Scientific Report of Short Term Scientific Mission

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COST Action: IS1305

STSM type: Regular (from Slovenia to Poland)

STSM Title: Automatic Extraction of Polish Multi-Word Expressions

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1. Purpose of the STSM

The main goal of my STSM was to take methods used in Slovenia for automatically extracting multi-word expressions (MWEs), apply them to Polish and demonstrate the usefulness of this approach at the Institute of the Polish Language (IPL) in Kraków, where the Great Dictionary of the Polish Language (GDPL) is compiled and edited. A secondary and more ambitious goal was to visit the Linguistic Engineering Group (LEG) in Warsaw and the plWordNet group (PWNG) in Wrocław and apply automatic methods for assessing the degree of semantic compositionality to the multi-word expressions I had extracted.

2. Description of the work carried out during the STSM

I started and ended my trip at the IPL. On the first day, I was warmly welcomed by Prof. Żmigrodzki, introduced my project goals and Sketch Engine to the GDPL staff, and had several discussions with several staff members to understand their current tools, methods and perspectives for handling MWEs. Then I set up my Sketch Engine account for the work, selecting a testing corpus already available on Sketch Engine which was of an appropriate size and which used the same tagset as the National Corpus of Polish (NCP). I then engaged the bulk of the work, preparing the Polish sketch grammar.

I started with the well-established Slovene sketch grammar, which was developed by Dr. Krek and colleagues in Slovenia a few years ago, and transformed the Slovene sketch grammar for Polish. This involved mainly 3 parts. First, I changed the regular expressions for matching elements in the tagged corpus to fit the tagset used my NCP (e.g., [tag="(subst|depr|ger):.*"] for collocate nouns). Second, I adjusted the gramrels to reflect the differences between Polish and Slovene grammar (e.g., adjectives come before nouns in Slovene, but can come before or after nouns in Polish). Third, I systematically renamed the macros and gramrels (grammatical relations) for Polish (e.g., rzecz_d_1" for head nouns in genitive (dopełniacz) case). I iteratively made changes, uploaded and recompiled

the changed sketch grammar, and tested the results on a few words in the Sketch Engine interface. I also adjusted the Python script provided by Sketch Engine for batch extraction and the related configuration files for Polish and used the script to extract the collocations for a few words in XML format. I had a few conceptual and technical issues along the way, but I was in touch with my Slovene colleagues about pecularities of the Slovene sketch grammar and the Sketch Engine support staff about technical difficulties.

Once I had more or less prepared the Polish sketch grammar, I presented the interim results to the GDPL staff, showing them a few gramrels along with the tabulated results in the Sketch Engine interface for a few words. I got some useful feedback concerning a few gramrels, and was asked if I could also adjust the organisation of the gramrels to that of their editorial system. This effectively meant restructuring and renaming my gramrels to be in a 1-to-1 relationship with their collocation categories. As they had given me access to their dictionary editing pages, I then studied these categories more closely and reorganised my gramrels accordingly. To that end, it was very useful that the desk and space they provided me with was in the same room as two of their dictionary editors, who clarified various details and problematic cases for me during my stay. Some of these turned out to be rather subtle. For instance, gerunds are generally treated as verbs, so that the collocates of gerunds were listed under the corresponding verb entry, but gerund forms were included among the noun collocates of adjectives. This meant that the final gramrels were not as simple and symmetric as the initial versions.

At this point, I went to Warsaw and Wrocław to address the other part of my STSM, which was to attempt to automatically detect the semantic compositionality of collocations. When I came to Warsaw, I met with Prof. Przepiórkowski, with whom I had arranged to come and work on this problem during this period. Unfortunately, as he had warned me, this was a very busy period for him, and in fact even busier than he had expected. Also, it turned out when we talked that although his group was interested in this problem, they had not yet developed tools or methods to address it. Therefore, although I presented my STSM goals to his group and also attended an interesting presentation on the valience dictionary they have been developing, I quickly switched my focus to Wrocław. I contacted Prof. Piasecki's team and asked them about their approach to the problem. They were very helpful and communicative, so I spent much of my week in Warsaw familiarising myself with their methods remotely.

