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Global or Adapted Advertising? Consumer Evaluation of Advertising Activity of Foreign Enterprises on the Polish Market

Robert Nowacki

ABSTRACT

Intensification of globalization processes in the contemporary world entails consequences for all areas of socio-economic life. The latter concerns also advertising, which is particularly sensitive to the developments occurring in the global environment. Expansion into foreign markets presents enterprises with the dilemma of how to advertise their products and services. The specific question which appears in this context is whether to use standardized or adapted advertising. The attitude of the audience on the target market is of key importance. The present article also focuses on the impact of globalization on the recipients' perception of the advertising activity of foreign companies operating in the Polish market. Assessment of the degree of acceptance of foreign enterprises' standardized advertising activities on the Polish market, their attractiveness and impact on competitiveness, from the perspective of Polish consumers. The basis for the study are the findings of a survey conducted in 2019 and 2020 on a sample of Polish consumers aged 15+ selected using the quota method. The subject of the research were opinions on advertising activities used on the Polish market by foreign companies, taking into account the differentiation into global and adapted advertising. The respondents assessed the level of attractiveness and acceptance of activities related to advertising standardization procedures. The results of the research indicate that Polish consumers perceive the globalization of advertising and have mixed feelings about it. On the one hand, they appreciate the attractiveness of standardized advertisements, on the other, they assess their effectiveness as worse. However, the respondents also point out that they have a positive impact on the competitiveness of foreign companies. The perception of standardized advertising is generally not dependent on demographic characteristics. There is only a slight direct effect of age on the perception of attractiveness and effectiveness of standardized and adapted advertising.

KEY WORDS:

Advertising, advertising perception, global and adapted advertising, foreign enterprises, attractiveness and competitiveness of advertising.

JEL Classification: M37, M21.

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1. Introduction

The development of globalization processes entails several consequences for all spheres of the modern world. It is important to note that the paradigms related to marketing are also reorienting. Moreover, it may be stated that a new concept of looking at the phenomena of competition and creating a marketing strategy is formed.

As a result of the changes taking place in terms of the activities of enterprises, the evolution of the concept of marketing on foreign markets becomes apparent. A phenomenon that is noticed more and more frequently is the interpenetration, convergence or even unification of cultural variables. All the above factors lead to distinguishing the last of the marketing concepts, which T. Levitt referred to as global marketing (Levitt, 1986). The term relates to the activities of the world's largest corporations operating on a global scale, not

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necessarily in a completely unified manner. Their operations are oriented towards the development of marketing standardization processes, based on the assumption that the buyers of the product in different countries are largely the same, namely, they have unified needs, expectations, preferences, and they present a similar behavior model (Keegan & Green, 2000). As a consequence of the abovesaid evolution, the conditions which are created allow for undertaking standardization activities at the level of all marketing instruments, including advertising.

At present, advertising as the driving force of free competition is seen as a key factor of economic growth (Arens et al., 2009), considered from various perspectives and analyzed in terms of its marketing, communication, economic, social, cultural, and even religious and political dimensions (Sanayei et al., 2012). Its effectiveness is determined by the use of effective communication, defined through the prism of the processes of transmitting, receiving, and processing information (Clow & Baack, 2010), which refers to the exchange of information, ideas and shaping the relationship between the sender and the recipient (Belch & Belch, 2009).

In the field of advertising, the impact of globalization is expressed in determining the relationship between the possibility of standardization (globalization) and the need for adaptation of communications. These appear to be the two main trends in advertising on foreign markets (Melewar & Vemmervik, 2004; Papavassiliou & Stathakopoulos, 1997; Schmidt, 2016). Choosing one of them is crucial for the effectiveness of advertising activities. Adapting to the requirements and expectations of the recipients of advertising constitutes the basis for corporate initiatives (Harvey, 1993). The process of perceiving advertising messages is one of the key determinants of consumer behavior (de Mooij, 2003; 2004; 2010; de Mooij & Hofstede, 2002).

In Poland, little research has been carried out on this issue, despite the fact that the advertising market has been developing dynamically for the last 30 years. This study, therefore, sets out to investigate the research problem and answer the question of how Polish consumers perceive the

advertising activities of foreign companies.

