

The main area of the analysis is legal sanity. The evaluation of sanity is one of the most common tasks of forensic psychiatrists who always work in groups of two experts. It is not a psychopathological state or a medical diagnosis but has major importance for criminal responsibility.

BACKGROUND

Forensic psychiatrists have to prepare their texts for a “foreign audience” (lawyers, journalists, etc.) with significantly different education, disciplinary culture, and professional language. Therefore, they can be perceived as “translators” – their task is to translate from psychiatric into legal. However, legal language and terms are difficult to reconcile with the diagnostic possibilities of modern psychiatry. Law is concerned with justice, fact-finding and the attribution of guilt. The subject matter of psychiatry concerns itself with human behaviour and mental disorder. During the judicial proceedings, these two distinct categorization systems collide.

Psychiatry often comes into the process of applying the law – the expert's role is not only to examine the subject, but also to interpret and to draw conclusions regarding legal qualification of the act. Forensic psychiatrists explain criminal act within the framework of a possible mental illness to give meaning to events that go beyond the legal, political, economic or moral order.

My aim is to reconstruct language patterns and text strategies adopted by forensic psychiatrists

MATERIALS

The study will include about 200 forensic psychiatric reports.

The pilot study

includes 65 reports issued by psychiatrists representing a mental health reference center in Poland from years 2015–2018 (557 670 tokens).

I treat the forensic psychiatric reports as a genre, showing its specificity against other types of texts emerging during court and preparatory proceedings. I focus on the adaptation of medical-psychological language to the requirements of the justice system.

METHODS

The analysis will consist of two stages. I will combine quantitative and qualitative methods of text analysis by taking the approach called mixed methods research. Firstly, I will investigate patterns in vocabulary, grammar and text structure to characterize the genre of Polish forensic psychiatric reports. Secondly, I will explore the discourses behind their narratives. I will employ the methods and tools of Corpus Linguistics.

The current pilot study involves:

- **Keyword analysis** in comparison to a reference corpus of Polish language (Korpusomat by IPI PAN)
- **Collocation and concordance analysis** (TermoPL by IPI PAN)
- **Verbal characteristics** (Verbs by CLARIN-PL)
- **Stylometric analysis** in comparison to a reference corpus of forensic psychological reports (WebSty by CLARIN-PL)
- **Topic modeling** (Topic by CLARIN-PL)

