

Editor's notes & reading

Carnets de la rédaction *

THE FOLLOWING NOTES are intended to give CJL/RCL readers a partial survey of, and insight into, the wealth and scope of Soviet linguistic literature published in Russia proper in 1966–67. Since they are based on publications which were available to the reviewer, they represent, of course, only a portion of the total Soviet output in this period. Unless otherwise indicated, the titles referred to appeared in Moscow, and were published by the printing house Naúka. Works published in non-Russian parts of the U.S.S.R. are not included here.

Undoubtedly the most ambitious achievement, and one carried out on a very high level of competence and with meticulous care, has been the 5-volume *Źazyki narodov SSSR*¹ (Vv. 1–3, Moscow, 1966; V. 4, Moscow, 1967; V. 5, Leningrad, 1968), alluded to (“Languages of the Peoples of the U.S.S.R.”)² at the close of this

*Our guest editor of this section for this issue, a specialist on languages of the Soviet Union, is Dr. A. Malucky, Associate Professor in the Department of Germanic & Slavic Studies at The University of Calgary, who generously agreed to the Editor's proposal that he fill out to the degree practical the unfortunate communication gap which still in large measure prevails between Soviet and Western scholars (though it is probable that Soviet scholars are better abreast of current Western linguistics than vice versa). It is hoped that his commentary will contribute to a closer drawing together of these two great sub-communities of the international community of scholars. Those wishing to order copies of the works discussed are advised to communicate with any of the established outlets for Soviet books in Western Europe and North America (the Editor of CJL/RCL can advise regarding the outlet most suitable for the querent). Soviet technical books are on the whole inexpensive, by Western standards. Regrettably, it must be added, they are generally published in very small printings, and too often the work ordered is found to be out of print.

“Editor's Notes & Readings” will, in CJL/RCL 14: 1, be given over to comments on recent publications in linguistics at large. 14: 2, as planned, will feature recent French and French-Canadian linguistic literature.—ВНБ.

¹The transliteration system here employed corresponds in the main to that most widely employed in English-language journals. An innovation is the casual employment of the acute accent to mark stress where it might not be predictable to readers not fluent in Russian. The grave accent, used only over *ε*, is reserved for marking the Cyrillic letter *з*.

²Translations of titles are provided where their meanings could not be inferred from context and/or international vocabulary employed in Russian, so that readers with little or no knowledge of Russian will still be able to derive maximum information from this survey.

section in CJL/RCL 13, 1. As then noted, volume 1 treats the Indo-European languages; volume 2, the Turkic languages; volume 3, the Finno-Ugric and Samoyed languages; and volume 4, the Ibero-Caucasian languages. Volume 5, which has since appeared (and thus carries our survey into 1968), is devoted to Mongolian languages; “Manchu-Tungus and Palæoasiatic (‘Hyperborean’) languages”; Dungan (a Sino-Tibetan language of the Kazakh Republic); and Assyrian (viz., the Semitic East Aramaic). Palæoasiatic, or Hyperborean, is a catch-all which includes (1) Chukchi-Kamchadal; (2) Eskimo-Aleut; and (3) the genetically isolated Gilyak, Yukaghir and Yenisei-Ostyak.

The descriptions of individual related languages are preceded by a statement of their affinities. In the treatment of each language its particular history is then given, along with the history of its study, and in appropriate cases also the alphabet in which it is written (this in some instances modified in Soviet usage, e.g., in Yiddish, in which words of Hebrew origin are fully vocalized [by insertion of the letters which function as vowels in the Germanic bulk of Yiddish], while the letters *khes*, *sin*, *tof* and *sof*, which occur only in Hebrew-derived words, are replaced [other than in the citation of ancient texts] by their more general allographs, *khof*, *samakh*, *tes* and *samakh* respectively). The usability of the work is hampered, at least in the West, by the fact that in the descriptive parts the examples are given in the presently used Soviet orthography, not only for languages employing the Cyrillic or Latin script, but also in the case of Georgian and the languages using its script (Laz, Svanian), Armenian and Yiddish (with a few transliterated forms provided for the last). A detailed outline of the phonology, morphology, syntax and lexicon are the *pièce de résistance*, the last covering in varying degrees etymology and word formation. For most languages, this is followed by a section on dialects. Subsequently text samples are given: in the Soviet orthographies now valid for literary languages; in phonetic transliteration (employing the Cyrillic or Latin script, occasionally a mixture of both); and in Russian translation. Each article is concluded by a bibliography.

Some Western scholars might find the sovietizing, as it were, of some orthographies (as in the case of Yiddish just cited), if not an unwarranted tampering, at least an inconvenience, in view of its

suppression of important diachronic features. Among languages which employ Cyrillic letters, Ukrainian is affected in this way (e.g., omission of the letter for [g]).

