Multilingualism from Manuscript to 3D

Intersections of Modalities from Medieval to Modern Times

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4 Metalinguistic and Visual Cues to the Co-Occurrence of Latin and Old Polish in the *Electronic Repository of Greater Poland Oaths*, 1386–1446 (*eROThA*)

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4.1 Introduction: Multimodality in the Context of the Medieval Legal Procedure

Multimodality has been framed in various ways in the existing research with focus on a range of different aspects. In terms of a general frame of multimodality in communication, we follow van Leeuwen, who proposes that scholars should work with cross-modal rather than mode-specific concepts, and *boundary marking* in interaction is one such concept (2004: 15). Boundary marking is understood as a non-random verbal or visual signal of separateness of communication units, which can appear at the level of language, discourse or meaning organisation, for instance, a pause between utterances, indentation marking a new paragraph in an essay, etc. We may assume, following Maxwell's idea of the circles of modes (2015; cf. Introduction to this volume), that language(s) has/have the distinct property of belonging to the contextualised cultural practice of a given genre, its semiotic resources (e.g. page layout) and elements (e.g. punctuation) at the same time. The cross-modal nature of boundary marking in multilingual texts translates into indiscriminate application of universal (rather than language-specific) features for the purpose of delimitation and parsing of structures at any level of organisation. In other words, the resources involved will potentially be transferable between different modes. For instance, on noticing a recurrent visual feature on a page and identifying a consistent coincidence with boundaries between codes, linguistic units (e.g. semantic or syntactic), discourse units or production/reception/performance practices, we may expect that it may also be realised cross-modally (e.g. visually: as page layout; metatextually: as linguistic cues to material/discoursal units; prosodically: in the spoken mode, etc.). Furthermore, its analysis may be undertaken from the point of view of any of the modes, as its function of marking unit boundaries is essential for successful processing, regardless of the mode. Systematic patterns, however, are easier to discover if interfaces with specific modes

and cues are studied in greater depth (e.g. boundary marking and the visual mode through line breaks as in the analysis presented below).

In this chapter we embark upon an analysis of interfaces between (meta) linguistic and visual features (code and discourse boundary marking) in late 14th- and early 15th-century land books from Greater Poland, written in Latin with a consistent vernacular component, the Old Polish witness oath. The focus of our attention falls on transitions between the two codes and different discourse elements. Our main assumption is that these transitions occur multimodally, i.e. through language and visual cues as well as through complex interfaces of these (Meurman-Solin and Lenker 2007; Carroll et al. 2013; Varila et al. 2017). Our analysis concentrates on the visual marking of code and discourse boundaries, which we view as a continuum ranging from globally (page level) to locally salient (grapheme level) markers. In terms of linguistic marking, we notice a prevalence of items which are characteristically ambiguous between Latin and Old Polish. As demonstrated in previous research, such code ambiguity may attract visual cues at the graphemic level (cf. the notion of visual diamorphs, see below and Section 4.3), which the results of our study corroborate and extend based on a page-level feature, the line break. We also argue that a rich array of items marking code and discourse transitions cannot easily be polarised into linguistic vs visual channels, and that different types of cues do not simply support one another, but interact in complex ways, potentially enhancing the salience of code and boundary marking.

Research shows that linguistic and non-linguistic cues marking divisions in discourse and information structure tend to be more explicit in writing than in speech, where predominantly subtle features of intonation and prosody are available. In multilingual data, such divisions are perhaps of even greater significance, as they function not only as aids to recognising unit and discourse boundaries, but also as switches between different languages. The nature of elements that mark code transitions (such as *vulgariter* or *videlicet*) has not been studied thoroughly so far even within multilingualism studies, as the focus has been on the structure and functions of code-switching rather than on bridging items. The studies which have distinguished such items have only marginally incorporated potential non-linguistic cues (cf. Clyne 2003: 162 on "bridges"; Kootstra 2015: 46; Stam 2017: 60–61, 406 on the notion of "triggering" in the studies on code-switching; Wright 2011: 203 and Stam 2017: 328–359 on visual diamorphs).

The mapping of visual and material features against linguistic features has recently been employed to study communicative purposes and organisation of historical texts (Varila et. al 2017: 3; Bös and Peikola 2020: 11, 15–16; see also Kaislaniemi 2017; Mackay 2017). However, the intersections of visual cues and code boundaries have not been pursued systematically and it remains unclear how the emerging and uncodified visual cues that predate punctuation systems were used to mark

boundaries and transitions between languages and discourse divisions in the past. This chapter addresses this gap and provides a case study of genre-specific transition marking in a database of Latin-Polish court records. In the *eROThA* repository (in the primary material and the electronic resource), an array of ways to indicate page and discourse organisation are employed. Discourse and code transition marking is viewed as a continuum and framed within a more general picture of linguistic and visual phenomena that support the relevant divisions. It is the aim of the present study to map these different patterns of page and discourse organisation, by identifying the levels of integration vs separateness of Latin and Old Polish codes as well as of discourse elements in the records, and to explore these patterns through diachronic and regional lens.

The chapter is organised as follows: in Section 4.2, we introduce the historical and procedural background of the material, including issues of the bilingual nature of records and discourse structure in land books. Section 4.3 provides an overview of previous research related to code and discourse boundary. Details of discourse and page organisation of the Greater Poland land books are discussed in Section 4.4. The analysis presented in Section 4.5 addresses the question of transparency of page layout and the fluctuating salience of the mediating items (MIs) that can be observed in the records, providing a typology of the identified page layout patterns with respect to integration/separateness of the components of the record. The analysis of their quantitative distribution takes into account their diatopic and diachronic spread as reflected in individual localisations of the records. The new perspective on domain-specific linguistic and visual marking of the interfaces of code and discourse contributes to our understanding of multimodality in medieval texts. The analysis demonstrates inconsistency in its directionality in local contexts and incorporates emerging patterns of visual prosody (linked inseparably to language markers) that predate the development of punctuation systems through autonomous graphic marking. The chapter closes with a summary and conclusions in Section 4.6.

4.2 Discourse Organisation in Bilingual Land Books

4.2.1 Bilingual Land Books in Greater Poland

In medieval times, consistent record keeping in the Kingdom of Poland, as in other areas of East and Central Europe (Adamska 2016), was somewhat delayed compared to Western Europe. Whereas in Britain, a preference for written texts goes back to the 13th century (Clanchy 1979), the earliest records of town chancelleries in Poland go back to the latter half of the 13th century (e.g. Górski 1984), though some historians mention the 14th century in the largest cities, i.e. Cracow and Poznań, and texts in Latin and German rather than in the vernacular (Adamska 2013: 359).[1] These records, we need to emphasise, are initially limited to major cities

and cannot be taken as evidence for the fact that the technology became generalised in more local contexts.

Administrative records beyond urban areas which employ the vernacular start in the later 14th century in provincial itinerary courts of the contemporary nobility (land courts) (e.g. Adamska 2013: 356). Although such courts existed before that date in other areas of the Kingdom of Poland, the oldest surviving body of consistent record (starting in 1386) comes from Greater Poland and is known as land books of individual regions, named after its big cities (e.g. Poznań, Gniezno or Pyzdry land books, etc.). The basis of trials recorded in the land books was accusatory, i.e. a claim was made by the plaintiff (Pl. *pierca*, Lat. *actor*), while a representative of the judge (court usher, Pl. *woźny*) delivered an oral suit (Uruszczak 2015: 175–176; Bartoszewicz 2001: 12; Bukowski and Zdanek 2012: 9; Moniuszko 2014: 446). In most cases, in response to the plaintiff's case presented during trials, the defendant presented evidence in the form of witness(es') oath confirming the innocence of the accused (the so-called compurgation ritual). This core procedural part of the trial was logged into the record in Old Polish.

4.2.2 Discourse Organisation in Land Books

Land books in Greater Poland, and in the Kingdom of Poland more generally, were compiled of narrow loose leaves (*folia fracta*) arranged chronologically and bound together at some point in time. Some historians distinguish between rough and clean drafts (Jurek 1991: iv) and indeed one of the Greater Poland books is preserved in two versions (Kościan book 9). This exceptional case aside, in general, the tachygraphic nature of the books is undeniable as many insertions, self-corrections, amendments and hasty hands indicate. Overall, the degree of formalisation is low, especially if compared with contemporary records of urban chancelleries (Jurek 1991: iv; cf. Bartoszewicz 2017: 108).

Land books contain a miscellany of inscriptions in Latin,[2] with witness testimonies (i.e. sworn evidence) only, involving consistent use of the vernacular and rendering the record bilingual. A typical inscription with a witness oath followed a mode of discourse organisation which may be traced back to a typical tri-partite diplomatic model that has its sources in Carolingian times. In this document model, a Latin protocol that covers administrative context (place of trial and witness list) is the first part, while the second part is constituted by Old Polish text containing the witness oath. The final fragment of such a document is the eschatocol in Latin, presenting "the documentation context of the action" (Rogers 2015: 178; cf. Uruszczak 2015: 92).[3] In an earlier study, we proposed that the vernacular oath may be seen as the middle element in this scheme, presenting the object of a given case, i.e. witness evidence, preceded by a witness list, and followed by information on fines, dates of trials, etc. (Włodarczyk

et al. forthcoming). In the scheme distinct discourse elements occur, while the oath stands out not only discursively, but also linguistically.

