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Nominal word formations can signal the speakers' stance towards the referent. Previous studies have shown that formations often carry evaluative meaning and ideological connotations. Due to their social meaning, they are used for ideological positioning in discourse (e.g. Chojnacka-Kuraś & Falkowska 2023). Morphological wordplay that deviates from standard word formation patterns can also fulfil similar functions: as Michel (2024) notes, "word-formation puns" frequently serve invective and exclusionary purposes rather than merely humorous ones.

This paper investigates how word formation is used to refer to actors in the Polish discourse on reproductive rights following the tightening of abortion laws in 2021. On the basis of two corpora compiled from data from Twitter (1,334,482 tokens) and readers' comments on online news articles (578,434 tokens), I examine person-referring word formations as stance markers. Four main strategies of word formation emerge from the data:

- 1) Compounding + derivation: *feminazistka, vege-komunistka*
- 2) Derivation with the suffix *-ara*: *elgiebeciara, lamperciara, zadymiara*
- 3) Derivation with the suffix *-istka/-ystka*: *genderystka*
- 4) Word formation puns: *lemparcica, przybłąda, kaczafi*

The forms from groups 1-3 draw on existing ideological labels and suffixes established in Polish for female referents. These forms support stereotypization and typification of broader groups, facilitating the symbolic exclusion of movements and communities. Conversely, word formation puns are derived from lexical material from the names of specific discourse participants and public figures. Drawing on (nick)names of public figures, they contribute to greater specification and personalised blame.

Word formations referring to people have the potential to convey ideological meaning. Their predominantly negative meaning can only be fully interpreted against the backdrop of shared contextual knowledge and circulating right- and left-wing narratives. Overall, word formation is a key linguistic resource for ideological positioning and the construction of exclusion in discourse.

References:

- Chojnacka-Kuraś, Marta & Marta Falkowska. 2023. Polaryzacja stanowisk wobec pandemii i jej odzwierciedlenie w dyskursywnych strategiach nominacyjnych. Studium wyrażenia covidianin. *Język Polski*. <https://doi.org/10.31286/JP.00148>.
- Michel, Sascha. 2024. Wenn aus Mastodon der #Mastdarm wird. Morphologische Wortspiele und ihr ideologisch motiviertes Positionierungspotential. In Sascha Michel (ed.), *Diskursmorphologie: Ansätze und Fallstudien zur Schnittstelle zwischen Morphologie und Diskurslinguistik*, 291–320. De Gruyter. <https://doi.org/10.1515/9783111363936-011>.