New Phraseological Compounds with “Dywan” in Modern Polish Language

Since 1989, the Polish language has undergone dynamic transformations both qualitatively and quantitatively [cf. Smółkowa 2001: 119–151; Walczak 2003: 87–97]. Transformations of a quantitative nature involve the enrichment of its resources with new lexical units, including new phraseological compounds. Many modern neo-phraseologisms are foreign language borrowings, mainly from English in its British or American variety. They have received considerable attention in various studies, as evidenced by publications by E. Mańczak-Wohlfeld or A. Witalisz [cf. e.g., Mańczak-Wohlfeld 2010; Witalisz 2007 and 2016] and articles devoted to English phraseological calques assimilated into Polish [cf. e.g., Bąba, Fliciński 2004: 144–146; 2005: 317–319; 2007: 262–264; Ignatowicz-Skowrońska, Miturska-Bojanowska 2010: 33–38; Bąba, Liberek, Fliciński 2013: 51–57; Zabawa 2015: 306–315; Ignatowicz-Skowrońska 2019: 25–33].

A good example of neo-phraseologisms inspired by English are new combinations with the component dywan (carpet) which function in contemporary Polish texts and which have been noted in recent lexicographic works. In the Dictionary of the Polish Language edited by W. Doroszewski, and S. Skorupka’s Phraseological Dictionary of the Polish Language, only two formally stabilized units were registered under the headword dywan – apart from loose combinations and metaphors such as dywan kwiatowy (flower carpet) or kwiatów (carpet of flowers) – namely dywan latający (flying carpet) ‘a carpet from Eastern tales used by sorcerers to fly in the air’ and dywan modlitewny (prayer carpet) ‘a carpet used by Mohammedans as a footstool or kneeler at prayer’ [SJP-D II: 533; SFS I: 201]. It was not until lexicographic works published after 1989 that three
new phraseologies inspired by the English and Western culture appeared. The first is the phrase *zamiatać* (sweep), *zamieść coś pod dywan* (sweep something under the carpet) ‘to try to hide, conceal, cover up something’ (from English *sweep something under the carpet*: cf. PSFJP-BL: s.v. dywan; WSF-F: 327; WSJP-Ż, s.v. dywan – accessed on 18.01.2023; Verbel: s.v. ktoś zamiata // zamieścić coś pod dywan – someone sweeps something under the rug).\(^1\) Two more phrases are *czerwony dywan* (red carpet) ‘a place in front of a building entrance lined with red carpet where well-known show business personalities pose for photos, give short interviews, greet fans, etc.’ [WSF-F: 48] and *walka bulldogów pod dywanem książk.* ‘invisible to an outside observer, a rivalry or struggle between individuals within a political party or other organizational structure that is brought to light only when someone resigns or loses their position’ <English. *dog fight under a carpet*. The first use is attributed to Winston Churchill, in reference to conflicts within the Soviet Communist Party> [cf. WSJP-Ż: s.v. bulldog, accessed on 18.01.2023]. There are other phrases with *dywan* in contemporary Polish texts that are related to English but are not recorded in lexicographic works. These will be the subject of my deliberations, which aim to determine the ways in which these compounds function in Polish texts in their structural, valence and semantic aspects. The basis for the analyses are citations obtained through Pelcra search engines for NKJP (National Corpus of Polish), Monco.pl and Frazeo.pl,\(^2\) less frequently taken from the online archives of opinion-leading newspapers and magazines.

**ROZWINĄĆ, ROZWÍJAĆ, ROZŁOŻYĆ, ROZKŁADAĆ** etc. **CZERWONY DYWAN** [roll out the red carpet]. In the dictionary of American idioms, we find the phrase *roll out the red carpet (for someone)*, to which the neo-phraseologism written in upper-case above refers. In American English, two meanings have been ascribed to the compound: the first, literal, according to which to *roll out the red carpet for someone* is ‘to roll out a red carpet for an important person to walk on’, and the second one, figurative, that is ‘to treat someone with the utmost respect, with dignity, royally’ [Spears 2005: 567].\(^3\) In both meanings, the idiom *roll out the red carpet (for someone)* refers to the tradition of rolling out

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1 Extensive analyses of this phrase were carried out by S. Bąba and P. Fliciński [Bąba, Fliciński 2004: 144–146].