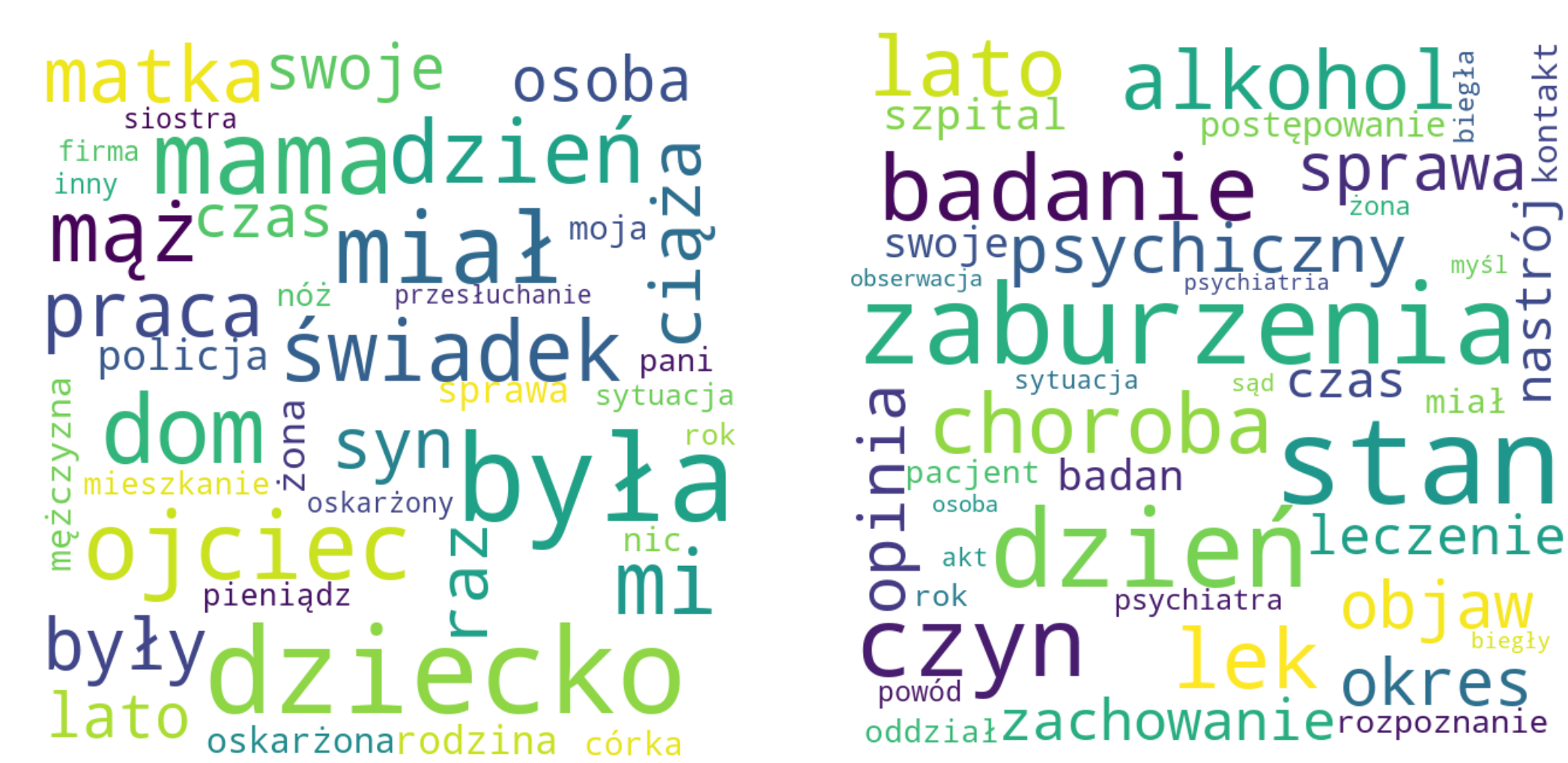
Table 1. The most frequent keywords

Lemma PL	Lemma ENG	Significance	Frequency
opiniować	providing opinion	41.6	1740
psychiczny	mental	35.7	1325
psychiatryczny	psychiatric	34.6	1208
czyn	act	34.4	1273
zaburzenie	disorder	33.1	1114
badanie	examination	32.1	1304
stan	state	31.9	1537
dzień	day	29.9	2068
sądowy	forensic	29.4	936
alkohol	alcohol	28.5	970
lek	medication (also MD)	28.4	889
opinia	opinion/report	28.1	1013
objaw	symptom	28.1	834
biegły	expert witness	27.8	804
choroba	illness	27.8	957
zachowanie	behaviour	26.2	803
nastrój	mood	25.3	701
okres	period	23.8	932
leczyć	to treat	23.7	633
leczenie	treatment	23.6	608

6 out of 20 top keywords (including „ilness”) are legal in nature and are closely related to judicial proceedings. The lemmas "disorder", "symptom" and "mood" are medical in nature and are associated with the diagnosis process, while the lemmas "medicine", "to treat" and "treatment" – with the therapeutic process. Other keywords occur in both medical and legal contexts. The word „patient” is very rare.

