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Report

2010



The University of Manchester

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Polish in Manchester

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Have Polish immigrants, who immigrated to Manchester after 2004, retained their heritage language?

How has Manchester officially recognised this heritage language?

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1.0 Research Question:

Have Polish immigrants who immigrated to Manchester after 2004 retained their heritage language?

How has Manchester officially recognised this heritage language?

2.0 Methodology

2.1 Where?

A number of areas in Manchester have a high population of Polish immigrants. These include Chorlton, Moss Side, Irlam and Prestwich. We decided to carry out our fieldwork at Chorlton and Moss Side as we had found a vibrant Polish community on preliminary visits to these areas. We also decided to visit a Polish shop near to the university (appendix 1), as this is known to be a popular shop with Polish natives.

Although we aimed to visit churches, schools and shops, the implementation of this was more difficult than anticipated. This is discussed under 'Problems and Limitations' in section 5.0. We found that *Polskie Sklepy*, 'Polish Shops', were the best locations for our research as they were busy with a largely Polish clientele. We also carried out questionnaires at a Polish church in Moss Side (appendix 2). We enquired at the shop near to the university as to the times of the church services and timed our visit with a church service ending, which we felt would be the busiest time. We found that there was a diverse range of people at the church, which was advantageous in gathering the thoughts and opinions of a variety of speakers.

2.2 How?

We decided to carry out face-to-face interviews with Polish speakers, as this was the quickest, cheapest and most direct way to obtain information (appendix 3). We created a questionnaire comprised of closed questions for this purpose. The questionnaire was short and concise, which was especially important as we would be stopping our participants in the street, without previous arrangement, and therefore we did not want to deter them from contributing.

We took advantage of the fluent Polish speaker in the group by conducting all of the questionnaires in Polish. This was particularly effective as it seemed to put the participants at ease, resulting in their willingness to contribute more and to elaborate on their answers. A recording of the questionnaire can be found in appendix 4. Permission slips to use voice recordings and photographs can be found in appendix 5.

We initially aimed to get around 30-40 completed questionnaires, as it was anticipated that this would be adequate for the purposes of this study, whilst keeping a realistic target in mind. We were able to obtain 40 completed questionnaires. Two examples of the completed questionnaire can be found in appendix 6.

We set out to collect all of the data by the 8^{th} of May and had completed the fieldwork by the 25^{th} of April.

Aside from completing the questionnaires, we also planned to look at the media provisions available to polish immigrants in Manchester. We intended to interview a representative from a Polish radio station in Manchester and a Polish newspaper based in the North of Britain, *The Northern Echo*. However, we encountered significant problems with this research (see Problems and Limitations section 5.0). As a result, we carried out research into other Polish media provisions available in Manchester.

Firstly, Polish television is available for people who live in Oldham, Greater Manchester and the surrounding area (appendix 7). Residents can be provided with the latest Polish set top boxes giving them access to *TV Polonia*, as well as other Polish channels.

Also, *The Kino Film Festival* was held in central Manchester from the 27th April to the 2nd May. This European Film Festival included various Polish entries, along with a Polish Film Poster exhibition held in the city centre, while the film festival took place (appendix 8).

We also found various Polish newspapers including *The Polish Observer*, a UK based Polish newspaper distributed throughout the UK and within Manchester. Another newspaper is *The Polish Express*, one of the most established British-based Polish

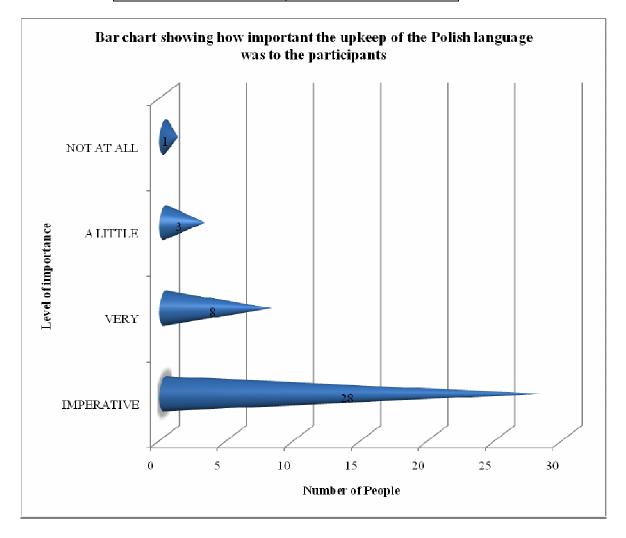
newspapers, dating back to 2003 (www.polishexpress.polacy.co.uk). It is the most popular Polish newspaper throughout the UK (examples of both found in appendix 9).

