *window* and *screen*, *cargo* and *load*. In a given context one seems to be more appropriate than the other¹¹. A wrong choice may lead to a mistake or a misunderstanding. David Crystal gives an example of the word 'caravan', which in the meaning of a 'group of travelers in the desert' is common to both microsystems, but in the sense of a 'vehicle towed by a car' it is characteristic only for British English. In American English it is a 'trailer'¹². That is why it is important to make language users aware of how the two dialects differ from each other.

The analyzed material allows to identify numerous word pairs that have been divided into two groups. The first one includes examples when one signifier is being referred to by different units in the two languages. The second one includes word pairs with partial differences in their form.

	Different units		Partially different units	
	AmE	BrE	AmE	BrE
1.	Sheet metal	Body	Exhaust tip	Exhaust tailpipe
2.	Turn signal	Indicator	Body-colored	Body-coloured
3.	Trailer hitch	Towbar	Power tilting / sliding	Electric tilt / sliding
4.	Splash guard	Mudflap	License plate	Number plate
5.	Seating surface	Upholstery	Side mirror	Door mirror
6.	Trunk	Luggage compartment	Rear window	Rear screen
7.	Cargo	Luggage	Base carrier bars	Roof bars
8.	Engine displacement	Cubic capacity	Body side molding	Door side moulding
9.	Horsepower	Maximum output	Wheel lock	Wheel bolt
10.	City	Urban	Wheel cover	Wheel trim
11.	Highway	Extra-urban	Temporary-use spare tire	Steel space saver spare wheel

¹¹ Hayakawa, S. I. (1994): *The Penguin Guide to Synonyms and Related Words* (pp. 8-9). London.

¹² Crystal, D. (2003): *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language*. Cambridge.

12.	Cargo volume	Maximum luggage capacity	Leather-wrapped	Leather trimmed
13.	Towing Capacity	Trailer load limits	Decorative accents	Decorative inserts
14.	Tire	Tyre	Floor mat	Carpet mat
15.			Chrome trimmed	Chrome-plated
16.			Shift knob	Gear knob
17.			Door sill protector	Door sill trim
18.			Safety belt	Seat belt
19.			Storage pocket	Storage compartment
20.			Power windows	Electric windows
21.			Pass-through	Load-through provision
22.			12V power outlet	12V socket
23.			Sun shield	Sunblind
24.			Cooler	Cool / warm box
25.			CD changer	CD autochanger
26.			Unloaded weight	Unladen weight
27.			Gross vehicle weight rating	Gross vehicle weight
28.			Axle weight rating	Axle load limit
29.			Maximum roof cargo weight	Maximum roof load

Moreover there is a group of word pairs differentiated by spelling rules being applied to. Some compounds are solid or hyphenated in British variant and written separately in American version or the other way round.

	Hyphenated, solid or open compounds		Solid compounds	Open compounds
	AmE	BrE	AmE	BrE
1.	First aid	First-aid	Foglight	Fog light
2.	Air-conditioning	Air conditioning	Cupholder	Cup holder
3.	Multi-function	Multifunction		
4.	Rearview	Rear-view		
5.	Touchscreen	Touch-screen		
6.	Heat-insulating	Heat insulating		

6 English automotive borrowings

Finally, we shall emphasize the role of automotive borrowings¹³ in Polish and Russian. It is not surprising that they play a crucial role in both microsystems. It is also not a surprise that English delivers the highest number of borrowings in this field. What is the reason standing behind it? British English has grown over many centuries by incorporating words from Latin, Greek, Celtic, Scandinavian, French and many other languages. English speaking community fought and traded all over the world spreading their language. But also American English has gained recognition and prestige. The United States being currently the most influential country in politics, science, industry or popular arts sets standards in many spheres of our lives, including language¹⁴.

