

Slavic linguistic atlas

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A project of an international significance in the domain of research of national languages is that of the Slavic Linguistic Atlas (*Obshcheslaviansky lingvistichesky atlas*). It integrates the endeavours of national teams to characterize specific, but also common signs of the various Slavic languages by the method of linguistic geography. The history of this project of a Slavic linguistic atlas (SLA) reaches back to the times when the 1st Slavic Congress was held in Prague (1929). At this significant international Slavic event, two French linguists A. Meillet and L. Tesnière submitted a proposal for the realization of a project that would present a synthetic image of Slavic languages and would simultaneously reflect the specific nature of the system of each Slavic language. The international situation in the interwar period, however, did not create a favourable atmosphere either for a concrete realization of this project, particularly as regards a centre that would carry out the research and its outputs, or as regards field research work. The idea to revive the SLA project was put forward again at the Slavic congress in Moscow in 1958, where a special commission was set up near the International Slavist Committee, whose primary role was to elaborate the concept of an extensive project. The preparation of the SLA was given a definite form after a questionnaire had been elaborated, in virtue of which a field survey was to have been carried out on the entire Slavic territory. Following extensive preparatory works, repeated revisions and corrections and remarks by a wide circle of experts, the questionnaire finally received a definite shape in 1965 and the various national teams could proceed with the field survey on a common basis according to these guidelines. The Questionnaire of the SLA (*Voprosnik Obshcheslavianskogo lingvisticheskogo atlasa*, Moskva, Nauka 1965, 271 pp) includes a total of 3454 elaborated questions that embrace the fundamental linguistic planes – phonology and prosody, morphology, syntax, lexics and word formation. A part of the preparation of the questionnaire was also a selection and preparation of a point network, i. e. of localities in which the dialectical research was to be carried out so that it would capture all the ele-

ments characteristic of the various complexes. The definitive inventory of points consists of 853 localities of the entire Slavic conglomerate. Besides all the Slavic countries, a part of the point network is made up also of localities in those non-Slavic countries in which lives an ethnic of Slavic origin: 3 localities in Italy, 1 in Albania, 8 in Greece, 7 in Austria, 10 in Hungary, 4 in Roumania, 4 Lusatian-Serbian points in Germany. During the second half of the 60s, a dialectal field survey was carried out on the above territories. A report at the 6th Slavic Congress in Warsaw (1973) had it that the essential part of the field surveys had been completed and that the material obtained permitted to create an image of the differentiation in basic dialectal conglomerates of Slavic languages and of their common traits. The preparation of the SLA was given a concrete shape at the regular sessions of workgroups and the editorial council that used to be held and are still held once a year in Moscow (Autumn session) and once a year in one of the Slavic States participating in the project (Spring session). At the time of writing this paper (1990), the 60th session of the workgroups took place in Bratislava. Work on the various maps, materials and commentaries to the maps is being done in sections. The first section is the phonetic-phonological section (foreseen is also a morphological section), the second one is a lexical section. Work on the preparation of the various volumes of the phonologico-phonetic and lexical series of volumes of the atlas show common traits of a teamwork. Members of national teams participating in workshop sessions of the International Commission bring along dialectal material on concrete languages obtained in field surveys on the basis of the questionnaire. Each session had on its agenda a predetermined problem circuit that are to form the subject of discussion: development of primeval Slavic groups **ort-*, **olt-*, **tort-*, **tolt-*, **elt-*, questions of the disappearance and vocalization of reduced vowels (yeris), disappearance of nasal vocals, development of **ě*, of the syllabic *ɾ*, *!* the fates of the groups **gv-*, **kv-*, **dl-*, **tl-*, **dj-*, **tj-*, within the framework of the phonological section, questions relating to the animal kingdom, questions relating to economic pursuits, plant life, agriculture, transportation, folk craft terminology, buildings, dressing, footwear, parts of the body, kinship relations, customs, land relief and geographical physical features, etc. in the lexical section. When complete material and commentaries from the entire Slavic complex are available, phenomena will be set apart that present, on the basis of the relevant paragraph of the SLA questionnaire and the material, an image of the phenomenon followed (not every phenomenon can be shown on the map from the aspect of a linguistic cartography so that it would give a clear picture of the differentiating and integrating tendencies). The international team will then set up an inventory of phenomena of the relevant volume of the atlas and the various members of the section will divide the material among themselves and during the intersession interval will prepare the maps, assign the material

