

# Polish-ASTE: Aspect-Sentiment Triplet Extraction Datasets for Polish

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## Abstract

Aspect-Sentiment Triplet Extraction (ASTE) is one of the most challenging and complex tasks in sentiment analysis. It concerns the construction of triplets that contain an aspect, its associated sentiment polarity, and an opinion phrase that serves as a rationale for the assigned polarity. Despite the growing popularity of the task and the many machine learning methods being proposed to address it, the number of datasets for ASTE is very limited. In particular, no dataset is available for any of the Slavic languages. In this paper, we present two new datasets for ASTE containing customer opinions about hotels and purchased products expressed in Polish. We also perform experiments with two ASTE techniques combined with two large language models for Polish to investigate their performance and the difficulty of the assembled datasets. The new datasets are available under a permissive licence and have the same file format as the English datasets, facilitating their use in future research.

**Keywords:** aspect-sentiment triplet extraction, sentiment analysis, language resources, Polish

## 1. Introduction

Aspect Sentiment Triplet Extraction (ASTE) is a recently proposed sentiment analysis (SA) task (Peng et al., 2020) that involves the extraction of triplets comprising:

- aspect phrase - a text span that represents a particular feature or attribute of the item, for which an opinion is being expressed
- sentiment polarity - often categorised as positive, negative or neutral and refers to the emotional tone being expressed regarding the given aspect.
- opinion phrase - a text span that explicitly conveys the sentiment towards the aspect.

Two examples of sentences with extracted ASTE triplets are given below and in Figure 1.

Cena jest rozsądna, ale obsługa słaba.  
*The price is reasonable, but the service is poor.*

Triplets: (Cena<sub>price</sub>, rozsądna<sub>reasonable</sub>, Positive), (obsługa<sub>service</sub>, słaba<sub>poor</sub>, Negative)

Pokój był czysty i bardzo przytulny.  
*The room was clean and very cosy.*

Triplets: (Pokój<sub>room</sub>, czysty<sub>clean</sub>, Positive), (Pokój<sub>room</sub>, bardzo przytulny<sub>very cosy</sub>, Positive)

Note that multi-word phrases and one-to-many links are possible.

Since the ASTE triples provide the comprehensive "What, How and Why" information regarding the sentiment (Peng et al., 2020), the

task quickly gained significant research attention. Many machine learning techniques have been proposed, including GTS (Wu et al., 2020), JET (Xu et al., 2020), Span-based approach (Xu et al., 2021), PBF (Li et al., 2021), GAS (Zhang et al., 2021), a two-stage approach (Huang et al., 2021), BMRC (Liu et al., 2022), SBC (Chen et al., 2022) and EPISA (Naglik and Lango, 2023). However, the experimental evaluation of these models is limited to English only, since datasets for other languages are not available.

In this paper, we introduce two novel datasets for ASTE that contain customer opinions on hotels and purchased products, all expressed in Polish. Furthermore, we conduct experiments using two ASTE techniques in conjunction with two state-of-the-art large language models designed for Polish to assess the difficulty posed by the newly curated datasets to already existing ASTE methods.

## 2. Related works

There are several datasets constructed for sentiment analysis in Polish. PolEmo 2.0 (Kocoń et al., 2019a) contains over 57k sentences with annotated sentiment polarity, later extended to AspectEmo (Kocoń et al., 2021) with sentiment assigned to each token of the sentence. Even more fine-grained annotation can be found in the Polish Sentiment Treebank<sup>1</sup>, used in the PolEval-2017 challenge (Wawer and Ogrodniczuk, 2017), which is a dependency treebank with sentiment annotations for each subphrase of the sentence.

<sup>1</sup><http://zil.ipipan.waw.pl/TreebankWydzwieku>

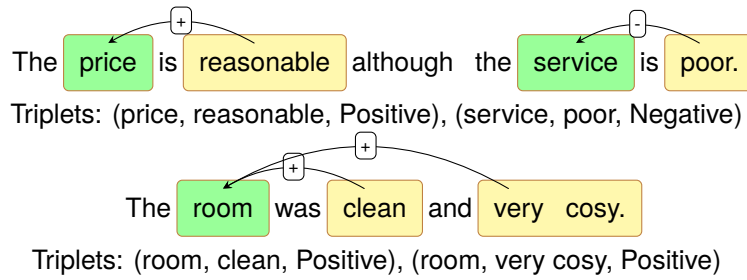


Figure 1: ASTE triplets extracted from two example sentences. Opinion and aspect phrases are highlighted in yellow and green, respectively. The +/- sign denote positive/negative sentiment.

