

NOUNS *COMPLIANCE*, *CONFORMITY* IN ADMINISTRATIVE LANGUAGE

Summary

The article raises the matter of the degree of valency that the nouns *compliance*, *conformity* (Lith. *atitiktis*, *atitikimas*) have in administrative language. The verbal nouns in question are approached from a syntactic–semantic angle. Reliance is made on samples of texts from the Corpus of the Modern Lithuanian Language (CMLL) by the Centre of Computational Linguistics of Vytautas Magnus University and of *EUR-lex* administrative texts.

Analysis of 452 sentences of the administrative language has revealed that the nouns *compliance*, *conformity* are used in the sense of ‘similarity (concord) and/or equivalence; fitness’. No sentences where the subject nouns *conformity*, *compliance* would be related to the meaning of the Lithuanian verb *atitikti* ‘(to) find, trace down’ have been observed.

The syntactic valency of the nouns *compliance*, *conformity* overlaps, with the object denoted with a dative as often as not. In the CMLL, it is present in over 80 per cent (352) of all cases, in *EUR-lex*, in over 95 per cent of the 100 sentences analysed. That dative, which acts as a comparative or beneficiary, is grounded on the net of a semantic formational foundation of the verb *(to) comply*, *conform* ((*to*) *compare* (to something or someone),

equivalent, comparable (to something or someone), *(to) fit* (someone or something), *(to) suit* (someone or something), and so on).

The exploratory study of transactions of administrative texts has showed that the Lithuanian nouns *conformity, compliance* with their broader range of meaning prevail over English nouns or other means of expression that have a more specific meaning.

KEYWORDS: valency of the nouns *compliance, conformity*, administrative language, usage bias.

LORETA VAIČIULYTĖ-SEMĖNIENĖ

Lietuvių kalbos institutas

Petro Vileišio g. 5, LT-10308 Vilnius

loreta.semėniene@lki.lt