3 Cf. *roll out the red carpet (for someone) 1. Lit. to unwind a roll of red carpet for someone important to walk on. The city council decided to roll out the red carpet for the visit of the foreign prince. 2. Fig. to give someone treatment befitting royalty. The citizens of the small community enjoyed rolling out the red carpet for important visitors [Spears 2005: 567].*
a red carpet along the route taken by some important person. Such a custom has to do with the symbolism of red as the color of “Roman and Byzantine commanders, patricians, emperors, higher authority, princes, princes of the Church (cardinals)” [Kopaliński 1990: 56]. The earliest literary reference to such use of the red carpet is found in Aeschylus’ “Agamemnon” (458 BC). Nowadays, the custom in question is cultivated especially in diplomacy – important secular and church figures arriving on an official visit to a country are welcomed in this way. The described tradition is increasingly used at other ceremonies and towards other people who require special treatment for some reason.

Borrowed from English, the compound appears in Polish texts as early as the 1990s. It appears as a variant form in these texts [Dziamska-Lenart 2011: 55–79] and functions in both meanings recorded in Spears’ dictionary, with uses in the figurative sense convincing us that in Polish the semantic content of the compound is subject to semantic development. Let us begin our analysis of this neophraseologism update by determining its formal configuration. From reading the citations, it appears the verbal component functions in it in both the perfective and imperfective, occurring most often as the verbs rozwinąć, rozwijać, rozłożyć and rozkładać. Indeed, corpus search engines for specific queries show the following uses: “rozwinąć czerwony dywan” [roll out the red carpet]: “For the basketball players the red carpet was rolled out” [NKJP, “Polska. Głos Wielkopolski” 2007-02-20], “Poland did not make the mistakes that rolled out the red carpet in front of PiS” [Frazeo.pl, 2023-01-05 10:31 CIS.PL], “Who would have thought that in Paris they would roll out the red carpet in front of an anti-hero” [Frazeo.pl, 2022-10-18 16:14 POLSKATIMES.PL], “Poles rolled out the red carpet in front of their Ukrainian guests” [Frazeo.pl, 2022-04-01 04:08 POLSATNEWS.PL]; “rozwijać czerwony dywan” [roll out the red carpet]: “rolling out the red carpet” [NKJP, “Gazeta Wyborcza” 1997-08-30], “a red carpet should be rolled out in front of him” [Frazeo.pl, 2022-12-21 17:38 JASLO4U.PL], “by connecting with them, we are basically rolling out the red carpet for cybercriminals” [Frazeo.pl, 2022-07-29 13:25 INNPOLAND.PL], “the P-O-PSL government rolls out the red carpet for him” [Frazeo.pl, 2015-07-21 13:18 WPOLITYCE.PL], “rolls out the red carpet for multinational corporations” [Frazeo.pl, 2014-11-09 14:59 KRYTYKAPOLITYCZNA.PL]; rozłożyć czerwony dywan [literally: spread //

