

## Combinability of *zacząć* + nouns

My paper deals with the different combination possibilities of *zacząć* with nouns. The phasal auxiliary *zacząć* is the regular and typical way of expressing the beginning of actional situations in Polish. Usually *zacząć* is combined with imperfective infinitives and indicates the beginning of the expressed actional situation. However *zacząć* can not only be combined with infinitives but also – then fulfilling the function of a full verb – with nouns. These can be verbal, nonverbal abstract (e.g. *zacząć lekcję/wesele*) and even concrete nouns (e.g. *zacząć pismo/książkę*). The analysis of this variety of combinatorics of *zacząć* with several types of nouns is the main topic of my paper. My objective is to discover which criteria delimit the possibility of combination with *zacząć*, i.e. to identify the specifics of these abstract and concrete nouns that enable them to be combined with *zacząć* and influence the meaning of the constructions.

I assume the combinations of concrete nouns with *zacząć* (e.g. *zacząć książkę*) to be elliptic: an actional situation is connotated (here *czytać* or *pisać*) whose beginning is expressed. What we are dealing with here are metonymies – although the beginning of the actional situation is here the intended meaning, the depending object is expressed instead. What actional situation will be connotated depends in my opinion in many but not in all cases on the context/the conversational situation. A differentiation is to be made between ‘ad hoc formations’, which can be deciphered only in one particular context, and common formations that typically connotate a specific actional situation (prioritized/default connotation). These prioritized connotations can be verified by means of the associative dictionary (Karaulov) and the number of examples of such elliptic constructions in Polish search engines. Let us take *zacząć pismo* as an example: the actional situation usually connotated is the one expressed by *pisać* (cp. in Karaulov’s dictionary the most frequent association with *письмо* in form of a verb is *написать*). If the beginning of another situation (not corresponding to the one usually connotated) ought to be expressed (e.g. *zacząć drzeć pismo*) no elliptic construction is used. Rather the intended actional situation (not according with the one the reader/listener has in mind) is directly expressed unless a specific context limits the possibilities of the missing component to one and only one possible actional situation. At first glance the number of concrete nouns that can be combined with *zacząć* is limited. Whether this observation could be affirmed in my studies will be presented in my speech aiming at a detailed description of the factors that determine the combinatorics of *zacząć* + concrete nouns.

Concerning the combination of *zacząć* and abstract nouns I focus on those abstract nouns that are not deverbal derivations but can still be combined with *zacząć* (e.g. *zacząć wesele/kolację/lekcję*). In my opinion these nouns are characterized by the expression of situations/events that include a specific sequence of actional situations. For these actional situations a form of mental script is available. If the listener/reader has at his command suchlike mental models of the sequence of the actional situations expressed by the abstract noun, he is able to mentally put the situations into phases and isolate the expressed beginning phase. In this subject my aim is to identify the specific characteristics of the abstract nouns that enable them to be combined with *zacząć* and that have influence on the meaning of the construction.