The objective of the article is to assess the degree of acceptance of standardized advertising activities carried out on the Polish market by foreign companies, their attractiveness and effectiveness, and their impact on competitiveness from the perspective of Polish consumers.

The basis for the considerations is the findings of the research conducted in 2019-2020 using the CAWI method on a sample of 1201 Polish consumers aged 15 and above, selected using the quota methodology. The aim of the research project has been to examine the respondents' opinions on advertising activities and strategies applied on the Polish market by foreign companies, taking into account the differentiation between global and adapted advertising. The survey participants assessed various aspects of advertising activities, including the acceptance and effectiveness of global advertising. The analysis of the results takes into account the relationship between the examined issues and basic demographic characteristics (gender and age) as well as the model of the relationship between the perception of attractiveness and effectiveness in the context of the respondents' age.

The first part of the article presents the background for considerations relating to the impact of the globalization phenomenon on the advertising activities of enterprises. In particular, reference was made to the issue of standardization and adaptation of advertising as two different advertising strategies. The next section provides a detailed description of the research method, the method of data collection, the sample of respondents as well as the tools and calculation procedures used. The next section contains the most important findings of the study presented in a descriptive and tabular manner. Subsequently, the results were discussed, together with conclusions and comments concerning the limitations of the present study and recommendations for further research.

2. Literature Review

Standardization of advertising is defined as the use of a uniform approach to advertising activities in differ-

ent countries, based on the same advertising message of the same product promoted abroad (Backhaus et al., 2001; Nelson & Paek, 2007; Papavassiliou & Stathakopoulos, 1997), with a possible translation of the content of the advertisement into a local language (Harvey, 1993; Onkvisit & Shaw 1990). Standardization of advertising ensures a consistent image of the brand worldwide (Kirpilani et al., 1988; Onkvisit & Shaw, 1990; Tai, 1997; Melewar et al., 2000), consistent global positioning (Shoham, 1995), the application of strategies and solutions which already proved successful in other countries or effective use of the advertising budget (Kanso, 1992; Kirpilani et al., 1988; Jain, 1989; Levitt, 1983; Nowacki, 2007a; Tai, 1997;).

Adaptation is an alternative approach to international advertising. It is defined as the use of different advertising messages in different markets (Wang & Yang, 2011). The purpose of adaptation is to obtain a differential advantage by adjusting advertising to achieve maximum effectiveness of sales (Onkvisit & Shaw, 1990). The adaptation of advertising is usually associated with the decentralization of advertising efforts. The advantage of this solution is the ability to adapt it to the local culture, infrastructure and competition in a given country. The visual and verbal adaptation of an advertisement increases the likelihood that the advertisement will be effective. Other reasons for adaptation include the accuracy of positioning and price discrimination (Shoham, 1995; 1999).

The decision to standardize or adapt advertisements is not dichotomous. Rather, international firms choose between two extremes: full standardization and adaptation (Harris, 1994). Papavassiliou and Stathakopoulos (1997) have suggested that international advertising decisions can be viewed as a continuum with two polar ends, which are, as mentioned above, standardization and adaptation of advertising strategy. The latter was confirmed by research conducted, among others, by Whitelock and Chung (1989), Mueller (1991), Seitz and Johar (1993), and Harris and Attour (2003). The studies show that standardization and advertising procedures are a widely used practice, but total standardization is the exception rather than the rule (Harris & Attour, 2003), even for the largest corporations (Kanso & Nelson, 2002). The concept "Think globally, act locally" is becoming more and more common; and global companies

implement and adopt global trends, services, values and products to local cultural and social conditions in line with this principle (Menon, 2014). This tendency is also reflected in the field of various communication activities, including advertising messages (Moon & Jain, 2002), as an expression of a critical analysis of the positive and negative aspects of standardization and adaptation (Zou et al., 1997).