4 The title character, having returned in glory from the Trojan expedition, is greeted by his faithful spouse, Clytemnestra, who encourages him to walk home on the red carpet: “And now, my king and my lord, / my most beloved, get off the cart. But-it is not befitting / to tread the bare ground, conqueror of Ilion! / Quick, virgins! Fulfill what you have been ordered to do! / Pad the way of the Lord with dyed scarves! / Let a road of purple lie before him, / That he, saved, into this house may be led by Truth!” [Aeschylus 2005: 394].
lay out the red carpet – imperfective form] “we were received with great honors: a red carpet was laid out on the steps” [NKJP, “Dziennik Polski” 2006-03-27], “the defenders laid out the red carpet in front of the attackers” [Frazeo.pl, 2021-03-01 18:31 WESZLO.COM], “the rivals will give away the points for free and lay out the red carpet on their way to win the trophy” [Frazeo.pl, 2017-04-01 19:00 WESZLO.COM], “they would lay out the red carpet in front of her” [Frazeo.pl, 2013-04-05 19:45 HOMOSCRIBENS.BLOG.ONET.PL]; “rozkładać czerwony dywan” [literally: spread/lay out the red carpet – perfective form] during some official visits, he orders a red carpet to be laid out in front of him” [NKJP, “Gazeta Wyborcza” 1995-02-20], “after all, they are already laying out red carpets in front of us” [Frazeo.pl, 2022-01-02 14:02 NEWS.GOOGLE.COM], “we are laying out the red carpet in front of Polish entrepreneurs” [Frazeo.pl, 2021-05-15 11:19 WPOLITYCE.PL], “They were laying out the red carpet on their way to success on one condition” [Frazeo.pl, 2017-02-21 22:54 PIKIO.PL], “a red carpet is being laid out in front of Silesia on the way to the championship” [Frazeo.pl, 2012-02-16 17:21 GAZETA.PL].

Occasionally, and only after 2010 as revealed by the Frazeo.pl search engine, there appear uses with other verbs: rozścielać, rozścielić, rozesłać, rozpościerać and rozpostrzeć: “rozścielać czerwony dywan”: “they laid out red carpets in front of investors” [Frazeo.pl, 2022-09-03 09:00 SUPERNOWOSCI24.PL]; “rozścielić czerwony dywan”: “will roll out the red carpet in front of entrepreneurs fleeing the Seine” [Frazeo.pl, 2013-08-20 18:02 POLITYKA.PL]; “rozesłać czerwony dywan”: “in front of which they laid out the red carpet” [Frazeo.pl, 2018-07-24 14:29 POLSATNEWS.PL]; “rozpostrzeć czerwony dywan”: “Hajzer then laid out the red carpet for the elite of Polish Himalayanism before you” [Frazeo.pl, 2018-07-14 08:15 POLSKATIMES.PL]; “rozpościerać czerwony dywan”: “Red carpets are laid out for such guests” [Frazeo.pl, 2021-12-25 05:30 GP24.PL]. It is further evident from the quotes provided that the nominal components of the phrase most often take the singular form: “red carpet”. There are occasional examples with a plural noun: “red carpets.” Let us emphasize that this has nothing to do with adjusting the grammatical category of the number of nominal components to the requirements of the lexical environment.

The connectivity of the phrase with the minimal context is realized in these citations as a two-place compound. However, research shows that updates of strictly defined meaning are associated with the specific valence forms of a compound. Since lexical units can differ not only in the arrangement of phonological or graphemic elements, but also in the number of openings and their grammatical characteristics [Bednarek, Grochowski 1997: 14], it should be assumed that in the case of the analyzed phrase we are dealing not with one, but with two
different phraseological units: ktoś rozwinął, rozwija, rozłożył, rozkładana rarely rozściela, rozścieli, rozpostarł, rozpościerał czerwony dywan rarely czerwone dywany dla kogoś, przed kimś and ktoś, rarely coś rozwinął(nęło), rozwija, rozłożył(o), rozklada, rarely rozściela, rozścielił(o), rozpostarł(o), rozpościerał(o) czerwony dywan, rarely czerwone dywany dla kogoś, czegoś, przed kimś, przed czymś.

The first unit, actualized in the form ktoś rozwinął, rozwija, rozłożył, rozkładana rarely rozściela, rozścieli, rozpostarł, rozpościerał czerwony dywan, rarely czerwone dywany dla kogoś, przed kimś, is connected, as in English, with inviting or welcoming distinguished guests, accompanied by the laying out of a red carpet, on which important personalities of politics, business, culture, etc. tread, going in some direction. By laying out the red carpet in front of guests in such circumstances, one signals special treatment of the guest, great attentiveness and appreciation for his or her function, merits, etc. Such uses are illustrated by the following two quotes taken from the Internet Archive of the daily “Rzeczpospolita.”