Then I went to Wrocław and communicated more closely with Prof. Piasecki's enthusiastic PWNG team. The basis of their approach is to statistically compare the distribution of words with the distributions of MWEs including those words. They look not only at text windows, but at grammatical relations that the words or MWEs enter into with specific other words. The basic idea is that if a MWE is semantically compositional, then the distribution of the head word is generally more likely to be similar to the distribution of the entire MWE. They also used additional heuristics in combination with this method, such as whether the word order of a MWE is fixed and whether it can have other words inserted in between. Their studies had shown that the method they were developing for noun-adjective collocations was already achieving good results. I therefore wanted to try to apply their tools to my data to get semantic compositionality values for a small sample of my noun-adjective MWEs.

Unfortunately, this turned out to be too ambitious a task to do in such a short period of time. First of all, their method relies on having data for several grammatical relations for both the headwords and the collocations on a large corpus. As I had only been using a small corpus, I had to make a simplified version of my sketch grammar and fetch the data on a large corpus. I got permission from the Sketch Engine staff to use their largest corpus, but extracting these results took several days. The PWNG did offer me to use their own corpus data, but I felt I should use the data I had gathered; in hindsight, this was probably a mistake. Second, I needed to convert the data from Sketch Engine to a suitable

format for the PWNG's SuperMatrix tool, but as I had not done this before, I made a subtle but significant mistake in the conversion, which greatly reduced the validity of my data. Unfortunately, by the time Prof. Piasecki noticed and informed me of my mistake, the data had already been mostly processed by SuperMatrix and there wasn't time to do it again. Third, in my attempt to select interesting nouns and collocations to test, I had selected mostly head nouns which were polysemic, which reduces the reliability of their method. Fourth, again due to time limitations, I wasn't able to incorporate the other heuristics mentioned above(word order, separability) into the method. Fifth, as I had only wanted to make a small demonstration and was short on time, I had only selected a small number of collocations to test, but this did not allow for a proper statistical analysis of the results, which was particularly problematic given the other compromises and limitations listed above. As a result, my results were not adequate and I have to defer this ambitious goal to the future. My experience in Wrocław taught me that this problem can be effectively tackled in clever ways, and that the PWNG team is wonderful to work with, but that this is indeed a difficult problem and cannot be solved without the proper considerations and time.

After my stay in Wrocław, I returned to Kraków. I did a few more tests and improvements of my Polish sketch grammar. Then I thought about how I could most effectively show them its potential usefulness, and decided to do so directly in the context of their internal website. I mapped the XML collocations downloaded for a sample word to JavaScript format, and added them to a saved copy of their editor page for a particular word. I also added an HTML button on this page, which, when clicked, showed the list of downloaded MWEs at the top of the window, along with checkboxes and buttons, which would allow them to select which meanings of the word the MWE should be assigned to and buttons for pasting the word directly in the appropriate MWE textarea (based on the 1-to-1 mapping between gramrel and collocation category). I implemented this partially for one example, enough to show how automatically fetched collocations could be usefully integrated into their existing internal editor webpages.

Finally, I gave a concluding presentation and demo. I showed the final sketch grammar, along with a few examples, and one extended example showing how my sketch grammar found most of the collocations they had listed in their dictionary for a common word, even with my small testing corpus. Then I showed them my edited version of their editor page. The response was enthusiastic, especially once they saw their edited webpage and saw concretely how such methods could help them directly with their daily work. Prof. Żmigrodzki said that I have given them a lot to think about.

In all, I think the main goal of my STSM was very successful: I developed a Polish sketch grammar adapted for the GDPL group, showed them examples of extracted MWE results, and demonstrated how this approach could be directly integrated into their daily work. And although the more ambitious goal of automatic computation of the semantic compositionality of collocations was less successful, my appetite has been whetted and I hope to pursue this problem further soon, hopefully in further collaboration with the PWNG. Also, I hope that by visiting and discussing with three different leading lexicography-related research groups in Poland, I have also helped them develop potential further colloboration with each other. In any case, I have certainly learned a lot.