to them and elaborate the appropriate commentaries to the maps. A national commission, set up beforehand, is responsible for each volume of the atlas right up through its publication (Russian, Byelorussian, Ukrainian, Polish, Czech, Slovak, Serbo-Croatian, Slovene, Macedonian, Lusatian). Before a volume is submitted for publication, every national commission again revises the interpretation of its material on a concrete map in order to prevent eventual errors or editorial oversights.

The SLA began to take a concrete shape in the form of volumes in the mid-seventies: in 1971 a sample volume of SLA (*Obshchesloviansky lingvistichesky atlas – Materialy – issledovanya*. Moskva, Nauka 1974, 108 pp) was completed; it signaled to the Slavic community that the LSA project was acquiring a real character. However, the first part of this sample volume still had the pattern of a collection of studies (pp. 15–70). The next section consisted of the rules of phonetic transcription used in the SLA and of the bibliography of works dealing with the SLA (pp. 71–76). The atlas project was given its true form only in the second part of the volume (pp. 77–107) which comprised 27 selected cartographically processed phenomena from the domain of phonology and lexic with relevant commentaries. As a continuation, the next volume of SLA (Moskva, Nauka 1978, 256 pp) appeared in 1978, comprising a part of the complex of the prepared work on the various volumes of phonological and lexical series of the SLA. The introductory volume, however, also laid stress on the unifying principles of transcription of the dialectal material, derived from the gradual preparation of the various volumes. An equally important part of this volume is also a linguistic-geographical characteristic of the different localities in which the dialectal research had been carried out. However, the pace of publishing the work was slowed down in the following years partly also because the Bulgarian team ceased in 1982 to work on the programmed tasks. It only remains to hope that this team will return to collaborate on the SLA project under the impact of the social changes in Eastern and Central Europe. But despite these retarding factors, the international SLA team prepared in the 80s an extensive part of Slavic dialectal material in the atlas in such a way that two LSA volumes appeared in 1988 – one in the phonological section in Belgrade (*Obshcheslaviansky lingvistichesky atlas. Seriya fonetiko-grammaticheskaya. Vypusk 1. Refleksi +ž*. Editors B. Vidoeski, P. Ivić et al. Belgrade 1988, 160 pp.), the second one in Moscow (*Obshcheslaviansky lingvistichesky atlas. Seriya leksiko-slovo-obrazovatel'naya. Vypusk 1. Zhivotny mir*. Editor R. I. Avanesov. Moskva, Nauka 1988, 192 pp.) and further volumes were made ready for print which are being published at the time this review is written, in Poland, Yugoslavia and Moscow. Currently, further volumes are being prepared which are foreseen to be published by Polish, Czech and Slovak national teams.

The preparation of the various maps within the framework of the project SLA

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▦	ȧ	○	σ̇
▧	ȧ:	○	σ̇

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takes support in basic methodological principles of linguistic geography. The basic phenomena are interpreted by symbols (circles, squares, triangles) on the illustrative surface in such a manner that the symbolism should reflect the structure of the phenomenon followed in a given region. As example we may introduce a part of the legend used in processing the evolution of the syllabic r, l, r, l, the concentric signs express length of the vocal designated in transcription with colons after. The corresponding vocal. A similar mode is used in a lexical series to designate varying forms of the illustrated word: Phenomena, less differentiated regionally, are illustrated by iso-glottal marks, lines separating e. g. the area of syllabic r, l from that where this phenomenon is absent (Table 2). A further method is that of hatching, which also helps to characterize major regional units with common signs – fixed accent,

palatalization of consonants, etc. The combined method of symbols, hatchings and isoglossal marks is utilized mainly by the phonological section, for the nature of the material from the domain of phonology requires to interpret several phenomena simultaneously. In the lexical-phonological section the various phenomena are illustrated by symbols, isoglossal marks are utilized less frequently, e. g. when a regional differentiation of an equal lexeme with a different vowel form is involved (delineation of the form *medveḋ* and *medved* – liquid *ḋ* and hard *d*) within the framework of a series of symbols portraying the forms *medveḋ*, *veḋmeḋ*, *medo*, *mečka*, *mečok*, *bar* in designating this animal (Ursus).

