This paper explores different paths of re-conceptualization followed by Poles approximating (Lewandowska-Tomaszczyk, 2010, 2012) structures belonging to Caused Motion Construction (Goldberg, 1995) in translation. Since English sentences such as “Tom sneezed off papers from the desk” do not have a lexical/syntactical counterparts in Polish, translators dealing with such structures must re-conceptualize the Event Structure (Davidson, 2001) in order to render the meaning in a subjectively optimal way. The study is based on empirical data elicited from 51 native speakers of Polish studying English Philology at the MA level to become translators. Their proposals are analyzed from the cognitive semantic perspective of Talmy’s (2000) schema of motion event, which takes into consideration the Cause of motion occurrence as an associated external co-event of motion.

The constructions found in the data range from participials, e.g. “Kichając, Tomek zdmuchnął papiery z biurka” [EN: While sneezing, Tom blew off papers from the desk] and instrumental verbal nominals, e.g. “Tomek zdmuchnął kartki z biurka kichnięciem” [EN: Tom blew off papers from the desk with a sneeze] to importing the construction directly into Polish by coining the neologism “Tomek skichnął papiery z biurka” based on the perfectivizing verbal prefix “z/s-” (cf. Tabakowska, 2003). They demonstrate a key role of construal (Langacker, 2008) in the inter-linguistic re-conceptualization, which is guided partly by the target language grammar, partly by the cognitive principles that organize our conceptions of the reality, and partly by the subjective preferences of individual translators in picking up or devising particular target language forms to profile the situation in a specific manner.

Keywords: re-conceptualization, approximation, Motion Events, Caused Motion Construction, cause semantics

References