Some languages are treated more thoroughly than others. Thus only Georgian and Ubykh (as the only Ibero-Caucasian language spoken outside the U.S.S.R. included, exceptionally, in this work) have a section on the frequency of phonemes. The bibliographies to several of the languages include also studies published abroad (for instance in the case of Russian, the Baltic languages, and of Kurdish, Georgian, and a number of Turkic and Finno-Ugric languages), while those for Ukrainian, Belorussian or Armenian, for example, contain only works published in the U.S.S.R. or in pre-revolutionary Russia. Bibliographical entries in languages other than Russian are printed with great attention to accuracy of spelling—a notable step forward, considering the notorious abundance of misprints prevalent in this respect in Soviet publications.

We proceed now to works we have been privileged to examine other than the monumental *Ǵazykí naródoǵ SSSR*: In many cases language groups are treated both on general and specific levels of description, and with contributions by several authors. Thus, in *Struktúrnaja tipológija jazykóǵ* (“The Structural Typology of Languages”) (1966) the reader will find a number of excellent and highly sophisticated articles in which are analyzed problems of metalanguage, reconstructions of texts, distributional analysis on the phonemic, graphemic and syntactic levels, semantics, signs and sign systems in relationship to message, onomastics and poetics, mostly having to do with Russian (8 articles), but also on occasion with Polish, Bulgarian, Tibetan and Vedic. Included also are two review articles.

Articles in *Problémy lingvístičeskogo anáĺiza* (1966) provide several, often penetrating, investigations into theoretical questions (thus, phonological oppositions and neutralizations, statistical approach to boundary markers, geometrical models of Turkic vowel systems, the concept of the phraseme, classification of specialized common speech, and problems of translatability). Problems of grammar in a number of Indo-European languages are also treated (English, French, Scandinavian languages, Russian and Pahlavi), and besides these, in Uighur and in a literary

work written in Oghus, as well as in Tsakhur (a member of the Lesghian sub-group of Eastern Caucasian) and Vogul. Studies dealing with the Lesghian etymological stratum in Rutul and with lexical borrowings in Dargva appear in the section on lexicology.

The yearbook *Ètimológija 1965* (1967)—the third in succession to date—provides etymological investigations of a wide variety of languages belonging to different families, with a substantial review section of works published abroad, most in West Germany. A notable feature of this serial is that it is one of the very few Soviet publications in which works of Western authors appear.

Lexicology and word formation in the East Slavic literary language of the 11th to the 14th century, its lexical borrowings, and a valuable frequency dictionary of this language are presented in *Leksikológija i slóvoobrazovanie drévnerússkogo jazyká* (1966).

The volume *Slavjánskaja leksikografija i leksikológija* (1966) makes available valuable research material in the form of dictionaries of Church Slavonic, and of dialects of Bulgarian, Russian, Slovenian and Ukrainian (2 titles); a glossary of family relationship names in Polish; and an article on dialectical peculiarities in Russian speech.

Germanic studies are represented by the 4th volume of the 5-volume *Sravnitel'naja grammátika germánskix jazykóv* ("Comparative Grammar of the Germanic Languages") (1966), which deals with the development of adjectives, adverbs, prepositions and verbs in the Germanic languages of the older period, maintaining in the process the high level of scholarship exhibited also in the previous volumes; and by a valuable volume *Struktúrno-tipologičeskoe opisánie sovreménnyx germánskix jazykóv* ("A Description of the Contemporary Germanic Languages in terms of Structural Typology") (1966), which contains papers read at the 4th Conference on Germanic Linguistics in the Fall of 1964. Most of the articles in this work deal with all Germanic languages, seeking to determine the relationship of various linguistic models in the Germanic branch. The comparisons are carried out on the synchronic plane (with occasional digressions into diachrony), mostly on the level of morphology and to a lesser degree concerned with phonemics, word formation, semantics and syntax. The volume also contains summaries of its articles in English or German—a very rare and commendable feature in Soviet

linguistic (and other scholarly) literature. Mention should also be made here of the second issue of the serial *Voprósy sintaksisa neméckogo jazyká* ("Problems of German Syntax") (Leningrad University, 1967) which offers several articles on this subject written in the traditional manner.