The various phenomena in the domain of phonology and lexic are listed in the SLA questionnaire according the so-called paragraphs, or transcription circuits.

As illustration we might state e. g. § 14 of the questionnaire (Voprosnik, p. 26), according to which the evolution of reduced vocals is followed in the different localities – ie. liquid yeri – in a strong position. This evolution is interpreted on the entire Slavic territory by processing of the original proto-Slavonic forms **oibc6*, **kon6c6*, **pal6c6*, **v6dov6c6*, **n6m6c6*, **koz6l7*, **ko6l7*, **or6l7*, **oc6t7*, **xreb6t7*, **t6st6*, **6c6st6*, **d6n6*, **p6nj6*, **d6n6s6*, **or66nj6/-n7*, **p6p6r6*, **6n6n7//j6*, **tr6x7*, **kr6st7*, **l6n7*, **l6g7k7(j6)*; the cross designates proto-Slavonic reconstructed forms. The original Slavonic group **t7r7* and its evolution is followed in words of the type **v7r6it7*, **b7rz7-j6*, **m7rky*, **t7rgajet7*, **k7r66ma*, **k7rmit7* **g7rd7-j6*, **g7rdlo*, **g7rst7*, **g7rb7*, (§ 25 of the SLA questionnaire). The processing of the dialectal material from the entire Slavic territory points to a regional differentiation and basic developmental tendencies. As example we may point to the evolution of the original proto-Slavonic form **g7rd(j6)* = *hrdý* (Slovak word meaning proud) on which the evolution of the syllabic *r* is followed. A processing of the dialectal material revealed 19 possible forms: *hrdý*, *gřdan*, *gřdan*, *gřd*, *gřd*, *gřdan*, *hyrdý*, *gerdi*, *ðrdð*, *γðrd*, *γð:rt*, *γð:rt*, *hardi*, *ga:rt*, *hàrt*, *gart*, *γort*, *gort* (the diacritic indicates a varying intonation, indicates a broad *e*, the sign *ð* = reduced vocal, : means a long vocal). Syllabic *r* in a short or long form was found, on the basis of this research in south Slavic languages, in Slovak and Czech; in the remaining languages the original group **g7r-* developed so that a full vocal was formed in it (-*a*- in Polish, -*o*- in East-Slavic languages). A similar mode was used to follow regional differentiation in the lexical domain, in the designation of various species of the animal kingdom. As an example we might mention the designation of *daždovka* (= earth worm – *Lumbricus terrestris*) listed in SLA 1988, p. 96. The research of dialects revealed that this particular annelid may have as many as 36 different designations in Slavic languages (in the reconstructed form back into primeval Slavic: *č6rv6*, *č6rv6ak7*, *č6rv6c6*, *č6rvik7*, *č6rV6k7*, *č6rv6ač6k6*, *glist7*, *glista*, *glistak7*, *glistina*, *glistina*, *glist7va*, *glistica*, *d6ZGJevik7*, *d7zgjev6nik7*, *d6ždov6njak7*, *d7zgjev6nik7*, *d7zgjev6njak7*, *d7ZGJev6nica*, *d7zgjev7ka*, *gujina*, *gujica*, *gujivica* *vyp7lz6n6*, *žužalja*, *xrobak7*, *ščur7*, *qđak7*, *qđibak7* *qđinik7*, *qž6n6c6*, *qž6nica*, *qžov7ka*, *rorov7ka*, *čangja*, *naděj6*, *nadějina*). In the case of lexic, regional differentiation is divided into various wholes in a vertical sense: the basic macro-complex, on the one hand, is made up of the territory of East-Slavic languages with the form *červ-* and its derivatives; on the other hand, on the rest of the territory, there occur forms made up of the root *glist-*, or *d7žd-* (*glista*, *dešiovka*, *dáždovka*, *deščilowa waka*, *dždžownica*). However, the phenomena stated here are of a generalizing nature and a more detailed picture of them is provided by the dialectal map (SLA, 1988, p. 96).