Short informal texts are at the focus of Twitter-Emo corpus (Bogdanowicz et al., 2023) which provides annotation for detecting sarcasm, sentiment and basic emotions. Ptaszynski et al. (2019) collected dataset for cyberbullying detection. Similarly, HateSpeech corpus<sup>2</sup>(Troszyński and Wawer, 2017) comprises online posts with offensive content.

Allegro Reviews dataset (Rybak et al., 2020) contains customer reviews with 1-5 ratings from a popular Polish e-commerce marketplace. Finally, Wrocław Corpus of Consumer Reviews Sentiment (WCCRS, Kocoń et al. 2019b) is a multi-domain dataset of Polish textual reviews, available on a permissive license that allows its adaptation and transformation.

None of the aforementioned Polish datasets is suitable for training machine learning models for ASTE, but naturally such datasets do exist for English. The datasets originate from SemEval shared tasks (Pontiki et al., 2014, 2015, 2016), for which the following corpora were constructed: 14lab (opinions about laptops), 14res, 15res and 16res (restaurant reviews). Fan et al. (2019) extended these corpora by adding opinion term annotation and Peng et al. (2020) finally compiled them for ASTE.

It is important to mention that there are other related tasks like structured SA or fine-grained SA, which have datasets constructed for different languages e.g. for Basque and Catalan (Barnes et al., 2018), German (Klinger and Cimiano, 2014), Czech (Steinberger et al., 2014) or Hindi (Akhtar et al., 2016). Some of these tasks even involve the extraction of some triplets from texts, but they contain opinion holders, aspect categories, or others.

### 3. New ASTE Datasets for Polish

#### 3.1. Construction of datasets

The customer reviews for the new datasets were taken from the training part of Wrocław Corpus of

Consumer Reviews Sentiment (WCCRS) (Kocoń et al., 2019), which contains online customer reviews from four domains: medicine, hotels, products and students’ opinions about lectures. The sentiment polarity in WCCRS is provided at the sentence and document level, but not at the aspect level. Therefore, the sentiment annotation from WCCRS was not used during the construction of our ASTE datasets.

We selected two WCCRS domains: hotels (reviews of hotels, originally taken from TripAdvisor) and products (buyers’ opinions on products from Ceneo.pl). Following previous work for English (Fan et al., 2019; Peng et al., 2020), we annotated (aspect phrase, opinion phrase, sentiment polarity) triples in each sentence, where aspect/opinion phrases are text spans and the considered sentiment polarities are: positive, negative and neutral.

The datasets were annotated by Polish native speakers using Doccano annotation platform (Nakayama et al., 2018). Every annotator studied the annotation guidelines prepared by an NLP expert with experience in sentiment analysis. All doubts and questions of the annotators were discussed during the Q&A sessions. Quality control was done by reviewing the annotators’ output by NLP experts who were allowed to correct them if needed (less than 5% of examples). To measure the inter-annotator agreement, we asked one of our annotators to re-annotate 50 examples from the hotel datasets that had previously been annotated by another annotator. The annotator provided the same annotation for 78% of the sentences.

A basic summary of the annotation guidelines is provided below.

- Aspects should be properties of the whole item/service being described in a review. For instance, in a hotel review the aspects might be “room” or “parking lot” but not “kettle”.
- Opinion phrases are the shortest possible phrases that provide a sentiment polarity for an aspect, without changing the intensity of the sentiment polarity. For example, in

<sup>2</sup><http://zil.ipipan.waw.pl/HateSpeech>

the text “very good room” the phrase “very good” is an opinion phrase because a shorter phrase “good” would lose information about the sentiment intensity.

