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Comparative and Typological Approaches to Slavic languages

The 23rd volume of the journal *Slavia Meridionalis* is devoted to various problems of comparative and typological approaches to Slavic languages. In the call for papers, we outlined the following issues as being of particular interest for the volume:

- Semantic and syntactic universals, and parameters of variation in the family of Slavic languages.
- Micro-typology of functional categories in different Slavic languages.
- Micro-typology of different predicate classes.
- Grammaticalization and lexicalization of semantic categories, analyticity and syntheticity in Slavic languages.
- Diachronic processes underlying different aspects of variation within the family of Slavic languages.

In our view, most of them have been addressed properly in the submitted papers, however, some of our impressions stem from a wider perspective, and include the reviewing process. We would like to emphasize the increasing role of language corpora and Internet sources in the description of languages. On the one hand, most linguistic studies should be empirical in the sense of

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being data driven, and the use of corpora makes work with language material quicker; on the other hand, the use of parallel corpora is limiting in the sense that they represent translations. Comparative corpora and data gathered from other sources can help by providing language material not biased by the source and target language distinction. Some of the studies presented in the volume (implicitly or explicitly) implement a kind of semantic interlanguage as a tertium comparationis. This solution is quite popular in Polish contrastive studies (more on this issue cf. Maldjieva & Tobolski in this volume). When properly implemented, the semantic approach can allow for several advantages over studies based on translations (with a source and target language). Treating all the compared languages equally is of significant value in of itself, however, it is our view that there is an added value in such an approach as it allows to better distinguish language specific and more universal phenomena. With this approach, a single study can be treated as something more than just the sum of the single language analyses it is based on. Not all language levels can be studied this way (with phonetics and phonology being the most obvious exception). One should also consider the level of development of given sub-fields of linguistics, and the complexity of their subject matters (cf. Sawicka in this volume).

The papers presented in this volume vary in the number of studied languages (from just one or two to covering all Slavic languages), and are also methodologically diverse (with links to western and Slavic linguistic schools). We sincerely hope that the readers will find them interesting and that their heterogeneity will prove useful by providing some non-trivial links between languages and "linguistics". The articles in the volume are grouped in the following sections:

- Single-language studies
- Contrastive and translation studies
- Multi-language and general studies
- *Imponderabilia*.

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