The below-presented table presents explicit examples of calques, foreign words and partial substitutions functioning within Polish and Russian automotive lexicons. It clearly indicates that Russian is more susceptible to the borrowing process than Polish. That is why a short diachronic overview of automotive borrowings in Russian is worth presenting. E. I. Golanova

¹³ Automotive borrowings are often applied to concepts that are not native in the target language. English is usually not only the source of vocabulary but also corresponding concepts.

¹⁴ Hayakawa, S. I. (1994): *The Penguin Guide to Synonyms and Related Words* (p. 8). London.

characterizes two main groups: 'old' borrowings and 'young' borrowings. The first ones appeared in Russian between the beginning of the 20th century and the 1930s, for example, *шоссе, такси, мотор*. The second group includes units borrowed between the 1950s and the 1970s, for example, *паркинг, картинг, кар*¹⁵. Starting from the 1980s the borrowing process has been developing rapidly. The demand for names denoting new real objects is still considerable.

	AmE	BrE	PL	RU
1.	Metallic	Metallic	-	Металлик
2.	Bumper	Bumper	-	Бампер
3.	Diffuser	Diffuser	Dyfuzor	Диффузор
4.	Spoiler	Spoiler	Spoiler	Спойлер
5.	LED	LED	LED	-
6.	Halogen	Halogen	Halogen	Галоген
7.	Bi-xenon	Bi-xenon	Bi-Xenonowy (bi-ksenonowy / bixsenonowy)	Биксеноновый
8.	Coming home and leaving home feature	Coming / leaving home lighting function	Funkcja Coming home / Leaving home	Функция Coming home / Leaving home
9.	Box	Box	-	Бокс
10.	Molding	Moulding	-	Молдинг
11.	Multi-function	Multifunction	Multifunkcyjna	Многофункциональный
12.	Immobilizer	Immobiliser	Immobiliser	Имобилайзер
13.	-	Isofix	Isofix	Isofix
14.	Easy entry	Easy entry	Easy entry	Easy entry
15.	Climatic	Climatic	Climatic	Climatic
16.	Cruise control	Cruise control	-	Круиз-контроль
17.	Climate control	Climate control	-	Климат-контроль
18.	Climatronic	-	Climatronic	Climatronic
19.	-	Park Assist	Park Assist	Park Assist
20.	-	Hill hold	-	Hill Hold Control
21.	CD player	CD player	-	CD-плейер
22.	Bluetooth	Bluetooth	Bluetooth	Bluetooth
23.	CD changer	-	-	CD-чейнджер
24.	Display	Display	-	Дисплей

7 Conclusion

Summing up, the first analysis - componential - conducted at the notions level allowed to identify chains of paradigmatic relations, designate thematic groups, determine superordinate and subordinate units and systematize the investigated automotive lexicon. The obtained results might turn out to be useful while determining ultimate translation equivalents.

The second analysis allowed to identify fourteen cases of two different lexemes referring to the same real object, twenty nine word pairs with partially different forms and eight compounds (open, solid or hyphenated) written down differently in both languages. In this phase we have analyzed fifty one word pairs altogether, which makes thirty seven percent of all the investigated lexical units. Although seemingly very similar, the British English and American English automotive lexicons reveal numerous discrepancies. Thanks to broad exposure to both American and British cultures, language users are able to decode the

¹⁵ Голанова Е. И. (1982): *Номинация в сфере автолексики*. In Д. Н. Шмелев (ed.): *Способы номинации в современном русском языке* (p. 159). Москва.



meaning of 'petrol' and 'gasoline'. However in case of less frequently used words, such as 'trailer hitch' and 'towbar', it is necessary to communicate differences to both communities.

The third analysis proved that American English and British English are important vocabulary sources for Polish and Russian automotive lexicons. The number of identified calques, partial substitutions and foreign words constitutes seventeen percent of the investigated lexis total.

The three investigations show that the presented automotive lexicon is a living and diverse microsystem. Considering the fact that it is an extremely important knowledge transfer tool¹⁶, its further exploration is essential.

¹⁶ Lukszyn, J (ed.) (2005): *Języki specjalistyczne. Słownik terminologii przedmiotowej* (p. 127). Warszawa.



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