

**WORKSHOPS “HISTORICAL AND TYPOLOGICAL APPROACHES TO BALTIC MORPHOSYNTAX” (Vilnius, April 2016) AND “LANGUAGE CONTACT AND LANGUAGE CHANGE IN THE BALTIC STATES AND SWITZERLAND” (Zürich, September 2016)**

From January to September 2016 a partnership project entitled “Baltic morphosyntax in space and time” was carried on between the Department of Baltic Linguistics of Vilnius University and the Department of Comparative Linguistics of Zürich University. Its main goal was to establish a cooperation network between both Departments in the fields of Baltic and Indo-European linguistics, focusing on Baltic morphosyntax from a historical and areal perspective. The members of the project were Miguel Villanueva Svensson (project leader), Jurgis Pakerys, Vytautas Rinkevičius, Daiva Sinkevičiūtė, Bonifacas Stundžia (Vilnius University), Florian Sommer, Michiel de Vaan and Paul Widmer (Zürich University). The project included several long and short term visits, public lectures and block seminars in both Universities. The main events, however, were two Workshops, one in each University, where the members of the project and one invited speaker reported on some of their recent research.

The first Workshop, “Historical and typological approaches to Baltic morphosyntax”, took place in Vilnius, 5-6

April 2016, and included the following papers (in order of presentation).

The Workshop was opened by Paul Widmer and Jurgis Pakerys, who presented the structure of both Departments and their main project activities and lines of research. From both presentations it emerged that both Departments are involved in different types of collaboration networks with other institutions, mostly from Europe, but that at the same time there is still ample room for improvement in what collaboration between Lithuania and Switzerland (as well as with other countries and institutions) is concerned.

Axel Holvoet (VU, invited speaker), “The permissive middle in Lithuanian”, discussed the position of the permissive and curative constructions in the semantic map of the middle voice of Lithuanian and Latvian in a typological and historical perspective.

Florian Sommer (UZH), “Strukturen infiniter Subordination im Baltischen und ihr indogermanischer Kontext”, studied the historical development of the syntactic strategies of the Baltic participles and gerunds, comparing them to similar constructions in other Indo-European languages.

Michiel de Vaan (Lausanne/UZH), “Etymology and Development of Lithuanian *bè* and *be-*”, argued for an Indo-European origin of these and related Baltic and Slavic particles, relating them to extra-Balto-Slavic material like Av. *bā* “truly”, Go. *ibai* “or?” and reconstructing a PIE system stressed *\*b<sup>h</sup>é* beside unstressed *\*b<sup>h</sup>o*.

Miguel Villanueva Svensson (VU), “Lith. *ankstì*, *artì*, *tolì* and Baltic and Balto-Slavic Auslautgesetze”, argued that these adverbs are the regular continuants of the *ā*-stem loc. sg. *\*-ah<sub>2</sub>-i* (> *\*-ĕ̃* > *\*-ie* > *-i*) and discussed the implications of this idea for other issues of final syllables in Baltic and Slavic.

Vytautas Rinkevičius (VU), “New insights on Balto-Slavic accentual mobility: Evidence from Lithuanian dialects”, observed that Žemaitian accent retraction offers a better typological parallel for Olander’s “Mobility Law” (aiming to explain the origin of Balto-Slavic mobility)<sup>1</sup> than the cases adduced by Olander himself.

Paul Widmer (UZH), “(Non-)self-similar NP recursion in ancient Indo-European languages”, discussed possible constraints of the recursive embedding of NP’s in the development of the Indo-European languages, performing a Bayesian phylogenetic analyses on a sample of 55 languages.

---

<sup>1</sup> Cf. Thomas Olander, *Balto-Slavic accentual mobility*, Berlin, New York: de Gruyter, 2009.

Jurgis Pakerys (VU), “Periphrastic causative constructions in the Baltic languages”, presented a survey of the periphrastic causative constructions in the three Baltic languages and discussed their development in a historical and areal perspective.

Daiva Sinkevičiūtė (VU), “Bemerkungen zur Entwicklung der komponierten Personennamen im Litauischen”, argued that the so far unclear element *-autas* of Lithuanian proper names originated in compound proper names with *-tautas* as their second member.