Moreover, we found many online resources for Polish native speakers. Polish people in Manchester can search for each other through social networking sites, such as *Facebook*. On *Facebook* in particular, they can join groups, such as the *Manchester Polish society*, affiliated with *The University of Manchester* (appendix 10). Online chat forums are also available, where Polish natives can converse in either Polish or English (appendix 11). In fact, many Polish social groups, such as *Biesiada*, a Manchester-based Polish singing group, and *Polonez Manchester*, a dance group, advertise themselves, as well as their events on their websites (appendix 12). We also found a Manchester-based Polish beauty contest *Miss Polonii*, which was advertised on the internet and in Polish magazines (appendix 13). These are all opportunities for Polish native speakers to socialize with each other and use their heritage language.

3.0 Results

3.1 Question1: How important is the upkeep of your language to you?

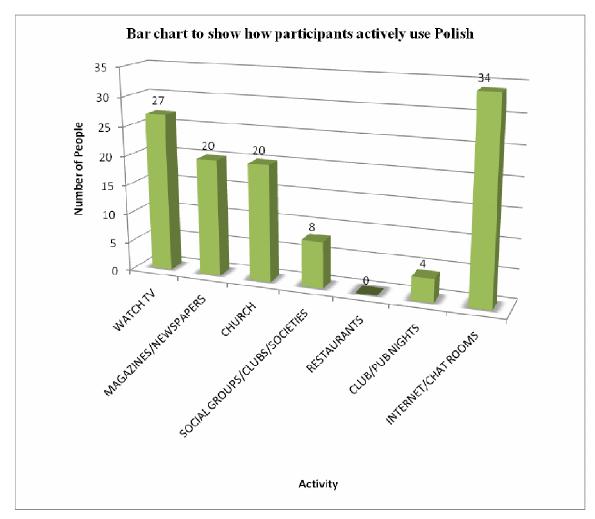
LEVEL O IMPORTANCE	NUMBER O	F PEOPLE
IMPERATIVE	28	
VERY	8	
A LITTLE	3	
NOT AT ALL	1	



This graph shows that 90% of people asked feel that the upkeep of their language is either very important or imperative to them, with only 1 in 10 participants expressing that the upkeep of their native language was of little or no importance.

3.2 Question 2: What do you actively do to use the Polish language?

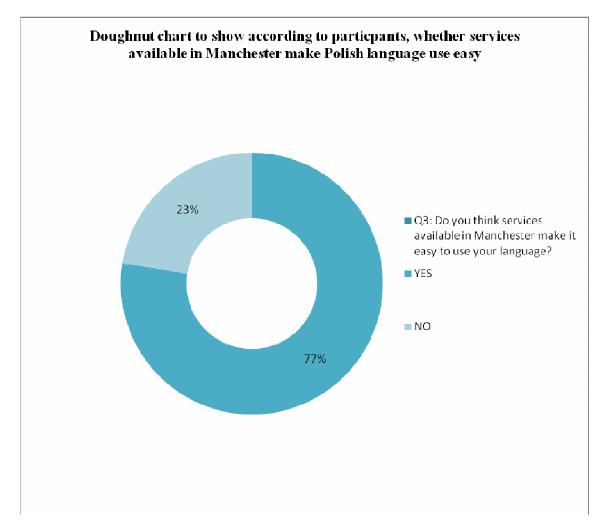
ACTIVITY	NUMBER OF PEOPLE
WATCH TV	27
MAGAZINES/NEWSPAPERS	20
CHURCH	20
SOCIAL GROUPS/CLUBS/SOCIETIES	8
RESTAURANTS	0
CLUB/PUB NIGHTS	4
INTERNET	34



This bar chart above shows that the Internet, with 34 out of a potential 40 participants (85%) using it, is the most popular medium used by participants used in order to maintain their native language. The chart also shows that club/pub nights (10% of participants frequented these nights) and restaurants (0% went to restaurants) were the least favoured spots for the participants to use Polish.