I include below screenshots of my Sketch Engine results for an example word ("samochód" = "car"). I attach also my sketch grammar and an example (also for "samochód") of the collocations extracted in XML with the Sketch Engine Script. I do not include the adjusted HTML editor page, as this is internal to GDPL.

Sketch Engine beta

Concordance
Word List
Word Sketch
Thesaurus
Find X
Sketch-Diff
Corpus Info
My Jobs
?

Save
Change options
Clustering
Sorting
Gramrels
More data
Less data

Menu position

Send feedback corpus: plTenTen12 [sample] Dr. Cyprian Laskowski

samochód (noun)
plTenTen12 [sample] freq = 15,185 (274.18 per million)

rzecz_nad_przym 8,412 1.80			rzecz_pod_rzecz_d 4,811 2.40			rzecz_pod_czas_podm 1,532 1.60			rzecz_pod_czas_b 1,233 2.40			rzecz_nad_rzecz_d 912 0.50		
ciężarowy	413	10.49	wypożyczalnia	178	9.85	zderzyć	30	8.88	parkować	21	8.54	marka	249	9.08
osobowy	790	10.34	wynajem	135	9.26	wjechać	12	7.53	zaparkować	19	8.52	volvo	9	7.72
dostawczy	228	9.69	naprawa	66	7.93	uderzyć	8	6.41	naprawiać	13	7.93	BMW	10	7.60
terenowy	131	8.64	zakup	182	7.75	jeździć	11	6.21	wynająć	26	7.73	Suzuki	6	7.31
służbowy	101	8.35	kupno	48	7.66	jechać	13	5.96	kupić	60	7.72	ford	6	7.13
używać	194	7.80	zderzenie	35	7.66	kosztować	7	5.83	kupować	32	7.65	segment	13	6.83
luksusowy	68	7.77	kierowca	83	7.64	zatrzymać	11	5.78	zostawić	19	7.62	ratownictwo	8	6.63
zastępczy	56	7.49	parkować	32	7.59	stać	36	5.37	ukraść	8	7.37	Leszek	6	5.88
zabytkowy	56	7.36	wypożyczyć	35	7.50	ciesać	6	5.23	wypożyczyć	12	7.18	klasa	36	5.41
zaparkować	34	6.97	oklejać	27	7.45	sprawiać	9	5.03	zatrzymywać	11	7.04	straż	10	5.40
elektryczny	58	6.88	kradzież	33	7.36	pojawić	13	4.63	wjechać	7	6.97	typ	33	4.52
uszkodzony	33	6.88	model	134	7.32	sprawdzać	6	4.58	zostawiać	9	6.95	świat	9	3.56
sportowy	73	6.71	producent	109	7.29	kupować	6	4.49	wyprzedzać	6	6.69	uczestnik	6	2.41
rajdowy	29	6.71	skup	26	7.26	poruszać	6	4.45	sprzedać	13	6.46	rok	10	1.70
wyścigowy	26	6.57	sprzedaż	134	7.20	musieć	29	4.34	zakupić	18	6.38	firma	7	0.75
nowy	323	6.56	posiadacz	35	7.15	stawać	8	4.29	nabywać	8	6.30	osoba	7	0.55
własny	132	6.54	dealer	24	7.14	potrafić	7	4.14	myć	6	6.26	>>		
drogi	38	6.41	flota	27	7.06	posiadać	24	4.11	zatrzymać	12	5.97			
użytkowy	29	6.35	fabryka	35	7.03	uczestniczyć	7	4.02	produkować	13	5.80			
twój	94	6.24	zaparkować	19	6.88	czekać	6	3.97	pozostawić	7	5.62			
prywatny	43	6.20	karoseria	18	6.87	być	425	3.93	jeździć	6	5.42			
firmowy	27	6.19	właściciel	70	6.82	zostać	59	3.72	sprzedawać	8	5.29			
napędzać	20	6.13	ubezpieczenie	64	6.79	wyglądać	6	3.50	posiadać	44	5.00			
pożarniczy	19	6.13	leasing	21	6.79	znajdować	13	3.48	nabyć	6	4.98			
kempingowy	18	6.09	myć	19	6.66	mieć	14	3.38	prowadzić	63	4.80			
>>			>>			>>			>>					

