

The author has chosen eight journalistic quotations from Sunday releases of *Fakty* and *Wiadomości*. Each example contains an assertive that juxtaposes two elements of reality. An analysis of a quotation will be divided into two parts: the depiction of extra-informative linguistic tools (linguistic persuasion) and the short description of textual linguistic image of the world with respect to a given value¹.

a) the value of action

The first of them, *action*, may be defined among others as ‘initiative’ or ‘deed’², the lexeme is antonymous to such words as *apathy*, *idleness*, *indolence* or even *weakness*³. *A man of action* (Pol. *człowiek czynu*⁴) is a person who takes initiative, who prefers to do things rather than only discuss them⁵. The first two examples refer to a problem that required action: sewage leakage from the sewage treatment plant *Czajka* in Warsaw in September 2019. The issue was described from two perspectives: the governments’ (PiS) and city authorities’ (PO).

(1) Miał być start, jest kolejne opóźnienie – awaryjny rurociąg wciąż nie działa. Do Wisły wciąż wpadają stołeczne ścieki, ale nie ma powodów do niepokoju, zapewniają władze miasta. Za kilkanaście godzin obie nitki powinny podjąć pracę. O wiele dłużej potrwa naprawa uszkodzonych kolektorów [There was supposed to be a start, but there is another delay – the emergency pipeline is still not working. Warsaw’s sewage continues to flow into the Vistula, but there is no cause for concern, the city authorities assure. Both threads should start working in a dozen or so hours. It will take much longer to repair damaged collector.] (F, 8.09., 11’28’’⁶)

Sentence (1) comments on the governments’ plans to prepare an emergency pipeline that would serve as a temporary solution, before constructing the appropriate one. The contrast in the first sentence, between what was supposed to be (*a start*) and what we are dealing with in reality (*a delay* – a lexeme containing overt assessment, accompanied by the word *another*, contextually evaluating in negative way) highlights the negative valuation of the described situation by the speaker. At the end of the phrase, the assertive *awaryjny rurociąg wciąż nie działa* [the emergency pipeline is still not working] is supposed to provide (new) information on the state of affairs – this expectation is reinforced by the place of the assertive, in focus. Instead, it provides in fact interpretation: by using the word *wciąż* [still] that expresses impatience and by

¹ More on values (*freedom*, *Polishness*, *tolerance*) in the language of media: (Polkowska 2018).

² <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/action> (March 20, 2021).

³ <https://www.thesaurus.com/browse/action> (March 20, 2021).

⁴ More on the Polish lexeme *czyn*: A. Świątek (2020).

⁵ <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/pl/dictionary/english/a-man-of-action> (March 20, 2021).

⁶ The source in brackets indicates the programme: W (*Wiadomości*) or F (*Fakty*), the date and the accurate time of the end of the quotation.

the use of the mentioned contrast at the beginning of the sentence. In this way, contrast expression becomes a kind of an interpretative teaser of the content expressed in assertion. Assertive, in turn, becomes a synthesis or explanation of the contrast, both are intrinsically related to one another.

Statement expressed in example (1) leads in consequence to an image of government that is devoid of the power to act. In turn, its trademark is latency, deceleration in the matters that require fast and effective action (just as preventing sewage from inflowing in Vistula waters).