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PhD Thesis Summary

Linguistic politeness in Kashubian

The subject of this PhD thesis is linguistic politeness in Kashubian as attested in the Kashubian literature. In the last thirty years, linguistic politeness in the Polish standard language and Polish dialects was thoroughly studied by numerous scholars. However, until now, there has been no single study devoted to linguistic politeness in Kashubian and this PhD thesis is the first study on the topic.

The PhD thesis consists of three parts. In the first part, the state of research regarding the linguistic politeness from the general point of view and in the Polish standard language and Polish dialects is presented. Apart from that, the sociolinguistic status of Kashubian is briefly discussed here. In the second part, speech acts expressing linguistic politeness attested in the research material are presented and analysed. In the third part, results of the research are summarised and conclusions are formulated.

The research part consists of 11 sections, where individual types of speech acts expressing politeness attested in the research material are described, which are: greetings, farewells, acknowledgements, apologies, requests, invitations, wishes, acts of introducing, politeness at the table (offering, toasts), compliments and addressative forms. Due to the fact that the research material comes from the literature, it was possible to collect a number of attestations of speech acts that are rather rare in the everyday speech and/or limited to very specific situations (like compliments or acts of introducing) and discuss them in separate sections.

Results of the analysis show that one can observe coexistence of two politeness patterns in contemporary Kashubian: the rural and urban one. It is conditioned by the fact that Kashubian culture is nowadays not limited to folklore and rural culture (although they are still its essential components) and that Kashubian is not exclusively a language of familiar communication anymore. Contemporarily, Kashubian also has a standard variety which is used in education, media, or in the Catholic Church and, consequently, has developed new forms of linguistic politeness which are needed in the corresponding official settings.

The analysis of Kashubian linguistic politeness has given not only an insight to individual linguistic forms but also to their broader pragmatic context and cultural nuances. It has allowed

to determine which forms can be used in official and familiar settings, which forms were frequent formerly and which are common contemporarily, etc. The analysis of various texts written within 150 years has allowed to observe social-cultural changes which affected Kashubian language and culture.