Historical accounts of court procedure (see e.g. Rymaszewski 2008; Bukowski and Zdanek 2012; Uruszczak 2015 for details) suggest that witness oaths may be seen as ready-made, pre-planned, most likely drafted (albeit in a working format) before the event of swearing. As the wording of the oaths had decisive evidential value, it cannot have involved "on the spot" individual production. More likely, the contents were composed communally by the witnesses and court clerks (probably an usher and/or scribe) in advance of the trial, and finalised in a court session. Such oaths were subject to ritual recitation by some or all witnesses (compurgation ritual); the recital would have been from the prompts in possession of a clerk or scribe, most likely in written format. Some historians underline that oaths were only logged into the record once the ritual had been completed (Jurek 1991), which does not exclude the possibility that ephemera of oath drafts were in use before and during the trial, while the final version which was ultimately sworn was copied into the land books. Thus the origins of vernacular oaths recorded in the land books may be traced back to complex communal and multimodal processes and ritualised legal procedures.

4.3 Boundary Marking in Discourse (Monolingual and Multilingual)

Boundary marking has featured as a focus of analysis in modalities beyond the verbal and visual. For instance, research into sign language and non-verbal communication indicates that boundary marking is in general of a dual nature (Swerts and Krahmer 2010; Fenlon 2015). Not only does visual marking tend to capture a combination of language-based boundaries (e.g. syntactic and prosodic), but a combined boundary entails also greater prominence. For instance, head or eyebrow movements may build blocks of prominence, but emphasis is achieved if such movements are combined (Ambrazaitis et al. 2015: 14). Prominence thus tends to arise out of individual or combined blocks of a linguistic and/or non-linguistic nature, which are better seen as a continuum rather than in terms of discreteness. The continuum is thus constituted by boundary marking points, with an array of options indicated in the literature as three broad categories (cf. Figure 4.2 for illustrations from the *eROThA* database): (1) linguistic devices (e.g. meta-comments such as *sic iurabunt*, *testes*, *alli*, *rota*); (2) visual cues (e.g. line breaks, abbreviated initials, sign of the cross); (3) linguistic devices accompanied by visual cues.[4]

As for the linguistic cues, research on code-switching is familiar with phenomena described as flagging, code neutralisation and translanguaging. Flagging (Poplack 1987) is understood as an explicit reference to a different language (*in vulgariter*; *anglice*; Wright 2010; Schendl 2013: 51), but, in its less explicit form, it may also involve an

element that typically indicates a different language (e.g. *le/lez* in Latin to French switches, Schendl 2020: 322; *the* in English to Finnish switches, Hynninen et al. 2017). Other authors emphasise that such elements may function as bridges that facilitate the transition between different codes (Clyne 2003: 162; Stam 2017: 60–61, 406). Alternatively, some of these forms may be interpreted as *visual diamorphs*, i.e. forms whose linguistic affiliation is ambiguous and they can thus serve a function of neutralising the "divergencies between codes" (ter Horst and Stam 2018: 240). Honkapohja and Liira discuss abbreviated forms of visual diamorphs, i.e. "language independent elements" which are potentially meaningful in several languages (2020: 310; cf. Hector 1958: 37). Nurmi and Rütten (2017) also mention "hybrid elements in-between languages" in the context of translanguaging. These phenomena fill the "grey area between borrowing and multilingual practices" and the writers involved may fluidly use "both domesticated and original spelling" (2017: 8). Thus flags, hybrids, proper names alongside borrowings and cognates evoke priming effects, i.e. activation of multiple codes both in speech and writing (e.g. Kootstra et al. 2012; Kootstra 2015). Research shows that code switching is common in the vicinity of proper names, borrowings and cognates, thus they may function as explicit code boundary markers.

On the other hand, the opposite tendency has also been observed: linguistic neutralisation of code transition. This phenomenon takes place, for instance, due to a strong discourse norm: where the division of labour between two or more codes is clear, the switch may become "an automatic habitual action," while the salience of switching points is minimised (Hynninen et al. 2017: 98–99). For instance, although flagging is more broadly seen as a way of indicating potentially problematic items, including the use of a different code, perceived acceptability and intelligibility may account for its nature and intensity. Thus unflagged switches occur if speakers do not predict comprehension issues (Hynninen et al. 2017: 112). Absence of a linguistic flag, however, does not equal absence of visual cues or the use of other channels for boundary marking (e.g. intonation or punctuation).

In terms of visual features, the territory of code transition still remains uncharted, although the need for analysing the relevant visual and material features, and their mapping against linguistic features has been voiced very clearly (Varila et al. 2017: 2–3). Linguists working with manuscript sources have emphasised the need to view discourse connectivity against the "pragmatics on the page" (Carroll et al. 2013) and visual prosody (Meurman-Solin and Lenker 2007: 266). Information encoded in modalities that lie outside language, i.e. features of layout, spacing, script, etc. appears particularly valuable in sources that predate the introduction of consistent rules of punctuation and capitalisation (Meurman-Solin and Lenker 2007: 284). In these approaches, sentence and clause structures were the primary focus of attention, but discourse structures are also retrievable with the help of information drawn directly from a given

textual artefact. On a more general level, a distinction between higher and lower level visual markers (layout vs script) has been introduced (Varila et al. 2017: 5; cf. also Parkes 2008 on script hierarchies and Kaislaniemi 2017 on script analysis).

The interfaces between language and visual features have been pursued in manuscript studies. Considerable attention in the field has been devoted to quotations, which bridge syntax and discourse, and were frequently a site for visual cues (Parkes 2008: 70–71; Mak 2011: 17; Skaffari 2016: 212–213). Other studies have presented less uniform findings. According to Salmi (2014), in the medieval *Body and Soul Debates*

> [t]he marking of speech turns appears to have been a secondary consideration, as they often coincided with other types of structural breaks and so were visually marked in any case. Thus there was certain toleration for impreciseness or even misleading markings in the presentation of speech turns.
>
> (Salmi 2014: 154)

For cases of voice shifting or speech reporting overlapping with code-switching, Moore (2011) has argued that historically in genres such as depositions, sermons and chronicles, lexical items were of much greater significance than at present, at least for the periods when punctuation systems had not yet developed consistent functionalities. Halmari has shown that code-switches in Macaronic (Latin English) sermons coincide with other rhetorical devices, however, their explicit marking is rare (Halmari 2016: 318). Machan has observed that in Middle English literature, visual cues serve as signals of rhetorical rather than linguistic categories, while a shift in language alone does not seem to call for visual marking (Machan 2011: 300). This may have been the case also beyond English and in different regions of medieval Europe, as Doležalová claims based on Czech data (2015: 169).

The studies referred to above may have kept the language/discourse divisions and visual features/other channels apart to some extent, but even this short overview shows that this approach does not seem to do justice to the complexity of multilingual communication. In addition to this multimodality/multilingualism interface, specific genre-based concerns are relevant to the analysis presented below. Clearly, "extensive variation is a defining feature of the mixed-language administrative code" (Schendl 2020: 329) in any language and patterns may be difficult to trace beyond individual preferences or community of practice effects. Still, factors conditioning page layout and division marking may stem from the relevant procedures specific to the micro context, as well as relate to some constraints which operated more universally within this specialised domain. For instance, Wright (2020: 525) observed that high-intensity copying led to a more uniform look on the page, which she named "the payroll effect." Similarly, Grund noticed the relevance of the

mode of record compilation as a relevant factor in the pragmatics on the page (Grund 2011: 196–197). The quality and purpose of the record will also play a part: a law codex, not unlike the deluxe manuscripts produced for elites, is more likely to be visually more uniform than administrative records primarily of a utilitarian and tachygraphic nature.

The background provided by previous studies indicates an array of linguistic, visual as well as mixed phenomena that may be studied within the framework of visual pragmatics of multilingual texts. Moreover, research also identifies a broad range of factors that may determine the nature of boundary marking. In an attempt at extending these findings, our analysis also introduces a regional component, as reflected in the different localisations of the administrative records, which will allow us to evaluate to what extent the page layout and division marking patterns were a local feature, and how far they reflected more general characteristics of the genre as attested in the oldest land books written in Greater Poland.

4.4 Page Organisation and Boundary Marking in Land Books from Greater Poland

4.4.1 Preliminary Remarks

In the Introduction, we referred to research suggesting that vernacular oaths may be viewed as discursively independent of the rest of the (Latin) record. Further evidence exists to support this. First, scribes sometimes put details of the case initially in Latin, leaving an empty space for an oath to be added later (e.g. Gn. 103, 1419). Second, as mentioned above, a book of drafts has survived for one of the locations (Kościan, book 9). Here, comparison with the clean copies reveals a great degree of rewriting/scribal amendments and corrections in the process of producing a clean copy. Further evidence is perhaps less direct, but still suggestive of the fact that the oaths were in fact "inserted" from an external source or had to be "matched" with an appropriate witness list. For example, on the MS pages, some oaths are not found in physical proximity to a relevant witness list (Kos. 798 (draft), 1420).