Bonifacas Stundžia (VU), “The revival of the category of collective in Lithuanian”, discussed the development and restoration of the category of collective plural in Lithuanian, paying special attention to its accentological and morphological properties.

The second Workshop, “Language contact and language change in the Baltic States and Switzerland”, took place in Zürich, 8-9 September 2016. It included the following papers (in order of presentation):

Jurgis Pakerys (VU), “Notes on the Old Prussian Cretan inscription”, presented a new interpretation of the recently found Trace of Crete, which differs of earlier interpretations,<sup>2</sup> among other things, in being mostly based on a syntactic approach to the text.

---

<sup>2</sup> Cf. Ilja Lemeškin, Petrus Wickerau vs. Petrus Turnau. Kretos pėdsako autorystės klausimu, *Baltistica* 49(1), 2014, 139-161.

Michiel de Vaan (Lausanne/UZH), “The etymology of Lithuanian *kieno*”, argued that Lith. *kienō* “whose?” arose through the following development: Bl.-Sl. *\*k<sup>w</sup>o-i?* (interrogative pronoun extended with possessive suffix) > *\*kai?* > EBl. *\*kĕ* > *\*kie* > *\*kiē* → *\*kie-nē* (after *\*manē*, MoLith. *manęs*) → *kienō* (after *\*manō*, MoLith. *māno*).

Bonifacas Stundžia (VU), “Some changes strengthening the role of affixes in the accentuation system of Lithuanian after de Saussure’s Law”, studied different instances of recent developments in the accentual system of Lithuanian that were, at least in part, triggered by the effects of Saussure’s law.

Florian Sommer (UZH), “Areale und diachrone Aspekte der Endoklise im Baltischen”, presented the phenomenon of endoclysis in Baltic in a historical and areal perspective and argued that a multivariational analysis leads towards a better understanding of this phenomenon than previous analyses.

Miguel Villanueva Svensson (VU), “The conditioning of the Balto-Slavic *i*-apocope”, argued in favour of the regular *i*-apocope that several authors have postulated for Balto-Slavic and proposed that it was dependent on accent position (apocope took place only in unstressed endings).

Paul Widmer (UZH), “NP-structure building in Indo-Iranian”, discussed the development of PIE *\*yo-* in the Near East languages (which display different

trends towards dependent marking and head marking at different times) in an areal and sociolinguistic perspective.

Christa Schneider (Bern; invited speaker), “New methods used in a traditional research field. Also in Lithuanian dialectology?”, presented a new method of self-recording dialects that has been implemented with notorious success in Switzerland and discussed the possibility to use it in Lithuania as well.

Vytautas Rinkevičius (VU), “Database of the linguistic legacy of Old Prussian”, presented the Old Prussian database “Prūsų kalbos paveldo duomenų bazė”,<sup>3</sup> including Mažiulis etymological dictionary,<sup>4</sup> the texts and other information, and showed how it can be used for research in this language.

Daiva Sinkevičiūtė (VU), “Bemerkungen zu einigen mundartlichen Vornamen im Litauischen”, discussed the problems inherent to the precise adscription of Lithuanian dialectal proper names to a specific area as well as the difficulties that arise when trying to determine their properties and accentuation.

The diversity of topics covered in both Workshops exemplifies the very diversity of approaches to Baltic linguistics today, even when viewed from

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.prusistika.flf.vu.lt/zodynas/apie/>

<sup>4</sup> Vytautas Mažiulis, *Prūsų kalbos etimologijos žodynas. Antrasis pataisytas ir papildytas leidimas*, Vilnius: Mokslo ir enciklopedijų leidybos centras, 2013.

a comparative perspective alone (be it historical, typological, or areal). Each paper was followed by more or less heated discussion of the new ideas that had been raised. The possibilities of future cooperation were discussed as well.

The project within which both Workshops took place was financed by

the Lithuanian-Swiss cooperation programme to reduce economic and social disparities within the enlarged European Union under project agreement No CH-3-ŠMM-02/07.

*Miguel VILLANUEVA SVENSSON*  
[*miguel.villanueva@flf.vu.lt*]