

CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

Papers on Slovene Topics

McMaster Conference on Slavic Nationalism, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ont., October 17-18, 1986.

A.B. Anderson (University of Saskatchewan), "The Changing Situation of Ethno-linguistic Minorities along the Yugoslav Frontier."

Complex ethnic heterogeneity characterizes the international frontier areas between Yugoslavia and neighboring states. The political instability of these frontier areas is reviewed in this paper in historical perspective, and related to contemporary ethnic minority demands. A distinction is drawn between five types of minority situation: (1) *irredentism*, further divided into a) *unidirectional irredentism*, when ethnic Yugoslavs form a minority population (or perhaps a local majority) in areas on the opposite side of the international frontier, so that minority nationalism could assume the form of irredentist claims for the reunification of these co-ethnics across the frontier with the homeland; and b) *reverse irredentism*, when ethnic populations of a neighboring country may form a minority on the Yugoslav side of the frontier, perhaps leading to loss of Yugoslav territory; (2) *minority reciprocity*, divided into a) *bipartite reciprocity* and b) *tripartite reciprocity*, respectively when complimentary minorities exist on opposite sides of the frontier at the same point, or when an extremely complex situation is found where three international borders meet; (3) *imposed minority internationality*, when the home territory of an ethnic group or nationality is divided between several countries; (4) *limited minority status*, characterized by a) "imperial relics," b) non-Yugoslav Slavic minorities, and c) diaspora minorities (such as Gypsies); and (5) *indigenous minority status*. Nearly all of these situations are exemplified within Slovenia and/or in countries adjacent to Slovenia. The author argues not only that the ethnonationalism of diverse ethnic minorities within Yugoslavia continues to counterbalance the nationalism or sub-nationalism of the dominant Slovenes, Croats and Serbs, if not the emergence of an effective pan-Yugoslav nationalism, but also that the failure of arbitrary political boundaries to coincide with ethnic territoriality has greatly complicated Yugoslavia's relations with its neighbors.

Thomas M. Barker (State University of New York at Albany), "The Recent History of the Carinthian Slovenes."

The paper describes conditions in Carinthia in light of the 1981 census and cites trends that both favor and impede the survival of the Slovene ethnic minority. The emergence of a Slovene intelligentsia and new signs of vigor among the youngest cohort of Slovenes are the most positive signs. Some attention is also paid to historical factors affecting the situation based upon the work of Albert Reiterer. The current effort of German nationalist groups to undercut the bilingual school system is discussed as well. The author concludes that continuing educational opportunity and economic development are crucial to the future of Carinthia's Slovenophone population.

Rado L. Lencek (Columbia University), "Sociolinguistic Determinants in the Genesis of Slavic Linguistic Nationalism."

The paper delineates a sociolinguistic typology of the formative processes of Slavic literary languages, seen as a central constituent of the genesis of Slavic linguistic nationalities. The discussion focusses on a few specific features of three sociolinguistic choices before the planners of every literary language: on the dilemma of self-identity of a written language, on the dilemma of its cultural-civilizational potential, and on the facets of its prestige function and their role in Slavic societies. The focal point of discussion is the sociolinguistic functions of written (literary) language which promote the evolution of the language question in Slavic societies, viz. the unifying, the separatist, and the prestige functions, all three charged with the symbolism which in Slavic societies has served and still serves as a peculiarly potent image of social solidarity of those who speak the language. Among numerous illustrations brought forward in analysis to typify the alternatives and compromises, the resolutions of internal and external antinomies which are part of the development of every literary language, there appear in the paper numerous examples from the evolution of modern literary Slovene.

Tom M.S. Priestly (University of Alberta), "Cultural Consciousness and Political Nationalism: Determinants of Language Choice in Carinthia."

On the basis of a categorization of the situational factors involved in language-use, an attempt is made to determine the motives which underlie deliberate language-choice in the bilingual area of Carinthia: thus, when a bilingual chooses to speak German rather than Slovene, and/or a dialectal variant rather than a standard, the various motives for this choice are described. The motives are classified under the headings 'political', 'non-political', and 'mixed'. It is suggested that in the majority of instances political motives play a decisive role; the most important exception is where religion is involved, in which instances 'non-political' factors appear to be paramount.

George Thomas (McMaster University), "The Relationship Between Slavic Nationalism and Linguistic Purism."