Despite the use of a distinct code, discursive separateness and structural independence, there does not seem to be a linguistically and/or visually fixed convention of the presentation of the Polish oath on the MS page, or at least a number of arrangements are possible. Thus, it is necessary to look closer into the patterns of variation in this respect and to evaluate which of the arrangements represent systematic and consistent patterns, which come close to more or less fixed conventions, and how much of the variation is incidental. Subsections below present an overview of page organisation as a background for closer insights and a quantification of the code and discourse interface presented in Section 4.5. The interface is defined as a continuum of items that should be understood in

terms of code alternation, neutralisation as well as features of layout and visual marking.

4.4.2 Page Organisation

Versatile modes of presentation of the vernacular oath contribute to inconsistencies in page organisation (see Figure 4.1; cf. Bukowski and Zdanek 2012: 29).[5] The two sample constellations demonstrate clearly that organisation of the page could vary, reflecting different levels of integration/separateness of the individual components of the record. This may be related to the mode of compilation indicated above, i.e. the binding of the loose quires together at a later date (cf. Grund 2011: 196–197). But also the fact that different scribes were involved in record keeping and that no specific formulary sources or referencing tools[6] existed must have played a role. Generally, a page of the Greater Poland land books is organised into blocks, sometimes interspersed by an indented or centralised line/lines which may be described as headings. Depending on the spacing between the blocks, a neat balanced layout may be achieved (e.g. rota 200 from Gn. Z1 f. 237, 1411; with six blocked inscriptions with no headings and one inscription with a heading: placename *Borcowo*; or Pn. Rota 1290 Poznań Z10 f. 60, 1428 with two blocks and three headings: personal name and procedure *Ludomsky iurabit* x2 and *Ludomsky*). In other cases, inscriptions intended as blocks are not easily discerned, while headings (e.g. *Rotha*) interchange with additions to the finished lines (e.g. Kościan Z1 f. 44, 1398: insertion: "contra Johannem Lodzky").

Regardless of the layout, however, both the neat and messy pages consistently employ graphemic marking on (the initial of) the first word of a new discourse chunk. The words are typically: *Item, Testes, Taco, Nota* etc. or personal names (e.g. *Jaceg*). The marking could be described as the use of *litterae notabiliores*. According to Parkes (2008), these fulfilled the function of punctuation in medieval manuscripts and were commonly employed to mark the beginning of quotations. The functions of *litterae notabiliores* appear to be more general in the land books. In many cases, they do not coincide with text blocking, but are found in the middle of a line, and function as markers of separate discourse chunks by emphasising the first word of witness oath (*Taco* etc, *Testes, Alia rotha, Rotha, (NAME) iurabit* etc., e.g. Kościan/44, lines 2, 5, 26 and 31 and lines 1, 6, 22 in Poznań/60 in Figure 4.1).

In the perspective of boundary marking and multimodality, these items, usually individual words or phrases, we would like to argue, require closer attention. On top of marking discourse elements (new inscription, witness oath), they emphasise the code and discourse divisions meta-linguistically, but they tend to attract visual cues as well. In many cases, their code appears to be unambiguously Latin or Polish (*Sic iurabunt, Taco*). However, frequently, personal and place names

Koscian Z1/44_1398 32 lines	Poznan Z10/60_1428 41 lines
Latin Latin Latin Lat	Latin IURABIT
ROTHA TAKO Polish Pol	
Polish Polish Pol Polish	ITEM Latin Latin Latin
Polish Polish Polish Polish	Latin Latin Latin Latin
ALIA ROTHA Polish Polish	Latin Latin Latin
Polish Polish Polish Pol	Latin Latin Latin Latin Lat
Polish Polish Pol	Latin Lat Lat **ROTA** TACO Pol
TESTES Latin Latin Latin Lat	Polish Polish Polish Pol Pol
Latin Latin Latin Latin Lat	Polish Polish Polish
Latin Latin Latin Latin Lat	Polish Polish Polish Polish
Latin Latin Latin Latin Lat	Polish Polish Polish Polish
Latin Latin Latin Latin	Polish Polish Polish Polish
	Polish Polish / et Latin Lat
	Latin Latin Latin Latin Lat
TACO Polish Polish Polish	Latin Latin Latin Latin Lat
Polish Polish Polish Polish	Latin Latin Latin Latin
Polish Polish Polish	Latin Latin Latin Latin Lat
	Latin Latin Latin Latin
	Latin Latin Latin Latin
TESTES Latin Latin Latin Lat	Latin Latin Latin Latin Lat
Latin Latin Latin Latin Lat	Latin Latin Latin Latin
Latin Latin Latin Latin Lat	Latin Latin Lat
Latin Latin Latin Latin Lat	
Latin Latin Latin Latin Lat	
	Latin IURABIT
ROTHA	
	ITEM Latin Latin Latin
TAKO Polish Polish Polish	Latin Latin Latin Latin Lat
Polish Polish Polish Polish	Latin Latin Latin Latin
Polish Polish Polish	Latin Latin Latin Latin Lat
	ROTA TACO Polish Polish
Latin Latin Latin Latin Lat	Polish Polish Polish Pol Pol
Latin Latin Latin	Polish Polish Polish Polish
	Polish Polish Polish
Latin Latin Lat TACO Pol	Polish Polish / ET Latin Latin
Polish Polish Polish Polish	Latin Latin Latin Latin Lat
Polish Polish Polish	Latin Latin Latin Latin Lat
	Latin Latin Latin Latin Lat
ROTHA	Latin Latin Latin Latin
TESTES Latin Latin Latin Lat	Latin Latin Latin Latin Lat
Latin Latin Lat TACO Pol	Latin Latin
Polish Polish Polish Polish	
	Latin
	ITEM Latin Latin Latin
	Latin Latin Latin Latin
	Latin Latin Latin Lat Lat

Figure 4.1 Sample constellations of the components of the record.

Source: The facsimiles of the respective MS leaves may be found at https://rotha. ehum.psnc.pl/breeze/Kos.44, and https://rotha.ehum.psnc.pl/breeze/Pn.60.

appear as well as the vernacular word for oath (*Rot(h)a*), all of which are prone to code neutralisation (Halmari and Regetz 2011: 117, 146; Schendl 2011: 54). Spelling and morphology may be clues to code disambiguation, but spelling inconsistencies corroborate code ambiguity.[7] It is also important to notice that some of the items illustrated above undergo conventionalisation in the litigation procedure: personal/place name in the Latin part and *Taco/Jaco* etc. (So swears …)/ *So help me God* in the Polish part. The item closing the Latin protocol, the (optional) MI and the first item in the Old Polish oath form a continuum understood as a language and discourse interface. It may be argued that any of these elements, due to the parsing function they perform, is a candidate for visual marking. The marking by means of *litterae notabilioris* is one option, but a range of devices (use of space, line breaks, punctuation marks, e.g. the virgule) may be employed to distinguish these MIs. Constellations of the components/discourse elements of the record, including such items, are schematically presented in Figure 4.1 (cf. Table 4.1 in Section 4.5), and details of the various configurations as found in the repository are discussed in Subsection 4.5.3.

4.4.3 Mediating Items

The different levels of visibility of the MIs will be discussed and illustrated by zooming in on one particular instance, the vernacular lexeme *rota* (*Rotha*), which stands out in terms of frequency, making up to 91% of all MIs in the analysed sample (including the abbreviated form and instances where it is only part of an MI). The Slavic lexeme *rota* may be translated as "oath" (witness oath) and it introduces the vernacular and multimodal component of the record.[8] In Figure 4.2, we presented a selection of visual cues that mark this meta-comment. The marking of the MI may be viewed as a continuum that bridges the global (visible on the page layout level, i.e. high salience) and local (visible on the graphemic level, i.e. low salience) modes of visual marking on the page (cf. the higher vs lower level distinction in Varila et al. 2017: 5). Interestingly, the linguistic content of the label *Rota* varies in terms of its semantic load. Sometimes the word carries its full meaning in a phrase or clause, but it may very well undergo reduction to an abbreviated form and receive visual marking both in its full word form, truncated and a (linguistically empty) initial (*R/r*).

The marking by means of a line break and an indentation (*Rota Czedzerad*) delimits the Old Polish oath distinctly and is visible on the manuscript page (1). The label is integrated with the vernacular text in the same line, while it is clearly separated from the Latin protocol, and may be viewed as visually independent from the latter.

Linguistically, the lack of morphological marking on the witness name (*Czedzerad*) sets the MI apart from the Polish oath, as well as from the Latin protocol. As the name is lexically vernacular, with phrase structure
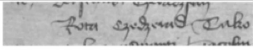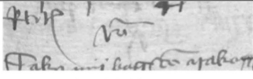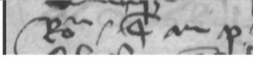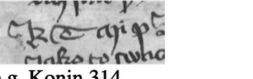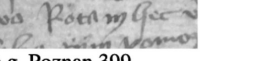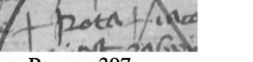
	Visual cue to the MI	Text-blocking effects/separation	Example	Global visibility (page/layout)
1	Line break	3 or 2 blocks	e.g. Poznan 426	
2	Abbreviation	3, 2 or 1 block	e.g. Pyzdry 1048	
3	Supported abbr. (punctuation)	2 or 1 block	e.g. Koscian 189	
4	Supported abbr. (script)	2 or 1 block	e.g. Konin 314	
5	No line break	1 block	e.g. Poznan 399	
6	No line break (supported)	1 block	e.g. Poznan 397	Local visibility (grapheme)

Figure 4.2 A continuum of visual marking of MIs (on the example of *eRota*).

