

**A review of “*Wybór dokumentów austriackich dla kandydatów na tłumaczy przysięgłych. Auswahl österreichischer Dokumente für Kandidaten zum beeideten Übersetzer/Dolmetscher*”
by Artur Dariusz KUBACKI**

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Artur Kubacki's brand new book was published recently, in 2015 in Chrzanów by Publishing House Biuro Tłumaczeń KUBART. Artur Dariusz Kubacki is Professor at the Institute of Neophilology, Pedagogical University of Cracow, a sworn interpreter and translator of German, an expert member of the Polish Society of Sworn and Specialized Translators (TEPIS) as well as a member of the Polish Translators and Interpreters Association (STP) in Warszawa. Moreover, since 2005 he has been a consultant of the State Examination Board established by the Minister of Justice to conduct examinations for sworn translators and interpreters in Poland.

Artur Dariusz Kubacki deals with legal and judicial translations for many years that is why he is an expert in this field. The author published some books concerning certified and legal translations and the enormous number of articles. The series of books constitute an intensive and indispensable training for potential translators and interpreters.

The latest book “*Wybór dokumentów austriackich dla kandydatów na tłumaczy przysięgłych. Auswahl österreichischer Dokumente für Kandidaten zum beeideten Übersetzer/Dolmetscher*” concerns the Austrian variety of German and translation process of Austrian documents. There is a great number

of documents from different branches of law and administration, all of them being authentic Austrian documents.

The book comprises 12 chapters, each of them divided into sub-chapters. The titles of the chapters are available in two language versions: in Polish and in German, while sub-chapters are in German. The main part of the book, i.e. the set of Austrian documents, is preceded by the introduction in Polish and German, where the author underlines that German is a pluricentric language and the main focus is put on standard German used in Germany, while Austrian and Swiss German remain still neglected. Artur Kubacki emphasises that the aim of this book is to provide information about the Austrian specialized documents and notions and to sensitize German language learners to usage of specialized terms adjusted to concrete variety of the language.

The introduction is followed by considerations about the pluricentricity of German language in translation process. The author describes the differences between standard German and Austrian German which concern morphology, lexis, pragmatics and orthography. There is also an abstract in three languages: Polish, English and German.

The first chapter is entitled “Dokumenty wydane przez USC i Instytucje Kościelne – Standesamtliche und kirchliche Urkunden” (Documents issued by the register office and ecclesiastical institutions). There are different types of Austrian documents i.e. birth certificate, certificate of baptism, death certificate, marriage certificate etc.

The second chapter concerns the documents issued by schools and universities: “Dokumenty wydane przez szkoły i uczelnie wyższe – Schul- und Hochschuldokumente”. The documents which can be found in this chapter are e.g. school attendance confirmation, school leaving certificate and so forth.

The third chapter relates to documents issued by the self-government administration: “Dokumenty wydane przez administrację samorządową – Dokumente der Gemeindeselbstverwaltung”. There are i.a.: confirmation of citizenship, first name change notification etc.

The fourth chapter comprises the documents issued by a notary: “Dokumenty wydane przez notariusza – Notarielle Urkunden”, where following documents can be found: land registry extract, purchase contract, notarial deed e.g. power of attorney etc.

The fifth chapter is devoted to documents issued by police: “Dokumenty wydane przez policję – Polizeiliche Dokumente” e.g. about theft or other notifications.

The sixth chapter which is entitled “Dokumenty wydane przez sąd – Gerichtliche Schriftstücke” (documents issued by the court) is divided into four

parts: in civil cases, criminal cases, administrative cases and in economic cases which, in turn, are divided into sub-chapters.

The seventh chapter includes the documents issued by banks and credit institutions: "Dokumenty wydane przez banki i instytucje kredytowe – Unterlagen aus Banken und Kreditinstituten". There is i.e. request for bank account opening, closure of bank account etc.

The eighth chapter contains documents issued by insurance companies: "Dokumenty wydane przez firmy ubezpieczeniowe – Unterlagen aus Versicherungsunternehmen", i.e. vehicle registration certificate, life insurance policy, accident insurance policy etc.

The ninth chapter is devoted to documents issued by place of work/employee organization: "Dokumenty wydane przez zakład pracy/organizacje pracobiorców – Unterlagen au seiner Arbeitsstatte/Arbeitnehmerorganisation". The reader can find here i.e. payslip, travel expenses allowance, employment contract etc.

The tenth chapter comprises documents issued by tax office⁶¹: "Dokumenty wydane przez urząd skarbowy – Dokumente aus dem Finanzamt", i.a. income tax assessment etc.

The eleventh chapter includes the documents issued by doctors or hospital administration: "Dokumenty wydane przez lekarzy lub administrację szpitala – Dokumente von einem Arzt oder aus einem Krankenhaus". In this chapter there are i.a. following documents: hospital discharge, X-ray result etc.

The last chapter, the twelfth one, deals with documents issued by other institutions: "Dokumenty wydane przez pozostałe instytucje – Durch sonstige Einrichtungen ausgestellte Dokumente". The documents included in this chapter are i.a.: flat rental agreement, bill, prompt note etc.

In the final part of the book the reader can find an extensive list of references and the list of abbreviations that appear in the book and may be useful in the translation process. There is also the alphabetical list of documents and the page indication, where a particular document can be found in the book.

Artur Dariusz Kubacki's book is the ideal offer for people willing to become specialized and competent translators and interpreters of German language but also a perfect support for people who work as translators yet. They can broaden their knowledge, use the authentic documents that appear in the book as comparison to German or Polish ones and find Austrian equivalents of certain terms. The book needs to be thoroughly studied by people preparing for exams to become sworn translators and interpreters.

⁶¹In Great Britain the institution is called the Inland Revenue.

It should be underlined that the other books published by Artur Kubacki which concern certified translations are also indispensable for everyone who wants to devote their life to professional translations. The knowledge gained by Artur Kubacki as an expert member of the Polish Society of Sworn and Specialised Translators (TEPIS) as well as a member of the Polish Translators and Interpreters Association (STP) and the number of years devoted to job as a sworn translator and interpreter contributed to the high quality of the books.

Concept of German pluricentrism

The problem of pluricentrism and varieties of German were frequently analysed by Professor Kubacki in his works. He specializes in judicial and legal translation and lexical differences in German-speaking countries. According to Kubacki (2014: 163) German was treated until the end of the 80s of the twentieth century as a monocentric language. Then it started to be perceived as a pluricentric language.

The pluricentric languages can cause a lot of difficulties for foreign language learners and for translators and interpreters. German is a language used in several countries, hence each of those countries has its own varieties which differ from each other. German is used in Germany, Austria, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Lichtenstein but also in eastern Belgium or in southern Tyrol in Italy.

In Germany or Austria it is the sole national language however in Switzerland it functions alongside French, Italian and Romansh, in Luxembourg alongside French and Luxembourgish. On the one hand, German has a standard orthography, grammar rules and vocabulary but on the other hand it can vary from region to region (Russ 1994, 2).

Clyne (1992: 1) summarizes the concept of pluricentrism in the following way: “Pluricentric languages are both unifiers and dividers of people. They unify people through the use of the language and separate them through the development of national norms and indices and linguistic variables with which the speakers identify. They mark group boundaries indicating who belongs and who does not.”

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