[1] So, they decided to roll out the red carpet in front of the Afghan leader. During his four-day visit, Karzai will meet with Obama, head of diplomacy Hillary Clinton and Defense Secretary Robert Gates. [“Rzeczpospolita” 11.05.2010]

[2] A red carpet was rolled out in front of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in Cairo yesterday. He is the first Iranian president to visit Egypt. [“Rzeczpospolita” 6.02.2013]

In the contexts cited, the element accompanying the reception of official guests – the rolling out of the red carpet – becomes – metonymically – synonymous with the entire event: the official invitation and reception of important guests. The meaning of the first phraseological unit could therefore be formulated as ‘to officially and with attentiveness invite or receive important guests, usually people from the world of politics, business, culture, etc.’

The second phraseological unit, actualized as ktoś, rarely coś rozwinął(-nęło), rozwija, rozłożył(o), rozkładana, rarely rozściela, rozścielił(o), rozpostarł(o), rozpościerał(o) czerwony dywan, rarely czerwone dywany dla kogoś, czegoś, przed kimś, przed czymś poses some interpretive difficulties. This is because its sense in Polish texts deviates from the figurative sense attributed to the compound roll out the red carpet (for someone) in the dictionary of American idioms. Just to remind, it is about the meaning recorded there, i.e., ‘to treat someone with the utmost respect, with dignity, royally’ [Spears 2005: 567]. Its actualization is of course, visible in the uses of the Polish phrase ktoś, rarely coś rozwinął(-nęło), rozwija, rozłożył(o), rozkładana, rarely rozściela, rozścielił(o), rozpostarł(o), rozpościerał(o)
czerwony dywan, rarely. czerwone dywany dla kogoś, czegoś, przed kimś, przed czymś. However, this meaning is slightly modified in Polish and expanded to include additional semantic elements. To present them, let us first note that in Polish texts the compound in this form is used in various realities, most often concerning politics, economy and sports, but also tourism, disability, etc. By appearing in such contexts, the phrase activates two basic senses: ‘to open up to someone, to something, to invite someone, something to something, somewhere’ and ‘to make something easier for someone, to make it easier for someone to get something, to get somewhere, especially by treating someone in a special way’. We can clearly see the first sense in the following quotes:

[3] Tax fugitives are also welcome in the UK. Prime Minister David Cameron announced that he was “rolling out the red carpet” in front of the French. Cristian Clavier, among others, has already walked it. [“Rzeczpospolita” 29.12.2012]

[4] Jarosław Gowin talked about wanting to roll out “the red carpet for entrepreneurs.” Taken together, this is a very strong political message. The opposition almost never explicitly says who it represents. [Frazeo.pl, 2021-05-16 17:40 KULTURALIBERALNA.PL]

[5] Germany cannot be allowed to roll out the red carpet for companies that are part of the repression apparatus. Benner mentions, for example, the Chinese technology company Huawei, which sponsored the national CDU party conference in Baden-Württemberg last year. [Frazeo.pl, 2022-05-27 02:31 ONET.PL]

We see that the UK prime minister invites French people having trouble with the tax office to settle in England (see quote 3), Jarosław Gowin signals the Polish government’s opening up to better cooperation with entrepreneurs (quote 4), and Germany opens up to cooperation with Chinese technology companies (quote 5). In turn, the meaning ‘to make something easier for someone, to make it easier for someone to get something, to get somewhere, especially by treating someone in a special way’ is found in the following contexts:

[6] “Because there was already one such government that was making no progress. Before 2015. And with that eternal “it can’t be done”, ignoring real social problems, lacking sensitivity to the vulnerable, he rolled out the red carpet, after which PiS came to power.” [Frazeo.pl, 2022-12-22 08:55 300POLITYKA.PL]
[7] The rich man’s child is swayed in the wind, Novak Djokovic is not only playing brilliantly, but rivals are rolling out the red carpet in front of him. Italian Fabio Fognini, who was scheduled to face the Serb in the quarterfinals, withdrew due to a thigh injury, and thus Djokovic advanced to Friday’s semifinals without playing – he can rest while his rivals become exhausted. [“Rzeczpospolita” 31.05.2011]