Source: Large resolution facsimiles are to be found in the *eROThA* repository at: https://rotha.ehum.psnc.pl/. In order to go directly to the cases listed in the Figure above the following url extensions may be used: breeze/Pn.426, breeze/Py.1048, breeze/Kos.189, breeze/Kon.314, breeze/Pn.399 and breeze/Pn.397.

permissible in both codes, *Rota Czedzerad* (NP[GEN NP]) is clearly an ambiguous item in respect of the code.

The abbreviation format (2), in turn, underlines visual independence of the meta-comment through a line break and indentation, but it disguises the code even further. The next format of the marking of the MI, a punctuation supported abbreviation (3), coincides with a new line, while its visual separateness from the vernacular text that follows in the same line is achieved through a virgule. Next, a script supported abbreviation is demarcated by means of adorned letters and capitalisation (4). Capitalisation may be the only means of marking the meta-comment if the Latin protocol and vernacular oath are noted down continuously in one line (5). In such a case, a symbol of non-linguistic nature (a sign of cross, or a dagger) may support capitalisation, on the side of the Latin protocol and Polish oath, as in the final example (6).

As illustrated in Figure 4.2, the scope of variation in visual cues available for the marking of mediating elements is very broad, so it is impossible to quantitatively analyse all the patterns identified above in a single chapter. As the marking through a line break appears to be a relatively

unambiguous reflection of code and discourse separation, it is unlikely to be coincidental (cf. the features on the continuum in Figure 4.2). Besides, features of page layout are more readily perceived by the audience, most likely other scribes or law officials (global visibility on the page) than more subtle features of script or capitalisation (local visibility at the graphemic level). Thus, the marking of witness voices by means of a line break appears to be a good choice and starting point for a quantitative analysis.

4.5 Code and Discourse Interfaces: Analysis

4.5.1 Separateness vs Integration of Codes and Discourse Elements: The Line Break and Mediating Items

Among parameters relevant to the organisation of the page (cf. Sections 4.4.2 and 4.3 on page and discourse organisation above), we have decided to focus on the occurrence of a line break (new lines). Line breaks have a relatively robust layout effect, i.e. they mark divisions on the page clearly, result in the blocking of text chunks or generate a heading-like effect. In the analysis, we have distinguished line breaks that coincided with code switches or distinct discourse elements in a purposeful rather than a random manner (such as, e.g. starting a new line due to completing the line above). Non-random line breaks were thus defined through an unfinished line above, a preceding vertical blank space or an indentation. If code and discourse divisions are marked by non-random line breaks, the layout effects are consistent with such divisions, thus achieving informational transparency by visual means. Non-random line breaks may be viewed as emphasising the *separateness* of codes and discourse elements, contributing to greater transparency on the page. If, on the contrary, no line break is implemented and no text blocks occur, page layout does not function as a means of disambiguating discourse or code boundaries on the global visibility (page) level. Visually this generates the effect of code and discourse *integration*.

   This neat twofold division, however, tends to get complicated, as an additional element of visual and/or linguistic nature frequently comes into play. We refer to this element as a "mediating item" (cf. Section 4.4.3). This element, ranging in form from a graphic symbol, adorned or emphatic initial letter shape, suspension, abbreviation, through a word, phrase or clause (all with or without a punctuation envelope), may start a non-random new line and create an additional block or heading (if centralised or indented) between discourse elements or codes (cf. Figure 4.2). In such a case, the MI enjoys independent status visually alongside the two blocks of text, each for separate codes/discourse elements (cf. Section 4.5.3, Type 1). In some cases, however, the MI is visually dependent on either or both of the discourse chunks/codes. If discourse elements/codes occur in a blocked format, the MI plays the role of a

Table 4.1 Text blocking effects of line breaks

Components of the rota unit	Line break (non-random)	Text blocking	Boundary effects (code)
Latin introduction	+	3 blocks	separation
MI	+		
Polish oath	+		
Latin introduction	-	1 block	integration
MI	-		
Polish oath	-		
Latin introduction	-	2 blocks	separation
MI	+		
Polish oath	-		
Latin introduction	-	2 blocks	separation
MI	-		
Polish oath	+		

linguistic marker of their separateness. In cases of visual integration, the boundary is thus marked at the linguistic level. Visually a broad range of subtle features such as script size, shape, initial, ink colour, abbreviation or punctuation etc. may mark the MI (see Section 4.5.3.1 below for illustrations). Importantly, fully integrated cases where line break or space effects are absent may or may not include an MI. If no MI occurs, the degree of integration is the highest, although subtle visual means may still be employed to mark the onset of new code or discourse element. If the boundary is marked linguistically with an MI present but without text-blocking effects, visual integration is similarly strong (cf. Section 4.5.3.1, Type 3). Nevertheless, the presence of an MI invariably exerts linguistic/semantic/informational boundary effects. Such effects are gradable and may involve strengthening by means of a line break (as well as a range of subtle graphemic means illustrated in Figure 4.2). Finally, the most salient boundary effects are achieved through line breaks that result in the blocking of text and its linguistic (any MI) and visual (MI starting a new line) expression (Table 4.1).

4.5.2 *Methodology of the Study*

The analysis is based on a representative sample of 501 records/*rotas* deriving from six localisations, with *ca*.80 oaths per localisation, spread over four periods covering the following time ranges: 1385–1399, 1400–1414, 1415–1429, 1430–1444. With regard to scribal distribution, the investigated material comprised the records written by 65 scribes, including 13 scribes from Poznań, 10 from Konin, 14 from Gniezno, 11 from Pyzdry, 11 from Kalisz and 6 from Kościan. The aim of the analysis was twofold, first, to arrive at a typology of page layout and division

marking of the rota[9] record by identifying all possible patterns of visual organisation of the elements within the unit; and second, to gain insight into their diachronic and diatopic distribution, as reflected in individual localisations of the collection. In compliance with the general categorisation frame outlined in Section 4.5.1, the detailed criteria for classification of layout arrangements in the records involved the following features considered relevant for our investigation (Table 4.2): the presence/absence of an MI, a line break for MI (random or non-random), a line break for the Polish part of the record (witness oath) (random or non-random), indentation of MI, indentation of the Polish oath, and an jempty space between individual components of the unit, especially between the Latin and Polish parts of the rota.[10] As indicated in Section 4.5.1, the criterion which was considered pivotal for the analysis was the presence or absence of a line break for respective components of the rota unit (i.e. for Polish oath and MI), which is manifested in what we refer to as a "blocking" effect. When these two elements of the oath do not begin on a new line, the components of the rota form visually one unit/block. On the other hand, line breaks, potentially enhanced by the other visual features mentioned above, result in a two- or three-partite division of the unit visible on the page. The other criteria, i.e. the presence or absence of an MI, and of (vertical) empty space between the respective elements in the unit, were considered supplementary, and allowed several sub-patterns in the page layout to be identified. In particular, the placement and embedding of the MI in the text emerges as an important feature in the organisation of the unit, providing information about the boundary marking between the respective components of the rota. A number of rotas showing irregular structures could not be subsumed under any specific pattern and were thus excluded from the quantitative investigation.

The interaction between the use of codes and the extent to which MIs are employed seems to show variation depending on several factors, the most obvious of them being the localisation/region. Additionally, choice of the linguistic and visual means and their prominence may also be dependent on scribal preferences and practices, which can be expected to correlate with the variation across localisations. This potential diatopic variation involves an additional diachronic component, i.e. the dating of the records. In order to present a complete or at least a representative picture of the variation in the page layout with respect to separateness-integration continuum, all the factors mentioned above are taken into account in the quantitative investigation.