Besides illustrating the basic forms of various words, the SLA also takes into consideration retrospective forms and their divergent continuous evolution in

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□ d'ivʼb

■ d'ikʼb

▣ d'i vb

▣ d'ivokʼb

definite regions. This applies particularly to phonology, because a word on which the phenomenon is interpreted, has a different form in different regions: *jašcer/gušcer*, *bez/brez*, *čakayet/čakajet*, *člověk/čelovek*, *dura/dyra/děra*, *lepěn/lopěn/lopuch/lapuch*, *sloboda/sleboda/svoboda/sveboda*, *tepl-/topl-*, *želězo/zelězo*, *žerdlo/žrdlo*, etc; Processing of dialectal material yields a plastic image of the spread of a concrete phenomenon in various regions, or characteristic signs of various regions are interpreted. As a case in point we may mention reflexes as an original proto-Slavonic group *-dj-* in the word *medza*: in the south-Slavic macro-complex the evolutionary outcome of this group has the form *mežda* in Bulgarian, *medža* in Serbo-Croatian and Macedonian, *meja* in Slovenian; in the west-Slavic group of languages Czech and Lusatian Serbian have the form *mez(-)*, Slovak and Polish *medza/miedza*. In western parts of Ukrainian dialects this word has the form *medžá*, on the remaining territories of east-Slavic languages it is *meža*. Many of the phenomena illustrated on the maps of the SLA are known from an earlier development of the languages; however, in the SLA they constitute an integral part of a complex view of the characteristic of the individual Slavic languages. In concluding the regional characteristic, we may mention the spread of the forms *div7j6/div6j6 – dik7j6* within the context of Slavic languages: the east-Slavic complex is characterized by the form with the root *dik-*; the same form exists in the northern part of the west-Slavic languages (Polish). (Fig. 1) The remaining territories – the south-eastern part of the west-Slavic, and south-Slavic languages have the form with the base *div-* which, however, within the west-Slavic languages is internally differentiated so that in Slovak it takes the form *divý* in Czech *divoký*, in Upper Lusatian Serbian *'žiuy, džú*, in Lower Lusatian Serbian *džiji*; a more detailed division is given in the corresponding map of the SLA, 1988, p. 29.

The results of the work on the SLA project thus far, in the form of the volumes published and the series of annual reports, provide a picture of the extensive complex of problems from the domain of national languages within the Slavic region. It will be possible to obtain a rounded image of the present-day state, but also of a retrospective and evolution of Slavic languages only when the rest of the volumes will have been published and the entire project completed. The above remarks concerning this complex project have for aim to underline the fact that the SLA project has acquired a real form and that despite complications, it has preserved its continuity. The extensive dialectal material will acquire a high value from the aspect of the ethnogenesis of Slavic nations, study of their culture and languages, after a synthesis will have been made of the im-

mense quantity of data obtained from field studies on the entire Slavic territories. And the project of the Slavic Linguistic Atlas is pursuing this aim right from its birth until its full completion.

SLOVANSKÝ JAZYKOVÝ ATLAS

R e s u m é

Slovanský jazykový atlas je významným medzinárodným projektom v oblasti výskumu národných jazykov. V tomto projekte sa integrujú snahy národných kolektívov o charakteristiku špecifických, ale aj spoločných znakov slovanských jazykov metódou lingvistickej kartografie. Medzinárodný kolektív slavistov pri Medzinárodnom komitáte slavistov pripravuje hláskoslovnú a lexikálno-slovotvornú sériu Slovanského jazykového atlasu tak, že každý zväzok jednotlivej série spracuje do tlače iný národný kolektív, no každý zväzok je pritom dielom všetkých národných komisií, pretože podklady naň pripravujú národné komisie a hotový zväzok pred vydaním oponujú všetci členovia národných komisií. Slovanský jazykový atlas má vysokú poznávaciu hodnotu nielen z hľadiska lingvistickej geografie, resp. jazykovedy, ale je aj významným príspevkom k štúdiu etnogenézy jednotlivých slovanských národov.