Multi-word expressions in Polish

MWE Classification in Polish Linguistics

A multi-word unit
- combination of at least two words which have an established meaning in usage (Księżopolski 1976-78)
- according to different degree of connectivity:
  - idiom
  - cliché
  - loose compositional units
- according to grammatical criteria (Lewicki 1988): expressions that have a noun or an adjective as a head — phraseology (Klów 1994)
- prose: which head is a verb form — verbal 1st wave, e.g. "to bulb hit", "to bulb back", "to bulb around"" sentence that is a sentence (SVO) or an equivalent of a sentence — idiom (2) (most close-knit if cut both ways)
- structural carbohydrates within text is as useful as in written text

A unit of language (Bojarski 1976)
- sequence of letters and spaces (or other spelling marks) which meets two criteria:
  - units of language are mutually disjoint; this can be encoded to a schema: $a::b/c::d$:
    - $a :: c$ — sequence of digits
    - $b :: c$ — sequence of digits
    - $d :: c$ — sequence of digits

A lexical unit (Grochowski 1982)
- is a sequence of diacritic elements that has global meaning, which means it is a sequence semantically indivisible into sub-sequences which are elements of a non-open class

Types of MWE

Nominal
1. N + Adj: postrzeczny 'black-out'; kraini mniekiem i miadem płynąca 'form flowing with milk and honey'
2. Adj: N ladyka 'rene'est
3. N + N: jakiś dzioby 'some pistons'
4. N + Adj: słownik dzieci 'idiom's advocate; method 'carrot and stick'
5. N + Prep: przywodzi z lasu ' Ngo: from the woods' (guardians)
6. N + N: nocny 'hot-cold'; 'boozing noises'

Verbal
- verb-noun constructions: zbiór 'to foot around'; adverb for 'to stab'; adverb for 'aggressive':
  - the noun complement tends to be fixed but with infected
  - main research problem: because verb infection in Polish is complicated (some types of forms are excluded: for instance future tense forms, sometimes there are particular restrictions for particular verbs)
- discontinuity problem: MWE occur in the joined (more indirect or split verb order; what kind of forms can split the MWE?)
- word order problem: phrase verbs and prepositional verbs are not supposed to be MWE in Polish (analytical government)

Prepositional
- preposition and a singular noun: up the sleeve, bez liku plenty of, w pobliz; in the vicinity, w zamin 'in exchange for', na Jury 'become known'
- complex prepositions: ze względu na 'in view of'

MWE Classification

Institutionalised Phrase (unidiomatic idiomatic)
- automatik 'in the sleeve', do niczego good for nothing, po polsku 'Polish' (propositional expressions, syntactically adverbial)

Lexicalised Phrase
- fixed: neither morphosyntactic variation nor internal modification within (in return for), no syntax 'over the top', bez liku plenty of
- semi-fixed: lexical variable; hard restriction on word order and composition (most of Polish MWE)
- adverbial adverb: 'here now'; syntactical 'boozing noises', downy oblivion 'wedding ring donor'
- syntactically flexible: most of verbal MWE

Multi-word expressions (MWEs)
by Baldwin and Kim (2010)

made up of multiple whitespace-delimited words (single-word MWE? - not in Polish!)
can be decomposed into multiple lexemes

display a few levels of idiomaticity:
- lexical: at least one of the component is not a part of the conventional lexicon
- semantic: 'meanin in expressions so combus in the dark': po해서 'bleeped'
- syntactic: syntax of MWE: not derived directly from the components
- pragmatic: MWE is associated with a fixed set of situations or a particular context

Examples:
- Good afternoon!
- Good morning!

WG1
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References:
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"MWEs in Russian" [in:] "The Russian Language Today", Moscow.
"MWEs in English" [in:] "The English Language Today", London.