- If the review contains an opinion phrase but no aspect, it should not be annotated.
- If the opinion can be assigned to the phrase that denotes the whole described item, it should be treated as an aspect. However, if it is possible to associate the opinion phrase with a more precise aspect, the name of the whole item should be ignored. For instance: “Everything is good” will not be annotated as there is no aspect phrase, “The hotel is good” should yield the (hotel, good, positive) triplet, but “The hotel has good rooms” should be annotated as (rooms, good, positive).
- The aspect phrases should not contain prepositions, even if they determine the noun declension e.g. “W pokoju wszystko było okej” (In the room everything was good) will be annotated as (pokoju/room, okej/good, positive)
- While assigning sentiment polarity, the context and the intention of the opinion giver should be taken into account.

While annotating WCCRS corpus, we noticed that some of the texts did not appear to be customer reviews, but rather press releases discussing, for example, hotel construction or the tourism industry. Such sentences were flagged by our annotators and excluded from further analysis in this paper. However, we release them along with our annotations for possible future experiments with out-of-domain texts.

Our datasets are available under open source licence CC BY-SA 4.0 Deed<sup>3</sup> on our GitHub repository<sup>4</sup> with the file format being compatible with English datasets constructed for ASTE (Wu et al., 2020). This will allow easier integration with already existing code bases and hopefully will incentivise comparison of ASTE models on the newly proposed benchmark for Polish.

### 3.2. Characteristics of new datasets

The qualitative analysis of the constructed datasets can be found in Table 1. For comparison, the same statistics were computed for four English datasets from SemEval competitions. Furthermore, to facilitate comparisons, we computed a weighted average of each statistic value over all

<sup>3</sup><https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>

<sup>4</sup><https://anonymous.4open.science/r/Polish-ASTE-Datasets-anonymous/>

datasets for each language, using the size of the corpora (measured by the number of sentences) as the average weight.

The average number of triples in a sentence is slightly higher in the Polish datasets, mostly due to more frequent opinion phrases forming triples with the same aspect. An important feature of the proposed datasets that makes them more challenging are multi-word opinion phrases, which are almost six times more frequent than in the English datasets. The average length of an opinion phrase is 2.97 words in the hotels dataset and 2.22 words in the products’ dataset, while this value does not exceed 1.25 in any of the English corpora. Similarly, the number of triples containing solely single word spans in both aspect and opinion phrases is about 1.75 times lower in the Polish datasets. Such triples are much easier to construct by machine learning methods, making the Polish datasets more challenging for them.

The distribution of sentiment polarity in the Polish datasets is significantly more balanced between positive and negative classes than in the English counterparts. However, in datasets for both languages, the triplets with Neutral sentiment are quite rare. Note, that the issue of class imbalance is common in sentiment classification (Lango, 2019).

## 4. Experimental evaluation

### 4.1. Experimental setup

The aim of experimental evaluation is to assess the difficulty of the newly constructed datasets for Polish. We selected two deep learning approaches for the comparison:

- Grid Tagging Scheme (GTS, Wu et al., 2020) is a classical approach for ASTE which builds a classifier predicting a particular word-by-word matrix. Due to the special coding scheme used, the matrix can be converted to aspect-sentiment triplets by a dedicated decoding algorithm.
- Exploiting Phrase Interrelations Span-level Approach (EPISA, Naglik and Lango, 2023) is a recent technique that first generates all suitable phrases from a given text, and then constructs final triples with a 2-dimensional CRF model that exploits interrelations between the phrases. To the best of our knowledge, this is the state-of-the-art approach for ASTE for English.

