This triple issue of the 37th volume of *Slavistična revija* is dedicated to the sixtieth anniversary of Jakob Rigler’s birth, with whose death four years ago Slovene linguistics lost one of its finest scholars. Thirty-one linguists, more than half of them from abroad, contributed to the volume; contrary to the usual policy of the journal, the articles appear in their original languages. The issue was presented to the public at a press conference in Ljubljana in September 1989, an event that underscored its importance for Slovene culture.

The topics of the articles cover all the numerous areas of Rigler’s scholarly interest in the Slovene language, i.e., Modern Standard Slovene, primarily phonology, accentology, morphology and lexicology; dialectology; and the history of the Slovene phonemic system, accent, and lexicon. Some papers deal with topics that go beyond Rigler’s immediate interests, such as sociolinguistics, etymology and textology, but these only broaden the scope of this rich collection of linguistic studies. The editors grouped the contributions in four broad themes: I. Sound and Accent; II. Phrases, Words and Forms; III. Dialects and Languages; IV. Languages and Linguistics.

Most of the papers in the first section deal with the historical development and reconstruction of the Slovene phonemic system. Two of them are concerned with problems connected with the earliest period of Slovene. The first (H.G. Lunt) discusses the position of “Common Slovene,” primarily its hypothetical phonological system, in the linguistic (dialectal) changes of Late Common Slavic. It posits that the earliest fundamental structural changes took place in the Alpine and Pannonian areas. The second, dealing with the same period of Slovene phonology (J. Gvozdanović), offers a plausible and thought-provoking explanation of the heterogeneous and seemingly inconsistent markings of the vowels and the consonants in the Freising Fragments, which consequently provides new information about the earliest stage of the Slovene vowel system and accent.

Two articles deal with problems of historical dialectology and could just as well have been placed in the second section. F. Kortlandt, applying Slovene and West Bulgarian dialectal material, provides a reconstruction of the accentual patterns of neuter nouns in Common Slavic, with special attention to the evidence of length in the unstressed nom. and acc. pl. ending. Slovene offers more direct evidence, supported by Bulgarian material, and also helps to explain West Bulgarian accentual classes. Particularly interesting is W.
Vermeer’s treatment of Western Balkan Slavic vowel systems. Their basic typological difference, namely symmetry (occurring in Slovene and Kajkavian) and asymmetry (in most of Stokavian and Čakavian), he explains as the reflection of a previously existing Romance isogloss, dividing Western from Balkan Romance. Vermeer’s approach explains dialectal features that go beyond traditionally-defined dialect borders and classifications, which—in historical dialectology—are more misleading than helpful.

Two papers are concerned with accentological problems. C. Vincenot offers a survey of the development of Slavic accent, reconstructing eleven stages that in his opinion led from Indo-European to Slovene and Serbo-Croatian accentuation. J. Toporišič present the tonemicity of Rigler’s idiolect in Modern Standard Slovene [henceforth MSS]. Using the material collected in 1963 for his two fundamental works about tonemicity in MSS, he analyzes Rigler’s tones along six parameters in all relevant positions. A comparison with the average values, and with those of other speakers, confirms his claim that Slovene tonemicity is a matter of the correlation in pitch, rather than in tone contour.

Like the first section, the second—concerned with morphology, lexicon and phraseology—is largely devoted to historical and comparative problems. There are three synchronic treatments of historical material. Two of them deal with word formation in the historical lexicon: A. Vidovič-Muha identifies the types and means of nominal, adjectival and adverbial word derivation in Gregor Voranc’s Latin-Slovene Dictionary; and, similarly from the standpoint of syntactical word formation, M. Merše discusses deadjectival verbs in Dalmatin’s Bible. Each study is a part of larger research in its domain: the former, on word formation typology of historically-attested material, the latter on the formation and semantics of the verb in Dalmatin. A third study (G. Neweklowsky) examines subordinate conjunctions and their use in Trubar’s Paul’s Epistle to the Romans. Comparing it with MSS, the author establishes numerous differences in meaning and distribution which have causes that are mostly internal (historical) and not external (influence of the German original). Another article, devoted to historical lexicology, is M. Orožen’s comparison of the first (1592) and the second (1744) editions of Megiser’s quadrilingual dictionary (the latter made by the Carinthian Jesuits). The article shows that the second edition was not only considerably enlarged, with local and newly-formed lexicon (shown as numerous synonyms), but also reveals substantial phonetic and morphologically changes that were historically or regionally motivated.

Five articles in this section are concerned with MSS, three of them dealing with it in a comparative manner. Z. Topoliška discusses specific features of anaphorical proverbialization, as used in replies, in comparison with other Slavic languages. S. Babić tackles the problem of separating the meanings of the instrumental case in Slovene vs. Serbo-Croatian, in translation from the former to the latter, where a problem is created by the formal differentiation in the latter (prepositional vs. non-prepositional) and its absence in the former. In a paper about adverbs with instrumental case endings, B. Markov compares all the modern Slavic languages, showing differences in the expansion and form of these adverbs. P. Zdovc’s article on the derivation of names for inhabitants of Slovene place-names in Carinthia concentrates on variants; it provides information that is absent from the handbook Slovenska krajevna imena (Ljubljana 1985), which did not include Slovene places outside the Republic of Slovenia. W. Derbyshire comments on homomorphs and homoforms in MSS that are due to the loss of tonemicity. He identifies a number of categories of overlapping forms, suggesting that many more can be found.

