

(Anti-)immigration discourses in the post-2015 Poland: A CDS and proximization theoretical perspective

Piotr Cap
University of Łódź

The US

- (1) The **safety** of Polish **families** is this government's priority. Polish people deserve it. They deserve **equal rights** and **social justice**. They deserve to feel masters of their own house. They deserve to feel **secure**. They deserve **peace, stability** and **economic progress**. This is the true meaning of **freedom** and **independence**. We derive it from our **Christian heritage**, the values to which our nation has been committed for centuries and to which we are committed today. We stand firm by these values and our **national sovereignty**. We do not take foreign orders. (Jarosław Kaczyński, May 9, 2016)¹
- (2) We refuse to sacrifice our **freedom** and **security** for **political correctness**. From the very beginning we have said that this issue [of immigration] should be resolved by assisting refugees outside the EU. We are staunchly against the European Commission proposal, which would force EU member states to pay millions of euros² per refused refugee. Such a decision would abolish the **sovereignty of EU member states**. We do not agree to that, we have to oppose that, because we are and we will be in charge in our own country. (Witold Waszczykowski, June 12, 2016)
- (3) As **Christians**, we are raised to be **tolerant** and **respectful** of other cultures. But we ask the same kind of **respect** from others. It is our right to decide whom we welcome to our own house. Because there are cultures, there are values, which simply cannot coexist. (Beata Szydło, September 5, 2016)
- (4) We must reject the cheap slogans of '**multiculturalism**' and '**enrichment**'. We must reject **political correctness** and call things by their true names. Rather than shedding tears like [Federica] Mogherini or organizing marches that solve nothing, authorities should ensure the **safety** of citizens. Here in Poland, our predecessors³ were on track to commit the same mistakes as other Western countries. But the new government sets the priorities right. Our main responsibility is to uphold the **freedom** and **security** of our people. This has been our election promise and we will keep it. (Mariusz Błaszczak, July 20, 2016)^{4,5}

The THEM

- (5) We say no to those young healthy men **who selfishly leave behind their wives and children** to improve their own lives. We say no to those **who choose to escape rather than fight for their country**. (Beata Szydło, January 14, 2016)
- (6) We are not going to have the problems that Brussels or Stockholm have. We are not going to have districts where sharia law or any law other than Polish law reigns. Where there are **no-go zones for police**. And **where every few weeks something explodes**. (Mariusz Błaszczak, March 2, 2017)
- (7) Can someone tell me why, after 1,000 women were assaulted in Cologne on New Year's Eve, Mrs. Merkel is still supporting the Muslim immigration in Germany? Didn't they have enough to see that Muslims do **not integrate because they don't want to**? (Witold Waszczykowski, April 23, 2016)
- (8) Have we forgotten that, in the past, migrants brought **diseases like cholera and dysentery** to Europe, as well as **all sorts of parasites and protozoa**, which while not dangerous in the organisms of these people, could be dangerous here. (Jarosław Kaczyński, December 19, 2015)

The THEM against US proximization

- (9) Our position has been clear from the beginning. The issue of immigration from the Middle East should be resolved where it has originated. By advancing freedom and democracy in Syria and Iraq, we help end a cycle of **dictatorship and radicalism** that **brings millions of people to misery and frustration**, and **brings danger** and, one day, **tragedy, to our own people**. (Beata Szydło, October 3, 2016)
- (10) To those who are happy to welcome immigrants at our doors, I have a suggestion: go and see the Suruç camp⁶. See the gangs and the riots. See the young Muslim criminals. See the **anger, violence, and terror**. It is there and **is ready for export**. This evil might not have reached us yet, but it is **well in sight**. And there is **no-one in Brussels who can protect us when it comes**. (Mariusz Błaszczak, February 13, 2017)

¹ In examples (1)-(8) the markers of US and THEM appear in bold/italic and bold, respectively.

² In fact, the EC proposal included the figure '€250,000'.

³ The Civic Platform party, ruling Poland between 2007-2015.

⁴ This statement was made 6 days after an Islamic terrorist attack, in which a truck was deliberately driven into crowds celebrating Bastille Day on the Promenade des Anglais in Nice, France, killing 84 people and injuring 434.

⁵ These and forthcoming translations by P.C.

⁶ A refugee camp in Turkey, run by the UN Refugee Agency.