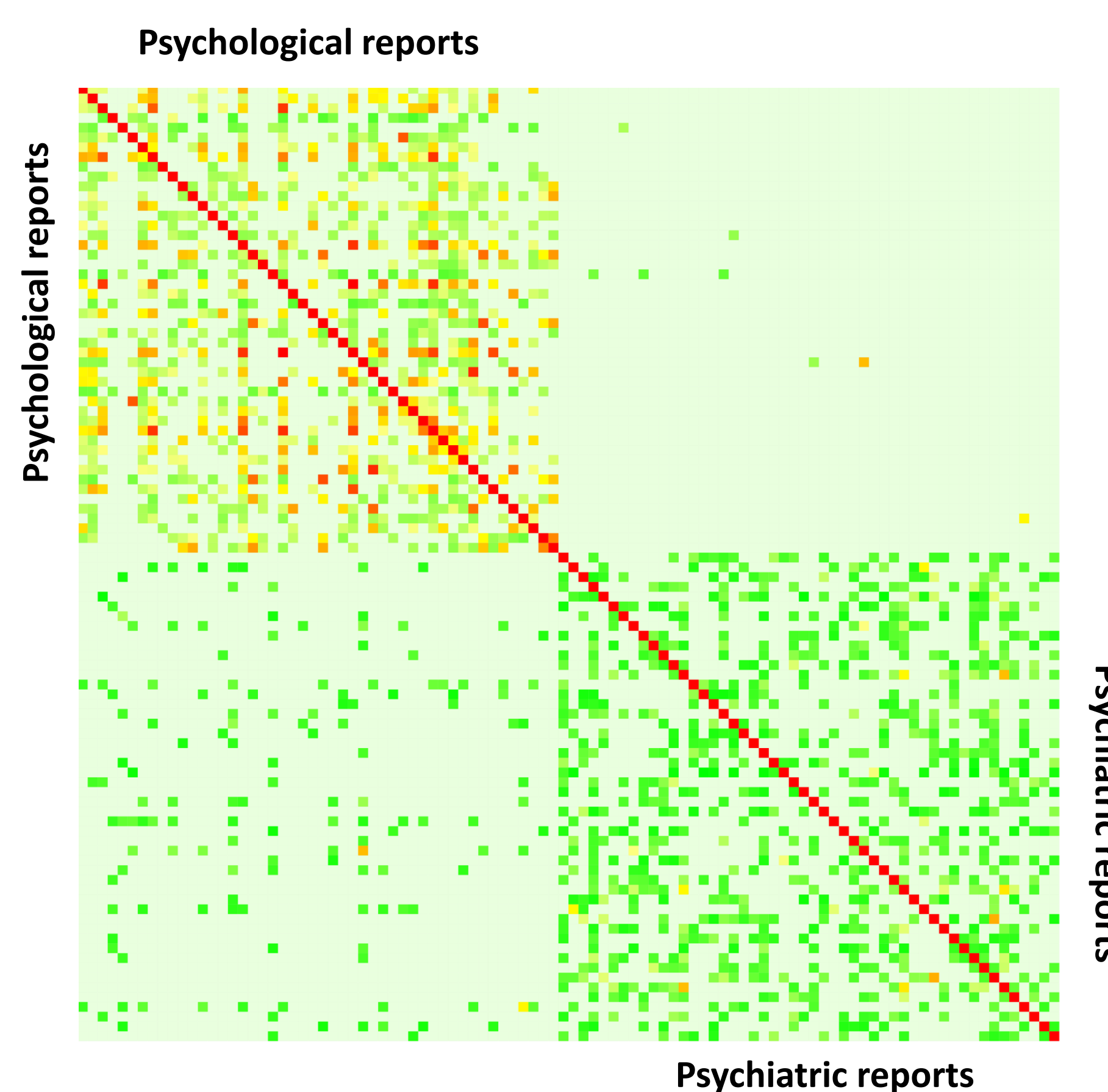
- legal vocabulary
- psychiatric vocabulary

Figure 1. The most frequent words in the topics "investigation" and "diagnosis"



As a result of topic modeling, I obtained two topics. The first one can be defined as "investigation" or "fact finding". It contains legal vocabulary and vocabulary related to the activities of law enforcement or judicial body and vocabulary used to describe the perpetrator and the circumstances of the crime. The second can be described as "diagnosis". It covers concepts related to the diagnostic process.

Figure 2. Comparison of the style of psychological and psychiatric reports issued in the same cases (warmer color represents greater similarity)



In the course of stylometric analysis, psychiatric and psychological reports issued in the same cases were divided into two groups. The results were presented in the form of a heat map. Psychiatric opinions differ from psychological opinions in terms of style. Interestingly, psychological reports are clearly more similar to each other in stylistic terms than psychiatric reports.

Table 2. Verbal characteristics

Forms	Frequency	%
Tokens	562714	
Verbs	64584	11.5
First Person Singular	7813	12.1
First Person Plural	1205	1.9
Third Person Singular	41473	64.2
Third Person Plural	5593	8.7
Infinitive	5557	8.6
Impersonal Verbs	2728	4.2
Conditional Mood	469	0.7
Present Tense	19610	30.4
Past Tense	37588	58.2
Future Tense	1231	1.9

Forensic psychiatrists rarely use verbs in the first-person plural. They often replace personal forms with impersonal forms. The use of the first-person singular may be considered as a characteristic feature of forensic psychiatric reports. Experts give voice to suspects, quoting excerpts from their statements. Another feature of the genre is the very frequent use of the past tense, which results from the focus on the criminal act.

CONCLUSIONS

Polish forensic psychiatric reports seem not to have reached the status of a distinct genre. Psychiatric expert witnesses, in contrast to forensic psychologists, have no uniform convention of writing. Even psychiatrists representing the same institution use different text strategies. The most characteristic features of psychiatric reports are (i) the tendency to limit the presence of the voice of the author (e.g. avoiding writing in the first-person plural and using impersonal forms instead), and (ii) the tendency to recognize the criminal act in terms of concrete and describable reality of facts/actions. The collision of the two types of discourse (legal vs. psychiatric) is visible both at the lowest lexical level and at the level of the macrostructures. Psychiatrists clearly try to adopt legal terms fitting them into their usual medical language.