The volume *Métody sravnitel'no-sopostavitel'nogo izučénija sovreménnyx románskix jazykóv* ("Comparative-Contrastive Methods in the Study of Contemporary Romance Languages") (1966) contains mostly papers presented at the Coördinating Conference on Comparative and Typological Studies of Romance Languages held in Leningrad in 1964. The articles range from those which apply modern linguistic methods, and which are concerned mainly with morphology and syntax, to those which employ a wholly traditional approach and deal with problems of linguistic change and lexical borrowings from and into Romance languages. Several of the articles are comparative studies (French vis-à-vis Russian or German). Besides contributions dealing with the whole domain of the Romance group, nearly half the material (16 articles) is devoted to French, with Spanish next in order (9). Other Romance languages receive little or no attention (Romanian—4 articles; Latin—3; Portuguese—1).

Africa is also represented, in *Jazyki Áfriki* (1966), which presents articles on various aspects of the history of the Chad and Cushitic languages, Arabic, Hausa and languages of central Africa; problems of morphology and syntax in Somali, Coptic, Swahili and Zulu; problems of typology, on various levels, in Sudanese-Guinean languages, New Egyptian, Swahili and Bamileke. J. Greenberg's classification of African languages is also discussed.

The volume *Jazyki Júgo-Vostóčnoj Ázii* ("Languages of Southeast Asia") (1967) offers articles on the Sino-Tibetan, Austro-Asiatic and Malayo-Polynesian families and their individual member languages, with special interest paid to Thai, Burmese, Vietnamese and Indonesian Malay (3 articles each), as well as articles on the typology of isolating languages and problems of classification. Included also are articles which summarize the history of the study of the South Asiatic languages in the U.S.S.R. or survey Western literature on languages of the area.

With the exception of two articles on folklore, the volume

Jazykí i fol'klór naródov Sibírskogo Sévera ("Languages and Folklore of the Peoples of Northern Siberia") (Moscow-Leningrad, 1966) contains articles on the languages of this region, with general or specific phonemic or morphemic treatments of the Evenk and Orochon dialects of Tungus, Chukchi, Kamchadal (Itelmic), Ket ("Yenisei-Ostyak"), the Dolgan dialect of Yakut (two articles), and Eskimo (two articles, one of them establishing that, while the dialect spoken on the Soviet Big Diomedé Island in the Bering Strait is identical with that found on the U.S. Little Diomedé Island, on King Island and the Seward Peninsula and on Cape Prince of Wales, on the morphophonemic and lexical levels, curiously enough, it is close not to the adjacent Eskimo dialects in the U.S.S.R. and Alaska, but rather, to those of Greenland, Labrador and also those of the Barrow Strait and Mackenzie Bay).

In the domain of Indo-European studies, I. M. Tronskij, in his *Óbščeeindoevropéjskoe jazykóvoe sostojánie* ("The Linguistic Composition of General Indo-European") (Leningrad, 1967), re-examines, in the light of modern linguistic methods and recent findings, the traditional reconstruction of Indo-European, and is led, as a result, to voice his criticism of the monovocalism hypothesis and to advocate the view that reductions in the complexity of nominal and verbal categories had also very probably taken place in this early period. In *Iz istórii indoevropéjskogo slóvoobrazovánija* ("Studies in the History of Indo-European Word Formation") (Leningrad University, 1967), Ju. V. Otkúpsčikov analyses mainly nominal word formations whose etymologies have to date, without any convincing evidence, been taken for granted, and attempts to provide new etymological interpretations. His work contains an impressive bibliography (407 titles). L. A. Gindin, in his *Jazyk drevnéjšego naselénija júga Balkánskogo poluóstrova* ("The Language of the Earliest Inhabitants of the Southern Balkan Peninsula") (1967), uses the data of Balkan Peninsula and ancient Anatolian toponymics for arriving at his interpretation of the ethnolinguistic situation in the southern part of the peninsula prior to the arrival of the Greeks. The chronological succession which he advocates is as follows: the proto-Indo-European, or "Aegean," stratum; the Indo-European Hittite-Luvian stratum, which he sees as having arrived from

Anatolia (differing in this regard from V. Georgiev, who finds the Pelasgians to be the first Indo-Europeans in this area); the Pelasgian stratum, whose speakers probably arrived from the eastern part of the peninsula; and the Greek stratum.

A monograph on ancient languages of the Near East (I. M. D'jakónov, *Jazykí drévej Perédnej Ázii* ["Languages of the Ancient Near East"], 1967) provides a thorough investigation of five non-Semitic (Sumerian, Elamite, Hurrian, Urartean, Hattian [i.e., "proto-Hittite"]) and six Semitic languages (Akkadian, Canaanite, Amorite, Ugaritic, Hebrew, Phoenician, Aramaic), with chapters on their typology and their nature and degree of interrelationship; text specimens; and basic bibliographies.

