

SlaviGram

Slavic Grammar Matrix

Slavic Languages & Comparative Slavic Linguistics



The challenge of multilingualism

- Cognitive aspect
 - ▶ psycholinguistics; multilingual mind; language acquisition; etc.
- Engineering aspect (→ multilinguality)

“ Multilinguality is a characteristic of tasks that involve the use of more than one natural language. In the modern world, it is a characteristic of a rapidly increasing class of tasks.” Martin Kay
- Linguistic aspect (→ descriptive; → theoretical)

“ Slavic languages are sufficiently similar and sufficiently different to provide an attractive research laboratory.” Greville Corbett



Natural language processing

- Grammar sharing becomes essential
 - ▶ rapid development of grammars for new languages
 - ▶ systematic adaptation of grammars to variants of languages
 - ▶ maximum reusability

- Operational notions of shared grammar
 - ▶ multilingual grammar development
 - ▶ reuse of portions of grammars for description of new languages
 - ▶ maintaining consistency within and across parallel grammars

- Linguistic resources
 - ▶ adaptable to specific language and application requirements
 - ▶ based on linguistic phenomena



Language-family-oriented research

- Common assumptions about Slavic languages
 - ▶ “free word order”
 - ▶ “rich inflection”

- Prominent areas of linguistic research in Slavic morphosyntax
 - ▶ the case system
 - ▶ predicative cliticisation
 - ▶ agreement phenomena

- Essentially, “how words are put together”
 - ▶ cross-referencing core grammatical relations
 - ▶ with regard to person-number-gender features



A traditional classification of Slavic languages

Proto-Slavic	Southern	Eastern	Old Bulgarian / Old Church Slavonic
			Bulgarian
		Macedonian	
		Western	Serbo-Croat(-Bosnian)
	Slovene		
	West	Czecho-Slovak	Czech
			Slovak
		Sorbian	Upper Sorbian
			Lower Sorbian
		Lechitic	Polish
Polabian			
East		Russian	
		Ukrainian	
		Belorussian	

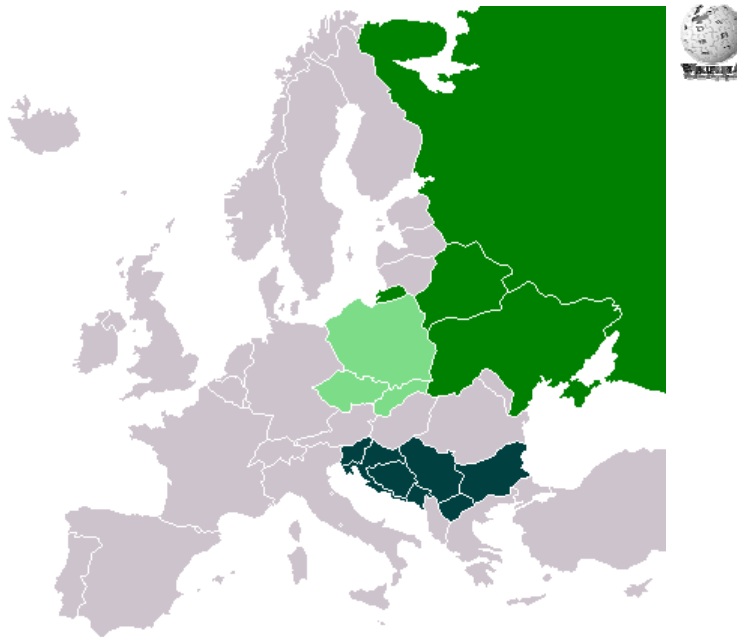


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Proto-Slavic	Southern	Eastern	Old Bulgarian / Old Church Slavonic Bulgarian Macedonian
		Western	Serbo-Croat Slovene
	West	Czecho-Slovak	Czech Slovak
		Sorbian	Upper Sorbian Lower Sorbian
		Lechitic	Polish Polabian
	East		Russian Ukrainian Belorussian