3.3 Question 3: Do you think services in Manchester make it easy for you to use your language?

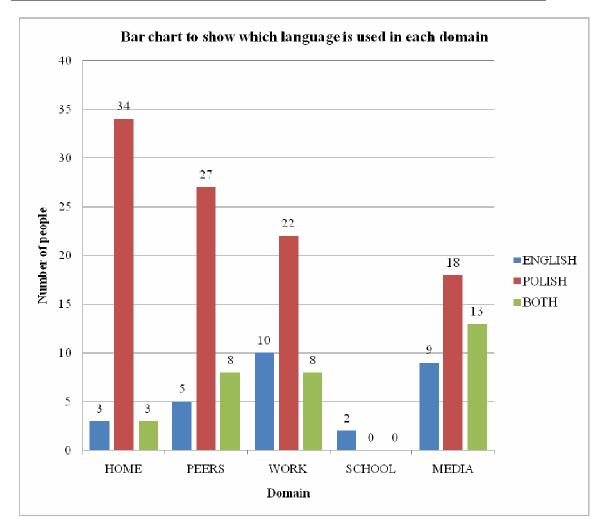
ANSWER	NUMBER OF PEOPLE
YES	31
NO	9



The pie chart above shows that 77% of the participants agree that the availability of services make it easier to use their native language.

3.4 Question 4: Which language do you use in different domains?

DOMAIN	ENGLISH	POLISH	ВОТН
HOME	3	34	3
PEERS	5	27	8
WORK	10	22	8
SCHOOL	2	0	0
MEDIA	9	18	13

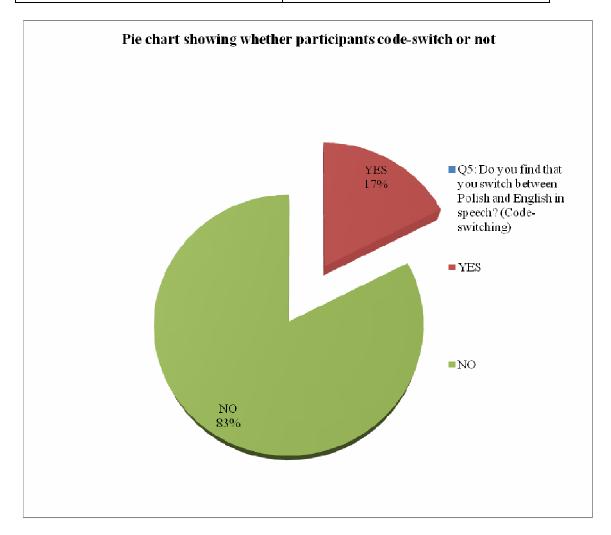


The bar chart above illustrates that Polish is the most popular language in all the domains, in particular in the home, with 34 out of 40 people (85%) choosing to use Polish only in this domain. Polish is also the language of choice when communicating with peers (67.5% of people use Polish when speaking to peers, 12.5% use English, 20% use both), and also in the work place. In terms of the media, the difference is

much less significant, with 18 participants stating that they used Polish, and only 5 fewer stating that they use media sources in both English and Polish.

3.5 Question 5: Do you find that you switch between Polish and English in Sseech (code-switching)?

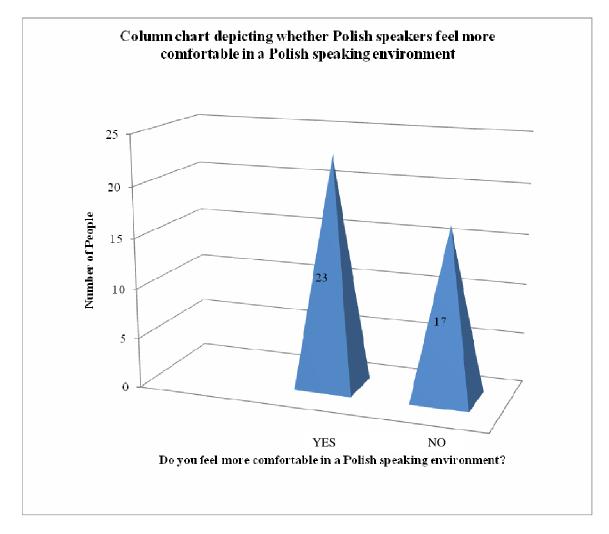
ANSWER	NUMBER OF PEOPLE
YES	7
NO	33



This pie chart above illustrates that 83% of the Polish participants interviewed do not code switch.

