

Tracing the Sources of Krystyn Lach-Szyrma's English-Polish Dictionary (1828): Inspired or Borrowed?

Mirosława Podhajecka
University of Opole

1. Introduction

The present paper is part of a larger project in the history of bilingual Polish-English / English-Polish lexicography. Although this dictionary-making tradition is relatively young—in Poland, interest in the language of Shakespeare appeared at the turn of the nineteenth century—it remains largely unexplored. More precisely, no systematic research has so far been conducted to shed light on the theoretical as well as practical aspects of compiling bilingual dictionaries with English as the source or target language, as only one monograph, Piotrowski's *Zrozumieć leksykografię* [*To Understand Lexicography*] (2001), briefly tackles the history of Polish-English / English-Polish lexicography. There are several major reasons for this state of research: the complex historical context, (un)availability of the resources, incomplete bibliographies, and classification problems.

Firstly, due to the tumultuous history of the Polish nation, three areas of interest need to be taken into account in describing this dictionary-making tradition, i.e., the domestic market, the immigrant market, and what I have tentatively called the “Second World War” route.¹ Secondly, a handful of the English-Polish / Polish-English dictionaries, just like the immigrant communities using them, have been scattered around the world, not being easily available, and a few have been lost without a trace. Thirdly,

* I would like to express my gratitude to Arleta Adamska-Sałaciak for her helpful comments on an earlier draft of this paper. Special thanks go also to the anonymous reviewer for valuable suggestions for improving the text, and to the editors of the present volume for their time and assistance. The project I have been working on aims to describe the history of Polish-English / English-Polish lexicography from the first Polish-English glossary ever compiled up to the end of the Second World War (1788–1945). It has been supported by a research grant from the National Centre of Science in Poland (DEC-2011/01/B/HS2/05678).

¹ In 1939, the Soviet Union invaded the eastern parts of Poland, and in the following months 320,000 Poles were sent to labour camps all over Siberia and Kazakhstan (Gurjanow 2008: 27). In June 1941, Russia agreed to release the Poles, and provision was made to create an army of them to be commanded by General Władysław Anders. The former prisoners of the Gulag system began a desperate journey to reach the reception camps on the borders of Iran and Afghanistan, yet by 1942 only a proportion of them were still alive. It is worthy of mention that Polish soldiers and civilians under the protection of the army were offered vocational training in a number of fields (Draus 1993: 209–211), and there was also room for instruction in foreign languages, primarily in English and French. The courses were expected to allow the Poles to communicate internationally but, in the first place, to improve their knowledge of the languages for the sake of a free Poland. Towards the end of the war, however, they may have had another purpose, because for political reasons the Poles were increasingly considering permanent emigration. English teaching aids appeared along the whole journey of General Anders' army, from the Middle East, to Near East, to Western Europe. Since paper was difficult to obtain, they were often printed (or mimeographed) in a limited number of copies. Among them were at least four bilingual dictionaries, i.e., “*Cosmos*” *angielsko-polski. Słownik kieszonkowy...* [*“Cosmos” English-Polish. Pocket Dictionary...*] by Janina Colonna-Walewska and Alexander Then (c. 1940), which came out in Jerusalem; *Słowniczek polsko-angielski* [*English-Polish Dictionary*] (1944) published anonymously in Tehran; Adam Richter's *Słownik zwrotów angielskich. Polish Dictionary of English Idioms, Proverbs and Slangs* (1945), which appeared in Tel-Aviv; and Lucjan Paff's *Kieszonkowy słownik angielsko-polski. The Pocket English-Polish Dictionary* (1946) published in Rome. English and Polish equivalents were also included in a trilingual dictionary entitled *Słownik polsko-angielsko-włoski. English-Polish-Italian Dictionary*; compiled by Ryszard Lewański, a soldier of General Anders' army, it came out in 1946 in Bologna.

the existing reference resources are incomplete (e.g., Lewański 1959; Stankiewicz 1984); even the best bibliography of dictionaries, Grzegorzczak's *Index lexicorum Poloniae* (1967), is now in urgent need of an update. Lastly, it is unclear what should be classified as a dictionary. For instance, volumes traditionally treated as dictionaries include as headwords not only single words but also phrases or entire sentences (e.g., Hecker's *Systematical Vocabulary English-Polish*, 1907), which makes the dictionary material far less homogeneous than is usually assumed.

In this paper I concentrate on the first English-Polish dictionary documented in the metalexical literature, Krystyn Lach-Szyrma's *Słownik angielsko-polski ułożony przez K.L.-S. dla użytku młodzieży Instytutu Politechnicznego* [*English-Polish Dictionary Compiled by K.L.-S. for the Use of Students of the Polytechnic Institute*] (1828). This bilingual and monodirectional dictionary was published as a supplementary volume to a book of readings, *Xiążka wypisów angielskich z słownikiem...* [*English Chrestomathy Book with a Dictionary...*], yet since the dictionary and the reader were originally to comprise only one volume, and they are numbered consistently as such, one can treat both components as a hybrid genre called reader-cum-dictionary. (Cf. Hartmann and James 2001: 69.) Importantly, this approach emphasizes the lexicographical nature of Szyrma's publication, which is simply "English chrestomathy with vocabulary" to a non-lexicographer (Taylor 1988: 138).

The dictionary has been treated as a methodological novelty. Relying on Szyrma's words, Piotrowski (2001: 186) claims that, unlike the vast majority of dictionary-makers, the lexicographer compiled the dictionary on the basis of his reader without resorting to techniques of appropriating somebody else's material. (Cf. Adamska-Sałaciak 2010: 388.) Using modern terminology we would say that, in order to arrive at objective facts about the language, he based the dictionary on a corpus of texts rather than on his own (non-native speaker's) intuition. Consequently, by employing methods atypical of both mono- and bilingual lexicography (see Cormier 2010: 133), the author can thus be regarded as an original compiler, and his dictionary as a truly innovative enterprise. I have attempted to verify this hypothesis through a detailed analysis of the dictionary.

The structure of the paper, which starts with a sketch of Szyrma's biography, reflects the subsequent steps taken to unveil any relationships between the dictionary under analysis and previous works. In order to check whether the hypothesis has been supported by evidence, I contrasted the dictionary's wordlist with the reader. As only a proportion of the lemmas come from the texts, I then looked for English-Polish sources which Szyrma may have used in compiling his wordbook. Library research led to the discovery of a similar publication, i.e., a reader-cum-dictionary, published anonymously in 1813, from which the lexicographer did borrow substantially. However, since Szyrma's dictionary is more extensive than its predecessor, there were a number of entries that could not be copied, which made me search for still other sources. In doing so I took into account English-German, English-French, and English-English dictionaries, on the assumption that Szyrma must have known these languages fairly well. Indeed, there are reasons to claim that the lexicographer created thousands of Polish equivalents by adapting and translating foreign material. In the sections below each research stage has been described in some detail and illustrated with examples. By way of explanation, Polish titles and equivalents throughout the paper are followed by their literal English translations in square brackets. All citations from Polish sources, put between quotations marks, have also been translated into English.