The degree of standardization of advertising activities, therefore, depends on many factors, which Harvey (1993) divides into three groups: factors affecting the company that advertises a product or service (variables characterizing the product, market competition and the organization itself), factors determining the process of creating and broadcasting an advertising message (variables related to infrastructural and legal conditionings) and factors influencing consumers who are recipients of advertising communications (socio-cultural variables). The necessary condition is the susceptibility of the product/services offer to the globalization of advertising (Kotler, 1997; Belch & Belch, 2009).

Taking into consideration the diversity of the cultural environment of the sender and recipient of the message appears to be of key importance in the process of making decisions regarding standardization or adaptation (Toyne & Walters, 2004). In relation to advertising, culture should be defined as the learned lifestyle of a particular society, their interpersonal contacts and reacting to environmental stimuli (including advertising stimuli). It consists of the general values for a given society, accumulated by tradition, extended and enhanced by language, art, aesthetics, customs, morality, determining the guidelines for people's behavior and the way they perceive the world (Hanna & Wozniak, 2001). Relationships and interdependencies between the features of the national culture, described by G. Hofstede as "programming of the mind" (Hofstede, 2011) and consumer behavior allow for the proper adjustment of the marketing strategy to the needs and expectations of buyers, which, in turn, often determines the success of a brand or enterprise on the market. The elements of culture that can be analyzed in the context of purchasing decisions or the impact of advertising include adopted code of conduct, assumptions, and stereotypes, norms, and values as well as the way of perceiving, adopting,

and as-sessing values, adopted methods and means of communicating advertising messages (de Mooij & Hofstede, 2010). Advertising messages developed within one culture may be misunderstood or largely ineffective in another culture due to different attitudes or different perceptions of messages (de Mooij, 2015). The coding and decoding of the message are strongly conditioned by culture - cultural heritage, assumptions, stereotypes, and prejudices may constitute significant barriers to communication (Lunenburg, 2010), influencing the evaluation of attractiveness and, consequently, the effectiveness of advertising. The concept of adapting advertising activities to the cultural specificity of the target market has become increasingly important in recent times, which is confirmed by numerous studies (Boddeyn et. al., 1986; Hite & Frazer, 1988; Kanso, 1992). Cultural mismatch of such messages is mentioned, related to, inter alia, the ethnocentrism of consumers, a negative attitude towards solutions derived from other countries. All these factors are conducive to the adaptation of advertising (Mueller, 1992; Synodinos et. al., 1989). The perception of advertising is conditioned by the ethnocentric attitude of consumers, which is expressed in a greater tendency to accept the content which is seen as closer to the recipient and their cultural circle and consequent shaping of positive emotional and behavioral reactions towards the advertised product (perception, attitude towards the brand, intention to buy) (Burke & Edell, 1989; MacKenzie & Lutz, 1989; Nowacki, 2008; Park & Young, 1986).

3. Research Method

The issue of perception and evaluation of advertising activities in the context of globalization has been the subject of research conducted at the turn of 2019 and 2020. The study was carried out with the application of a CAWI (Computer Assisted Web Interview) method examining 1201 Polish individuals over 15 years of age, selected as representatives of the Polish population in terms of gender, age and place of residence (provinces). The sample was selected using a quota method. The study included 52.4% women and 47.6% men. 18.7% of the respondents were aged 15-24, 18.9% - aged 25-34, 17.9% - aged 35-44, 18.1% - aged 45-54, and 26.4% - over the age of 54.

The analysis was carried out using the author's original question-naire, containing, among others, questions concerning the perception of globalization as a process shaping advertising as well as the perception and evaluation of advertising activities carried out by foreign companies operating on the Polish market against the background of the activities of domestic firms. In particular, the article has examined the following research problems. The first examined issue concerned the opinion regarding the need to adapt advertising messages to the cultural specificity of the country in which the advertisement is broadcast, expressed using an alternative nominal scale (it does not have to be adjusted - it should be adjusted). The second issue concerned the question of evaluating the effectiveness of global advertising carried out with the use of an ordinal scale (rating the effectiveness as high - medium - low). The third issue was related to the evaluation of global advertising from the point of view of seven parameters, assessed on a three-point ordinal scale (the ratings of high - medium - low levels). The last issue concerned a comparative analysis of the relationship between the attractiveness and effectiveness of global and adapted advertising, assessed from the perspective of seven-factor (in the case of attractiveness) and six-factor loadings (in the case of effectiveness, assessed on a nominal scale: yes-no).