3.6 Question 6: Do you feel more comfortable using Polish in an environment where it is the language in use? Would you prefer to be in such an environment? For example, at work.

ANSWER	NUMBER OF PEOPLE
YES	23
NO	17



This column charts shows that just over half, 57.5% of the participants, felt more comfortable in a Polish-speaking environment. 42.5% of participants stated that they would not necessarily prefer to be surrounded by other Polish speakers.

4.0 Discussion

Although we did not state our original hypotheses in our proposal, we expected to find that Polish immigrants, who felt that the upkeep of their language was important, would use the services and media provisions available to them more. We also expected that Polish immigrants, who used these services and provisions, would use their native tongue more.

Generally the upkeep of the Polish language seemed to be of high importance to the participants. This result is not unexpected, Kathy Burrel suggests that Polish immigrants often 'reconstruct Poland abroad... preserving ones language, education and religion' (Burrel, 2009: 108). Only one person said that the upkeep of their language was of no importance at all, though this participant told us that she had been in England since she was 12 and, now, at the age of 17 spoke in English with all her friends. She also mentioned to the interviewer that she was embarrassed to speak in Polish. This participant aside, all other participants used Polish in a majority of domains we enquired about. Interestingly, none of the participants spoke Polish at restaurants, though subsequent internet research showed there to be few Polish restaurants in the areas we visited. An overwhelming number of participants used Polish websites and chat rooms. Three participants made specific reference to chat rooms, which had been established especially for Polish immigrants, who had moved to the UK (appendix 11). Most of the participants used Polish over English when at home and amongst peers. Although almost a quarter of participants used Polish when at work, a large number used English or both Polish and English. We realise however, that this is depends on their place of work and the nationality of their colleagues. Only two of the participants we spoke to attended school, both of whom used English. This is not representative of the school attending Polish community.

Anna Szuber's study; *Native Polish-speaking Adolescent Immigrants' Exposure to and Use of English* (2007) looked into the language use of 59 Polish adolescents, who had immigrated to the USA. Her research found that these native Polish speakers "predominantly used Polish across a variety of settings" (2007:26).

She found that "Students who immigrated at older ages were typically exposed to less English" (2007:26). This is reflected in our results, as 97.5% of the participants we asked used Polish in the majority of the domains we enquired about. Furthermore, the youngest participant in our study, aged 17, did not use Polish in any of the domains.

Most of the participants either used only Polish or both Polish and English media, which shows how useful these provisions are. Most participants stated that they did not code switch, though code-switching could be subconscious. Also code-switching may apply more to second generation, bilingual speakers.

Overall, it seems there is a strong link between considering the upkeep of the language to be greatly important, the use of services and provisions and the use of the Polish language. As we hypothesised, those who felt it was most important to maintain their native tongue seemed to use both the services and the language itself more.

5.0 Problems and Limitations

During our research we encountered several problems, which we did not anticipate in the initial proposal.

The first problem encountered was contacting a representative from *Polskie Radio Manchester*. We initially tried to contact them by telephone but the number had been disconnected. We also tried to contact them via email but received no reply (appendix 14). We also emailed *The Polish Echo*, via the contact link on their webpage (appendix 15). The email sent can be seen in appendix 16. We then noticed that there had been no activity on the newspaper's website since 2007, when it was last copyrighted. After receiving no reply, we came to the conclusion that the newspaper was no longer in distribution. This was problematic as we were unable to carry out the Questionnaire on Polish Media (appendix 17), though fortunately this was not integral to the research question. We initially were interested in visiting the Polish Saturday school at the Manchester Academy, but unfortunately the need for a CRB check made this impossible.