rzecz_nad_rzecz_m 817 1.10			rzecz_pod_rzecz_n 693 10.30			rzecz_nad_licz 628 2.20			rzecz_pod_czas_n 572 4.90			szeregi 393 0.60		
opel	20	8.91	jazda	238	9.25	1000	7	6.84	jeździć	96	9.65	motocykl	39	9.22
ford	15	8.55	dojazd	30	7.94	dwa	135	6.71	jechać	71	8.63	tramwaj	12	7.61
Toyota	14	8.27	przejażdżka	9	7.67	300	7	6.41	dojechać	18	8.32	samolot	9	5.70
volvo	12	8.24	wjazd	8	6.97	trzy	41	6.15	podróżować	27	8.04	autobus	6	5.33
abarth	8	8.13	podróż	48	6.77	500	6	6.13	przejechać	9	7.37	rower	7	5.13
volkswagen	11	7.91	przejazd	14	6.36	80	6	5.98	dojeżdżać	6	7.33	pociąg	6	5.10
scion	6	7.85	handel	10	5.64	200	6	5.84	przyjechać	13	7.07	maszyna	8	4.50
marek	18	7.84	transport	10	4.58	tyle	8	5.77	poruszać	32	7.03	kierowca	6	4.41
audi	10	7.79	minuta	8	4.54	cztery	13	5.68	dysponować	6	6.94	mieszkanie	6	3.33
fiat	13	7.75	wyjazd	7	4.11	więcej	22	5.60	kierować	34	6.35	dom	10	2.24
Ford	8	7.73	mężczyzna	6	3.73	15	9	5.51	pojechać	6	6.14	>>		
renault	9	7.72	droga	11	2.71	5	17	5.29	dostać	6	4.65			
ratowniczo	7	7.70	miasto	7	1.70	4	12	5.21	dotrzeć	6	4.43			
star	9	7.58	osoba	13	1.45	ile	6	5.21	być	81	1.54			
BMW	8	7.36	praca	8	0.71	2	19	5.18	zostać	6	0.43			
nissan	6	7.36	>>			50	7	5.18	>>					
Barcelona	7	7.18				20	9	5.13						
mercedes	6	7.05				dużo	7	5.04						
Gdańsk	22	6.66				kilka	31	4.82						
Rzeszów	7	6.11				100	6	4.80						
Warszawa	33	5.26				30	7	4.64						
Wrocław	10	4.96				6	6	4.62						
Kraków	10	4.42				3	8	4.06						
to	15	0.31				wiele	28	4.05						
>>						>>								

rzecz_nad-w-l-ms 340 1.30		
pobliże	7	3.70
klasa	8	3.27
wersja	8	3.14
cena	7	2.50
Polska	6	1.88
kraj	6	1.88
miejsce	15	1.85
firma	14	1.76
>>		

