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DIACLEU

An introduction to dialect classifications in Europe

2nd issue

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INTRODUCTION

This is the second issue of *DIACLEU*, Dialect classifications of languages in Europe, published in *Dialectología* as special issue XI. In the first issue (*Dialectologia*, special issue X, <http://www.edicions.ub.edu/revistes/dialectologiasp2022/>) the project was introduced. It also contained a theoretical paper on dialectometry, and an overview of classifications of Basque, Finnish, Gallo-Roman, Greenlandic, Irish, Italian, Luxembourgish, Norwegian and Welsh dialects.

This issue starts with a theoretical contribution on the genealogical classification of languages by Matej Šekli. He also addresses some hot topics in the genealogical linguistic interpretation of Slavic, namely the dialect delimitation of East South Slavic (i.e., Macedonian versus Bulgarian), Central South Slavic as a linguistic area, the East

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Slavic languages, Kashubian in relation to Polish and Sorbian in the context of West Slavic.

Šekli's contribution is followed by eight papers, presenting a historical overview and analysis of classifications of Albanian (Adelina Çerpja and Anila Çepani), Faroese (Jógvan í Lon Jacobsen), Galician (Xulio Sousa), Icelandic (Helga Hilmisdóttir and Ásta Svavarsdóttir), Kashubian (Hanna Makurat-Snuzik), Lithuanian (Danguolė Mikulėnienė and Agnė Čepaitienė), Polish (Przemysław Dębowiak and Jadwiga Waniakowa) and Balkan Turkish (Matthias Kappler) dialects. It covers different language families: Baltic (Lithuanian), Germanic (Faroese and Icelandic), Romance (Galician), Slavic (Polish and Kashubian), Turkic (Turkish) and Albanian (a separate branch of the Indo-European language family), expanding the language genetic scope of the project.

Like in the first issue, the languages differ in official status. Some of them are the official language in one nation: Icelandic in Iceland, Lithuanian in Lithuania, Polish in Poland. Lithuanian (Poland) and Polish (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Ukraine) are recognized under the European Charter on Regional and Minority Languages (ECRML). Faroese is the official language of The Faroe Islands, an autonomous territory of the Kingdom of Denmark, along with Danish. The status of Galician varies geo-politically. In the autonomous community of Galicia in Spain it is a co-official language with Spanish. However, it does not have the status of an official language in the Galician speaking regions in Asturias (where it is recognised under the ECRML), Castile and León, and Portugal. Galician is also claimed to have minor variation, resulting in a small number of dialectological studies. Nevertheless, eight classifications have been published since the 1950's, and dialectometry became the dominant technique in the 21st century to capture the subtle variation patterns. In Poland, Kashubian was recognized as a regional language in 2005, and it can be used as a supportive or auxiliary language in some communities. Until then, it had been treated as a Polish dialect. Albanian and its dialect classifications cover a wide range of sociolinguistic situations and countries. Albanian is the official language in Albania, a co-official language in Kosovo, North Macedonia and Montenegro, and a minority language in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Italy, Romania, and Serbia. Turkish is the official language of Turkey and one of the official languages of Cyprus, but it is also

spoken by endogenous communities in Bulgaria, Greece, Kosovo, Moldova, North Macedonia, and Romania. In Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Romania Turkish is recognized under the ECRML.

Dialect classifications do not always include the varieties spoken by endogenous language communities outside the borders of the nation state where the language is an official language. The choice to include these varieties or dialects depends often on the political situation (e.g., shifting state borders, travel restrictions, language policy). From this perspective, the papers on Polish, Kashubian and Lithuanian dialect classifications provide interesting insights. Albanian dialectology has a tradition of including the varieties spoken outside Albania, which might be related to the presence of Albanian speaking communities not bordering the core of the Albanian language area, its genetic status as a separate branch of Indo-European, Albania is not a 19th century (or older) nation state, and that dialectology is a rather new field, with the first classification dating from the 1960's. The contribution on Balkan Turkish focuses for a substantial part on endogenous Turkish speech communities outside Turkey, although not all varieties of these endogenous communities were covered in dialect classifications. The dialect classifications of Faroese and Icelandic, stay strictly within the respective state borders.

In this issue, we included two languages (Icelandic and Turkic), that in some way violate the requirements and principles put forward in the introduction of the DIACLEU project (Aurrekoetxea et al. 2023). As Icelandic is an indigenous European language (criterion 1), part of the *Atlas Linguarum Europae* (criterion 2), is spoken by native speakers (requirement 2), is used in daily communication (requirement 3), and linked to a specific territory (requirement 4), we decided to devote a paper to Icelandic. However, traditional dialectological studies describing the different language varieties and linking them to well-defined geographical areas are lacking (violation of requirement 1). Field studies have had other objectives, either to document the language from a lexicographic perspective or to map the distribution of phonological features. The focus has been on linguistic change and whether social factors such as age and social status have any effect on the use of dialectal features. Hilmsdóttir and

Svavarsdóttir present what can be distilled as dialect classifications from these works. Kappler's contribution on Turkish is restricted to the geographical scope of DIACLEU (criterion 1), excluding the varieties spoken in Asia. However, for the sake of dialectological consistency, the focus is on the endogenous varieties of Turkish spoken in the Balkan area in Southeastern Europe, also known as Rumelian Turkish. Although there are many studies on individual Balkan Turkish varieties, classification attempts are rare, as the classification of Turkish dialects has traditionally focused on Anatolia. The Anatolian varieties of Turkish, spoken in (the European part of) Turkey and in Cyprus, are outside the scope of Kappler's paper. Therefore, the contribution deviates from the Turkish dialectological tradition (violation of principle 2).

Regarding the frameworks used in the classification of dialects in this issue, most of them are isoglottic classifications. Dialectometric classifications do not appear before the 21st Century and perceptual classifications do not show up in the languages covered in this issue. In the contribution on Lithuanian, the focus is not limited to traditional dialects, but shifts towards the newly arising geolects, using a wide range of state-of-the-art techniques. As such, it is an excellent example of how dialectology can be renewed and remains a type of linguistic research that focuses on present-day variation patterns, with important societal and technological implementations.

References

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