Prior to going to Chorlton we used the internet to research Polish shops in the area. We found two; one in the central market and one on Manchester Road. Unfortunately, on arrival we found that the shops were closed (appendix 18). After asking employees in neighbouring shops, we established that they had been closed for some months. We did, however, find a continental market nearby (a picture of this market can be found in appendix 19). Although the clientele was much more diverse than the clientele of the Polish shops would have been, we did find 7 participants.

Also problematic was that on using the questionnaires we had developed, we found some of the questions to be unclear. The participants were confused by question 1(see 3.1). At least three participants asked what was meant by the question, meaning that the interviewer had to elaborate. The participants seemed to think that the question was asking whether the importance of their upkeep of Polish was in comparison to their upkeep of English. After the first 5 interviews it became apparent that the question needed to be changed. We therefore changed the question from 1 to 1a, below:

1a) How important is the upkeep of your language to your identity?

Question 3 caused confusion (see 3.3). The confusion here seemed to be that participants were unsure as to whether we meant public or private services. To clarify, we changed to question to the question in 3a, see below:

3a) Do you think that the available services in Manchester; both public services such as hospitals and private services such as shops, provide you with more opportunities to use your language?

There was also an overall communication problem. Although we used a fluent Polish speaker to interview the participants, the speaker was non-native and therefore may have worded the questions in a way which the participants were unfamiliar with.

6.0 Possible solutions

If this study were to be repeated, various factors would have to be taken into consideration. In order to obtain optimum, representative results, a much larger sample would be necessary. As the participants we interviewed often elaborated on their answers to the closed questions, it may be beneficial to carry out narrative interviews rather than questionnaires. To give as fair and representative a set of results as possible, information about the population in the different areas of Manchester would be obtained and a proportional amount of people to each area would be interviewed. It would also be beneficial to visit each area of the city at various times during the day, so as not to exclude any potential participants (for example, visiting the area at 7 in the evening so as not to exclude people working between 9 and 5).

7.0 Further Research

Further in depth research can potentially stem from this project. Whist still focusing on the language use of the target Polish immigrants, it would be highly interesting to compare the results with those of participants from other member states that joined at the same time, such as Hungary and Slovakia. Do they use their native languages in a similar way, and how, if at all, has Manchester reacted to their arrival? It would also be possible to compare the results of this research with results of studies carried out amongst immigrants, who arrived before the EU expansion. Do they use English more than post-EU expansion Poles, bearing in mind that there were fewer opportunities available for them to use their Polish? Another extremely interesting area of research would be to compare the language use of the different age groups and how they use the media provisions. Do young people between 18 and 25 use their Polish more often than those aged between 45 and 60, and which age group uses the amenities and media provisions available to them more?

Appendix

Appendix 1: Photograph of Polish shop near university



Appendix 2: Photograph of Polish church sign



<u>Appendix 3</u>: Photograph of a group member interviewing Polish speakers using the questionnaire



<u>Appendix 4</u>: Recording of a participant's response to the questionnaire (Compatible with iTunes)

http://www.examplemagazine.com/storage/alexg.m4a

<u>Appendix 5</u>: Scanned copies of permission slips obtained from participants:

I give permission for students: 7311111, 7322901, 7200373, 7154902, 7278652, 7289741 at the
University of Manchester to publish my quotes/photos/ voice recordings.
Signed Michael Grantwicz
Date 25-104/10
photo outside thop
moto outher the
Lgive permission for students: 7311111, 7322901, 7200373, 7154902, 7278652, 7289741 at the
University of Manchester to publish my quotes photos/ voice recordings.
Signed G. MAZUK
Date 2510410
photo outside that

I give permission for students: 7311111, 7322901, 7200373, 7154902, 7278652, 7289741 at the

University of Manchester to publish my quotes/photos/voice recordings.

Signed SAROSKAW KONACIK

Date 25/04/10

photo outside may

I give permission for students: 7311111, 7322901, 7200373, 7154902, 7278652, 7289741 at the University of Manchester to publish my quotes/photos/voice recordings.