2. The lexicographer

Krystyn Lach-Szyrma, often referred to by his contemporaries and historians simply as Szyrma, was born at Wojtasy, a small village in East Prussia, in 1790.² He came from a peasant family, but since he turned out to be exceptionally intelligent and ambitious, after finishing primary school young Krystyn was further educated at the Królewiec (Königsberg) Gymnasium; he was encouraged to pursue

² The lexicographer was born as Christian Lach, but he changed his first name to Krystian, and then to Krystyn. As to the surname, enrolling at Wilno University Krystyn added the component Szyrma to it to make it sound more "noble" (Chojnacki and Dąbrowski 1971: 31), which would help him overcome feelings of inferiority with his upper-class peers. Thus, it is clear that he was not a descendant of the land-owning family of Szyrma bearing the Dołęga coat of arms, as has sometimes been suggested in his biographies (e.g., Kraszewski 1867: 332).

the career of Protestant minister, the only one available to a boy of his social standing. A few years later Szyrma enrolled at Wilno University, “the beacon of Polish academic life” (Lukowski and Zawadzki 2006: 140), from which he graduated *summa cum laude* in philosophy in 1813. In the next year, Prince Adam Jerzy Czartoryski employed him as a tutor to his nephew, Adam Konstanty, with whom Szyrma soon spent nearly four years (1820–1823) in England and in Scotland (Chojnacki and Dąbrowski 1971: 34–35). Needless to say, the stay abroad provided Szyrma with invaluable cultural and linguistic knowledge which he was to employ in his writings.

On his return to Poland, with a doctoral dissertation in philosophy written in Edinburgh, Szyrma obtained, not without difficulty, the Chair of Philosophy at the University of Warsaw, and in 1827 he became a lecturer in English language and literature at the newly-founded Polytechnic Institute (Pol. *Instytut Politechniczny*), the first technical college in Poland. Yet the political situation in Poland (or, more exactly, the Russian-dominated Congress Kingdom of Poland) worsened dramatically. In November 1830, a national uprising against Russia broke out,³ and after its bloody suppression in 1831, the University of Warsaw was closed down, and thousands of insurgents, including virtually the entire intellectual elite of Poland, had to emigrate; those who remained suffered severe tsarist repression, confiscation of wealth or lifelong exile to Siberia.

In what is now called the Great Emigration, the Poles settled in France, Belgium, Switzerland, Turkey, England and the United States, where they engaged in various political and literary activities in the hope of returning to a free Poland one day. Szyrma sought refuge in England, but he remained an ardent patriot: he lectured widely on the Polish cause, and, thanks to the generosity of Prince Czartoryski, he organized charities to support Polish refugees. Moreover, as a correspondent for Polish newspapers Szyrma informed Poles in the partitioned territories of the hopeless situation of Polish immigrants. In fact, he himself struggled to make ends meet; despite being a secretary to the Literary Association of the Friends of Poland,⁴ he received very low remuneration. His letters written over three decades to Leonard Niedźwiedzki, a writer and publisher, are a first-hand account of the hardships of life in exile (Lach-Szyrma 1832–1865). In 1840, after the death of his first wife Józefa, Szyrma married Sarah Somerville, daughter of a Royal Navy Captain, with whom he spent the rest of his life in Devonport. He died there in 1866 at the age of seventy-six.

In nineteenth-century Poland much emphasis was placed on the teaching of foreign languages, that is, both the highly valued classical languages (Latin and Greek), as well as the modern languages like French, German, Italian and English, whose knowledge was seen as indispensable for an educated European. It comes as little surprise that Szyrma too had a command of foreign tongues; he was proficient in Latin, German, English, and perhaps less so in French, but he wrote mainly in English and Polish. The first of his books, *Letters, Literary and Political, on Poland...* (1823), familiarized English readers with Polish culture and literature set against a broad background of Slavic cultures and literatures. (Cf. Kowalska 1982.) It was the first publication of its kind in England, written to dispel Western misconceptions of Polish cultural heritage. Although the book was enthusiastically received by Thomas Campbell, a strong supporter of Poland, it did not enjoy much success in the long run. Nonetheless, it inspired the English poet John Bowring to compile, with Szyrma’s initial assistance, an anthology of Polish literature.⁵

³ The students of the University of Warsaw organized themselves into troops, which came to be known as the Academic Guard, and elected Szyrma as their commander (Chojnacki and Dąbrowski 1971: 75–80). Despite claims that Szyrma was nominated Colonel on account of his courage on the battlefield, the title, which he used proudly until his death, was purely honorary. (Cf. Lewitter 1954: 4.)

⁴ The Literary Association of the Friends of Poland, founded in 1832 in London, offered material and moral assistance to Polish exiles. Counting as its members Sir Robert Peel, Lord Shaftesbury, Charles Dickens, Lord Talbot, Lord Dudley Stuart, and many other prominent English figures who joined in “reprobation of the tyranny and cruelty of Russia” (Zubrzycki 1956: 32), it survived until 1924.

⁵ Published in 1827 in London under the bilingual title *Wybór poezji polskiej. Specimens of the Polish Poets...*, it covered extracts, in English translation, from the oldest Polish literary masterpieces to the most contemporary ones by the poets Julian Niemcewicz, Kazimierz Brodziński, and, somewhat unexpectedly, Szyrma himself. As has turned out, it was Szyrma who encouraged Bowring to include a sample of his own literary production (Kowalska 1965), which—though not mediocre—cannot in any way equal the works of recognized Polish poets.

In Poland, Szyrma initiated interest in English and Scottish life and institutions through his three-volume publication, *Anglia i Szkocya. Przypomnienia z podróży roku 1820–24 odbytey przez Krystyna Lacha-Szyrmę* [*England and Scotland. Reminiscences of a Journey, 1820–24, Undertaken by Krystyn Lach-Szyrma*] (1828). In contrast to *Letters, Literary and Political, on Poland...*, it was fairly successful financially: the first edition sold out within two years, and it was followed by two subsequent editions. A new edition by Paweł Hertz, with modernized spelling, came out in 1981, whereas the English version, *From Charlotte Square to Fingal's Cave: Reminiscences of a Journey through Scotland, 1820–1824*, appeared in 2004 under the editorship of Mona McLeod, and in the translation by Helena Brochowska. The description of the voyage undertaken by Szyrma, at the expense of the Czartoryski family, was for a long time the only original, richly illustrated source of information on England and Scotland offered to Polish readers.⁶

Being a polyglot, Szyrma also turned to translation, mainly from Polish into English. He rendered into English books by Adam Mickiewicz (*The Books and the Pilgrimage of the Polish nation*, 1833), Ewa Felińska (*Revelations of Siberia by a Banished Lady*, 1852), Nikolay Gogol (*Home Life in Russia*, 1954), and Michał Czajkowski (*The Moslem and the Christian, or Adventures in the East*, 1855). *Przypadki Robinsona* (1830) was the only novel he translated into Polish from a German version of Daniel Defoe's original. Apart from that, throughout his life Szyrma contributed articles to Polish magazines, such as *Ćwiczenia Naukowe* [*Empirical Exercises*] (Warsaw); *Pamiętnik Naukowy* [*Scientific Diary*], *Czas* [*Time*] (Kraków); *Dziennik Wileński* [*Wilno's Weekly*] (Wilno); and *Pamiętnik Lwowski* [*Lwów's Diary*] (Lwów), as well as to British journals, e.g., *Blackwood's Magazine*, *British and Foreign Review* or *New Quarterly Review*. In this way, as has been noted aptly by Taylor (1988: 138), Szyrma acted as a two-way "cultural agent".

