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Previous research on lexicon in heritage Polish in the U.S. has focused on two types of borrowings from English (Gruchmanowa 1988, Kozminska 2015). The first group involves an imported stem with a native suffix (1), while the second represents loan meanings, with the semantics of a native word shifted under the influence of a foreign word (2) (Winford, 2003).

(1) *Idziemy na te **kompetycje**.*
'We go to these competitions.'
(SP) Jeździmy na te zawody.

(2) *Byłem **zaakceptowany** do programu.*
'I was accepted to the program.'
(SP) Byłem przyjęty do programu.

Although abundant in Polish heritage language, these borrowings are not the only manifestation of the cross-linguistic influence of English. I argue that the main evidence of so-called direct transfer (Silva-Corvalan, 1994) is found in the sizable number of multi-word loans commonly referred to as calques.

In this study, 25 Polish heritage speakers from Chicago engaged in conversation in Polish with a researcher. The structure of the conversations reflected the ACTFL² protocol for OPI.³ Roughly half of the participants were assessed as intermediate speakers (n=12) and the other half as advanced (n=13). The speech of all participants contained calques, although they were more characteristic for advanced speakers. The multiple-word calques found in this study have lexico-semantic and/or grammatical consequences on a heritage language. The first group consisted of band collocations (3) or idioms.

(3) *Żeby nie zgubić język.*
'Not to lose the language'
(SP) żeby nie zapomnieć języka/ nie stracić umiejętności w języku

In addition to lexico-semantic calques, a type of multi-word unit was observed that involved a change in grammatical restrictions (4):

(4) *Nigdy byliśmy do Polski.*
'We have never been to Poland.'
(SP) Nigdy nie byliśmy w Polsce.

¹ "My dad graduated from a **Contractors** Technical School"

² American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages

³ Oral Proficiency Interview

The syntactic structure of the above utterance comes from the dominant language. It violates the syntactic rules of Polish that require double negation. On the surface, however, it is realized with the use of Polish lexical items, which are inflected according to the rules of the standard variation.

I argue that the above examples of the cross-linguistic influence of English are compensatory strategies meant to maintain a speaker's heritage language through the use of structures from the dominant language (4). Additionally, some of these expressions might not be considered calques but genuine innovations (3) which help express the meaning in a given situation (Polinsky, 2018). Moreover, the linguistic ability to use multi-word units (e.g., the ability to adapt loanwords and/or create semantic extensions) is comparable to the linguistic creativity displayed by monolingual speakers (Silva-Corvalan, 1994).