The following system of factor loadings was adopted in the analysis:

Attractiveness of advertising:

- A1 Interesting
- A2 Engaging
- A3 Relaxing
- A4 Appealing
- A5 Professionally made
- A6 Liked
- A7 Original

Effectiveness of advertising:

- S1 Encouraging to buy
- S2 Informative
- S3 Reliable
- S4 Inspiring confidence
- S5 Affecting the purchase
- S6 Teaching new behaviors

The results of the conducted analyses will serve to verify the following hypotheses:

- H1: Despite being aware of the globalization of advertising, Polish consumers do not accept its standard-

ization and expect foreign companies to adjust it to the specifics of the target market, although at the same time they are convinced of its effectiveness.

— H1a: Polish consumers accept the standardization of advertising only to a limited degree and expect foreign companies to adjust it to the specificity of the target market.

— H1b: Polish consumers evaluate the effectiveness of standardized advertising positively.

— H1c: Polish consumers value the attractiveness of standardized advertising more than its effectiveness.

— H2: Demographic features of Polish consumers do not differentiate the perception and acceptance of the phenomenon of advertising globalization and its standardization.

— H2a: Gender and age of Polish consumers do not significantly differentiate the perception of the need to adapt advertising to the specificity of the target market.

— H2b: Gender and age of Polish consumers do not significantly differentiate the assessment of the effectiveness of standardized advertising.

— H2c: There are no statistically significant differences in the perception of the attractiveness and effectiveness of standardized advertising depending on the gender and age of Polish consumers.

— H3: There is a statistically significant relationship between age and the perception of attractiveness and effectiveness of standardized and adapted advertising.

— H3a: There is a direct influence of age on the perception of the attractiveness of standardized and adapted advertising.

— H3b: There is a direct influence of age on the perception of the effectiveness of standardized and adapted advertising.

— H3c: There is a direct influence of the perception of attractiveness on the perception of the effectiveness of standardized and adapted advertising.

— H3d: There is an indirect influence of age on the perception of the effectiveness of standardized and adapted advertising.

The results were processed with the use of the IBM SPSS 27.0 statistical package. The analysis used statistically significant indicators of the structure (percentages), measures of central tendency (weighted

average) and measures of correlation between the variables. The relationships between the independent (explanatory) and dependent (responding) variables were determined based on the non-parametric chi-square test, and the strength using the Cramér's V coefficient.

In the case of the first three problems, the results of the analyses were presented taking into account the differentiation into the basic demographic categories (gender and age). The relationship between the independent variable (explanatory) and the dependent (responding) variable was determined by the non-parametric chi-squared test, Mann-Whitney U tests (in the case of explanatory variable concerning gender) and the Kruskal-Wallis test (for the variables related to age), and the strength of the identified relationships was determined using the Cramér's V coefficient.

To verify the relationships between the analyzed variables indicated in the fifth examined research problem, the author applied the technique of modeling structural equations with the application of the partial least square method (PLS-SEM) using the SmartPLS 3 program. PLS-SEM represents a well-substantiated method for estimating complex cause-effect-relationship models in management research (Gudergan et al., 2008).

The reliability of the variables was tested using Cronbach's alpha and composite reliability (CR) methods. The authors assumed that the factor loadings need to be larger than 0.6, indicating that more than 50% of the variance in a single parameter can be explained by the corresponding latent variable (Latif et al., 2020). In turn, the Average Variance Extracted (AVE) should be greater than 0.50. An AVE value of 0.50 and more indicates a sufficient degree of convergent validity, which means that the latent variable explains more than half of the variance of its indicators (Hair et al., 2011).