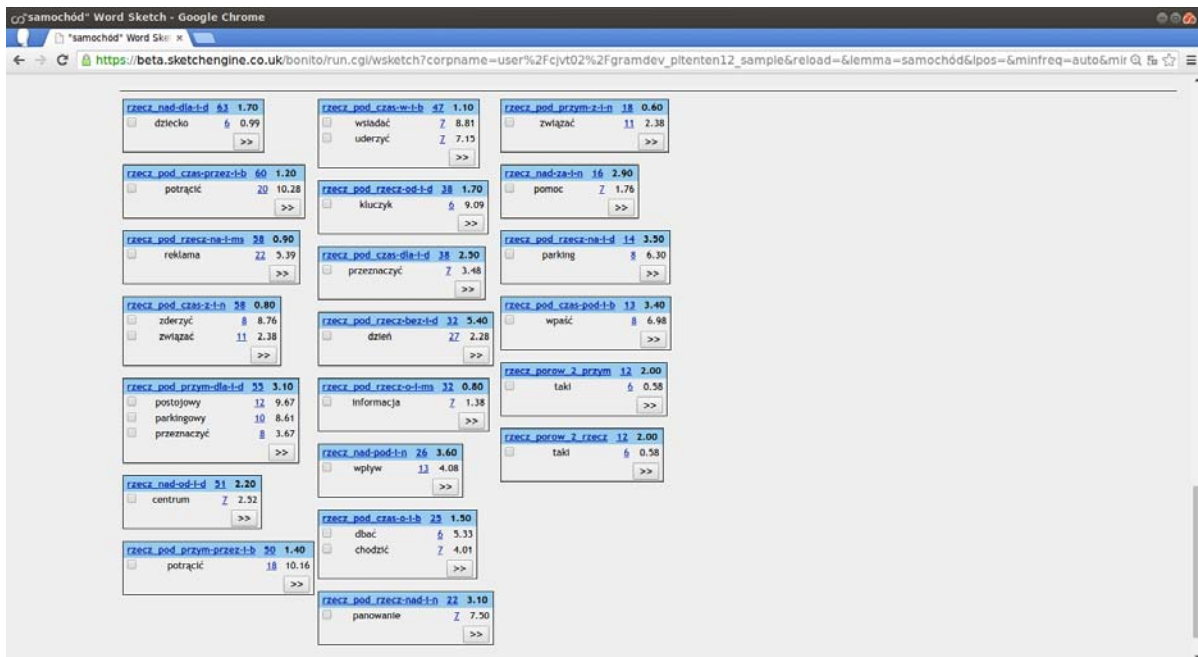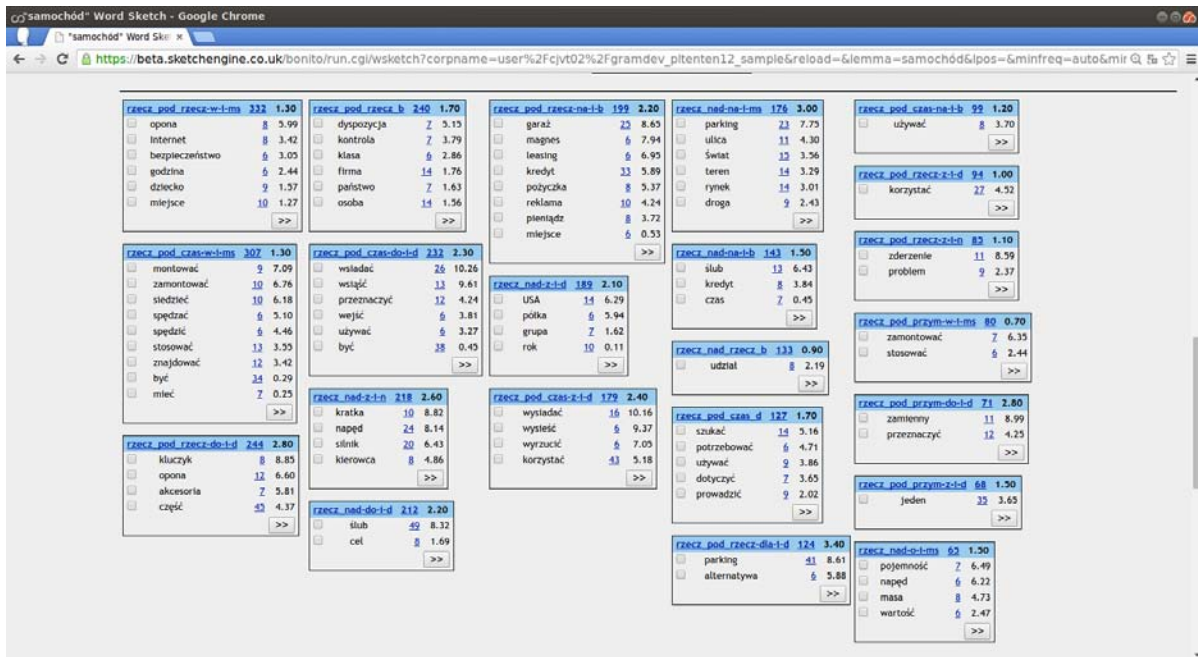| rzecz_pod_rzecz_m 476 0.60		
volkswagen	6	7.40
kategoria	7	3.48
co	7	3.07
przypadek	7	2.06
państwo	6	1.40
Polska	6	1.28
to	19	0.65
czas	6	0.23
>>		