To construct text representation, the aforementioned models leverage masked language models (MLM) like BERT (Devlin et al., 2019) or DeBERTa (He et al., 2020) which are pre-trained on

|  | English |       |       |       | Polish |       | Norm. avg. |       |
|--|---------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|------------|-------|
|  | 14lap   | 14res | 15res | 16res | hot.   | prod. | Eng.       | Pol.  |
| Number of sentences                                  | 1453    | 2068  | 1075  | 1393  | 590    | 511   | n/a        | n/a   |
| Number of triplets                                   | 2349    | 3909  | 1747  | 2247  | 1197   | 851   | 1.69       | 1.85  |
| incl. with negative sentiment                        | 774     | 754   | 401   | 483   | 541    | 376   | 0.40       | 0.83  |
| incl. with neutral sentiment                         | 225     | 286   | 61    | 90    | 58     | 54    | 0.10       | 0.10  |
| incl. with positive sentiment                        | 1350    | 2869  | 1285  | 1674  | 598    | 421   | 1.18       | 0.92  |
| Number of aspect phrases                             | 2030    | 3392  | 1507  | 1946  | 798    | 693   | 1.46       | 1.35  |
| incl. single word aspect phrases                     | 1292    | 2545  | 1102  | 1427  | 681    | 526   | 1.04       | 1.09  |
| incl. multi-word aspect phrases                      | 738     | 847   | 405   | 519   | 117    | 167   | 0.42       | 0.26  |
| Number of opinion phrases                            | 2030    | 3409  | 1620  | 2078  | 1156   | 827   | 1.51       | 1.79  |
| incl. single word opinion phrases                    | 1705    | 3037  | 1421  | 1829  | 412    | 343   | 1.32       | 0.68  |
| incl. multi-word opinion phrases                     | 325     | 372   | 199   | 249   | 744    | 484   | 0.19       | 1.10  |
| Number of one-to-many relation                       | 535     | 812   | 307   | 388   | 323    | 150   | 0.33       | 0.42  |
| incl. one aspect-to-many opinions                    | 281     | 443   | 208   | 263   | 289    | 128   | 0.20       | 0.37  |
| incl. one opinion-to-many aspects                    | 254     | 369   | 99    | 125   | 34     | 22    | 0.13       | 0.05  |
| N. of triplets w/ single words spans                 | 1305    | 2631  | 1140  | 1478  | 385    | 287   | 1.07       | 0.61  |
| N. of triplets w/ a multi-word phrases               | 1044    | 1278  | 607   | 769   | 812    | 564   | 0.61       | 1.24  |
| incl. with multi-word opinion and single word aspect | 207     | 302   | 149   | 188   | 649    | 377   | 0.14       | 0.92  |
| incl. with multi-word aspect and single-word opinion | 684     | 875   | 403   | 513   | 46     | 70    | 0.41       | 0.11  |
| Mean sentence length (words)                         | 18.4    | 16.9  | 15.0  | 14.9  | 16.4   | 21.0  | 16.43      | 18.50 |
| Mean length of aspect phrases                        | 1.47    | 1.40  | 1.45  | 1.44  | 1.26   | 1.40  | 1.44       | 1.32  |
| Mean length of opinion phrases                       | 1.25    | 1.16  | 1.19  | 1.19  | 2.97   | 2.22  | 1.20       | 2.62  |

Table 1: Quantitative characteristics of the proposed corpora for Polish (hotel, products) and, for comparison. of already existing corpora for English. Additionally, an average normalized by the size of the corpus (number of sentences) is computed over all corpora for a given language (Norm. avg.).

| Language | Dataset             | GTS       |        |       | EPISA     |        |       |
|----------|---------------------|-----------|--------|-------|-----------|--------|-------|
|          |                     | Precision | Recall | F1    | Precision | Recall | F1    |
| English  | 14lap               | 58.54     | 50.65  | 54.30 | 66.98     | 60.55  | 63.56 |
|          | 14res               | 68.71     | 67.67  | 68.17 | 75.29     | 72.56  | 73.89 |
|          | 15res               | 60.69     | 60.54  | 60.61 | 66.44     | 64.74  | 65.54 |
|          | 16res               | 67.39     | 66.73  | 67.06 | 71.12     | 72.45  | 71.77 |
| Polish   | products (TrelBERT) | 45.15     | 40.17  | 41.74 | 50.01     | 43.36  | 46.07 |
|          | products (HerBERT)  | 40.65     | 33.79  | 35.65 | 48.18     | 44.09  | 45.89 |
|          | hotels (TrelBERT)   | 42.07     | 37.82  | 39.08 | 49.07     | 41.66  | 44.72 |
|          | hotels (HerBERT)    | 37.35     | 28.28  | 30.02 | 48.79     | 42.76  | 45.47 |

Table 2: The experimental results of ASTE task, measured with Precision, Recall and F1 for two methods: GTS and EPISA. For Polish datasets two variants of these methods are explored, with different backbone masked language models: TrelBERT and HerBERT.

