The present dissertation is part of the research trend in contrastive paremiology. For the purpose of comparison, a unilateral method was chosen, with the source language being German and the target language being Polish. The corpus consists of 190 modern German proverbs that include designations for family members, relatives, and in-laws, along with their Polish equivalents. The research material was excerpted from monolingual and bilingual proverb dictionaries and internet resources. Proverbs are examined at both the semantic and formal-syntactic levels. The work has a theoretical and practical character, aiming to analyze interlingual equivalence relations and investigate a group of German proverbs.

The first theoretical part characterizes proverbs in contrast to phraseological expressions and other related language units, as well as their functional changes. The empirical part begins by defining the concept of literal meaning and other factors that influence the final meaning of an utterance, such as connotations, stereotypes, verbal context, reading between the lines, or the language and subject knowledge of the recipient. The subsequent part presents the theory of the sentence, followed by the determination of obligatory and optional sentence components, which are used to compare the syntactic structure of proverbs in both languages. The empirical part includes a contrastive analysis of the corpus using the comparative method described earlier and based on defined levels of equivalence. Four levels of equivalence were distinguished for the study: full equivalence, partial equivalence, conditional equivalence (as a subvariant of partial equivalence), and zero equivalence in cases where there is no equivalent in the target language. The contrastive analysis of the corpus pertains to the semantic-lexical and formal-syntactic levels. The results of the comparison are summarized in commentary and calculations to illustrate interlingual equivalence relations of selected proverbs.

This study can be beneficial for teaching the German language, lexicography, and serve as a foundation and impetus for further paremiological research.