3. The reader-cum-dictionary

Szyrma's reader-cum-dictionary was targeted at students of Warsaw's Polytechnic Institute.⁷ In its preface, Szyrma complains that Polish teachers of English have been seriously disadvantaged because of the lack of suitable teaching materials. To support his opinion he mentions the undertakings of two of his predecessors, Antonowicz's *Grammatyka dla Polaków...* [*Grammar for Poles...*] (1788)⁸ and Hausteina's *Grammatyka angielska, czyli sposób łatwy...* [*English Grammar, or an Easy Way...*] (1806), criticizing both of them harshly, the former for being too short, particularly when compared with grammars of English in other vernaculars, and the latter for being a literal translation of a German original.⁹

⁶ It may be interesting to note that, in an attempt to bridge the gap between the British and Polish cultures, Szyrma recorded and explained a number of culture-specific terms (e.g., *blue stockings, curling, docks, gallon, highwaymen, pony, rout, shrimps, spleen, stockjobbers, tartan, weepers* or *Whig*). In doing so, however, he often used popular lore rather than scientific observations; for instance, writing about Londoners he cites the folk etymology of *Cockney*, according to which the name derives from the expression "cock neighs" (Lach-Szyrma 1828c: 45–46).

⁷ A number of foreign language readers were published in Poland before; modelled on Latin textbooks, they were meant to teach translation rather than any practical, let alone oral, competence in the foreign languages. Examples include *Wypisy niemieckie...* [*German Chrestomathy...*] (1810), *Wypisy francuzkie...* [*French Chrestomathy...*] by Gedike (1817) or *Wypisy rossyyskie* [*Russian Chrestomathy*] by Ostrowski (1826), all of which were issued by Józef Zawadzki, the owner of Wilno University's printing house, apparently on his own initiative (Zawadzki qtd. in Turkowski 1937: 83). (Cf. Cybulski 1972.) The originality of Szyrma's handbook lies in its more technical focus.

⁸ Julian Antonowicz, a teacher of English at the Basilians' school at Włodzimierz, wrote the first English grammar for Polish students, which was traditional in that it was Latin-based, rule-oriented, and prescriptive. It was complemented by several additional parts, including the first Polish-English vocabulary ever compiled.

⁹ Benjamin Hausteina was a lecturer in German language and literature at Wilno University, but he taught English courses too. Even if Hausteina's English handbook was indeed an adaptation of a German one, Szyrma's indignant criticism testifies against himself. Firstly, translating foreign language handbooks to make them available to a new audience was a typical practice at that time. Secondly, Szyrma was also involved in rendering or, as he puts it, "Polonizing" a Latin grammar book, a project that he never completed (Chojnacki and Dąbrowski 1971: 37).

Unsurprisingly, faced with such practical constraints, Szyrma received funds to purchase materials necessary to prepare a handbook that would cater specifically to the needs of students of the Polytechnic Institute. The task was completed successfully, and in 1828 Szyrma had his reader-cum-dictionary printed by Gałęzowski and Co., one of the best printing houses in nineteenth-century Warsaw.¹⁰ The handbook, Szyrma argues, provides insights into specialist fields such as astronomy, physics, chemistry, agriculture, etc., at the same time acquainting students with “different genres and writing styles”. In his view, that goal could be reached by using extracts from historical (e.g., Hume, Smollett), moral (e.g., Chesterfield, Franklin, Sterne), and poetic literature (e.g., Shakespeare, Pope, Walter Scott, Byron, Shelley). The author provides references to additional sources he drew on in compiling his reader, including *The Percy Anecdotes* (London, 1821), Hodgkin’s *Mercantile Letters* (London, 1815), and Smith’s *Panorama of Science* (London, 1825).

To make the students’ progress in learning English faster—and the learning process as easy as possible—newly introduced items are explained in bilingual glossaries below the texts, in which English headwords are followed by Polish translation equivalents. In line with the lexicographer’s intentions, the glossaries became the backbone of the dictionary. Yet the compilation process was difficult and monotonous; in the words of the author, “to avoid repetition, every word had to be kept in mind and put into the right space”. He states that since the selection of the texts was inevitably limited, he put into his dictionary five times as many words so that “students reading various English writings ... could find the dictionary a useful aid”. As to the choice of the lexical items, they were “most often used in papers and in colloquial speech”, aiming to represent core English vocabulary.¹¹

The reader, covering 201 pages, is composed of eight chapters: (1) Detached Sentences; (2) Anecdotes; (3) Celebrated Characters; (4) Moral Extracts; (5) Dialogues; (6) Letters, Mercantile Expressions, Weights and Measures; (7) Commerce, Arts and Sciences; and (8) Poetry. The general chapters, which no doubt reflect Szyrma’s philological interests, encompass 118 pages, while those devoted to specialist areas of knowledge take 82 pages. It is not clear whether the handbook was aimed at beginners or more advanced students, but as an independent learning resource it does not appear to have been particularly successful, insofar as it provided no explanations on aspects of English grammar. Moreover, Szyrma does not develop any system of phonetic transcription—there is no information on pronunciation in the dictionary—leaving the students to their own creativity in this respect.

Due to the content of the reader, the dictionary records not only general vocabulary but also specialist terms. Szyrma admits that he provided English technical terms with Polish equivalents thanks to the help of his colleagues teaching the sciences. Speaking of English commercial terms, he noticed that some had no direct Polish equivalents, so he decided to leave them untranslated.¹² As the lexicographer puts it succinctly, “we have had no objects, so there are no names”, which means that, for the designata to exist in a language, it is necessary to first have the denotata. A handful of the dictionary’s commercial terms which would not be recognized easily by Polish users are cross-referenced to the reader, e.g., *bankructwo* ‘bankructwo’ (*ob. st. [see page] 118*) or *underwriter* ‘niżej podpisany’ (*ob. [see] insurer st. [page] 128*). The lexicographer states, quite rightly, that future developments in trade and industry will contribute to the growth of specialist Polish vocabulary.

¹⁰ Together with a group of Polish intellectuals, including Klementyna Hoffmanowa, Karol Hoffman and Łukasz Gołębiowski, Szyrma was in fact one of the shareholders of the company, which aimed at activating the publishing market in Poland (Stankiewicz 1968: 331).

¹¹ Throughout the nineteenth century, English ranked relatively low compared to other foreign tongues, in particular French, which was extremely popular with the educated and fashionable strata of the Polish society. As a result, English-Polish dictionaries were not available, and students learning English had to use two types of bilingual wordbooks, e.g., English-French and French-Polish. This explains why English literature, up to the end of the eighteenth century, was rendered into Polish from French or German, not English versions (Sinko 1961: 17). It should be added that English was adopted as an obligatory school subject as late as the 1930s (Cieśla 1974: 270).

¹² These claims notwithstanding, the number of untranslated headwords (e.g., *blank credit* (*credit*), *dover-fee* (*fee*), *power of attorney* (*power*), *quoted on board* (*to quote*)) is practically negligible. More frequent are untranslated but glossed headwords (e.g., *avoirdupois* ‘waga handlowa’ [*commercial weight*], *demurrage* ‘kara za opóźnienie się okrętu’ [*fine for the delay of a ship*], *hogshead* ‘miara’ [*measure*], *peck* ‘miara zbożowa’ [*corn measure*], *tontine* ‘pobieranie pewnej summy od rocznego dochodu’ [*taking some money off the annual income*]).

The bilingual dictionary, in a separate volume, starts from page 205 and ends with page 434, covering 230 pages. The entries are arranged in two columns on each page, not being preceded by any explanations of the lexicographical principles applied. The headwords are arranged in a strict alphabetical order—the wordlist opens with the entry *A* and ends with the entry *zone*—and the only part of speech which stands out is verbs, which are accompanied by the particle *to*. Taken together, the dictionary records 15,287 entries.

The reader's glossaries include 5,020 headwords, both single words and phrases, with their Polish equivalents. In other words, the textual material of the reader accounts for almost 30% of the dictionary's wordlist, which is considerably more than the author himself anticipated. The same headwords in the glossaries and in the dictionary, however, are often given divergent treatment. In general, capitalized headwords, a wider selection of equivalents, and more varied meanings can be found in the dictionary.

