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Lab 2 writeup

In Polish, nouns are inflected for case and number, and have the inherent feature of gender (also known as class sometimes). There exist both simple and compound nouns. There are many other divisions of nouns, such as common vs. proper, animate, male human, male non- human, vs. inanimate, concrete vs. abstract, countable vs. uncountable, individual vs. collective.

Stem endings influence the allomorphs of inflectional endings, and sound shifts within the stem can also occur as a result of that. Depending on the paradigm, different endings can mean different things.

In Polish we can identify three genders: masculine, feminine, and neuter. Masculine is further divided into animate and inanimate. There is some regularity to how this is assigned, namely on the basis of the biological gender or gender identity of the referent or the nominative case ending of the word. In the plural, the divisions are slightly different. There is the plural masculine human, plural masculine non-human, plural feminine and plural neuter; the non-human plurals are often grouped together, e.g. in the case of inflecting verbs by gender.

“In the singular, the main declension patterns for nouns are: masculine

animate, masculine inanimate, feminine, and neuter. In the plural the main

declension patterns for nouns are: male human plural and no male human

plural (with no male human plural patterns subdivided into masculine,

feminine, and neuter)” (122)

Declension patterns do not necessarily align with the gender of the noun, e.g. here are singular masculine nouns that can follow the feminine declension pattern, but the adjectives, verbs, etc., will have masculine endings.

In some situations there is a free choice between -a or -u endings; it has been theorized that mobile nouns are more likely to take -a, as are loanwords.

The existing patterns of masculine and male human plural declension patterns include:

1. Stems ending in a velar consonant (k, g, ch, h)
2. Stems ending in a “historically soft” consonant (c, dz, sz, dz, ż, cz, dż)
3. Stems ending in a soft consonant (ś, ć, ź, dź, ń, l, soft b, soft m, soft w, soft p, j)
4. Stems ending in all other consonants – hard stems
5. Stems ending with -anin
6. Stems where a vowel disappears
7. Stems with a penultimate nasal vowel -ą-
8. Irregular plural forms
9. Irregular declensions
10. Emotive -o endings
11. Proper nouns with -o endings
12. Stems ending with -izm

For all of these the plural depends on whether it is a human or non-human noun.

For feminine declension patterns for nouns we also distinguish between:

1. Stems ending in a velar consonant (k, g, ch, h)
2. Stems ending in a “historically soft” consonant (c, dz, sz, dz, ż, cz, dż)
3. Stems ending in a soft consonant (ś, ć, ź, dź, ń, l, soft b, soft m, soft w, soft p, j)
4. Stems ending in all other consonants – hard stems
5. Mixed vowel stems
6. Mixed pattern (the aforementioned masculine gender nouns that in singular follow a feminine declension pattern)
7. Mixed pattern (same as above, but for surnames or proper nouns referring to males ending with -a or -o)
8. Feminine nouns ending in -i
9. Historically soft-stem nouns that do not end with -a
10. Soft-stem nouns that do not end with -a
11. Nouns with a fleeting vowel that do not end with -a
12. Irregular declension due to dual form remnants

For neuter nouns:

1. Stems ending in a velar consonant (k, g, ch, h)
2. Stems ending in a “historically soft” consonant (c, dz, sz, dz, ż, cz, dż)
3. Stems ending in a soft consonant (ś, ć, ź, dź, ń, l, soft b, soft m, soft w, soft p, j)
4. Stems ending in all other consonants – hard stems
5. Mixed pattern emotive nouns
6. Nouns ending with -ę
7. Mixed pattern for nouns ending with -um
8. Irregular plural forms
9. Irregular declension due to old dual form
10. Mixed pattern for some -stwo nouns

Within feminine and masculine paradigms we can distinguish between soft- and hard-stem nouns. These look the same in the nominative, but take different case endings.

Pejorative and augmentative nouns’ gender is based on their form in the nominative. For diminutives of nouns that refer to humans, the actual gender is preferred in most cases. Abbreviations usually take the gender of their main noun, with exceptions. Loan words are invariable if their construction is atypical and does not fit into the paradigms. There are endings to turn some masculine nouns into feminine nouns (-ini/-yni for velar or historically soft consonants, -ka, -owa for others).

There are nouns where the gender can differ depending on “personal preference”; there are also homographs (and homophones) that have different meaning depending on the gender.

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Adj - 218

Verb - 306