Grammatical relatedness taken seriously

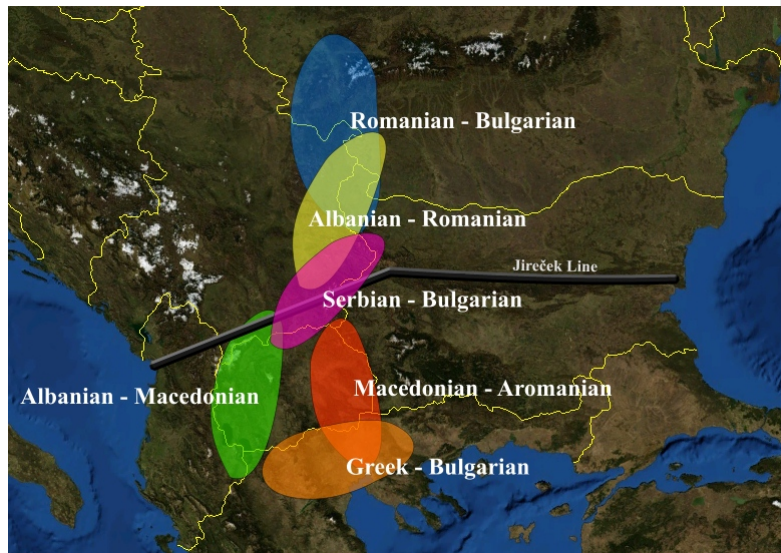
- **Bulgarian**
lacks morphological cases and infinitive,
but shows an impressively complex verbal system,
a definite article, a full-fledged clitic paradigm,
and a phenomenon of clitic doubling.
- **Russian**
has morphological case and infinitive,
but lacks any auxiliary or pronominal clitics,
and extensively employs non-verbal predication.
- **Czech, Polish**
clausal-domain auxiliary and pronominal clitics,
along with morphological case and infinitive.



Balkan Sprachbund

- The Balkan linguistic area is the ensemble of areal features among languages of the Balkans, which belong to various branches of Indo-European, such as Albanian, Greek, Romance and Slavic.
- While they share little vocabulary, their grammars are very similar; for example they have very similar case systems and have all become more analytic.
- A typological language property has been assumed to be areal
 - ▶ if shared by at least three languages of the area, at least two of which belong to different genetic families,
 - ▶ but not present in all the languages of the genetic family to which the language of the area belongs

Balkan Sprachbund



Solta (1980)

- morphological Balkanisms
 - ▶ the existence of the postpositive article
 - ▶ the merge of the Genitive and the Dative
- syntactic Balkanisms
 - ▶ the loss of the infinitive
 - ▶ the synthetic expression of futurity
- "special" (*sonstiges*)
 - ▶ the Vocative "as a living category"
 - ▶ the periphrastic comparison of adjectives



Lindstedt (2000)

- six argument-marking Balkanisms
 - ▶ (a) enclitic articles
 - ▶ (b) object reduplication
 - ▶ (c) prepositions instead of case endings
 - ▶ (d) dative/possessive merger
 - ▶ (e) goal/location merger
 - ▶ (f) *relativum generale*

- five Balkanisms pertaining to the verbal system
 - ▶ (g) Aux (+ Comp) + finite verb
 - ▶ (h) *volo* future
 - ▶ (i) future in the past as conditional
 - ▶ (j) *habeo* perfect
 - ▶ (k) evidentials

- one more Balkanism
 - ▶ (l) analytic comparison (of adjectives and adverbs)



Balkanisms

- nominal inflections replaced by prepositions
 - ▶ unification of declension types
 - ▶ distinct vocative forms
 - ▶ syncretism of the genitive and dative cases
 - ▶ analogous selection of prepositions for the expression of case relations

- postpositive articles

- “bare” subjunctive constructions (i.e. use of subjunctive constructions without upper clauses)

- use of subjunctive constructions in future tense expressions

- use of “future in the past” in *irrealis* sentences

