

EVALUATION OF THE CORRELATIVE OPPOSITION OF "SOFTNESS"

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The paper is based on a comparison of the sound material of three West Slavic languages: Czech, Polish and Upper Lusatian Sorbian.

The basic difference between these languages is on the one hand in the very quality of the studied correlative opposition and, on the other hand, its quantitative utilization. In the majority of softness pairs in Polish and in Upper Lusatian Sorbian (as well as in other languages, in whose phonological systems the correlative opposition of softness and hardness is firmly anchored), we are dealing with a phonetic difference between palatalized and non-palatalized speech sounds, while in Czech softness pairs we have a phonetic difference between a palatal and non-palatal speech sounds.

We have attempted, on the basis of phonetic and phonological analysis, to define the correlative softness opposition in Western Slavic languages also from the point of view of the central phonological system and of the periphery of the languages studied.

References

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