

Towards a Typology of Inter-Slavic Language Contact

In most Slavic languages, inter-Slavic language contact is an important phenomenon that has shaped their structure since the beginning of textual transmission up to the present day. While in the last years the Slavic-Non-Slavic language contact has been extensively investigated through different methodological approaches (e.g. BAYER 2006, PUGH 1999), in the field of inter-Slavic language contact there merely exist a few preliminary works (cf. BROZOVIĆ 1990).

In this paper, I would like to show – and this is my central hypothesis – that it is impossible to adequately grasp the structure of Slavic languages from a purely structuralistic viewpoint, i.e. without considering the transferences resulting from inter-Slavic language contact (cf. STERN/VOSS 2006). This is valid both for standard languages and for dialects. However, since in dialect continua transferences are very hard to identify, I would rather focus on standard languages and on the relationship between transitional dialects and their *Dachsprachen* (cf. the methodological paradigm proposed by AUER 2005)

Since lexical (for an overview cf. e.g. MOSER 2004, for individual studies BOBRAN (ed.) 1995) and sociolinguistic (cf. MARTI/NEKVAPIL 2007, LIPOWSKI 2005) issues have already been dealt with, I will concentrate on structural, especially morpho-syntactic transferences. They are indeed less frequent and less easily detectable than lexical borrowings; still, they are to be found to a varying extent in nearly all Slavic languages.

In my talk, I will discuss examples of Slavic contact situations (Czech-Polish, Ruthenian, Serbian-Croatian-Slovenian), both in the present and in the past, so as to shed light on the emergence of structural transferences within this linguistic area. To do this, I adopt THOMASON'S (2001) theoretical frame, in particular the notion of *borrowing scale*, adapting it to the Slavic situation: in fact, when applied to closely related languages, the *borrowing scale* is not unconditionally valid and has to be modified.

Thus, the ultimate goal of this paper is to develop a preliminary panchronic typology of inter-Slavic language contact based on recent theoretical and methodological acquisitions on the subject (e.g. BERRUTO 2005, HANSEN-JAAX 1995).

- AUER, P. (2005). Europe's sociolinguistic unity, or: A typology of European dialect/standard constellations. In N. DELBECQUE, J. van der AUWERA & D. GEERAERTS (eds.), *Perspectives on Variation. Sociolinguistic, Historical, Comparative* (pp. 7-42). Berlin etc.
- BAYER, M. 2006, *Sprachkontakt deutsch-slavisches*, Frankfurt am Main etc.
- BERRUTO, G. (2005). Dialect/standard convergence, mixing, and models of language contact: the case of Italy. In P. AUER et al. (ed.), *Dialect change* (pp. 81-95). Cambridge.
- BESTERS-DILGER, J. (2005). Modalität im Sprachkontakt: Die ukrainische "Prosta mova" (2. Hälfte 16. Jh). In B. HANSEN & P. KARLÍK (eds.), *Modality in Slavonic Languages. New Perspectives* (pp. 239-258). München.
- BOBRAN, M. (ed.) 1995. *Kontakty językowe polsko-wschodniosłowiańskie*, Rzeszów.
- BROZOVIĆ, D. (1990). The Typology of Inter-Slavic and Slavic-Non-Slavic Language Contacts. In G. HOLZER (ed.), *Croatica – Slavica – Indoeuropaea. Wiener slavistisches Jahrbuch, Ergänzungsband VIII* (pp. 29-33). Wien.
- HANSEN-JAAX, D. 1995, *Transfer bei Diglossie*, Hamburg.
- LIPOWSKI, J. 2005, *Konvergenz a divergenz češtiny a slovenštiny v československém státě*, Wrocław.
- MARTI, R. & NEKVAPIL, J. (eds.) 2007, *Small and large Slavic languages in contact*. International Journal of the Sociology of Language 183, Berlin.
- MOSER, M. (2004). Wechselbeziehungen zwischen slavischen Sprachen, *Die Welt der Slaven*, vol. XLIX, pp. 161-182.
- PUGH, S.M. 1999, *Systems in contact, system in motion*, Uppsala.
- STERN, D. & VOSS, C. 2006, *Marginal linguistic identities*, Wiesbaden.
- THOMASON, S.G. 2001, *Language contact*, Edinburgh.