Table 1. Differences between the treatment of headwords in the glossaries and dictionary.

Szyrma's glossaries	Szyrma's dictionary
howling <i>wyjący, huczący</i> . [<i>howling, roaring</i>]	Howling <i>wycie</i> . [<i>howl</i>]
ice-house <i>gmach z lodu utworzony</i> . [<i>a building made of ice</i>]	Ice-house <i>lodownia</i> . [<i>ice-house</i>]
inconceivably <i>niepojęcie</i> . [<i>un-understandably</i>]	Inconceivably <i>w sposób nie dopojęcia</i> . [<i>in a way impossible to understand</i>]
jar <i>skrzypienie, słój</i> . [<i>creeking, a jar</i>]	Jar <i>skrzypienie, niezgoda, gliniany dzban, słój</i> . [<i>creeking, discord, a clay jug, a jar</i>]
letters <i>litery, nauki</i> . [<i>letters / graphic signs, sciences</i>]	Letters <i>nauki, literatura</i> . [<i>sciences, literature</i>]
precipitant <i>działacz osadzający</i> . [<i>depositing agent</i>]	Precipitant <i>śpieszny; działacz osadzający</i> . [<i>rapid; depositing agent</i>]
seriously <i>doprawdy, seryo</i> . [<i>indeed, seriously</i>]	Seriously <i>poważnie, uroczyście, w istocie</i> . [<i>seriously, solemnly, indeed</i>]

Let me comment briefly on the above examples. The only attestation of *howling* in the reader ("the howling blasts") is a present participle, while the same word-form, decontextualized, is later treated as a deverbal noun. *Inconceivably*, by contrast, proves that Polish equivalents recorded in the glossaries must have gone through a verification phase, during which more suitable equivalents were selected for the dictionary. More precisely, the Polish equivalent *niepojęcie* [*un-understandably*] in the reader's glossary has been formed by adding the prefix *nie-* [*un-*] to the stem *pojęcie* [*understandably*]. Although this word-formation process has been a handy way to coin antonyms, the presumable adverbs *pojęcie* or *niepojęcie* have not been documented in Polish texts. To take another example, *precipitant* exemplifies the enlargement procedure typical of the dictionary; even though all the occurrences of this word in the reader refer to its nominal meaning, Szyrma also recorded an adjectival sense.

Nonetheless, there are still headwords for which the lexicographer failed to find fully adequate equivalents in nineteenth-century Polish vocabulary. For instance, 'żarzący' [*glowing*] is an incorrect equivalent of *ardent* [*żarliwy*], 'chodzić napszono' [*to walk in a pompous way*] is juxtaposed with *to strut* [*puszyć się / pysznić się*], and 'strojnogałgański' [*shabby-dressy*], one of Szyrma's creative coinages, is likewise far from a formally and functionally relevant equivalent of *tawdry* [*tandetny*]. Contrasting the lexical systems of Polish and English was clearly a challenging task, and unhelpful equivalents like the ones above show that the compilation was not always free from error.

4. Searching for sources: An anonymous predecessor

It goes without saying that the reader was a rich source of lexicographical data. However, since only approximately 30% of the dictionary's wordlist came from it, I decided to check whether Szyrma used any other sources. To do so, extensive library research was carried out, and my efforts eventually bore fruit when I discovered an anonymous reader-cum-dictionary, very much like that by Szyrma,

which was published by Józef Zawadzki in Wilno in 1813, that is, fifteen years earlier.¹³ Not only do the materials share the same form and didactic function, but even their titles bear some affinity: the reader-cum-dictionary of 1813 is entitled *Wypisy angielskie, czyli Xsięga pożyteczna i łatwa do czytania... po której następuje Słownik Angielsko-Polski...* [*English Chrestomathy, or a Book Useful and Easy to Read... Which is Followed by an English-Polish Dictionary...*], whereas Szyrma's publication is called *Xiążka wypisów angielskich z słownikiem ułożone przez K.L.-S. dla użytku młodzieży Instytutu Politechnicznego* [*English Chrestomathy Book with a Dictionary Compiled by K.L.-S. for the Use of Students of the Polytechnic Institute*]. As can be seen, in addition to *angielski* 'English', both titles include the same key-words, that is, *xięga / xiążka* 'book'; *wypisy* 'chrestomathy'; and *słownik* 'dictionary', which are indicative of the contents and aims of the two handbooks.

When I looked at the newly-discovered volume, I realized immediately that it must have been consulted by Szyrma, but empirical evidence was needed that would substantiate my view. It was assumed that the extent of debt could be established reliably by analyzing three aspects of the corresponding dictionaries: (1) the page layout and typographic conventions; (2) the macrostructures, including the selection of vocabulary and forms of headwords; and (3) the microstructures, including the choice and order of equivalents, metalinguistic information (e.g., glosses), and illustrative examples. The 1813 wordbook will henceforth be abbreviated to WAX, and Szyrma's 1828 dictionary to XWA; the abbreviations come from the first letters of the first three content words in the Polish titles.

The corresponding dictionaries differ in the number of pages and entries, that is, WAX has 5,165 entries in 102 pages, whereas XWA records 15,287 entries in 230 pages. The quantitative differences notwithstanding, the numbers of pages devoted to each letter section, in percentages, are roughly comparable, which implies that Szyrma may have consulted WAX for a general idea of how extensive each letter section should be. (Cf. Appendix 1.) As to the page layout, in both cases each page is divided into two columns, and the major difference is that Szyrma introduces italics for the Polish equivalents. The headwords in both dictionaries are capitalized, and they are shifted slightly to the left, which helps users to better discern the entry structure. There is a comma between the headword and the first equivalent in WAX, and subsequent meanings within the entry are numbered. XWA, by contrast, does not use any punctuation between the headword and the first equivalent; equivalents recorded in a linear fashion are divided by commas, and equivalents for different meanings are, at least in a proportion of cases, divided by semi-colons. There are a few grammatical labels in WAX,¹⁴ but no labelling is applied by XWA. Additionally, in WAX irregular verbs are marked with an asterisk, not being accompanied by any symbol in XWA.

Speaking of the macrostructures, the lemmatization in both cases is slightly inconsistent, with a tendency towards recording derivatives and compounds as main entries rather than run-on entries. In this way, we come across sets of formally and semantically related headwords which are lemmatized separately, e.g., *good / good-breeding / good-nature / good-natured / good-naturedly / goodness* (WAX) and *good / goodliness / goodness* (XWA). There are occasional mistakes in the lemmatization procedures of both WAX and XWA. As for the former, the following lemmas are ordered inconsistently: *to fledged, fleece, fleet, June, to jump, Juno; opportunity, opponent, to oppose; polite, politician, politeness*. The latter records, in supposedly alphabetical order, such lemmas as *to boast, boasting, to board; to count, counting-house, countenance; ladyship, to log, laic*.

Characteristically, both lexicographers record variant spellings for a number of headwords. Upon close examination, the variants cover different categories of lexical items, from orthographic variants (e.g., *cooly/coolly*), to morphological variants (e.g., *mathematic / mathematical; trod / trodden*), to reduced forms (e.g., *mountain / mount; Thomas / Tom*), to genetically related synonyms (e.g., *juryman / juror*), to genetically unrelated synonyms (e.g., *unmingled / unmixed*). As no information is provided on the more frequent word-forms, the main entry-word seems to be the preferred spelling. In fact, this is

¹³ I am grateful to Ms Emilia Karwasińska of Adam Mickiewicz University Library for making the volume available online via Wielkopolska Biblioteka Cyfrowa, one of the digital libraries of Poland (<http://www.wbc.poznan.pl/dlibra>). The collection of readings has been examined by Koniewicz (2004).