Signed Magdalera Wojcieglowka

Date 25/04/10

voice recording

Appendix 6: Sample of two completed questionnaires

	age:50	ye	or: 2004	(after t	oland join	ed EU)		
Ap	p.3 Our ques	stionnaire o	on Polish lar	iguage use in	Manchester			
A	questionnaire	on Polish la	inguage use i	n Manchester				
1.	How importan	nt is the upke	eep of your la عمصه نصمن	nguage to you?	u i korzyst	ionie 3 je	gsyka roba	iego
	Imperative			/				Paral
-	Very A little							Paui?
1	Not at all							ala duszy.
ı								33
2.	other polish p	eople, group	os etc. aktywnie		i.g.: Read maga: دد عرع علا اله ance group):		V, contact	
Ī	Watch TV							1
	Read Magazin	nes/Newspap	oers	/	,			
	Church			/				
	Clubs/social g	groups/socie	ties					-
	Restaurants Club/Pub Nig	htc						
	Internet/ Cha			~	/			
								_
	Yes No What languag		e in different	domains?	ke it easy for yo	3 2537 kg	a moziwo lolikiego ać go jaho e do 1414	ta Likingo?
	Polish	V	V	1.000	nla	nla		-
	English			V	110		1	
	Diignon						V	
5.	Do you find t	hat you swit	ch between p	Czu Par IP.	sh in speech? (C ani kiedy h 13y ki - Ang 13y ki - Ang 10g namiaj	ichski i f	wiesza	iećni.
6.	Do you feel	more com	fortable in a	working/sch	ool environme	ent where th	nere are othe	r polish
	16.			-	refer to go to			
	environmer							odo wiku
		1	czy czu	16 rd 1	an/Pari	my Just	1	
	Yes		. 4	in it Post	Madelle	tactorian)	OLOCSOV	ym
	No V		j839k	ien Pol	skin ? C3	y jest	Paru to	obojstne?

20 200

App.3 Our questionnaire on Polish language use in Manchester

	A questionnaire on	Polish la	anounce i	rse in N	fanchester
--	--------------------	-----------	-----------	----------	------------

	49000000		OD COMPLETO	PROMETERS STATE	CANCOL	WOOD STREET, S		0.000
u.	Hown	mportant	is the	upkeep	of your	language	to	vou?

Imperative	
Very	
A little	
Not at all	

 What do you actively do to use the polish language? E.g.: Read magazines, watch TV, contact other polish people, groups etc.

Tick where applicable and briefly explain (e.g. Polish dance group):

Watch TV	X
Read Magazines/Newspapers	×
Church	X
Clubs/social groups/societies	X
Restaurants	
Club/Pub Nights	×,
Internet/ Chat rooms	

JMW (n Applicable in Manchester make it easy for you to use your language?

12200	1 9
yes	V
No	

4. What language do you use in different domains?

	Home	Peers	Work	Institution	School	Media
Polish	V	/	1			1
English						

5. Do you find that you switch between polish and English in speech? (Code-switching)



6. Do you feel more comfortable in a working/school environment where there are other polish people and the language is in use? Would you prefer to go to school/work in such an environment?



<u>Appendix 7</u>: A screen shot of Polish services available within Manchester and scanned bank information in Polish



Appendix 8: Posters advertising the Polish Film and Poster festival





Appendix 9: Screen shots and scanned images of Polish newspapers and magazines



Dzwoń tanio do Polski. 2p/min!

To learn more about advertising opportunities and browse other Polish publisher's website www.fortismediauk.com

Classifieds booking

To book classified ads online please click here







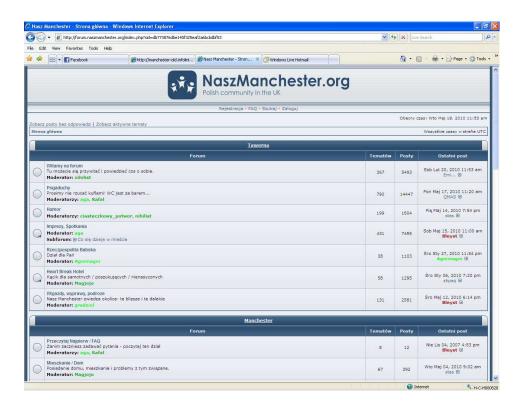




Appendix 10: A screen shot of The Polish Society within Manchester University's Facebook group