4. Results and Discussion

The analysis of the survey results shows that the respondents are convinced of the need to adapt advertising to the specificity of the country in which it is used. This view is shared by 73.0% of respondents. Women express this opinion more often, however, there occurs only a slight difference in terms of the responses

between genders. Analysis with the application of a chi-squared test indicated a statistically significant relation at the level of $p=0.05$ in the case of independent variable related to gender (χ^2 test value amounted to 5.078 with $df=1$, and a critical significance level $p=0.024$). However, the strength of the relationship was very small - the coefficients of Cramér's V reached the value of 0.065; in the case of the second independent variable, age, the differentiation of responses turned out to be statistically insignificant. The χ^2 test value amounted to 5.078 with $df=4$ and the critical significance level $p=0.095$ (Table 1).

The respondents recognize the importance of global advertising in the process of shaping the competitiveness of companies using it. 41.3% assess its effectiveness as high, 42.4% as average, and only 16.3% evaluate it as low. The high effectiveness is indicated slightly more often by men and generally younger

people, although the relationships are not statistically significant. The Mann-Whitney U test (in the case of gender) and the Kruskal-Wallis test (in the case of age) do not give grounds to adopt the hypotheses concerning the relations between the variables - the critical level of significance for both tests exceed the assumed level of $p=0.05$ (Table 2).

From the point of view of individual parameters characterizing global advertising, the respondents rated its originality/creativity and attractiveness at the highest levels. These factors received the average scores on a three-point scale, where 1 was the highest and 3 the lowest, and they amounted to 1.76 and 1.78, respectively. The remaining parameters obtained average scores in the range of 1.90-2.00, that is, above or equal to the average. The lowest rating was obtained in relation to the content of advertising. In both correlation cross-sections, the differences

Table 1
Opinion on the Need to Adapt the Advertisement to the Specific Characteristics of the Country in Which it is Used

Specification		Advertising does not have to be adapted to the specifics of the country in which it is used	Advertising should be adapted to the specifics of the country in which it is used	Chi-squared test			Decision at p = 0.05
				Value (χ^2)	Df	Critical significance level (p)	
Percentage of responses							
Total		27.0%	73.0%	-	-	-	-
Gender	Women	29.7%	24.0%	5.078 ^a	1	0.024	Weak intercorrelation (Cramér's V = 0.065)
	Men	70.1%	76.0%				
Age	15 – 24	27.1%	72.9%	7.901 ^a	4	0.095	No dependency
	25 – 34	33.5%	66.5%				
	35 – 44	26.0%	74.0%				
	45 – 54	27.2%	72.8%				
	55 and above	22.7%	77.3%				

Note: ^a0.0% cells have an expected value of less than 5.

between the scores were small, although it is worth noting that women in six cases (apart from matching their expectations) tended to assign higher scores than men (Table 3).

Slight differences in the assessments from the point of view of demographic characteristics of the respondents were confirmed in the analysis with the use of dependency tests. In the case of the study of the relationship between gender and individual assessments, a statistically significant relationship occurred only in the case of the parameters: adaptation to the expectations of others, content, and readability/comprehensibility. Higher scores were assigned by women. The critical significance values of the Mann-Whitney U test did not exceed the adopted threshold value of $p=0.05$. In all three cases, however, the relationship was very weak (the value of the Cramer's V coefficient amounted to max. 0.102). In the case of

the relationship between the age of the respondents and the analyzed characteristics of global advertising, the author was able to discover a relationship only in the case of attractiveness and originality/creativity of advertising. In this case, higher ratings were assigned by representatives of younger age groups. In the case of these two features, the strength of correlation was also small, the Cramer's V-coefficient was estimated at the level of 0.090 and 0.112 (Table 4).

The last aspect of the analysis was a comparative analysis of the relationship between the attractiveness and effectiveness of global and adapted advertising. The results of reliability and validity with the factor loadings are presented in Table 5. The reliability of the variables was examined using Cronbach's alpha and composite reliability (CR) methodology. As initially assumed, factor loadings are greater than 0.6. The value of the factor loadings ranges from

Table 2

Opinion on the Effectiveness of Global Advertising in Shaping the Competitiveness of Foreign Companies

Specification		High	Average	Low	Average rank	Dependence test ^a		Decision at p = 0.05
		Percentage of indications				The value of the test	Critical significance level (p)	
Total		41.3	42.4	16.3	-	-	-	-
Gender	Women	39.4	44.0	16.5	597.86	-0.357	0.721	No dependency
	Men	43.3	40.6	16.1	604.45			
	15 – 24	42.6	40.9	16.4	608.73			
Age	25 – 34	45.3	39.6	15.0	587.63	1.964	0.742	No dependency
	35 – 44	38.1	50.7	11.2	607.11			
	45 – 54	45.7	39.2	15.2	581.55			
	55 and above	36.6	42.0	21.5	614.26			

Note: ^aThe Mann-Whitney U test for independent variable of gender or Kruskal-Wallis test for independent variable of age.

