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The role of the Polish language during the Czech National Revival from a modern perspective

1. The topic of language contact between Polish and Czech is rather complex and full of uncertainties. It is nearly impossible to determine the actual source of many words regarded as Polonisms and Bohemisms due to phonetic, morphological and historical reasons.

2. Czech influenced Polish throughout much of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance for religious and political reasons, especially in the 10th century and during the Jagiellonian Era (15th and 16th centuries).

3. In the 17th century, the Bohemian lands underwent heavy Germanization, leading to the decline of the Czech language and its cultural influence. It is during that period that interest in the Polish language began to grow among the Czechs.

4. The Czech National Revival began in the late 18th century, and since its inception Czech scholars and writers drew inspiration from the Polish language and literature.

5. Among the most notable Czech scholars inspired by the Polish language were Josef Jungmann, who incorporated about 1,200 lexemes derived from Polish into his *Czech-German Dictionary*, and Jan Svatopluk Presl, who introduced many Polish-based botanical, zoological, and chemical terms that are still in use, e.g. *vavřín* 'laurel' (< *wawrzyn*), *malpa* 'capuchin monkey' (< *małpa*), and *plyn* 'gas' (< *płyn*).

6. Interest in the Polish language during the Czech National Revival was deeply rooted in the idea of Pan-Slavism and the pro-Slavic sentiment that was prevalent at the time. In general, the "re-Slavicization" and "de-Germanization" of Czech culture were seen as ways of creating and strengthening Czech national identity, and Polish was hardly the only language that was attracting the attention of contemporary Czech intellectual elites. They also sought inspiration from other Slavic languages, e.g. Russian or Serbo-Croatian, as part of their efforts to "purify" the language.

7. The period of Polish language's influence on Czech was relatively brief but intense. According to T. Z. Orłoś (1987), there are approximately 2,200 Czech lexemes that can be regarded as Polonism, including obscure, archaic, or ephemeral words. However, further analysis shows that if we count only those words that are clearly derived from Polish and occur in contemporary Czech sources (i.e., from the second half of the 20th century to the present day), the number of true Polonisms in Modern Czech can be limited to merely 60 lexical items. The lasting impact of Polish on Czech is therefore rather limited, and the role of the Polish language during the Czech National Revival comes out as largely ideological. Furthermore, colloquialisms of Germanic origin are widespread in Modern Czech, and the influence of English in recent time is also noticeable, as the Czech language continues to evolve and adapts to its users' needs.