The exhaustive, posthumously published monograph of I. I. Meščaninov *Èrgatívnaja konstrúkcija v jazykách razlíčnyx típov* ("The Ergative Construction in Various Types of Languages") (1967) investigates the theoretical aspects and concrete manifestations of the ergative construction in contemporary languages belonging to several genetically unrelated language families (South, Northwest, and Northeast Caucasian; Chukchi-Kamchadal; Eskimo); and the extinct Urartean.³

³The different principle of organizing an utterance on the *nominative* model—typical, for instance, for certain stages of all Indo-European or Finno-Ugric languages—and on the *ergative* model, is best exhibited in the ability of the verb form to show agreement. In the nominative model, the transitive verb form agrees with the grammatical subject of the utterance only, regardless of the perspective from which the activity is viewed: that of the agent, in the active voice; or that of the recipient of the activity of the agent, in the passive voice. In the ergative model the transitive verb form shows agreement with the agent and the recipient of the activity of the agent simultaneously, both the perspective of the recipient of the activity, conceived as the subject of the state resulting from the activity of the agent, and the perspective of the logical subject, i.e., the agent, being shown at the same time. As a result of this it lacks the category of the direct object and, with it, that of the accusative case, as well as the ability to distinguish active and passive voices. Intransitive verbs are conceived in the ergative model languages as activity verbs and agree only with the agent. On the other hand, while in the nominative model languages the agreement of the transitive verb form with the grammatical subject does not differ from that in the intransitive verb forms, in the ergative model languages the transitive and intransitive verbs are formally distinguished: transitive verbs show their double agreement in the conjugational pattern which has the subject-object markers, intransitive ones appear with subject markers only. In the ergative model languages the agent of the intransitive verbs takes the absolute case which corresponds to the nominative case of the nominative model languages; when a transitive verb is used, the direct object appears in the absolute case, while the agent takes the ergative case.

The series *Jazyki narodov Azii i Afriki* ("Languages of the Peoples of Asia and Africa")—numbering to date, since the appearance of the first title in 1959, 82 titles—was represented in 1966–67 by a number of monographs, of which we note the following:

G. M. Bauèr, *Jazyk južnoaravíjskoj pís'mennosti* ("The Language of the South Arabian Inscriptions"), in which inscriptions dating from the 8th (or 5th?) century B.C. to the end of the 6th century A.D. are studied; as well as monographs on Sindhi (R. P. Egorova, *Jazyk sindxi*); Bengali (E. M. Bykova, *Bengal'skij jazyk*); Tagalog (M. Krus, L. I. Škarban, *Tagal'skij jazyk*); Berber (Ju. N. Zavadovskij, *Berberskij jazyk*); Ethiopic (V. P. Starinin, *Èfiopskij jazyk*); Lydian (V. V. Ševoroškin, *Lidijskij jazyk*); and Maori (V. Krupa, *Jazyk maori*). All these titles conform to the series' plan of presentation by outlining the history of the study of the given language; a section on the script (if other than Latin); phonological, morphological and syntactic description; a text sample (in IPA, and sometimes also in the script of the language); a commentary on its vocabulary; and a bibliography.

A very thorough and detailed investigation into the process of the emergence of the standard literary German norms in the first half of the 18th century is offered in the monograph *Probléma formirovánija norm neméckogo literatúrnoho jazyká XVIII stolétija* ("The Problem of Establishing Norms in 18th-century Literary German") (1967), by N. N. Semenjuk. The author's findings are based on the language of contemporary German periodicals, the citations employed having been drawn from an impressive number of titles (106, in all). His study reveals a number of fluctuations in the usage of both variant and synonymous forms in the areas compared, as well as changes in the relative productivity of various linguistic structures.

Finally, appearing as the 3rd publication in the series *Pámjatniki pís'mennosti Vostóka* ("Monuments of Oriental Literature"), the excellent work *Dokuménty na poloveckom jazyké XVI v.* ("Poloveckij [viz., Kuman] Documents from the 16th Century") (1967) reproduces, in Cyrillic transcription,⁴ 298

⁴Specifically, the Ukrainian Cyrillic alphabet, augmented by one purely Russian and four Latin script letters.

16th-century court records of the Armenian community in the Ukrainian city of Kamjanec' Podil's'kyj, the original documents having been written (in Armenian script) in Kuman, the language adopted by the Armenians who settled in the Ukraine through their centuries-long association with their Kuman neighbors. The whole corpus is then reproduced in Russian translation. In addition, several extensive chapters introduce the reader to the history of this Armenian community, the history of the Kumans and their relationships with the Armenians, the history of the publication of Kuman texts in general, and of those published in the Armenian script in particular (with a detailed discussion of the rendering of the Kuman phonemes by this script). A detailed grammatical commentary (virtually a monograph on Kuman), and a glossary of the vocabulary encountered in the documents, add to the usefulness of the work. An English summary is also appended.

A. MALYCKY