¹⁴ The labels are as follows: r. = rzeczownik [noun]; przym. = przymiotnik [adjective]; przys. = przysłówek [adverb]; przyi. = przyimek [preposition]; l.mn = liczba mnoga [plural form]; c.p.n. = czas przeszły niezłożony [Past Simple Tense]; Im. = imiesłów [participle]; wł. = właściwie [properly]; z. = ząd [hence].

not always so, particularly in the case of WAX. For instance, according to the OED, *encrease* is an obsolete form of *increase*, *fixt* is an erroneous word, and *Polander* was already outdated in English in the nineteenth century. Since few synonyms are in fact interchangeable in different contexts—absolute synonymy is admittedly an elusive concept (Murphy 2003: 161)—semantic nuances of the variant forms (e.g., *illumine* / *illuminate* or *restiff* / *restive*) have inevitably been suppressed in this way. It is worthy of mention that XWA records variants in a consistent way (they are bracketed), whereas WAX resorts to a range of additional glosses (e.g., *iak iedno* [*same as*], *i* [*and*], *takoż* [*also*], *zamiast* [*instead of*], *albo* [*or*]), as can be seen in Table 2 below.

Table 2. Examples of synonyms to headwords in WAX and XWA.

WAX	XWA
to Await (<i>iak iedno wait</i>)	Enclosure (<i>inclosure</i>)
Cooly, <i>i</i> Coolly	Gaol (<i>jail</i>)
to Encrease (<i>takoż Increase</i>)	To illumine (<i>illumine, illuminate</i>)
Fixt, <i>zamiast fixed</i>	Lantern (<i>lanthorn</i>)
Jelly, (<i>takoż Gelly</i>)	Notoriety (<i>notoriousness</i>)
Panegyric <i>i</i> Panegyrick	Pole (<i>Polander</i>)
Scull, (<i>albo skull</i>)	Rabbi (<i>rabbin</i>)
Solicitation (<i>sollicitation</i>)	Restiff (<i>restive, resty</i>)

Summarizing the quantitative results, 630 headwords alone come from WAX, and in the case of as many as 3,772 entries Szyrma borrowed both the headword and at least one Polish equivalent. In other words, XWA's macrostructure includes 4,402 headwords taken directly from WAX. Although the number of headwords and, partly, entries borrowed accounts for only 29% of Szyrma's wordlist (i.e., 4,402 headwords out of 15,287), at the same time it means the use of WAX's wordlist in 85% (i.e., 4,402 headwords out of 5,165). Apart from that, Szyrma may have created derivatives of WAX's words, in this way arriving at translation equivalents of additional headwords without much effort.

As for the microstructures, there are several aspects in which Szyrma's dictionary draws on WAX, either directly or in a more indirect way. The majority of entries in both dictionaries are short, recording one or more equivalents for one or two meanings or senses. Sometimes the choice of equivalents in XWA mirrors that in WAX closely; in fact, Szyrma appropriates many English headwords and their corresponding Polish forms almost verbatim.¹⁵

Table 3. Examples of identical entries in WAX and XWA.

WAX	XWA
Allegiance, <i>wierność i posłuszeństwo poddanych</i> .	Allegiance <i>wierność i posłuszeństwo poddanych</i> .
Bigness, <i>grubość, wielkość</i> .	Bigness <i>grubość, wielkość</i> .
Indigence, <i>ubóstwo, niedostatek</i> .	Indigence <i>ubóstwo, niedostatek</i> .
to Listen, <i>szłuchać czego, podsłuchiwać</i> .	to Listen <i>szłuchać czego, podsłuchiwać</i> .
Precious, <i>kosztowny, drogi</i> .	Precious <i>kosztowny, drogi</i> .
Recompense, <i>nagroda</i> .	Recompense <i>nagroda</i> .
Trance, <i>zachwycenie, odejście od zmysłów</i> .	Trance <i>zachwyty, odejście od zmysłów</i> .

In other cases, the order of equivalents is modified, selected equivalents from WAX are excluded or new words are added. Tracing adaptation techniques one can see that Szyrma uses different affixes to form different word-forms, e.g., *męka* [*agony*] → *męczarnia* [*torment*] or *rozciągniony* [*stretched*] → *rozciągnął* [*stretchy*]. He also replaces WAX's equivalents with near-synonyms, e.g., *rozpusta*

¹⁵ Some of the Polish equivalents in Szyrma's reader also seem to be based on WAX, e.g., *animation* 'ożywienie'; *censure* 'nagana, krytyka'; *civility* 'grzeczność'; *distemper* 'choroba'; *engagement* 'potyczka, utarczka'; *farewell* 'pożegnanie, bądź zdrów'; *intuition* 'pojęcie, poznanie na pierwszy rzut oka'; or *science* 'nauka, wiadomość'. This suggests that the lexicographer had the anonymous reader-cum-dictionary at his disposal from the beginning of his compilation process.

[*debauchery*] → *rozwiązłość* [*dissolution*] or *ochoczy* [*eager*] → *żywy* [*lively*]. A specific difference between WAX and XWA pertains to the form of verbs. It would be tempting to think that while WAX records verbs in the imperfective aspect (e.g., *przekupować* [*to keep on bribing*]), Szyrma prefers to put them in the perfective one (e.g., *przekupić* [*to bribe*]), yet there are too many exceptions to treat it as a consistent rule.¹⁶ In Table 4 below, the word-forms borrowed from WAX are written in bold, whereas synonyms of WAX's equivalents are underlined.

Table 4. Examples of differences in microstructure between WAX and XWA.

WAX	XWA
to Corrupt, zwiędź, przekupować.	to Corrupt <i>zepsuć</i> , <i>uwieść</i> , <i>przekupić</i> .
Extensive, rozciągniony, rozdęty.	Extensive <u><i>rozległy</i></u> , <u><i>rozciągły</i></u> .
Hideous, obrzydliwy, szkaradny, bezecny.	Hideous <i>obrzydły</i> , <i>bezecny</i> .
to Improve, naprawić, doskonalszem uczynić.	to Improve, <u><i>poprawić</i></u> , <u><i>ulepszyć</i></u> .
Luxury, rozpusta, marnotrawstwo.	Luxury <u><i>zbytek</i></u> , <i>marnotrawstwo</i> , <u><i>rozwiązłość</i></u> , <i>rozpusta</i> .
to Oblige, obowiązać, zniewolić, przyniewolić, przez dobre czyny zniewolić.	to Oblige <i>zobowiązać</i> , <i>zniewolić</i> .
Pedantry, pedanterya, bakalarstwo	Pedantry <i>bakalarstwo</i> , <i>pedanterya</i> .
Torture, tortura, męka, ból.	Torture <i>tortura</i> , <i>męczarnia</i> , <i>ból</i> .

Judging by the stylistic norms of the early nineteenth-century Polish, the “corrected” equivalents are often more suitable (e.g., *dosięgnąć* instead of *dosiądz* [*to reach*]), but others sound somewhat awkward (e.g., *obrzydły* instead of *obrzydliwy* [*disgusting*]). This implies that at least one of the reasons why Szyrma did not copy blindly from his predecessor was to blur the formal evidence of borrowing.