Table 3
Assessment of Individual Parameters of Global Advertising

Specification			Adapted to my expectations	Adapted to the expectations of	Attractiveness	Content	Persuasiveness	Readability/Comprehension	Originality/Creativity
Total		Mean	1.90	1.91	1.78	2.00	1.93	1.94	1.76
		SD	.584	.557	.645	.628	.688	.629	.646
Gender	Women	Mean	1.91	1.87	1.75	1.94	1.91	1.90	1.74
		SD	.572	.551	.647	.610	.678	.640	.652
	Men	Mean	1.88	1.95	1.81	2.06	1.96	1.99	1.77
		SD	.596	.562	.642	.641	.698	.614	.640
Age	15 – 24	Mean	1.88	1.87	1.65	1.99	1.89	2.03	1.66
		SD	.563	.575	.631	.601	.642	.619	.663
	25 – 34	Mean	1.83	1.92	1.73	2.07	1.89	1.94	1.73
		SD	.533	.538	.635	.595	.709	.649	.640
	35 – 44	Mean	1.96	1.92	1.85	2.00	2.01	1.92	1.75
		SD	.610	.545	.663	.666	.749	.640	.712
	45 – 54	Mean	1.92	1.92	1.82	2.01	2.00	1.92	1.81
		SD	.611	.560	.671	.694	.748	.644	.650
	55 and above	Mean	1.91	1.91	1.83	1.96	1.90	1.91	1.81
		SD	.593	.567	.620	.594	.610	.602	.583

0.602 (A1) to 0.810 (A7) for adapted advertising and between 0.627 (A1) and 0.805 (A7) for standardized advertising. The isolated variance (AVE) also meets the assumed conditions, as it exceeds 0.50. In the case of adapted advertising, it reaches the level of 0.517 (for the variable related to attractiveness) and 0.513 (for the variable connected with effectiveness), and in the case of standardized advertising, it amounts to 0.878 and 0.850, respectively. The last column includes the values of the variance inflation coefficient – the estimates range from 1.269 to 2.268. However, the values close to 1 indicate at most a slight collinearity between factor loadings.

The next stage of the study focused on the assessment of discriminant validity. Cross-loading aims to answer the following question: does any indicator correlate more strongly with the other constructs than with its own construct? (Kock, 2015). The study shows that all factor-loadings are greater than

their cross-loadings. Table 6 presents the results of discriminant validity using the criterion by the Heterotrait-Monotrait Method (HTMT). HTMT values close to 1 indicate a lack of discriminant validity (Henseler et al., 2015). The 0.90 value can be interpreted as an upper boundary of acceptable construct correlations (Franke & Sarstedt, 2019). In the case of the presented results, all values meet this criterion.

After assessing the discriminant validity, the hypotheses regarding the relationship between the variables concerning age, attractiveness and effectiveness of adapted and standardized advertising have been verified (Table 7). In this case, it can be concluded that all relationships are statistically significant ($p < 0.05$). One may observe a differentiation of relationships in the case of adapted and standardized advertising. As age increases, the opinion about the attractiveness and effectiveness of adapted advertising is higher, and the opinion about the attractiveness and

Table 4

Comparison of the Values of the Mann-Whitney U Test and the Kruskal-Wallis Test Verifying the Relationship Between the Parameters of Global Advertising and the Gender and Age of the Respondents