4.5.3 *Results of the Analysis*

4.5.3.1 *Typology of Page Organisation*

Close examination of the material according to the selected set of criteria allowed us to arrive at a detailed typology of patterns of visual

Table 4.2 Typology of page organisation and division marking in rotas

TYPE	Blocking	line break, MI, space
TYPE 1	3 blocks	PL rota and MI begin on a new line
Type 1a		+ indented MI + space
Type 1b		- indent MI +/-space
Type 2	2 blocks	PL rota begins on a new line; space may be present between the PL and Latin parts
Type 2a		+ MI in the first block (Latin) including short or long MI
Type 2b		+ MI in the second block (PL oath)
Type 2c		no MI
Type 3	1 block	PL rota and MI do not begin on a new line or begin on a random new line; no space between the elements
Type 3a		+ MI (dependent on Polish or Latin); including short or long MI
Type 3b		no MI
Type 4	*2 or 3 blocks*	*remaining instances, less regular patterns*
Type 4a		*inverse order of Latin and Polish (with or without MI)*
Type 4b		*MI as a heading followed by Polish oath*

organisation of the rota components on the page, as presented in Table 4.2. Four broad types of visual organisation could be identified based on the line breaks. Relying on the secondary criteria, the classification of broad types was further refined to include nine subtypes. While Types 1–3 are characterised by inherent consistency in that they comprise very systematic organisation patterns, Type 4 is much less consistent, encompassing a range of irregular and sporadic arrangements. In Type 1 the MI is consistently present as an independent element: it appears on a line break, and thereby a clear division into three blocks of text (i.e. Latin protocol, MI and Polish oath) is rendered. The presence or absence of indentation and (vertical) space for the MI marks a further, secondary distinction within Type 1. In Type 2 the text is organised into two blocks, created by a line break for the Polish oath. Depending on the position of the MI, a further threefold subdivision is possible within this type: the MI can be integrated into the Latin protocol block (2a), or into the Polish oath block (2b), or may be entirely absent (2c). A further substructure that can be distinguished within Type 2a involves the nature of the MI, which in some instances appears as a relatively long element (phrase) and represents a short version of the Latin protocol with an integrated MI (17% of all instances in Type 2 and 37% of all instances in Type 2a). With regard to the visual organisation of the page, this substructuring has little relevance, as the text remains orderly and organised into two blocks.

With respect to discourse organisation, however, such instances are interesting, as they depart from the discourse/conceptual/procedural division of the unit into the Latin protocol and Polish oath, demonstrating that the protocol part, which typically covers the administrative context of oath taking (place of trial and witness list), was an optional element of the rota, or at least that it could be considerably reduced and merged with the MI. In Type 3, the text is organised in one block only, with no clear marking of individual components of the record. In cases where MI appears, it is integrated in the running text and its visibility (prominence) can be marked by features such as capitalisation or ornamentation of the initial letter (which stayed beyond our typology; cf. Section 4.4.3). Type 4 can be considered a potpourri category comprising a minority of less regular or sporadic patterns which could not be easily classified under any of the three broad types, and which pose some interpretational difficulties (see Example 4 below). This type constitutes 7% of all identified patterns, and contains two sub-patterns: instances where the order of Latin protocol and Polish oath is reversed (4a), with or without MI, and rotas introduced with a short MI which functions as a heading and is directly followed by the Polish oath (Type 4b) (e.g. *Rota Brudzewo*, Kalisz 1037), thus forming two blocks of text.[11]

With regard to separateness-integration of codes and discourse elements, the identified patterns of visual organisation can be placed on a *salience scale*. The scale defines the distinctiveness of the individual elements of the rota unit with respect to visibility on the page, relying on the strength/prominence of boundary markers, which translates into transparency of page organisation.[12] The presence of a line break for the Polish oath guarantees a higher position in the continuum of visual marking; it can be further enhanced by the presence of the MI as an independent unit (salient marking/separate) or as an element embedded in the text (less salient/integrated), as well as by indentation and space. A combination of these parameters determines the level of transparency of the layout structure: the more salient the boundary marking, the more transparent is page organisation. Accordingly, individual types defined by the various constellations of these criteria form a continuum in terms of separateness and integration, and transparency and salience, as presented in the criteria (a) to (b) below, with Types 1a and 3b representing its extreme ends (on account of its inherent irregularity, Type 4 was not included in the continuum).

a) Boundary marking: from most salient (Type 1a), through semi-salient (Type 2) to least salient (Type 3b);
b) Page layout/organisation: from most transparent (components of the unit separated as in Type 1a), through semi-transparent (Type 2) to least transparent (components of the unit integrated, as in Type 3b).

The layout represented in Type 1a (Example 1 below), with a clear division between the Latin and Polish parts, and additionally a distinct mediating element which marks the boundary between the two parts of the rota, can be considered the most salient type of boundary marking and thus most transparent pattern of visual page organisation. The different functions of the respective components of the rota are visually separated and the separation is additionally enhanced linguistically by the presence of the MI, which renders the structure transparent and orderly.
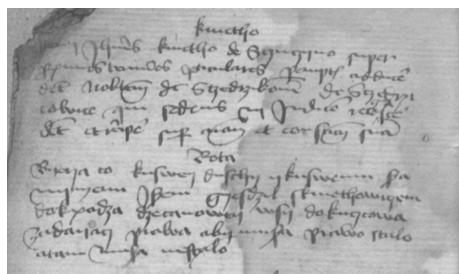
Example 1: Poznań, 1271, 1427

Figure 4.3   Facsimile, R. 1271 Poznań.

Kmetho – Item Johannes kmetho de Sczuczyno super proximos terminos particulares peremptorie adducere debet nobilem Sczedrzikonem de Sczedrzicowice, qui sedens in iudicio recognoscere debet et recipere super animam et conscienciam suam:

Rota

Byerza to kufwey dufchy ykufwemu fza mpnyenu Jfzem gyefdzil fkmethowiczem dokxadza dzecanowey wfy dokuczcowa zadayacz prawa aby mufza prawo ftalo atam mufza neftąlo

Type 2, as illustrated in Example 2, represents a less salient pattern of organisation in that the boundary between the two parts is only optionally marked by an MI, and in cases where marked, the MI is integrated into either part of the oath, which results in two blocks of text. The structure of the rota is still transparent in that Latin and Polish parts are kept visually separate, but the MI does not form an independent unit signalling/emphasising the boundary between the components of the rota, as it is the case in Type 1. This absence of MI as an autonomous element may be interpreted in a way that the boundary between the two components of the record marked by a line break was sufficiently indicated, allowing the scribe to minimise the salience of the mediating element (cf. Hynninen et al. 2017). In other words, the transparency of the page layout remains high, despite a lower salience of the mediating element, or even its absence. In the case of Type 1, it is also important to notice that boundary marking may equally have been a matter of separating codes as well as an aid to the reader, as here the reader could quickly identify the segment of interest. This may have also been a scribal concern and the basis for page organisation decisions.
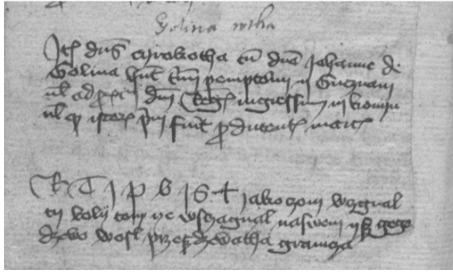
Example 2: Konin, 339, 1416

Figure 4.4 Facsimile, R. 339 Konin.

Item dominus Mrokotha cum domine Johanne de Golina habent terminum peremptorium in Gneznam vel ad proximum domini regis ingressum in Konyn vel quod istorum primum fuerit, pro ducentis marcis:

R(ota) T I P b I S † Jako czom wczgnal ty volÿ tom ye wſczagnął naſwem yſz gego dzewo woſl przeſzdzewatha graniczą

Type 3 is the integrated, least transparent in terms of page layout and least salient in terms of boundary marking type in that the division between the two parts of the rota is not marked visually in any way, and the entire rota unit forms a running text, irrespective of whether the MI is present or not. When present, the MI is usually capitalised, but with respect to the criteria applied in our analysis, it is rather an inconspicuous element in this arrangement. The instances without MI within Type 3 (3b), illustrated by examples under 3 below, can be placed at the other extreme pole of the salience/transparency continuum.[13] The two cases differ in terms of the presence of a random line break: it is present only in Pyzdry (Example 3a). No line break occurs in Konin 489 (Example 3b), where the Latin abbreviated *infirmabatur* is followed by the Polish oath in the same line (though the superscripted <r>, large inter-word space and an emphatic <t> in *thaco* may be viewed as local features reinforcing the division).
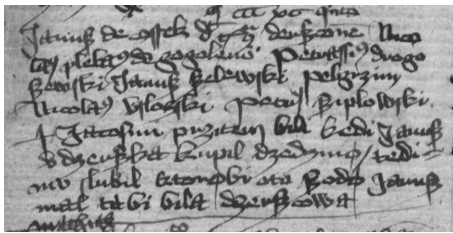
Example 3a: Pyzdry, 13, 1395

Figure 4.5 Facsimile, R. 13 Pyzdry.

Janusz de Ossek ducit testes contra Derszconem: Nicolaus plebanus de Gogoleuo, Petrassius Drogoszewski, Janusz Szelewski pelgrzim, Nicolaus Vsloczski, Petrus Sziplowski:

† Jacoſmi przitem bili kedi Januſz v dzerſzka kupil dzedzinø, tedi mv ſlubil ktorøbi oto ſzodø Januſz mal tabi bila dzerſzcowa[1]

Example 3b: Konin, 489, 1428
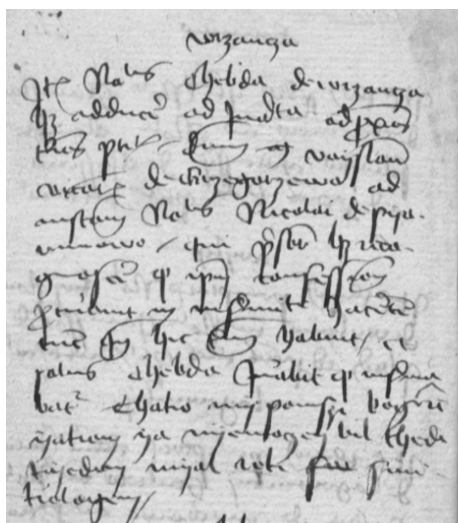
Wrzancza. Item nobilis Chebda de Wrzancza habet adducere ad iuramenta ad proximos terminos particulares dominum Voyslaum vicarium de Grzegorzewo ad instanciam nobilis Nicolai de Pyorunowo, qui presbiter habet recognoscere, quod ipsum confessione procuravit in infirmitate iacente tunc, quando hic terminum habuit, et solus Chebda iurabit quod infirmabatur:

Thako mÿ pomofzi bog etc. ẏakom ya nyemoczen bil thedi kyedim mÿal rok f~~w~~ fmi kolagem

Figure 4.6 Facsimile, R. 498 Konin.