English texts. Therefore, in our study we reimplemented them replacing the original MLMs with two established architectures for Polish, namely HerBERT (Mroczkowski et al., 2021) and TrelBERT (Szymd et al., 2023).

Following related works, the models are evaluated using three criteria: precision, recall, and F1-score. An aspect/opinion phrase is deemed accurate only if it perfectly aligns with the gold standard (exact match). A triplet is considered a true positive only if all its parts are correct. All metric values presented were calculated on the respective test set and averaged across ten separate training

runs. 60% of dataset examples were used for training set and 20% for validation and test set, respectively. Examples without any annotated triplets were omitted during training.

## 4.2. Results

The results are presented in Table 2. As expected, the more recent EPISA method produced better results in terms of F1 score for all datasets, with an average improvement of 7.5 percentage points over GTS. For both Polish datasets, the combination of GTS with TrelBERT yielded better results

than its HerBERT counterpart. Similarly, the TrelBERT variant achieved the highest F1-score value for EPISA on products corpora. On the other hand, HerBERT performed slightly better on hotels corpora when paired with EPISA.

The proposed Polish datasets proved to be much more challenging for existing methods than the existing English datasets. The F1 score averaged over all English datasets is 63.5% for GTS and 68.7% for EPISA, while the average performance of the generally better performing TrelBERT variants is 40.5% and 45.4% for GTS and EPISA respectively. The difference in triplet extraction performance between Polish and English is approx. 23 percentage points for both methods, which calls for future research in ASTE for under-resourced languages.

## 5. Summary

In this paper we have presented two datasets for the Aspect Sentiment Triplet Extraction task for the Polish language. The new datasets have the same format as commonly used English datasets, which facilitates the comparison and development of machine learning ASTE models for both languages. The ASTE datasets for Polish are characterised by a higher average number of triplets and a higher frequency of one-to-many relations than their English counterparts. Multi-word opinion phrases are also significantly more common.

The conducted experiments with two ASTE deep learning approaches adopted to Polish by coupling them with two different Polish language models showed that the constructed datasets are challenging for modern machine learning techniques.

## 6. Frequently Asked Questions

1. The data used for annotation is a subset of an existing data set - why is it being presented as two datasets?

The research on ASTE is almost exclusively carried out on the English datasets discussed in our paper. These datasets contain texts from only one domain, e.g. opinions about restaurants or laptops. The performance achieved by the current SOTA methods on English is still not fully satisfactory and production-ready to move to a more challenging scenario of multi-domain datasets. As we expected that training ASTE for Polish may be even more challenging, we considered it necessary to produce single-domain datasets as well. However, just as all four English datasets can be merged into one

larger dataset, the same is true for the Polish datasets. One can also merge all the datasets in our work to test the multilingual multi-domain scenario.

2. The lower metric values obtained on Polish datasets are interpreted as the datasets being more challenging. Is it possible that the model replication/implementation for Polish has issues?

Both the GTS and EPISA algorithms have been run by us for Polish and English using original implementation provided by the authors. For EPISA we were able to reproduce the exact results of the original work on English, as the original implementation of EPISA was available with fixed random seed. GTS results differed slightly from the original work on English, but none of the differences were statistically significant. The Polish datasets have the same input format as the English datasets, and the only change with respect to the original methods is to replace an English MLM with a Polish MLM, so it is unlikely that there are any implementation issues for Polish.

3. Is it possible that the methods used were just optimized for English data, and this causes the lower performance on the Polish data?

Although current SOTA methods based on deep learning do not appear to explicitly model language-dependent features that would favour English over Polish, it is possible that they are inadvertently optimised for English data. For example, published methods tend to perform better on English benchmarks, leading to the promotion of such methods during development, despite the fact that other design choices might work better for other languages. Developing datasets for languages other than English is the first step in investigating this issue.

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