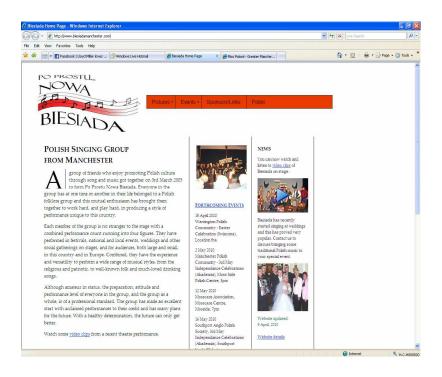


Appendix 11: Screen shots of Polish online chat forums





<u>Appendix 12</u>: A screen shot of a Polish singing group and Polish dancing group's web page



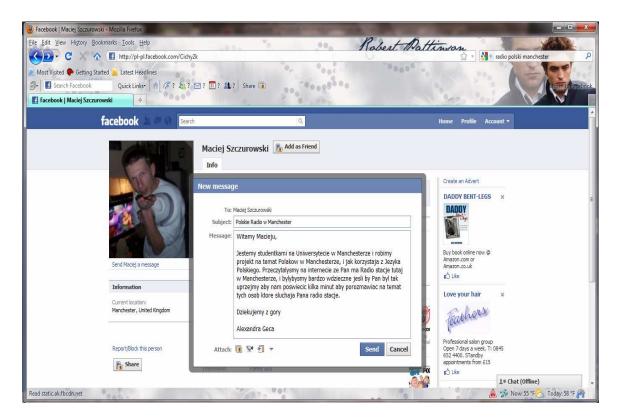


<u>Appendix 13</u>: A screen shot and a scanned image of an advertisement for the Polish Beauty Contest and concert being held in Manchester

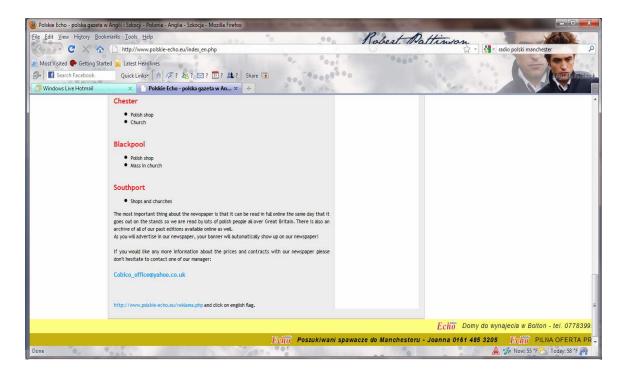




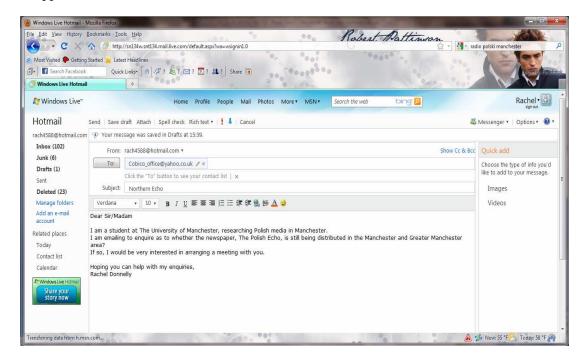
Appendix 14: A screenshot of the email sent to Polski Radio Manchester DJ



Appendix 15: A screen shot of The Polish Echo webpage



Appendix 16: A screen shot of the email sent to The Polish Echo



<u>Appendix 17:</u> An example of the questionnaire we would have used to obtain information on Polish media in Manchester

Polish Media in Manchester Questionnaire

1. What age group do you target?

13-18	
18-25	
25-35	
35-45	
45-60	
Over 60	
All of the above	

	Over 60				
	All of the above				
2.	Do you only target the polish community?				
	Yes				
	No				
3.	Do you solely use Polish?				
	Yes				
	No				
4.	Has your popularity increased in recent years?				
	Yes				
	No				
5.	Do you think that the availability of a radio station is an integral part in the				
	upkeep of the polish language?				
	Yes				
	No				

Appendix 18: Photographs of the Polish shops we found that had closed





Appendix 19: A photograph of the continental market found in Chorlton



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