Nationalism and purism are clearly closely related. For many observers, purism is an epiphenomenon of nationalism: it co-varies in intensity and reacts to the same external pressures as nationalism. However, this view of the relationship is not altogether satisfactory and should give way to an examination of their affinities: the search for what is truly native by the exposure, eradication and diminution of foreign influences, the stress laid on differentiae, the unification of disparate elements in the native culture, nostalgia for folk virtues, and the renewal and modernization processes. Slovene purism, in unison with the other Slavic languages of the Habsburg Empire, was directed mostly at Germanisms and was prepared to utilize the lexical resources of other Slavic languages (Czech, Russian, Serbo-Croatian). A clear shift in attitude can be discerned in later Slovene purism: the inundation of Slovene by Serbo-Croatianisms combined with a threat to Slovene authenticity and individuality in Serb-dominated Yugoslavia led to an attempt to purify Slovene of Serbo-Croatian elements. In essence, this stressing of differentiae was part of the separating function of purism. Because of problems of distinguishing the Serbo-Croatian element from other Slavic loanwords, however, purists embarked on a campaign of replacing, or subjecting to critical scrutiny, many of the words introduced during the previous era.

American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies Conference, New Orleans, LA, November 20-23, 1986.

Radmila Gorup (University of California, Berkeley), "Travelling through Semantic Space: Slovene and Serbo-Croatian Clitics."

The paper concerns restrictions on the ordering of Slovene and Serbo-croatian clitics. When a clause contains more than one clitic in both languages they are always found in a group in a fixed order with respect to one another. It is suggested that the avoidance of complexity in the inferential process is the motivating force behind the fixed ordering of these minimal morphological units which carry important semantic information. The particular ordering in which verbal and pronominal clitics are found within the clitic sequence reflects two principles by which participants in an event are ranked: (1) according to the degree in which they control an event, from HIGH to LOW; and (2) according to the degree of distance from 'ego'. The first principle is encoded in the two languages in the grammatical system whose meanings, signaled by the case morphology, provide information of the extent to which the referents of clitics contribute to the bringing about of the reported event.

Lew R. Micklesen (University of Washington), "A Contrastive Survey of Slovene and Serbo-Croatian Accentology."

Except for one look backwards in order to account for a variety of linguistic forms that anomalously turn up in the oxytonic or mobile paradigm this paper begins its discussion in late Common Slavic when the three accentual paradigms (barytonic, final-columnar and oxytonic or mobile) had already been established. The discussion continues with a chronologically arranged series of accentological events consisting chiefly of retractions of stress, all of which were triggered by the fall of the jers. These are in order: 1) a retraction directly involving the loss of jers, 2) a retraction indirectly involving the loss of jers, 3) a retraction from a newly lengthened syllable to a preceding long syllable, 4) the lengthening of a stressed short syllable just before a newly lengthened syllable (Slovene only), 5) the advancement of stress in oxytonic paradigms (Slovene only), 6) retraction from short final syllables to preceding long syllables, 7) retraction from short final syllables to preceding short syllables, 8) retraction from all nonfinal syllables (Serbo-Croatian only). Both Slovene and Serbo-Croatian share a significant number of these accentological changes. The paper concludes with a brief survey of some subsequent changes in length in both languages: 1) shortening of initial long syllables in Serbo-Croatian before one long or two or more short syllables, 2) lengthening of a medial short syllable with fixed stress (not subjected to retraction or advancement) in Slovene to yield the new circumflex accent or a new rising accent.

Robert Minnich (University of Bergen), "On the Role of Language as a Vehicle for Collective Identity."

Any language's combined functions as a means of communication and as a repository of collective experience give it enormous potential as a referent for group self-images. This paper compares the relative function and referential meaning of the Slovene language (in both its vernacular and literary forms) among the multilingual populations of two neighboring villages, Achomitz-Feistritz (Zahomec-Bistrica) and Ugovizza (Ukve), located respec-

tively in Gailtal (Austria) and Val Canale (Italy). It is argued that differences in the local organization of the historical agro-pastoral (transhumance) adaptation which integrates these villages, as well as their different courses of integration into modern state society since Val Canale's 1920 incorporation into Italy, have affected in contrasting ways the utility of vernacular and literary Slovene within overall local communicative strategies and the referential meaning of these Slovene codes as symbols of group membership in each of these settings and the larger society of which they are part. The local level process of language maintenance in these multilingual communities is discussed with reference to historical conflicts/oppositions which have conditioned these villages' gradual incorporation into the institutions of encompassing society, and thereby, local self-understandings with regard to one's place in a greater sociocultural universe.