

# Slavic and German in Contact: Studies from Areal and Contrastive Linguistics

Slavic-German language contacts are a very important part of the history of Slavic languages and at the same time of Slavic studies in general. Thorough investigation of these contacts allows us to follow not only the linguistic fortunes of the Slavs, but also their history.

Despite years of research, many problems remain unsolved to date, and the history of the Slavic countries and their languages brings out new and unexplored issues related not only to major Slavic languages but also to languages such as Burgenland-Croatian, Kashubian, or the Silesian ethnolect (currently in the course of standardization). This led two Slavists – Elżbieta Kaczmarska (Assistant Professor at the University of Warsaw, a researcher in translation and contrastive studies of West Slavic languages) and Motoki Nomachi (Associate Professor at Hokkaido University, a specialist in Slavic linguistics in general, dealing with issues of language contacts) – to start their cooperation on a joint project *The Typology of Grammatical Changes in the Context of Slavic – Non-Slavic Language Contact*. As part of this project, we organized a linguistic panel at the VIII World Congress of ICCEES in Stockholm in 2010. The discussion centred on Slavic-German contacts. This collection of articles, which shows the complexity, but also the wealth of Slavic - German contacts, is the crowning of our work upon this theme.

Articles in this volume can be classified according to various criteria, such as the two groups reflecting the authors' approaches – study of influences as a result of language contacts (Alanović, Browne, Nomachi, Pawischitz, Tambor) and contrastive and typological analysis (Rosen, Sicherl & Žele). In terms of topics, the articles focus on several issues: verbs and their constructions, clitics, lexical and grammatical change.

The volume starts with the contrastive article *Wechselbeziehung zwischen Präfixen und Präpositionen bei slowenischen präfigierten Verben, ergänzt durch Übersetzungen ins Deutsche* by a Slavist and Germanist – **Andreja Žele and Eva Sicherl**. The authors present, as

they themselves state, the first attempt at a contrastive description of the relationship between prefixes and prepositions occurring with verbs (including their valency structure) in Slovenian and German. A novelty is the analysis of the Slovenian verbs, which are divided into three groups: verbs with adverbial prefixes (possibly contributing to the temporal meaning), verbs with prefixes that can be derived from a homonymous preposition (appearing in the paraphrase of the verb), and, finally, prefixed verbs whose paraphrases contain certain verbs (*dati, narediti, postati, izrazitii*) with a particular preposition. An outstanding feature of the article is that the analysis consistently covers two languages at every step: Slovenian and German.

The article by **Motoki Nomachi**, *On the Kashubian past tense form jô bël 'I was' from a language contact perspective*, refers to changes in the verbal system – the use of explicit personal-pronoun subjects and the dropping (and absence) of the auxiliary verb in the past tense forms in the Kashubian language, with special attention to Slovincian. The author analyses two accounts of the omission of the verb "to be" (the influence of German and the internal development of the language) referring not only to specific examples of sentences, but also to the historical data contained in the literature on the subject. Based on examples from Kashubian texts, including Slovincian, the author illustrates the phenomenon of the dropping "to be" as a consequence of changes in the verbal system of the language.

Verbs are also the subject matter of the article by the Slavist **Sabine Pawischitz** *Burgenland-Croatian – first signs of language decay*. The author presents the situation of an endangered language with numerous borrowings from other languages, ongoing lexical and morphological changes, and occurrences of unexpected prepositions. Special attention is devoted to the structure of the tense forms and aspects of verbs. The author has made an interesting assumption: since in the endangered language vocabulary and even syntax are being changed, it will likely behave conservatively as far as the verbal phrase is concerned. The author conducted a thorough field study analysing the language of two distant generations, including but not limited to: the tenses they use, what happens to the verbal aspect in their statements, how chronology and temporal relations are expressed. The study by S. Pawischitz is important, and

above all valuable, since she made contact with the oldest users of the language and obtained language data which soon, due to natural causes, will no longer be available.

The problem of Burgenland Croatian and Vojvodina Rusyn is also touched on by **Wayles Browne** in his article *Groups of clitics in West and South Slavic languages*. He presents the phenomenon of clitic clustering in Bosnian, Croatian, and Serbian (referring to all three of them as BCS for brevity) and Czech, comparing them with the functioning of these clitics in the Burgenland Croatian and Vojvodina Rusyn languages. Being for many years in contact with adjacent systems (Hungarian and German) and often immersed in them, Burgenland Croatian and Vojvodina Rusyn display distinctive (not typically Slavic) behaviors of clitics. The author, however, does not succeed in explaining this fact by the contacts of these languages with a foreign element, and treats the origin of these peculiarities as an unsolved mystery.

The article by **Alexandr Rosen** *Haplology of reflexive clitics in Czech* is devoted to the problem of clitic haplology in a comparative Slavic – non-Slavic perspective. The author presents various types of clitics in the Czech language and the rules for their clustering in the sentence (if there are several of them). The main focus of the article is on the phenomenon of haplology; on the basis of excerpted examples the author shows the elimination of phonetically duplicated units, stating his conclusions in the framework of HPSG grammar. The author contrasts his conclusions from the analysis of the Czech material with examples from Polish, Early Modern German, and Romanian. The results of the research are compared with excerpts from the Corpus of the Czech Language.

Another article, *Germanismen im Serbischen: von systemeigenen zu abweichenden morphosyntaktischen Eigenschaften*, is concerned with the topic of German loans in the Serbian language; its author is **Milivoj Alanović**. This paper presents the specific features of adaptation of borrowings from different languages in Serbian, but focuses mainly on Germanisms and their characteristics. The author discusses in detail the influence of the German language, paying special attention for example (for nouns or adjectives) to the grammatical gender, endings, and declension types. An interesting conclusion concerns the limitations on declension of borrowed adjectives; these are opposed in this regard to borrowed

nouns and verbs, which decline and conjugate normally.

The final article in our volume is *German Elements in the Silesian Ethnolect* authored by **Jolanta Tambor**. This article not only brings us to another corner of the Slavic world, but also discusses the ethnolect that is currently seeking the status of a language. The author clarifies the issues of “Silesianness” within the Polish nationality and discusses some important points in the culture and history of Silesia. Finally, she presents the types of lexical borrowings from German, emphasizing that they are not the only influence on the Silesian ethnolect (it is also influenced by Czech). Based on interviews with users of the ethnolect, the author also examines ranges of use of particular words and phrases. Apart from typical lexical items from German, she has included prepositional constructions (most often with *mit* and *von*), the phrase *być* + Nom., as well as the syntactically interesting structures *zostać siedzieć* and *słyszeć kogoś śpiewać*. The author also draws attention to the fact that there is a tendency to define most of the “non-Polish” elements in the Silesian ethnolect as German; however, there are also elements from Czech, as well as dialectal – Silesian proper.

This volume of articles, kaleidoscopic as it is, still only very partially reflects the variety of problems that the phenomenon of linguistic influence raises. The editors hope that this volume, with its wide range of topics and methods of description, will contribute to new perspectives on this issue.

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