rzecz_pod_rzecz-w-l-ms 332 1.30			rzecz_pod_rzecz_b 240 1.70			rzecz_pod_rzecz-na-l-b 199 2.20			rzecz_nad-na-l-ms 176 3.00			rzecz_pod_czas-na-l-b 99 1.20		
opona	8	5.99	dyspozycja	7	5.15	garaż	25	8.65	parking	23	7.75	używać	8	3.70
internet	8	3.42	kontrola	7	3.79	magnes	6	7.94	ulica	11	4.30	>>		
bezpieczeństwo	6	3.05	klasa	6	2.86	leasing	6	6.95	świat	15	3.56			
godzina	6	2.44	firma	14	1.76	kredyt	33	5.89	teren	14	3.29			

rzecz_pod_rzecz-z-l-d 94 1.00

"samochód" Word Sketch — Google Chrome

https://beta.sketchengine.co.uk/bonito/run.cgi/wsketch?corpname=user%2Fcjvt02%2Fgramdev_pltenten12_sample&reload=&lemma=samochód&lpos=&minfreq=auto&mir

rzecz_pod_rzecz-w-l-ms 332 1.30		rzecz_pod_rzecz_b 240 1.70		rzecz_pod_rzecz-na-l-b 199 2.20		rzecz_nad-na-l-ms 176 3.00		rzecz_pod_rzecz-na-l-b 99 1.20	
opona	8 5.99	dyspozycja	7 5.15	garaż	25 8.65	parking	23 7.75	używać	8 3.70
Internet	8 3.42	kontrola	7 3.79	magnes	6 7.94	ulica	11 4.30		
bezpieczeństwo	6 3.05	klasa	6 2.86	leasing	6 6.95	świat	13 3.56		
godzina	6 2.44	firma	14 1.76	kredyt	33 5.89	teren	14 3.29	rzecz_pod_rzecz-z-l-d 94 1.00	
dziecko	9 1.57	państwo	7 1.63	pożyczka	5 5.37	rynek	14 3.01	korzystać	27 4.52
miejsce	10 1.27	osoba	14 1.56	reklama	10 4.24	droga	9 2.43		
				pieniądz	8 3.72			rzecz_pod_rzecz-z-l-d 85 1.10	
rzecz_pod_czas-w-l-ms 307 1.30		rzecz_pod_czas-do-l-d 232 2.30		miejsce	6 0.53			zderzenie	11 8.59
montować	9 7.09	wsiadać	26 10.26			rzecz_nad-na-l-b 143 1.50		problem	9 2.37
zamontować	10 6.76	wsiąść	13 9.61	rzecz_nad-z-l-d 189 2.10		ślub	13 6.43		
siedzieć	10 6.18	przeznaczyć	12 4.24	USA	14 6.29	kredyt	8 3.84	rzecz_pod_przym-w-l-ms 80 0.70	
spędzać	6 5.10	wejść	6 3.81	półka	6 5.94	czas	7 0.45	zamontować	7 6.35
spędzić	6 4.46	używać	6 3.27	grupa	7 1.62			stosować	6 2.44
stosować	13 3.55	być	38 0.45	rok	10 0.11	rzecz_nad_rzecz_b 133 0.90			
znajdować	12 3.42					udział	8 2.19	rzecz_pod_przym-do-l-d 71 2.80	
być	34 0.29			rzecz_pod_czas-z-l-d 179 2.40				zamienny	11 8.99
mieć	7 0.25	rzecz_nad-z-l-n 218 2.60		wysiadać	16 10.16			przeznaczyć	12 4.25
		kratka	10 8.82	wysieść	6 9.37	rzecz_pod_czas_d 127 1.70			
rzecz_pod_rzecz-do-l-d 244 2.80		napęd	24 8.14	wyrzucić	6 7.05	szukać	14 5.16	rzecz_pod_przym-z-l-d 68 1.50	
kluczyk	8 8.85	silnik	20 6.43	korzystać	43 5.18	potrzebować	6 4.71	jeden	35 3.65
opona	12 6.60	kierowca	8 4.86			używać	9 3.86		
akcesoria	7 5.81					dotyczyć	7 3.65	rzecz_nad-o-l-ms 65 1.50	
część	43 4.37	rzecz_nad-do-l-d 212 2.20				prowadzić	9 2.02	pojemność	7 6.49
		ślub	49 8.32					napęd	6 6.22
		cel	8 1.69			rzecz_pod_rzecz-dla-l-d 124 3.40		masa	8 4.73
						parking	41 8.61	wartość	6 2.47
						alternatywa	6 5.88		