The dictionaries under analysis include a great deal of interesting cross-linguistic material which would be difficult to comment on even in a much longer paper. Therefore, it is only possible to focus on selected examples. One such headword is *Moor*, in both dictionaries translated as ‘Murzyn’ [*Negro*]. This meaning is claimed to have come into use from *A Complete Dictionary English-Polish / Polish-English...* (1849–1951)¹⁷ consulted during the translation of Shakespeare’s *Othello* into Polish (Birkenmajer 1934: 13–14). Despite the fact that the names *Maur* [*Moor*] and *Murzyn* [*Negro*], by referring to swarthy inhabitants of Africa, overlap semantically, the latter is pointed out as less appropriate. Now, this unlucky equivalent has been traced back first to 1828, and then to 1813.¹⁸

Both WAX and XWA record some broadly-interpreted illustrative examples.¹⁹ More exactly, there are 400 entries illustrated with examples of usage in WAX (1–2 examples per entry), and twice as many in XWA (2–4 examples per entry), which means that they are more evenly distributed in WAX. My analysis indicates, quite surprisingly, that in contrast to WAX the majority of examples in XWA are not based on the reader. Even more amazingly, numerous contextual uses which Szyrma included in the glossaries did not make their way into XWA, e.g., *in fine* ‘nakoniec’; *by way of excuse* ‘dla wymówki, aby uniewinnić’; *fits of laughter* ‘śmiechy’; *bears affinity* ‘ma związek’; *to do justice* ‘oddać

¹⁶ Cf. *to bray*; *to break*; *to cultivate*; *to encourage*; *to forebode*; *to intermeddle*; *to nestle*; *to retail*; *to retard*, etc.

¹⁷ The bilingual dictionary was compiled single-handedly by Erazm Rykaczewski, another Polish émigré in the West, but was published anonymously. The manuscript is claimed to have been purchased by Aleksander Chodźko, a Polish orientalist (Grzegorzczak 1967: 72), whose name appeared on all the subsequently published editions.

¹⁸ Szyrma, however, had a vital advantage over his predecessor, as he could have consulted Samuel B. Linde’s richly-documented dictionary of Polish (1807–1814). Although Linde provides only one quotation from literary sources in the entry *Maur*, there is some evidence that this ethnic name had been used in Polish texts before (e.g., *Krótki rys historii i literatury polskiej* [*A Sketch of Polish History and Literature*] by Tomasz Szumski, 1807). *Maur* is also found in Cervantes’ famous story of Don Quixote translated into Polish by Franciszek Podoski (1786), and in the epic work *Os Lusíadas* by the Portuguese poet Luís Vaz de Camões translated by Jacek Przybylski (1790).

¹⁹ These are often short fixed phrases, like *on the contrary* ‘przeciwnie’ (*contrary*); *at first* ‘naprzód’ (*first*); *at home* ‘w domu’ (*home*); *for my own part* ‘co do mnie’ (*part*) or *to have recourse* ‘uciekać się’ (*recourse*), which must have been selected at random from a vast pool of examples. What comes as a surprise is that neither WAX nor XWA records any phraseology, XWA’s *hook or crook* being one of the rare exceptions.

sprawiedliwość'; *disabled soldier* 'inwalid'; or *to mouth out* 'rozwodzić, ogłaszać'. It is clear that not all of them represent core English vocabulary, but excluding illustrative examples taken from authentic texts was no doubt a waste of the lexicographer's effort and resources.

A handful of XWA's illustrative examples come directly from WAX, e.g., *bring up* 'wychować' (*bring*); *he chanced to come* 'przypadkiem przyszedł' (*to chance*); *my life is at your disposal* 'moje życie zostaje w twoich rękach' (*disposal*); *he is said to have* 'powiadają że miał' (*to say*); or *to be well off* 'dobrze wyjść' (*well*). Other examples may have been created on the basis of the lexicographer's knowledge of English, the more so because they are not particularly sophisticated: *the play is acted* 'już po teatrze' (*to act*); *to call up* 'obudzić' (*to call*); *merry fellow* 'wesół człowiek' (*fellow*); *he performs admirably* 'on gra przecudnie' (*to perform*); or *he is within my view* 'mogę go dostrzedz' (*view*). But, then, there are a number of entries, including function word entries (e.g., *by* or *off*), which are too well structured to have been made entirely from scratch. One needs to pose a question: did Szyrma have another source of lexicographical data?

5. Searching for sources: Bilingual dictionaries

To satisfy both my curiosity as well as intuitive feeling, I decided to search for potential sources of Szyrma's illustrative examples, knowing that it may be hard to establish them beyond all doubt, because much of the same material is recorded in various European dictionaries. (Cf. Cormier and Fernandez 2004: 303.) Since Szyrma was fluent in German, and probably knew some French, I took into account primarily English-German and English-French dictionaries. After contrasting samples of material and publication dates I came to the conclusion that the lexicographer must have used at least two dictionaries: Nathan Bailey's *English-German Dictionary*, adapted for the German users by Johann Anton Fahrenkrüger (henceforth, Bailey-Fahrenkrüger), and Abel Boyer's *Royal Dictionary Abridged in Two Parts*. As I was unable to establish which editions Szyrma had used, in the case of the former I refer to its tenth edition (1801), and in the case of the latter—to its 1755 edition.²⁰ To make things worse, the examples credited to Bailey-Fahrenkrüger and Boyer respectively are impossible to count precisely. Firstly, both dictionaries include a number of comparable or even identical illustrations of usage.²¹ According to Starnes and Noyes (1991: 112), in compiling his *Universal Etymological English Dictionary* (1727), and most probably *Dictionarium Britannicum* (1730), Bailey consulted other works current at that time, including Boyer's *Royal Dictionary Abridged*. Secondly, Szyrma often modified illustrative examples in a way which makes it hard to tell whether they were taken from Bailey-Fahrenkrüger, Boyer or both. (Cf. *to ply one's books* in Table 5.)

In the table below, in order to indicate the evident area of overlap, several contextual uses in XWA have been juxtaposed with corresponding ones in Szyrma's sources: Boyer, Bailey-Fahrenkrüger, and WAX.

²⁰ It should be noted that this edition draws heavily on versions of Bailey's dictionary adapted by other German authors, i.e., Theodor Arnold (third ed., 1761), and Anton Ernst Klausning (fifth ed., 1778).

²¹ I assumed that Szyrma was more proficient in German than he was in French, as he used to give German lessons as a student of Wilno University, while due to his peasant background he never learnt French communicatively at home, like children of the Polish nobility who could afford private tutors. Therefore, Bailey-Fahrenkrüger was the first dictionary to be consulted, and if the example was not there, I looked it up in Boyer.

Table 5. Selected illustrative examples in XWA and its three potential sources.

Boyer	Bailey-Fahrenkrüger	WAX ²²	XWA
To break ground	to Break ground	---	To break ground
---	---	bursting into the room	Bursting into the room
To burst with laughing	to Burst out a laughing	he burst a laughing	He burst a laughing
To be put out of countenance	To be out of Countenance	out of countenance	To be out of countenance
I shall get it done	To Get done	---	To get done
To go forward in learning	to go Forward	---	He goes forward in learning
He means no harm	there is no Harm in it	---	There is no harm in it
To do one harm	I intend not to do you any Harm	---	To do harm
To ply one's book, or study	to Ply his books	---	To ply one's books
---	I Want to speak to somebody	---	I want to speak to you
---	If the Weather proves wet	---	If the weather proves wet

It needs to be mentioned that XWA's illustrative examples are located within the entry without any clear-cut plan. By contrast, Boyer and Bailey-Fahrenkrüger followed more consistent methodologies in this respect, providing examples for the particular meanings and/or senses, often in a straight alphabetical ordering. Importantly, since both dictionaries are much larger in scope than XWA, Szyrma must have deliberately omitted a sizable number of headwords and illustrative examples they recorded, apparently to keep his work of reference within practicable limits.

