Translation and Circulation
Bronisław Trentowski’s Philosophical Wordplays

In the early nineteenth century, Central Europe witnessed a vast number of proposals to codify languages and to make them on a par to what one could call pan-European languages, German and French. While Polish had a certain tradition of scholarly literature, political turmoil of the partitions had in a way brought perturbations into the cultural and scientific production in Polish language. Thus, in the nineteenth century we can find a large number of scholars proposing their own versions of Polish vocabularies for science and humanities. In my paper I trace the ideas of one of them, Bronislaw Trentowski (1808-1869), who from 1840s developed an original and controversial philosophical vocabulary. As I argue, Trentowski’s philosophy and its language cannot be understood without three contexts of translations. First, his writings were (self-) translations from German. Second, he translated German idealist philosophy and its approach to language into Polish. Third, and final, translation of his own philosophy was an important issue for Trentowski, as he considered his writings to be universal: Polish-rooted but translatable in all cultured languages.