Finally, Example 4 illustrates the irregular Type 4 (4a), where the order of the Latin and Polish components of the record is inversed, departing from the conventional, discourse-determined arrangement, with the Latin protocol following the witness oath.

Example 4: Kalisz, 1010, 1428
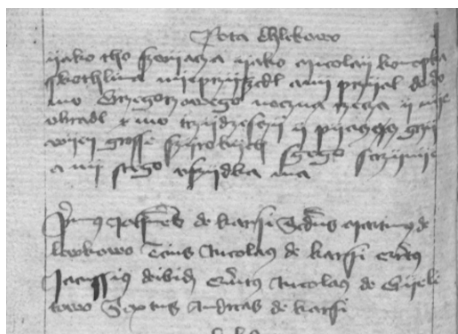
Rotha Chlebowo: ẏako tho fzwÿacza ẏako Micolaÿ konopka fkothlina nÿeprzÿfzedl anÿ przÿal dodo mv Grzegorzowego nocczną rzeczą ẏ nÿe vkradl mv trzÿdzefczÿ y pÿaczczcz grzÿ wÿen groffi fzÿrokých fgego fcrzÿnÿe a nÿ ftego vfzÿdka ma

Primus Johannes de Karszi, secundus Martinus de Lewkowo, tercius Nicolaus de Karszi, quartus Jacussius de ibidem, quintus Nicolaus de Gÿelitowo, sextus Andreas de Karsi.

Figure 4.7 Facsimile, R. Kalisz 1010.

Table 4.3 Distribution of *broad* and *minor* types in the analysed material

Type	Type 1*		Type 2			Type 3		Type 4	
	(3 blocks)		(2 blocks)			(1 block)		(2–3 blocks)	
broad	**36%** (180)		**30%** (151)			**27%** (135)		**7%** (35)	
minor	**T1a**	**T1b**	**T2a**	**T2b**	**T2c**	**T3a**	**T3b**	**T4a**	**T4b**
	31%	**4%**	**11%**	**6%**	**14%**	**20%**	**7%**	**6%**	**1%**

Note: *Type 1 includes additionally 5 instances which were so classified in the analysis without a further assignment to any of the subtypes of Type 1. The reason for this decision is some ambiguity as to the interpretation of the indentation of the MI they contain.

4.5.3.2 *Visual Organisation of Rotas: Distributional Patterns*

Table 4.3 presents the overall quantitative distribution of the broad and minor page layout patterns identified in the analysed material, irrespective of localisation and period. The data show a slight preference for Type 1 (36%), with a transparent and orderly structure, where the individual components of the record are clearly separated. The tendency towards a preference for a clear-cut division between the two components of the rota is further supported by the results for Type 2 (with two separate blocks of text), which comprises 30% of all instances. When combined, these two types with their transparent structure marking constitute 66% of all analysed instances. When the finer sub-patterns within individual types are zoomed into, it can be observed that the most transparent arrangement with a salient boundary marking, Type1a, is found in 31% of cases, while the least transparent one, Type 3b, appears in only 7% of cases. Significantly, some form of MI – be it an independent element (on a line break and potentially indented) as in Type 1, or entirely embedded in the text, Polish or Latin, as in Types 2 and 3a – is present in 88% of all instances (across all types), which may indicate that its function in the visual organisation of the page was pivotal.

4.5.3.2.1 LOCALISATION: DIATOPIC TENDENCIES

The nature of the investigated material, with the records deriving from six different localisations (chancelleries), allows us to identify some finer diatopic patterns (understood here as artefacts of chancellery scribal practices) of visual organisation of the records. Table 4.4 presents the distribution of the four broad types of page layout organisation across individual localisations (Types 1–4).[14]

Clearly, in the records from the Gniezno chancellery the organisation patterns with blocking effects prevail, with the two rota components (the Latin protocol and Polish oath) visibly separated. The most common pattern is Type 2, with two-block division (46%), followed by Type 1

Table 4.4 Distribution of broad types across localisations

	T1	*T2*	*T3*	*T4*
Gniezno	(29) 35%	(39) 46%	(11) 13%	(5) 6%
Kalisz	(43) 52%	(11) 13%	(4) 5%	(25) 30%
Konin	(4) 5%	(29) 35%	(46) 56%	(3) 4%
Kościan	(49) 61%	(24) 30%	(7) 9%	0%
Poznań	(36) 44%	(13) 16%	(33) 40%	0%
Pyzdry	(19) 21%	(35) 39%	(34) 38%	(2) 2%

(35%). Only a small majority of rotas, irrespective of type, contain some form of MI (57% compared to 78% for the entire sample). The records in the Kalisz collection display two broad, in a way, opposing tendencies: the majority shows Type 1 arrangement (52%), with predominantly indented MI, but a substantial group of rotas can be classified as the irregular Type 4 (30%). It can be observed that Type 4 is predominantly a Kalisz phenomenon; in this pattern the most common feature is the inversed order of the Latin and Polish parts of the record, which can additionally be accompanied by MI in form of a heading (containing the word *Rot(h)a*) to the entire unit, or the presence of a heading directly followed by a Polish oath (Example 4 above). In terms of spatial organisation, they form mostly two or three blocks, constituting a transparent and orderly pattern, though clearly departing from the discourse-determined order of a Latin protocol followed by a Polish witness oath.

   Another prominent feature of the Kalisz rotas is the presence of some form of the MI, found in the majority of the records (93%). Of all the localisations, the Konin collection emerges as the least neatly structured in that more than half of the rotas (56%) belong to Type 3, where no clear separation between the components is found. Type 1a is attested in only 4% of all instances, and the remaining part belongs to Type 2 (35%). In 29% of all Konin records no MI is found, which is a pattern corresponding to those found in the records from Gniezno and Pyzdry. Considerable transparency of page layout is a characteristic of the Kościan records, where the majority of rotas represent Type 1. MI is present in 85% of rotas, most frequently as an independent element, rendering the layout transparent and boundary marking salient. The pattern found in the Poznań collection departs from those found in the other localisations. On the one hand, a considerable share of rotas shows a preference for Type 1, on the other hand, 40% of records have a structure without a clear separation of the two components. Another feature contributing to the transparency of the structure is the presence of the MI, which irrespective of the type is found in 96% of records. Finally, a clear preference for two types of arrangement, Type 2 and Type 3, mostly without the MI (69%) is found in the Pyzdry collection.

The relatively wide variety of distinct patterns that were identified in individual localisations point to the relative autonomy of the chancelleries, with largely idiosyncratic scribal practices with respect to page layout and boundary marking. This can be ascribed to the fact that each itinerant court had a group of scribes or collaborators, and the exchange between localisations was not very common or extensive. Additionally, it seems that geographical distance/vicinity could partly account for the identified patterns (see Figure 4.8): the fact that the pattern attested in

Figure 4.8 Map of the Kingdom of Poland with locations of land courts in Greater Poland.

Source: "Polska i Litwa za panowania Władysława II Jagiełły" available at www.wikiwand.com/pl/Historia_Polski, accessed 24 October 2021; picture available under license CC BY-SA 4.0.

the Kalisz collection stands out may be explained by its relative geo-
graphical remoteness from the rest of the localisations, while the simi-
larities detected between the records from Pyzdry and Poznań (blocked
vs non-blocked structure) could appear due to the geographical vicinity
of the two chancelleries.[15] In turn, the orderly nature of the records from
Kościan could be explained as an artefact of record production, as the
collection consists of both drafts and clean copies and here we are pos-
sibly dealing with clean copies.

4.5.3.2.2 DIACHRONIC TENDENCIES

Given the largely divergent patterns of page organisation and boundary
marking across individual localisations, one might expect that also some
diachronic tendencies in the page layout and division marking may be
identifiable. A closer investigation of the diachronic variation across
the records, which was possible on account of the nature of the records
and their very precise dating, reveals that some diachronic trend can be
detected for localisations other than Konin and Kalisz. As discussed in the
previous section, these two collections of records show quite idiosyncratic
patterns in that most records from Kalisz belong to two types, Type 1 and
Type 4, whereas in the records from Konin Type 3 clearly dominates.
These patterns are consistent throughout the entire attestation period and
show no clear direction of change over time. Table 4.5 presents the results
based on the data aggregated from the other four localisations for which
a more consistent pattern could be detected. It includes additionally the
incidence of the MI across the four periods, where a diachronic trend is
also observable.