[8] Puljić saved Jaga from losing a goal, but Puljić ended the game with a goal again today. Beautiful, maybe even the goal of the round. As he got the ball from Makuszewski near the sideline, few could have guessed a rally ending with a bomb into the window. He probably would not have guessed it either. But since ŁKS rolled out the red carpet, with absolutely no one tempted to take a go at him – until Sobocinski’s alibi slide tackle – they rushed toward the goal and scored a goal that even the football GOATs would not be ashamed of. [Frazeo.pl, 2020-06-10 21:37 WESZLO.COM]

[9] Public wi-fi networks, as a rule, are not secure – by connecting to them, in essence, we roll out the red carpet for cybercriminals to enter our computer without any effort. [Frazeo.pl, 2022-07-29 13:25 INNPOLAND.PL]

[10] It is enough that people simply listen to what I ask. Struggling with disability on a daily basis, I know very well what kind of help I need. I don’t want anyone to roll out the red carpet in front of me. [Frazeo.pl, 2018-06-20 13:41 NASZTOMASZOW.PL]

There is mention of the shortcuts PiS (Law and Justice) took during its rise to power thanks to the absence of certain actions on the part of PO (Civic Platform) (quote 6), the facilitation of Novak Djokovic’s advancement to play in the tennis semifinals by his rivals (quote 7), the facilitation of Puljić’s goal scoring, who was not blocked in action by players of the opposing team (quote 8), about the use of unsafe websites, which facilitates the actions of cyber criminals (quote 9), and of the reluctance of people with disabilities to receive special treatment instead of careful listening to their signaled needs (quote 10). I think that the content discussed here represents two shades of meaning of the second phraseological unit which usually coexist in a given updated version of the compound, although the maximum context does not always properly highlight this. Therefore, I propose to define the meaning of the second phraseological unit as ‘to open up to someone, to something, to invite someone to something, somewhere; to make something easier for someone, to make
it easier for someone to get something, to get somewhere, especially by giving special treatment to someone.’

**WYCIĄGAĆ, WYCiąGnAĆ, WyrwaĆ ETC. DYWan, DYWANIK, CHODNIK (spod nóg, stóp)** The second phrase, also appearing in Polish texts from the 1990s, is less problematic to interpret and refers to a phrase noted in various English dictionaries, that is to pull the rug (out) from under (a person or thing). *The Oxford English Dictionary* defines it as ‘to weaken or destabilize (something) by an unexpected withdrawal of support or other action; to disappoint or betray (someone)’, originating from American English.\(^5\) The variant nature of the relationship is also confirmed by the latest dictionary of English idioms: *Collins COBUILD Idioms Dictionary* of 2020, in which the phrase has already been recorded in two alternate forms, abbreviated and longer, that is, as pull from under someone // something and pull the rug from under someone’s feet.\(^6\) It is worth mentioning that an earlier edition of *Collins COBUILD Idioms Dictionary* in 1997 also signaled the qualitative variance of the verbal component.\(^7\)

A calque of an English phrase in Polish texts also appears in several variant forms, but in Polish the variance is primarily qualitative, less often quantitative. Qualitative variation, i.e., the substitution of the components of a compound with other lexemes [Dziamska-Lenart 2011: 55–79] applies to all the components of the analyzed phrase: the verbal element with alternatives such as wyciągać, wyciągnąć, wyrwać, wyrwać, wysuwać, rwać and wyszarpać, the alternating nouns: dywan, dywanik, chodnik, and the prepositional phrase: spod nóg, spod stóp.

