

A summary of
Optimal specifications: On case marking in Polish

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In *Optimal specifications: On case marking in Polish*, B. Wiese explores the Polish case system by comparing its characteristics to those of other language's noun case systems. In particular, he argues that describing the Polish case system using a large amount of paradigms should be avoided.

First of all, the author tries to classify the Polish system as either agglutinative or inflective. The first describing a system where noun function is regularly denoted by its form (i.e. case ending). The latter differs from this notion, as function and form do not exhibit a unique relation. Polish appears to fit neither description. Wiese shows irregularity in case endings between different paradigms in the Polish case system, but also illustrates that these irregularities themselves adhere to some structure—none of the irregular endings merely appears in a single paradigm.

The writing concludes that (the aforementioned) analysis reveals that Polish noun declensions don't employ a model of monolithic blocks. When investigated carefully a total of ten singular—five feminine and five non-feminine—and an equal number of plural endings can be distinguished. Across paradigms the function of endings is invariable, even in those cases where irregularity occurs.