A general tendency that can be observed is a (significant) increase in
the number of rotas representing Type 1 over the four periods, and an
opposite tendency for Type 3, namely a decrease from 43% in period 1
(1385–1399) to 12% in period 4 (1430–1444). This translates into a dia-
chronic increase in consistency, or rather in a preference for a transparent
structure with the Latin and Polish parts of the record visibly separated.
The diachronic pattern for Type 3 is a mirror image of Type 1 in that
the less transparent organisation of the rota unit seems to be gradually

Table 4.5 Diachronic distribution of broad types of MI in the analysed material
(irrespective of localisation)

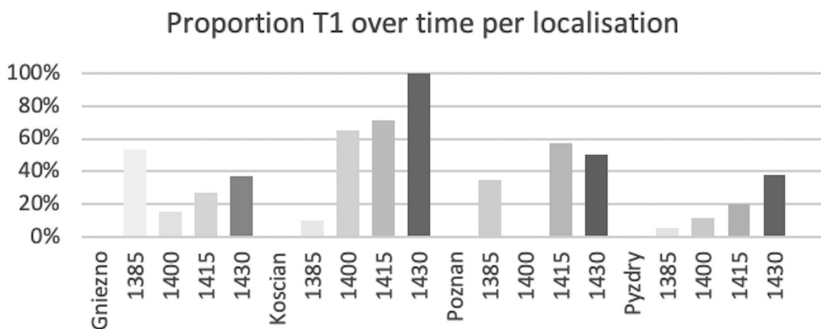| Period	T1	T2	T3	T4	MI
1385–	29%	26%	43%	2%	72%
1400–	31%	63%	7%	0%	71%
1415–	45%	19%	30%	5%	80%
1430–	53%	33%	12%	1%	93%
					79% (n=501)

Proportion T1 over time per localisation

Figure 4.9 Diachronic distribution of Type 1 per localisation.

decreasing. No clear diachronic pattern can be identified for Type 2 and Type 4. At the same time, a parallel tendency can be found also for the MI, which is not entirely surprising given that the incidence of Type 1, characterised by the presence of an MI, tends to increase over time.[16]

A more detailed picture of this diachronic trend towards an increase in Type 1 emerges if a regional component is added to the analysis, as shown in Figure 4.9 where the spread of Type 1 for individual localisations (except Konin and Kalisz, where no diachronic trend could be identified) is presented. The diachronic increase of Type 1 arrangement takes place at the cost of other types, which can be clearly seen in Table 4.6, which presents the diachronic distribution of all broad types with respect to localisation.

Clearly, the trend towards a gradual increase in the most salient type of arrangement, Type 1, is best attested in the records from Kościan and Pyzdry. In both localisations, the tendency can be considered stable: the increase is constant and unidirectional in the sense that it does not show any backward fluctuation. For the other localisations we can observe the same prevailing tendency, which is, however, a little less regular with more fluctuations. At the same time, the records from Poznań and Kościan demonstrate more regularly a gradual decrease in the incidence of Type 3, which can be seen as a reflection of the same consistent trend towards a preference for greater transparency in visual page organisation, with an explicit boundary marking between individual components of the rota unit. The increased transparency in page layout and salience in boundary marking attested in the analysed data can be interpreted as a reflection of conventionalisation of the genre (cf. Taavitsainen 2016) or a community of practice effect (Kopaczyk and Jucker 2013).[17]

4.5.3.3 *A Note on Scribal Tendencies*

Interpretation of the material with regard to scribal preferences turned out to be challenging due to the considerable variation found in the records

Table 4.6 Diachronic distribution of individual types across localisations

	%T1	%T2	%T3	%T4
Gniezno	**36%**	**45%**	**13%**	**6%**
1385–	53%	33%	10%	3%
1400–	15%	80%	5%	0%
1415–	27%	20%	33%	20%
1430–	37%	47%	11%	5%
Kościan	**61%**	**30%**	**9%**	**-**
1385–	10%	55%	35%	-
1400–	65%	35%	0%	-
1415–	71%	29%	0%	-
1430–	100%	0%	0%	-
Poznań	**44%**	**16%**	**40%**	**0%**
1385–	35%	15%	50%	-
1400–	0%	0%	100%	-
1415–	57%	14%	29%	-
1430–	50%	20%	30%	-
Pyzdry	**21%**	**39%**	**38%**	**2%**
1385–	5%	5%	85%	5%
1400–	11%	78%	11%	0%
1415–	20%	15%	60%	5%
1430–	38%	53%	9%	0%

and few clearly identifiable patterns. The same criteria that were taken into account for the investigation of diatopic (local) and diachronic variation were considered relevant for the analysis of scribal variation. The sample included records written by 65 different scribes, but in order to ensure greater reliability of the results the patterns were identified on the basis of records of 24 scribes, each contributing more than nine records to the collection. The major observation that can be made based on the analysed sample is that the data show relatively low *intrascribal* variation. Fifteen of the scribes had a clear preference for one specific pattern in 67% or more of the records, and rarely alternated between several types. The tendency is present across all localisations, but in the case of records from Kalisz, scribes appear to be most consistent in their choice of a given type, with a minimum consistency level of 73% (scribe 2) and an average of 84% (over the five scribes from the Kalisz chancellery). The other extreme, i.e. low consistency level, is found in the records of scribe 12 from Gniezno, who uses all four broad types *randomly*.[18] In order to get a more complete picture of scribal variation with respect to localisation and diachrony, a systematic analysis of the entire collection would be necessary and the patterns signalised above can only serve as a starting point for further more comprehensive investigation.

At this point we should also note that itinerant courts in Greater Poland did not regularly hire staff beyond the judge (*iudex*), underjudge (*subiudex*) and a scribe (*notarius*) (Uruszczak 2015: 96–99), while the

records may have been compiled by the few available *litteratti* who were available *ad hoc* (Gąsiorowski 1970: 55–56, 78–79; Bartoszewicz 2001: 10). Although there are cases of scribes who continued their work for a number of consecutive years, the centre of their professional activity may have been elsewhere (cf. Mostert and Adamska 2014: 9 who refer to this as "multitasking"), e.g. in the monolingual Latin documentation of urban chancelleries. Historians have also indicated that some scribes may have been trilingual (Latin, German, Polish), which may have prevented them from developing a fully mixed Latin-Polish professional code. Finally, the nature of language contact between English, French and Latin in Britain was different from that between the vernacular and Latin in Greater Poland, with the former only making its very first steps into the written domain. The progress of vernacularisation was also much slower in Poland; Anglo-Norman was unique to Britain, while French as the third, albeit cultivated language, was another important player in the spoken domain. Thus a more clear-cut diglossic situation in Greater Poland may have determined code separation supported by visual cues in the record.

4.6 Summary and Conclusions

Boundary marking is a cross-modal concept (van Leeuwen 2004: 15) and thus our study was informed by a combined multimodality and multilingualism perspective. Our focus fell on a feature that coincides systematically with boundaries between codes, linguistic units (e.g. semantic or syntactic), discourse units or production/reception/performance practices, and may be realised cross-modally (page layout in the visual mode, metatextual cues to material/discoursal units, punctuation, prosody as the cue in spoken mode, etc.), i.e. a line break. In this study, we have looked more deeply into its realisations in visual mode, but its analysis may also be undertaken from the point of view of other modes.

Our results in terms of boundary marking through line breaks extend the field of visual pragmatics (e.g. Varila et al. 2017: 3; contributions to Peikola et al. 2017) in that they involve the lesser known bilingual data from medieval Greater Poland. In terms of multimodality, our analysis confirms that cues realised in different modalities tend to reinforce one another (Swerts and Krahmer 2010; Ambrazaitis et al. 2015: 14; Fenlon 2015). In our data, visual and linguistic channels very rarely cluster randomly, while their interfaces form a complex multilevel dynamic scheme of interrelations. In terms of multilingualism, our study has identified a consistent application of MIs characterised by code ambiguity, i.e. by belonging to both Latin and Polish lexicon at the same time or by occurring in the format of a visual diamorph (abbreviations). These require more detailed analysis in terms of their metatextual nature as well as visual nature (cf. the spectrum of local graphemic cues that they attract in Figure 4.2).

Following the idea that visual markers in manuscript data form a hierarchy (higher- vs lower-level, Varila et al. 2017: 5), we approached layout organisation and boundary marking in terms of global (on the page) and local (on the grapheme) visibility. With respect to the former, the analysis of line breaks allowed us to identify tendencies and specific patterns in page layout organisation and boundary marking, which could be systematically classified according to a set of selected parameters into a number of types. The typology we presented, involving four broad types, each showing further internal sub-patterning, reveals considerable variation. We suggest that the patterns form a continuum with respect to global visibility, ranging from visually salient types, where the boundary between individual components of the record is visibly marked and page layout is transparent, to those which show no orderly organisation and no marking of discourse boundaries.