The most common configurations of the phrase are the biaspectual forms wyciągać, wyciągnąć, wyrwać, wyrwać dywan spod nóg: “pulling the rug from under the feet of US-backed dictators for years” [Frazeo.pl, 2012-09-15 20:12 WPOLITYCE.PL], “The Russians want to pull the rug from under the feet of the Greek government” [Frazeo.pl, 2015-07-05 13:26 CIS.PL], “After all, the Law and Justice Party is pulling the rug out from under their feet” [Pelcra, Usenet – pl.soc.polityka, 3.10.2006], “the rug was pulled out from under their feet by Polityka”\

\(^5\) Cf. *to pull the rug (out) from under* (a person or thing), and var., to weaken or unsettle (something) by an unexpected withdrawal of support or by some other action; to let down or betray (someone). *colloq.* (orig. U. S.). [Simpson, Weiner 1989, XII: 809].

\(^6\) Cf. *pull the rug from under someone // something or pull the rug from under someone’s feet*. If someone pulls the rug from under someone or something or pulls the rug from under someone’s feet they suddenly stop helping and supporting them [Hands 2020: 382].

\(^7\) Cf. “These expressions are often varied, for example by replacing pull with another verb”, cf.: Sinclair 1997: 330–331.
New Phraseological Compounds with “Dywan” in Modern Polish Language

In the biaspectual form, there is also a variant with the nominal component dywanik [small rug]: wyciągać, wyciągnąć dywanik spod nóg: “Condemning Stalinist crimes is at the same time ‘pulling the rug from under Lukashenko’s feet’” [Frazeo.pl, 2010-04-07 18:37 FAKT.PL], “the rug was pulled from under his feet by his own expert” [NKJP, “Dziennik Polski” 6.02.2004]. Other variants are rarer and, as a rule, the verbal component occurs in them in only one aspect: dywanik: wyciągać, wyciągnąć dywanik spod nóg: “So George Clooney is pulling the rug from under Jean Dujardin’s feet” [Frazeo.pl, 2022-11-18 16:12 SIGNS.PL]; rwać [pull out] dywan spod nóg: “to undertake their implementation is to pull the rug out from under the feet of the opposition parties” [Frazeo.pl, 2021-05-17 10:31 DORZECZY.PL]; wyciągnąć dywanik spod stóp: “The crisis has pulled the rug from under the feet of the entire real estate industry” [Frazeo.pl, 2013-12-10 11:20 RP.PL]; wyciągnąć chodnik spod nóg: “Pol Pot pulled the rug out from under the feet of UN politicians” [NKJP, “Gazeta Wyborcza” 4.08.1992]; wyciągnąć dywan spod stóp: “we pulled the rug from under the feet of communism” [Frazeo.pl, 2022-08-30 20:58 WPOLITYCE.PL]; wyciągnąć dywan spod stóp: “China pulled the rug from under the company’s feet” [Frazeo.pl, 2019-12-03 17:03 NCZAS.COM].

As for quantitative variants, that is, shorter forms of the compound (Dziamska-Lenart 2011: 59), in the case of the analyzed phrase, this involves eliminating the prepositional phrases spod nóg, spod stóp. However, updates of the compound in this truncated form in the materials analyzed are rare. I found only one example of the use of the phrase in the form of spod nóg, spod stóp in the nominalized form: “przeprowadzili tzw. wyciągnięcie dywanu spod projektu” (“they carried out the so-called pulling of the rug from under the project”) [Frazeo.pl, 2021-11-02 09:42 INNPOLAND.PL]. The above observations allow us to conclude that the analyzed compound in Polish is only just now stabilizing, usually taking the form of wyciągać, wyciągnąć, wyrywać, wyrwać dywan, dywanik, chodnik spod nóg, spod stóp.

In terms of valency, the analyzed phrase is a two-place compound, opening a place in both positions primarily for personal nouns, less often: impersonal. Typical connectivity patterns include ktoś wyciąga, wyciągnął, wyrywa, wyrwał dywan, dywanik, chodnik spod nóg, spod stóp komuś and ktoś wyciąga, wyciągnął, wyrywa, wyrwał dywan, dywanik, chodnik spod nóg, spod stóp kogoś. Rarer updates provide for filling valency spaces with impersonal nouns such as coś wyciąga, wyciągnęło, wyrywa, wyrwał dywan, dywanik, chodnik spod nóg, spod stóp komuś, czemuś, czegoś.