Bailey-Fahrenkrüger's dictionary may have also been a source of XWA's headwords and, indirectly, Polish equivalents. Even though it is difficult to determine with any degree of authority to what extent the bilingualized dictionary influenced XWA, some of the Polish equivalents seem literal—and therefore not infrequently distorted—translations of German equivalents. Table 6 provides selected examples.

Table 6. Polish equivalents modelled on Bailey-Fahrenkrüger's German definitions.

Headword	Bailey-Fahrenkrüger	XWA
Housewarming	<i>Der Einzugsschmaus</i>	<i>obchód polania domu przy pierwszym jego zajęciu</i> [the ceremony of pouring over the house on first moving into it]
(Main) ride upon the main	<i>auf der See fern</i>	<i>żeglować po morzu</i> [to sail over the sea]
Morris-dance	<i>Der Mohrentanz</i>	<i>taniec murzyński</i> [a Negro dance]
Mort	<i>Der Stoß ins Hifthorn nach Erlegung des Hirsches</i>	<i>zatrąbienie w róg po zabiciu jelenia</i> [sounding the horn after killing a deer]
to Pimp	<i>Hurenwirtschaft treiben</i>	<i>frymarczyć kobietami</i> [to barter women]
Streetwalker	<i>der Pflastertreter</i>	<i>zbijacz bruku, próżniak</i> [a loungeur, a sluggard]
(Time) to keep time	<i>den Tact halten</i>	<i>zachowywać takt</i> [to keep time / measure or to be tactful]

²² The illustrative examples in WAX suggest that the anonymous lexicographer, whom I have been unable to identify so far, must have also consulted Bailey's, Boyer's or other well-known dictionaries.

It is worth remarking briefly on some of them. The OED defines *housewarming* as ‘the action of celebrating the entrance into the occupation of a new house or home with a feast or entertainment’. In the nineteenth century, the equivalent meaning was found in the German noun *der Einzugsschmaus*, and in the Polish fixed phrase *polewanie ogniska* [*pouring over the fire*]. (Cf. Trojański’s *Ausführliches polnisch-deutsches Handwörterbuch...*, 1835–1836; and the so-called *Słownik Wileński* [*Wilno’s Dictionary*], 1861.) *Polewanie ogniska*, here in its figurative sense, takes its name from the ritual of pouring over the fire drops of drinks raised to toast a new home, in an attempt to ward off potential misfortunes (Szromba-Rysowa 1981: 167; Maj 1987: 75). Szyrma’s equivalent corresponds to it semantically, but it has not been attested in texts. *Morris-dance* ‘a grotesque dance performed by persons in fancy costumes, usually representing characters from the Robin Hood legend, esp. Maid Marian and Friar Tuck’ (the OED) points to another cross-linguistic problem. Bailey-Fahrenkrüger provides *Morris-dance* with the equivalent ‘Mohrentanz’, whose constituent element *Mohr* denotes both ‘Moor’ and ‘Negro’, as Johann Adelung’s influential *Grammatisch-kritisches Wörterbuch der hochdeutschen Mundart...* (1798) makes clear. The Polish counterpart, ‘taniec murzyński’, shows that although the German term seemed more transparent than the English one, Szyrma did not convey the proper sense of it. The entry *to pimp*, by contrast, suggests that the lexicographer took a prescriptive approach towards the vocabulary described; he prefers a stylistically neutral expression to a vulgarity, even though the latter is part and parcel of the German expression.²³ As to *streetwalker*, the original meaning ‘one who walks in the street’, as defined by the OED, is not expressed adequately by Szyrma’s pejorative equivalents, whose inclusion in XWA is all the more interesting that most nineteenth-century monolingual dictionaries define *streetwalker* as ‘a common prostitute’. Nonetheless, in his exhaustive English-Polish / Polish-English dictionary (1849–51) Erazm Rykaczewski kills two birds with one stone, defining *streetwalker* as ‘włóczęga brukowy; kurwa uliczna’ [*a loungeur; a street whore*].

6. Searching for sources: Monolingual dictionaries

Upon scrutiny, a number of XWA’s translation equivalents has turned out to be unrelated to Bailey-Fahrenkrüger’s German equivalents. Looking for a solution to this problem I came up with the idea that Szyrma, who was clearly fluent in English, may as well have used English definitions to create Polish equivalents. A few samples of my own back translations of Szyrma’s Polish wordings, particularly those which struck me as peculiar in some way, pointed to two monolingual dictionaries, *A Complete Dictionary of the English Language...* by Thomas Sheridan (1789), and *The Pronouncing Dictionary and Expositor of the English Language...* by John Walker (1807).²⁴ Another dictionary that appears to have been a source of data, primarily headwords, is Noah Webster’s *Dictionary of the English Language; Compiled for the Use of Common Schools in the United States* (1817); Szyrma’s reliance on it is insignificant in the first letter sections but increases considerably as the lexicographer advances through the alphabet.²⁵ It is again hard to differentiate between the dictionaries under analysis, as many entries they include are roughly comparable. A few examples from Walker’s *Pronouncing Dictionary and Expositor*, which came to be regarded as an authority not only on pronunciation, have been presented in Table 7. I have focused specifically on headwords accompanied by fully-fledged definitions rather than strings of synonyms. As can be seen below, the English definitions were adapted and translated, sometimes even word for word, into Polish.

²³ Szyrma does record a few vulgar words, e.g., *strumpet* ‘kurwa’; *to shit* ‘wypróżnić się; *to piss* ‘szczać; *uryna*’ or *whore* ‘nierządnicza, kurwa’, but these are in fact isolated examples. In general, the choice of vocabulary is clearly based on the concept of language correctness, as determined by the purpose of the reader-cum-dictionary.

²⁴ Needless to say, the two lexicographers were famous British orthoepists, whose dictionaries Szyrma must have consulted himself for their useful remarks on pronunciation.

²⁵ Szyrma may have decided half-way that, instead of selecting headwords from extensive dictionaries, it would be easier, and more reliable at the same time, to use a small dictionary whose wordlist could be copied without the need to introduce any significant changes. For example, most of XWA’s wordlist in the letter M overlaps Webster’s. A handful of XWA’s headwords apparently taken from Webster, e.g., *tawner* ‘białoskórnik’, are not found in the dictionaries that I consulted. In this case, *tawner* turns up to be an erroneous word-form of *tawer*.

Table 7. Examples of XWA's equivalents based on Walker's definitions.