This formal variation has, additionally, a diachronic and diatopic dimension. A gradual shift towards Type 1a, with salient boundary marking and transparent page layout, can be considered a stable diachronic trend across the records, interpretable as a move towards conventionalisation of the genre. In the diatopic dimension, the divergent patterns with respect to page organisation identified in the records from individual localisations, with the rotas from Konin characterised by least systematicity and those from Kościan by a very transparent structure, point to relatively idiosyncratic scribal practices of individual chancelleries. Some effect of geographical distance/vicinity is identifiable in the records from geographically near Poznań and Pyzdry vs geographically distant Kalisz, which could arguably be a reflection of the intensity of contacts and exchange between individual chancelleries and theirs scribes (see note 18). Finally, the additional local visibility level, which on account of space limitations did not receive systematic coverage in our analysis, adds to the overall complexity of visual page organisation and boundary marking in the records. Incorporating this graphemic layer into our categorisation, which would refine the current typology and possibly lead to a better understanding of scribal choices, remains a research task for the future.

A number of factors behind the marking of code and discourse boundaries by means of language, layout or visual features may be stipulated. First, cues that achieve global salience may be ascribed to audience considerations understood as a general tendency for orderly receiver-friendly text organisation, as visually clear parsing of the record increases its readability. From the point of view of its administrative purposes and in light of lack of a system of referencing tools, this may have been an important factor. Second, page layout with consistent blocking of text that delimits individual units (rotas) and codes (discourse elements in Polish and Latin) is in a sense an iconic reflection of the litigation procedure employed in itinerant land courts in Greater Poland, with the core procedural element of the trial being performed and recorded in the vernacular. The diachronic

increase in frequency of the pattern that foregrounds the tripartite division of the rota unit (Type 1 with Latin witness list, the MI and the vernacular oath marked by line breaks) in all localisations indicates that over time scribal practice involved more planning, thus contributing to a certain degree of conventionalisation, expected of a developing genre/literacy practice. Third, the role of scribes in record organisation is also reflected in the consistent presence of MIs, as their metatextual nature suggests that they were not an essential part of the procedure, but more likely scribal additions. MIs not only enhance discourse boundaries linguistically and attract visual cues, which is most likely their major function, but viewed within the framework of multilingual production and processing, they may facilitate the cognitive challenge of switching between spelling, abbreviation systems or space management that may be specific to each code. Cases of neutralisation of code and discourse boundaries, where the salience of switching points is minimised (Hynninen et al. 2017: 98–99), were relatively rare in our sample.

The latter point indicates that switching between Latin and vernacular was far from "an automatic habitual action" (Hynninen et al. 2017: 98–99). This does not entirely support the trend identified most recently in multilingualism research based on specialised texts in the history of English. Contrary to our analysis in which different channels of communication were taken into account on top of language cues, these studies tend to confirm the existence of a mixed professional code of record with multiple ambiguous elements and suggest an integrity rather than duality of this code ("mixed-language business writing" Wright 2020 and her previous work; Alcolado Carnicero 2013). The knowledge that historians have about the scribes of the Greater Poland land books does not allow us to provide a full explanation here, but it is not unlikely that their multilingual competences were of a different nature from those of the merchants and other professionals whose texts were analysed in other studies.

Overall, we hope that our study of boundary marking viewed from a cross-modal and multilingual perspective, and based on a well-contextualised sample of specialised discourse will prove useful to research into interfaces of codes and modes in similar historical data and periods and beyond.

Notes

1 Adamska (2013: 333) also notices that royal regulatory texts appeared as late as 1350 (a law collection by Casimir the Great).
2 Books also cover suits, court sentences and fines, real estate transactions, loans and debts (Bartoszewicz 2001: 12; Jurek 2002; Rymaszewski 2008: 43; Bukowski and Zdanek 2012: 9; Moniuszko 2014: 466; Uruszczak 2015: 175–176)
3 The order of the elements in the scheme is flexible to an extent; in some cases, the protocol information follows the oath instead of preceding it (a pattern found relatively frequently in the records from Kalisz, occasionally

from Gniezno, Konin and Pyzdry, cf. Section 4.5 where such instances are classified as an independent subtype of page layout organisation).

4　In the course of analysis, we develop a more complex systematics; however, a conventional one is a useful starting point.

5　In the manuscript, an inscription may be marked visually, linguistically or not marked at all, as observed by Bukowski and Zdanek (2012: 29): "Zasadniczo pisarze oddzielali kolejne zapiski niewielkim odstępem; odrębność sugerowały też nagłówki na marginesach. Niekiedy jednak pisarze bez światła w jednym ciągu wpisywali sprawy np. wytoczone przez jednego powoda, łącząc je spójnikami „idem" i „similiter" [Essentially scribes separated the consecutive notes with a small space; separateness was also implied by the headings in the margins. Occasionally, however, some cases, e.g. those brought by one plaintiff, were entered in the same sequence without any space, and were joined with the conjunctions "idem" and "similiter"]. Sometimes, „łącznie zapisano jednym ciągiem sprawy między różnymi stronami procesowymi, przede wszystkim innymi powodami" [cases between different parties, mainly different plaintiffs, were written in one string]. This obviously points to a conceptual reality of a single inscription, usually reporting on one case.

6　There is strong evidence from central Poland (Łęczyca, Morawski 1982) and Lesser Poland (Cracow, Perzanowski 1968) that the activity of the major clerk (*notarius terrestris*) involved conducting queries ordered by customers pertaining to specific legal issues, the issuing of documents based on these as well as registering these actions. Such registers have so far not been studied in detail in Greater Poland land books, information on fees for them and traces of deletion of cases for which documents have been ordered is scattered in books in all localisations, but it is unlikely that registers existed as separate volumes in Greater Poland.

7　This refers to the mediating item *Rota (rota)* whose spelling variant *Rotha* (*rotha*) may be viewed as a graphic habit ("maniera graficzna"), similar to that of *ktho* = kto or *orthographia*= ortografia (Malinowski 2011: 22), which most likely appeared under the influence of foreign (Latin) spelling practices. Integrated thus into the Latin graphemic system, the item can be interpreted as a neutralising element, whose function is primarily formulaic, irrespective of which linguistic code it belongs to (cf. note 10).

8　The word and related derivatives, like the verb *rotiti sę* "to swear", are well attested in other Slavic languages (cf. *rŭt* "mouth", Rus. *rot*, Czech *ret* "lip") and can be traced back to PIE **werə-/*wer-* "speak" (cf. Go. *waurd* "word", Lat. *verbum* "word"), and the suffixed form **wrē-tor-* (Gr. *rhēthōr* "public speaker", *rhētos*, *rhētra* "agreement") (Watkins 2000: 100), cognate with OPrus. *wertemai* "we swear", *wirds* "word" (cf. **(h²)urdᵇ-o-* Kroonen 2013, *s.v. *wurda*; Brückner 1927: 463–464).

9　In the present section *rota* is used to refer to the entire formula (unit) rather than only to the text of the witness oath.

10　Occasionally the Latin part of the rota can also be indented (e.g. Kalisz 1057, 1071); such instances appear only sporadically and they were not separately classified in our analysis.

11　In records where the order of protocol and witness oath is reversed, in a way that the Latin protocol appears after the Polish oath, there are instances where Polish and Latin parts form a continuous text (e.g. Kalisz 1032, 1050, 1076). In these cases, the phrase *Rota* (e.g. *Rota Naczeslavycze, Tursko Rota*)

appears visually as a form of heading, followed first by the Polish oath, then by the Latin protocol.

12 The scale is based on the features which were included in our typology, but it could be further refined by incorporating other visual cues, such as script size, shape, ink colour, abbreviation, ornamentation of the initial letter of the first items in respective components of the rota, the use of a dagger, or punctuation.

13 Note that the boundary marking is visible at the local visibility (graphemic) level, with a sign of the cross marking the onset of the Polish witness oath.

14 The monofactorial analysis presented here may obscure some patterns that could otherwise be retrieved in a multivariate analysis or a multiple correspondence analysis with location and time (and possibly scribe) as independent variables, and the choices of types as a dependent one. These are not conducted here for reasons of space.

15 No hard and fast evidence for this has been presented so far. Cooperation of notaries and courts from a given region may have been reduced to practicalities, e.g. Morawski discusses parchment distribution between three areas in central Poland showing that it was supplied centrally to one court and distributed from there to other local notaries within a radius of 50–80 km (Morawski 1982: 302–303). The distance between Poznań and Kalisz is *ca*.130 km and to Konin it is 100 km, whereas the other localisations are within *ca*.50 km radius.

16 A diachronic trend seems to appear also with respect to the nature of the mediating element. In older records the MI appears in forms other than *Rot(h)a*, e.g. *sic iurabunt*, while in younger records, *Rot(h)a* seems more prevalent. *Sic iurabunt* as an MI is a typical feature of the Poznań records, too. A comprehensive analysis of the complete material could reveal more about this diachronic tendency.

17 Scribes involved in record keeping in principle remain anonymous which is a serious problem in pursuing the community of practice effect. Although some civil servants involved in record keeping in other areas of the Kingdom of Poland have been identified (e.g. Morawski 1982), this has not been the case for Greater Poland. See also note 18.

18 According to Trawińska (2012: 127), who focuses on handwriting practices (the use of minuscule and majuscule letters) in Greater Poland land books, the form of the records suggests that scribes were not expected to be very careful about handwriting or meticulous in editing the text, as their focus stayed rather on the content of the case, while the general visual side of the record was only of secondary importance, depending on individual scribal practices and habits.

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