Specification		Adapted to my expectations	Adapted to the expectations of others	Attractiveness	Content	Persuasiveness	Readability/Comprehension	Originality/creativity
Gender	Women	608,88	852,63	585,88	573,81	589,87	580,13	592,18
	Men			617,63	630,90	613,24	623,94	
		592,33	621,20					610,70
The value of Mann-Whitney U test		-0.978	-2.344	-1.766	-3.264	-1.281	-2.498	-1.028
Critical significance level (p)		0.328	0.019	0.077	0.001	0.200	0.012	0.304
Decision at p = 0.05		No dependency	Weak association (Cramér's V = 0,070)	No dependency	Weak association (Cramér's V = 0,102)	No dependency	Weak association (Cramér's V = 0,080)	No dependency
Age	15 – 24	594.32	579.58	538.02	594.98	582.14	642.54	552.68
	25 – 34	566.95	606.06	576.90	633.28	582.81	599.34	589.45
	35 – 44	631.82	608.20	633.04	599.15	634.45	591.14	591.09
	45 – 54	608.99	608.13	621.82	605.82	628.10	591.39	627.69
	55 and above	603.75	602.81	626.97	580.11	586.17	585.97	632.01
The value of the Kruskal-Wallis test		5.758	1.632	16.043	4.241	6.271	5.442	10.652
Critical significance level (p)		0.218	0.803	0.003	0.374	0.180	0.245	0.031
Decision at p = 0.05		No dependency	No dependency	Weak association (Cramér's V = 0,090)	No dependency	No dependency	No dependency	Weak association (Cramér's V = 0,112)

effectiveness of standardized advertising tends to be lower. The higher the perceived attractiveness of an advertisement, the more often respondents indicate its effectiveness - this applies to both types of advertising activities analyzed in the research.

The presented analyses allow verifying the hypotheses. The vast majority of consumers share the opinion that advertising needs to be adapted to the specific characteristics of the target market. This is evidenced by the answers to the first question included in the survey. This allows for the adoption of the H1a hypothesis. At the same time, the distribution of responses given to the second question also allows the author to adopt the H1b hypothesis - more than half of the respondents note a positive impact of stan-

dardized advertising on shaping competitiveness. On the other hand, based on the third question, the H1c hypothesis may be adopted, because the average ratings for the attractiveness of standardized advertising are higher than the ratings assigned for the effectiveness of impact on the recipient. Adopting the H1a, H1b and H1c hypotheses also supports the adoption of the H1 hypothesis.

Most of the findings show no or very weak correlation between the demographic characteristics of the respondents and the perception of standardized and adapted advertising. This confirms the hypotheses H2a, H2b, H2c, and thus also the hypothesis H2, which is the result of the three partial hypotheses being supported.

Table 5
Item Loading, Reliability and Validity

Factor loadings	Adapted advertising					Standardized advertising				
	λ	Alpha	CR	AVE	VIF	λ	Alpha	CR	AVE	VIF
Attractiveness										
A1 Professionally made	0.602				1.430	0.627				1.506
A2 Liked	0.714				1.515	0.688				1.439
A3 Engaging	0.755				1.862	0.765				1.867
A4 Original	0.677	0.843	0.881	0.517	1.449	0.667	0.838	0.846	0.878	1.433
A5 Relaxing	0.708				1.562	0.689				1.517
A6 Appealing	0.748				1.816	0.735				1.812
A7 Interesting	0.810				2.203	0.805				2.128
Effectiveness										
S1 Reliable	0.786				2.089	0.762				1.804
S2 Inspiring confidence	0.768				2.268	0.760				2.057
S3 Affecting the purchase	0.725				1.797	0.704				1.652
S4 Teaching new behaviors	0.607	0.809	0.863	0.513	1.269	0.699	0.783	0.788	0.850	1.456
S5 Encouraging to buy	0.680				1.352	0.713				1.302
S6 Informative	0.718				1.490	0.703				1.369

Table 6
Discriminant Validity Using HTMT Criterion

	Age	Adapted advertising		Age	Standardized advertising	
		Attractiveness	Effectiveness		Attractiveness	Effectiveness
Age						
Attractiveness	0.121			0.182		
Effectiveness	0.134	0.855		0.206	0.808	

Table 7
Direct Relations (Hypotheses H3a-c) and Mediation Analysis (Hypotheses H3d)