Three articles on etymology discuss some controversial problems and offer new solutions. A. Šivic-Dular, after a thorough semantic analysis of South Slavic words containing
the base *gat-, rejects the most commonly offered explanation ‘to sing, to scream,’ and connects the verb *gatati -ajo ‘to predict’ with the noun gati ‘dike, dam.’ M. Furlan takes issue with the notion that Sln. sēl (f.) is a Slavic derivative from the -l participle. She finds evidence in a corresponding Hittite form that the word was inherited in Slavic directly from Indo-European. M. Snoj shows several examples of Slovene nouns beginning in s- that can be explained as original prepositional phrases with the Common Slavic preposition *s ‘as, similar to, approximate to;’ the most intriguing part of this discovery is that these lexical items are the only cases where the preposition s with this particular meaning are attested in Slovene.

The third section is, with the exception of one paper, dedicated to dialectological problems. Two of them reinterpret and reevaluate the received notions of some famous problems, the third reports on recent progress in the Slavic Dialectological Atlas project. In R. Lencek’s reinterpretation of the evolution and geography of the changes -g → -x and g → ĝ, these processes are discussed together with the neutralization in voicing and the spirantization of obstruents in word-final position. He proposes a hierarchy and relative chronology of the related developments, as well as their geographic spread. T. Priestly re-examines some peculiarities of Baudouin de Courtenay’s description of acoustic and articulatory features of the “zasopli vokali” in the dialect of Resia. Employing controversial historical reconstructions of the Resian vowel system and contemporary observations from recent fieldwork, he finds that there is not enough evidence to either fully agree or disagree with Baudouin de Courtenay’s description of these vowels, and proposes a re-examination of the diachrony as well as an extensive instrumental analysis. F. Benedik reviews the long-awaited first fascicle of the phonological section of the Slavic Linguistic Atlas, which treats the reflexes of *e. She finds a number of shortcomings and inconsistencies and offers alternative solutions.

The remaining two dialectological articles deal with the synchronic dialect situation, both in the Slovene dialect territory in Austria. It is commonly recognized that Slovene dialects in Carinthia, and their lexicon in particular, have been extensively influenced by German, but it is less commonly known to Slavists how effective the process has operated in the other direction. This problem is brought to our attention in F.D. Pohl’s listing of words of Slovene, Alpine Slavic or other Slavic origin in the German dialects of Carinthia. For each entry the author gives an explanation, the source, and bibliographic data. Most of the borrowings are phonetically adapted, some with German derivational morphemes, and in a few cases the morpheme itself was borrowed from Slovene. A further analysis of the problem might focus on the typology of the borrowed lexicon and on the mechanisms of phonological and morphological adaptation of Slovene words into German dialects. Z. Zorko describes the local dialect of Žetinci/Sichelsdorf, a village in the Austrian Radgonski Kot/Radkersburger Winkel region, which is historically part of the North Styrian and Pannonian linguistic area, and has been hitherto little known. The author finds the vocalic and accentual systems to be the same as in the Prekmurje dialect, though the consonants and morphology appear to be closer to the dialect of Slovenske Gorice.

Three articles are concerned with sociolinguistic problems, two of them in a theoretical manner. J. Tollefson reviews and criticizes two competing analytical approaches, the neo-classical and the historical-structural, to language planning. G. Thomas deals with diglossia in the development of the Slavic literary languages in terms of Ferguson’s schema (High vs. Low varieties), but expands upon this with more recent literature on the problem; he applies it to the history as well as to the present situation, with an attempt to predict future developments and outcomes. The third paper, by J. Paternost, gives a sociolinguistic
interpretation of the languages in tombstone inscriptions in Slovenia. The various social registers of Slovene (standard, colloquial, dialectal) and other, contiguous and noncontiguous languages used in these inscriptions reflect the complex sociolinguistic picture in this domain through history and at the present time.

The remainder of the articles in the final section are on heterogeneous topics. A. Jembrih presents a philological analysis of a handwritten interpolation from Dokležovje (Prekmurje) in Vramec’s Postilla (1586); he finds many Prekmurje features, orthographic, phonological and morphological, and considers this interpolation to be the earliest documented adaptation of a Croatian Kajkavian text for use in the Dolinsko area of Prekmurje. T. Korošec contributed a lengthy study on the textuality of the “question” in “unidirectional dialogue” intended for the public, i.e., the interview. On this basis he develops nine textual models of the “question” in the interview.

The last three papers in the volume deal with old (or, at least, obsolete) grammars, each focussing on particular problems as seen from different point of view. N. Mečkovskaja considers the possibility that Slavic comparative and historical linguistics starts with the first Slavic grammars, i.e., with their listing of Slavic languages, sound correspondences, genealogical classification, and their search for the common Slavic proto-language. After reviewing the material, she comes to the conclusion that even if the topics belong to present-day comparative linguistics, the methodology that is implemented does not. M. Greenberg deals with A. Pavel’s unpublished Prekmurje Slovene Grammar, which, since it was never put into use and is written in Hungarian, had not been dealt with in Slovene linguistics. Comparing the solutions given in the grammar to contemporary Prekmurje dialects, he finds Pavel’s system consistent and close to the spoken language. Because Pavel, as a rule, opted for archaisms when faced with local variation, his now obsolete textbook has a new value as a source of comparative material. V. Gjurin’s treatment of Bohorič’s grammar focuses on lexicographic problems in Bohorič’s six homocategorical glossaries. He finds many entries that seem alphabetically misplaced but are actually sub-entries, each related to its main entry in a number of different ways. His assumption is that this situation is due to rearrangements of an older, Latin-based dictionary.

The volume presents us with a cross-section of the state of the art of Slovene linguistics. Two things should encourage those of us who have specialized in this area: first, that interest in Slovene is growing among non-Slovene linguists; and second, that the work and life of the great Slovene linguist Jakob Rigler has been well honored by this memorial volume.

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