Walker	XWA
Cabin <i>A small room; a small chamber in a ship; a cottage, or small house.</i>	Cabin <i>pokoik na okręcie.</i> [<i>a small room / chamber in a ship</i>]
Clare-obscuro <i>Light and shade in painting.</i>	Claro-obscuro <i>światło i cień w malowaniu.</i> [<i>light and shade in painting</i>]
Collier <i>A digger of coals; a dealer in coals; a ship that carries coals.</i>	Collier <i>kopacz węgla, okręt do przewożenia węgla.</i> [<i>a digger of coals, a ship for carrying coals</i>]
Filbert <i>A fine hazel nut with a thin shell.</i>	Filbert <i>gatunek orzechów z cienką łuską.</i> [<i>a kind of nut with a thin shell</i>]
Hearse <i>A carriage in which the dead are conveyed to the grave; a temporary monument set over a grave.</i>	Hearse <i>wóz zamknięty do wożenia zmarłych.</i> [<i>a covered carriage for conveying the dead</i>]
Kali <i>Sea weed of the ashes of which glass was made, whence the word Alkali.</i>	Kali <i>zielsko morskie używane do robienia szkła.</i> [<i>sea weed used to make glass</i>]
Pygmy <i>A dwarf, one of a nation fabled to be only three spans high, and after long wars to have been destroyed by cranes.</i>	Pygmy <i>karzeł pigmejczyk na trzy piędzie wysoki.</i> [<i>a Pygmy dwarf three spans high</i>]
Weeper <i>One who sheds tears, a mourner; the white border on the sleeve of a mourning coat.</i>	Weeper <i>placzek; biała obwódka na sukni żałobnej.</i> [<i>a mourner; a white border on a mourning coat</i>]
Xyster <i>A surgent's instrument to scrape and shave bones with.</i>	Xyster <i>nóż do skrobania kości.</i> [<i>a knife for scraping bones</i>]

If Szyrma used other lexicographers' definitions as the source of his Polish equivalents, which indeed seems to be the case, he favoured brief rather than descriptive equivalents, and he often selected meanings and/or senses to be described. For instance, out of three different meanings of the headword *cabin*, as recorded by Walker, Szyrma adopted and translated accordingly only one. It should be underlined that while the English definitions provided some informative details of the concepts described, by truncating the definitions Szyrma failed to recreate the message, as a result of which his equivalents are sometimes ambiguous. To provide a specific example, English users looking up *Xyster* could find out that it was a surgical instrument, whereas Polish users were told that it was 'a knife for scraping bones', which could be mistakenly associated with the wrong contexts (e.g., a knife to scrape killed game with). In this way, the Polish translation (or, more precisely, translated) equivalents may have contributed to the users' comprehension problems.

7. Conclusions

My research has brought three major findings. Firstly, as it turns out, Szyrma's dictionary (XWA) is not the first English-Polish lexicographical publication in Poland, being preceded by a similar wordbook (WAX) published anonymously 15 years earlier. Secondly, it is also far less innovative than has generally been envisaged; although the dictionary does include a proportion of words excerpted from the reader and translated, it also borrows headwords, Polish equivalents and a handful of illustrative examples from WAX. Thirdly, many of Szyrma's examples of usage are taken from at least two other bilingual dictionaries: Boyer's *English-French Dictionary* (1755), and a bilingualized edition of Bailey's dictionary (1801). An English-English dictionary, possibly John Walker's renowned *Critical Pronouncing Dictionary and Expositor* (1807), may have been an additional source of Polish equivalents, translated literally or adapted from the English definitions. Szyrma probably drew also on Webster's school dictionary (1817) for portions of his own wordlist.²⁶

²⁶ It should be underlined, however, that my comparative method has to some extent been constrained by the fact that I did not have access to all potential dictionaries that Szyrma may have used.

In other words, the lexicographer had three potential sources for his dictionary: (1) the book of readings; (2) the anonymous reader-cum-dictionary; (3) and English-German, English-French, and English-English dictionaries. Although it is difficult to estimate which of these served as Szyrma's base, the scheme of dependencies looks as follows:

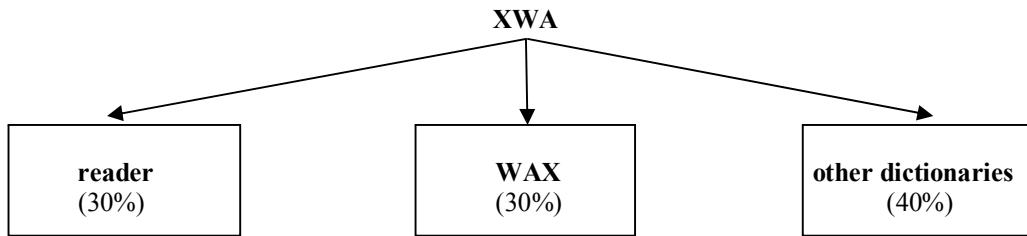


Fig. 1. XWA's hypothetical scheme of dependencies.

I took it for granted that Szyrma had been inspired by one or more dictionaries, yet, with 70% of the data derived from external sources, XWA is an example of heavy borrowing rather than mere inspiration. However, what seems at first sight to be borrowing or, to put it less mildly, plagiarism, may turn out to be more fine-grained strategies of lexicographical decision-making (McConchie 2012), diverging from the beaten track of copying verbatim. Seen from this angle, Szyrma appears to have been more of an “adapter” than a blatant plagiarist. Moreover, by including his own translations of English or German definitions, Szyrma was trying his hand at bilingualization, which—by being interlingual, not intralingual—is an adaptation technique of a quite different quality.²⁷ Therefore, it is not the borrowing that the author should be criticized for but unwillingness to acknowledge his debt.

How should Szyrma's endeavour be evaluated then? Interest in language and literature, practical experience in translation and a working knowledge of English made Szyrma an ideal candidate for a dictionary compiler. That he could have created a dictionary in line with the “corpus methodology” is clear to anyone who has read his writings, so it is unclear why he resorted to borrowing from other authors. Although one can only speculate about the lexicographer's motives at this juncture, he must have aspired to make a good dictionary, that is, one that would be a helpful tool in the reception of English texts. Compiling it, Szyrma must have realized that, to achieve this aim, a lexicographer is compelled to go beyond a random selection of texts and/or headwords. It is clear that turning to prestigious mono- and bilingual dictionaries was to guarantee the reliability of his enterprise.

I hope to have shown that the assumptions concerning Szyrma's English-Polish dictionary are no longer valid when the material is looked at more closely. In fact, my findings have implications for the entire history of English-Polish / Polish-English lexicography, insofar as all the dictionaries it covers need to be examined systematically by means of a comparative method. It goes without saying that tracing an intricate network of influences between the dictionaries is not the only task of a metalexigrapher, but, unless the network is reconstructed, it will be difficult to treat any hypothesis in this field as little more than tentative.

²⁷ Although the term ‘bilingualization’ is used in a narrower sense today (e.g., Yong and Peng 2007: 27), a number of bilingual dictionaries in the past appear to have been produced by bilingualizing monolingual works, that is, by providing source language headwords with target language equivalents, often translated directly from the original editions. This suggests that the link between translation practices and bilingual reference works, which clearly deserves exhaustive treatment, has been more subtle and varied than may seem at first sight.

Appendix 1. The number of entries across the alphabet in WAX (1813) and XWA (1828).

WAX			XWA		
Letter section	No. of entries	Percentage	Letter section	No. of entries	Percentage
A	366	7.07%	A	484	3.16%
B	266	5.16%	B	461	3.01%
C	487	9.42%	C	901	5.89%
D	349	6.76%	D	738	4.82%
E	165	5.13%	E	586	3.83%
F	263	5.09%	F	735	4.80%
G	137	2.66%	G	449	2.94%
H	190	3.67%	H	544	3.56%
I	128	2.47%	I	896	5.86%
J	33	0.64%	J	136	0.89%
K	27	0.53%	K	94	0.61%
L	171	3.31%	L	300	1.96%
M	260	5.04%	M	1,158	7.57%
N	330	2.01%	N	330	2.16%
O	104	2.12%	O	461	3.15%
P	417	8.08%	P	1,577	10.31
Q	26	0.50%	Q	115	0.75%
R	306	5.94%	R	970	6.34%
S	605	11.71%	S	1,974	12.91%
T	269	5.20%	T	787	5.14%
U	99	1.92%	U	695	4.55%
V	88	1.70%	V	285	1.86%
W	178	3.45%	W	554	3.62%
X	1	0.02%	X	3	0.019%
Y	18	0.35%	Y	50	0.33%
Z	2	0.04%	Z	4	0.026%
Total	5,165	100%	Total	15,287	100%

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