In terms of meaning, the analyzed phrase is not yet fully stabilized; in the texts it is used with several shades of meaning. It is often updated as a synonym
for surprising someone with something, confusing someone with something, as illustrated by the following examples:

[11] If Dorota Warakomska pronounced the name in this way it is because the management of our editorial office posted the appropriate order…. this is the result of the confusion around the name of the Saudi…since the beginning of the crisis, the press competed in its inflections, generally it was Osama bin Laden, as initially pronounced by the Americans, Gazeta Wyborcza, among others, is an exception and insists on writing Osama ben Laden…. this is the form used by Poland’s foremost journalistic expert on Afghanistan Wojciech Jagielski… But it was Polityka that pulsed the rug from under everyone’s feet anyway by unexpectedly using the form Osama ibn Laden… [NKJP, Usenet – pl.hum.polszczyzna, 18.11.2001]

[12] From the very beginning we know what the murderer looks like – after all, we saw him in the previous part. It is clear that he is no psycho but an ordinary person under the influence of a curse and cannot be killed. Well, and we know who will survive, because we have already seen them in the future known from part one. The filmmakers seemingly try to pull the proverbial rug out from under the audience’s feet by revealing which of the two Berman sisters will ultimately survive and tell this very story, but clearly something went wrong, because most viewers will immediately guess it and won’t even realize they were supposed to think otherwise. [Frazeo.pl, 2021-07-11 19:06 NEWS.GOOGLE.COM]

There is a reference to the journalists’ trouble with the correct pronunciation and spelling of the Saudi terrorist’s name, especially when “Polityka” weekly used the form “Osama ibn Laden”, which surprised everyone (quote 11). Quote 12 is an excerpt from a review of the film “Urban Legend” in which the author is critical of the clumsy attempts to surprise viewers with sudden plot twists.

In many quotes, the phrase is used in the sense of ‘to harm someone, something; weaken someone’s chances, weaken someone, something.’ This is illustrated by the following example:

[13] Gmyz stressed that some of the demands are proposals of the current opposition parties that have not been implemented by them. – The funniest thing about this whole situation is that some of these ideas that were put forward as part of the Polish Deal – were previously suggested by the opposition, this includes simplifying the paperwork for building small houses of up to 70 sqm,
or proposals for a tax-free pension, which the PSL party at one time publicized. The problem was that, unfortunately, these parties did not keep these promises when they were in power”, he said. [...] – It is clear that collecting some of the opposition’s good ideas and undertaking their implementation is pulling the rug from under the opposition parties’ feet”, Gmyz added. [Frazeo.pl, 2021-05-17 10:31 DORZECZY.PL]

This is the opinion of a journalist, Cezary Gmyz, who sees declines in popularity polls for Civic Platform (PO) due to Law and Justice’s use of some of PO’s good ideas, not implemented by the party in a timely manner. The damage done by the real estate crisis in the UK is mentioned in quote 14:

[14] He sold one of the vacant units. He thus earned £25,000. All of this has helped to turn on the light at the end of the tunnel. New opportunities. The crisis has pulled the rug out from under the feet of the entire real estate industry in the UK [...]. [Frazeo.pl, 2013-12-10 11:20 RP.PL]

Quote 15, on the other hand, highlights China’s unexpected withholding of support for the French company Alstom:

[15] Just when it seemed that France would easily win the contract to build the TGV connecting Marrakech to Agadir, China pulled the rug out from under Alstom’s feet. [Frazeo.pl, 2019-12-03 17:03 NCZAS.COM]

Thus, as a way of generalization, we can say that the analyzed phrase is synonymous in Polish texts with the meaning of ‘to surprise someone with something, to confuse someone; to weaken someone, something, to withdraw support for someone, something, to harm someone, something’.