"samochód" Word Sketch — Google Chrome

https://beta.sketchengine.co.uk/bonito/run.cgi/wsketch?corpname=user%2Fcjvt02%2Fgramdev_pltenten12_sample&reload=&lemma=samochód&lpos=&minfreq=auto&mir

rzecz_nad-dla-l-d 63 1.70		rzecz_pod_czas-w-l-b 47 1.10		rzecz_pod_przym-z-l-n 18 0.60	
dziecko	6 0.99	wsiadać	7 8.81	związać	11 2.38
		uderzyć	7 7.15		
rzecz_pod_czas-przez-l-b 60 1.20				rzecz_nad-za-l-n 16 2.90	
potrącić	20 10.28	rzecz_pod_rzecz-od-l-d 38 1.70		pomoc	7 1.76
		kluczyk	6 9.09		
rzecz_pod_rzecz-na-l-ms 58 0.90				rzecz_pod_rzecz-na-l-d 14 3.50	
reklama	22 5.39	rzecz_pod_czas-dla-l-d 38 2.50		parking	8 6.30
		przeznaczyć	7 3.48		
rzecz_pod_czas-z-l-n 58 0.80				rzecz_pod_czas-pod-l-b 13 3.40	
zderzyć	8 8.76	rzecz_pod_rzecz-bez-l-d 32 5.40		wpaść	8 6.98
związać	11 2.38	dzień	27 2.28		
				rzecz_porow_2_przym 12 2.00	
rzecz_pod_przym-dla-l-d 55 3.10		rzecz_pod_rzecz-o-l-ms 32 0.80		taki	6 0.58
postojowy	12 9.67	informacja	7 1.38		
parkingowy	10 8.61			rzecz_porow_2_rzecz 12 2.00	
przeznaczyć	8 3.67			taki	6 0.58
		rzecz_nad-pod-l-n 26 3.60			
rzecz_nad-od-l-d 51 2.20		wpływ	13 4.08		
centrum	7 2.52				
		rzecz_pod_czas-o-l-b 25 1.50			
rzecz_pod_przym-przez-l-b 50 1.40		dbać	6 5.33		
potrącić	18 10.16	chodzić	7 4.01		
		rzecz_pod_rzecz-nad-l-n 22 3.10			
		panowanie	7 7.50		

3. Links

- Sketch Engine: http://www.sketchengine.co.uk/
- Slovene sketch grammar: https://www.sketchengine.co.uk/documentation/raw-attachment/wiki/SKEW-3/Program/Krek_SKEW-3.pdf
- Narodowy korpus języka polskiego (National Corpus of Polish): http://nkjp.pl/index.php
- Wielki słownik języka polskiego (Great Dictionary of the Polish Language): http://www.wsjp.pl/
- Instytut języka polskiego (Polish Language Institute): https://www.ijp-pan.krakow.pl/
- Zespół Inżynierii Lingwistycznej (Linguistic Engineering Group): http://zil.ipipan.waw.pl/
- Słowosieć (plWordnet): http://plwordnet.pwr.wroc.pl/wordnet