	Adapted advertising			Standardized advertising		
	β	t	p	β	t	p
H3a: age → attractiveness	0.110	3.966	0.000	-0.167	6.265	0,000
H3b: age → effectiveness	0.041	2.062	0.040	-0.068	3.124	0,002
H3c: attractiveness → effectiveness	0.722	51.458	0.000	0.677	43.974	0,000
H3d: age → attractiveness → effectiveness	0.079	3.955	0.000	-0.113	6.219	0.000

The hypothesis concerning the relationship between age and latent variables: attractiveness and effectiveness of advertisements (H3 hypothesis) was also confirmed. Both in the case of adapted and standardized advertising, the significance of the tests used was lower than the adopted critical significance level of $p=0.05$. This applies to both direct dependencies (H3a: age \rightarrow attractiveness, H3b: age \rightarrow effectiveness, H3c: attractiveness \rightarrow effectiveness) and the indirect influence of age on the effectiveness of advertisements (H3d: age \rightarrow attractiveness \rightarrow effectiveness). It should be noted that the strength of the influence of age on both latent variables is low, while the influence of advertising attractiveness on its effectiveness is clearly more significant.

As the results show, Polish consumers are critical of the standardization of advertisements and, above all, expect that the advertising communications will be adjusted to local conditions. This confirms the theses discussed in studies conducted in other countries, which show that global advertising appears to be less attractive (Spielman & Delvert, 2014; Backhaus & van Doorn, 2007). The second thesis confirmed by the studies is that advertising messages must be adapted to local conditions in order to achieve a higher acceptance index (Melewar & Vemmervik, 2004).

This generally critical attitude towards global advertising has not changed over the last dozen or so years (Nowacki, 2007a). Despite their reluctant personal attitude towards advertisements created and used by foreign companies, the respondents openly admit that they are better, more professionally prepared and, most importantly, more effective. On the other hand, a positive assessment of the effectiveness of standardized advertising in Poland is consistent with the theses put forward by Okazaki and Taylor (2006) and Zou and Cavusgil (1996), who show that standardized advertising is more effective than adapted advertising.

However, it is difficult to relate the results of the presented research directly to other studies carried out to date using the perspective of demographic analyses. The reason is that, so far, very few researchers have addressed the issue of the perception of standardized and adapted advertising examining variables such as gender and age. The available stud-

ies and literature output focus primarily on the importance of the degree of ethnocentrism (Boddeyn et al., 1986; Hite & Frazer, 1988; Kanso, 1992), the openness of societies (Rajabi et al., 2015), or cultural differences (Zhou et al., 2015).

5. Conclusions and Limitations

The presented research findings show how Polish consumers perceive advertisements of foreign companies as well as the strategies applied in them. First of all, the respondents pay attention to some negative aspects of its assessment. As a consequence, they indicate the implications for improving advertising activities. The focus is therefore on the need to adapt the messages to the specific characteristics of the Polish market. Even though standardization appears to have a greater impact on the competitiveness of foreign advertisers, and it contributes to the greater attractiveness and originality of their messages, in respondents' view, the informative value, comprehensibility and persuasiveness as well as adjustment to expectations are assessed as worse and receive lower scores. In order to increase the effectiveness and strength of advertising impact, companies should consider and adapt to the opinions of recipients to a greater extent.

The presented research has some limitations. The basic issue in this case is building an appropriate research tool. The perception of advertising is a subjective phenomenon that cannot be unequivocally quantified. In subsequent studies, more complex ordinal scales, for example, five-point scales, should also be used. This is especially true for predictors that create latent variables. The strength of the factor loadings for some of them proves to be uneven.

Another aspect that deserves attention is the awareness of the concepts related to the standardization and adaptation of advertising among the respondents. Conducting research via the Internet (without the researcher-respondent interaction) makes it impossible to fully control their readability and comprehension. Therefore, the measurement instrument should be extended to include questions to verify the understanding of these terms.

Conducting comparative studies in different national markets appears to be an interesting challenge for further research projects. Such studies would en-

able the author to identify the similarity of Polish consumers' expectations to those in other countries, thus providing suggestions concerning the possibility of transferring advertising activities from country to country.

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