In conclusion, the influences of English on the phraseology of modern Polish signaled in the literature are well demonstrated by the phraseological units with dywan. The latest linguistic dictionaries have already registered the English-inspired compounds zamiatać, zamieść coś pod dywan [sweep sth under the rug], czerwony dywan [red carpet], walka buldogów pod dywanem [bulldog fight under the rug]. In Polish texts there are three other idiomatic connections which are phraseological calques of English constructions, namely rozwija, rozłożył, rozkłada, rarely rozciała, rozciała, rozpostał, rozpościerał czerwony dywan, rarely czerwone dywany dla kogoś, przed kimś ‘someone invited officially and received with attentiveness, invited or received, received important guests, usually people from the world of politics, business, culture, etc’; ktoś
rarely coś rozwinął (-ęło), rozwij, rozłożył(o), rozkłada, rarely rozściela, rozście-
lil(o), rozpostarl(o), rozpościeral(o) czerwony dywan, rarely czerwone dywany dla kogoś, czegoś, przed kimś, przed czymś ‘someone, rarely something opens to someone, to something, invites someone to something, somewhere; someone, something makes it easier for someone to get something, to get somewhere, especially by treating someone in a special way’; ktoś rarely coś wyciąga, wyciągnął (-ęło), wyrywa, wyrwał(o) etc. dywan, dywanik, chodnik spod (nóg, stóp) komuś, kogoś, czegoś ‘someone, rarely something surprises, surprised someone with something, confuses, confused someone; weakens, weakened someone, something, withdraws, withdrew support for someone, something; harms, harmed someone, something.’ Reading the examples is also convincing in that the analyzed compounds are still at the stage of consolidation in the language, are highly variable and subject to different types of modifications [Lewicki 2003: 165–167].

Translated by Magdalena Perdek

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New Phraseological Compounds with “Dywan” in Modern Polish Language


Literature

Ajschyllos (2005), Tragedie, Kraków.
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Palka Patrycja, Kwaśnicka-Janowicz Agata (2017), Przewodnik po elektronicznych zasobach językowych dla polonistów (słowniki, kartoteki, korpusy, kompendia), Kraków.
The subject of discussion in this article are new phraseological compounds with the component dywan, which have been in use since the 1990s in Polish texts. These compounds, not yet recorded in language dictionaries, have emerged under the influence of the English language. They refer to phrases related to the English combinations of roll out the red carpet (for someone) and pull from under someone // something or pull the rug from under someone’s feet. The article analyses the ways these expressions function in Polish texts, considering their formal structure, compatibility with minimal context, and meaning. The research shows that these new combinations, inspired by the English language, consist of three phrases: ktoś rozwinął, rozwija, rozłożył, rozkłada less commonly rozściela, rozścieli, rozpostarł, rozpościerał czerwony dywan, less commonly czerwone dywany dla kogoś, przed kimś – meaning ‘someone officially and attentively invites or receives important guests, usually from the worlds of politics, business, culture, etc.’; ktoś less commonly coś rozwinął(o), rozwija, rozłożył(o), rozklada, less commonly rozściela, rozścieli(o), rozpostarł(o), rozpościerał(o) czerwony dywan, less commonly czerwone dywany dla kogoś, czegoś, przed kimś, przed czymś – meaning ‘someone, less commonly something, opens up to someone, something, invites someone, something to something, somewhere; someone, something facilitates something for someone, the acquisition of something, getting somewhere, especially through special treatment’; ktoś less commonly coś wyciąga, wyciągnął (-ęło), wyrwa, wyrwał(o) etc. dywan, dywanik, chodnik spod (nóg, stóp) komuś, kogoś, czego – meaning ‘someone, less commonly something, surprises, has surprised someone with something, disorients, has disoriented someone; weakens, has weakened someone, something, withdraws, has withdrawn support for someone, something, harms, has harmed someone, something’.
**Keywords:** phraseology; new phraseological compounds; foreign borrowings; phraseological calques.

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