

Introduction

Pavel Duryagin

Iliyana Krapova

Svetlana Nistratova

Luisa Ruvoletto

Giuseppina Turano

Università Ca' Foscari Venezia, Italia

We are happy to announce the publication of the first issue of *Balcania et Slavia* in 2023. This issue features 5 contributions in different fields of Slavic and Balkan linguistics within different theoretical frameworks: semantics, morphology, historical linguistics, syntax and pragmatics in several Slavic languages. What follows is a brief synopsis of the papers.

In her paper, *The kažimost' in the structure of everyday vs. scientific knowledge (on the material of the cognitive semantics of verbal predicates kazat'sja, pokazat'sja)*, Elena V. Cherntsova from the Faculty of Philology of the Kharkiv National University "V.N. Karazin" investigates the conceptualizations in discourse of the speakers' empirical experience and the scientific knowledge. The article proposes a cognitive Gestalt script on whose basis all contexts with the words *kazat'sja, pokazat'sja* have been modelled. Due to the dialectical combination of perceptual and epistemic modes, the single/unified Gestalt script comprises two parts. The first one consists of an experiencer subject, the act of perceiving, the object perceived, and a potentially erroneous/distorted image of the object. The second part consists of a subject as the bearer of knowledge, his knowledge of the distorted character of the subject-experiencer's perception, as well as his knowledge of the inconsistency between the subject-experiencer's first impression and what exists as a real fact.

Bardhyl Demiraj, from the Ludwig-Maximilians-University (LMU) Munich, in his paper *Velle-Futurum im Albanischen* focuses on the DO + SUBJUNCTIVE future in Albanian. The author presents both a diachronic and an areal-typological study of this construct in order to show that the *Velle-Futurum* type has reached the Albanian language area before the first Old Albanian written texts, and continues to exist as such everywhere in this area today, but with a density that is spatially and temporally dependent on two different factors: the uneven development of competing future forms and the intensive exchange with the other Balkan languages (*Balkansprachbund*), which does not evenly encompass the entire Albanian-speaking territory.

The paper *Expletive Dative clitics are situation pronouns (on the switched-situation Dative pronominal in Serbian)*, by Stefan and Aleksandra Milosavljević from the University of Graz and the SASA Institute for the Serbian Language respectively, examines the clitic *mu* 'it', an inanimate non-core (3rd singular neuter) Dative pronominal in Serbian, which behaves as a typical expletive ('dummy') pronoun in not having an antecedent in the previous discourse or available for deictic reference, and whose main pragmatic contribution is 'objectivization' – it implies that the truth value of a given proposition is not to be seen as a subjective 'judgment' of the evaluator (the speaker by default). The authors argue that this 'expletive' Dative is a situation pronoun ("Switched-Situation dative") generated in a Point-of-view projection at the T-C edge and referring to an arbitrary situation that is different from both the Topic Situation of the clause and the situation hosting the Speaker. The analysis explains the 'objectivization' effect as due to this switch of the evaluation domain whereby the proposition is no longer evaluated by the referents to whom the Topic Situation is relevant (the speaker as default evaluator and source of information).

In her contribution, *L'imperfetto resiano fra tempo, aspetto e modo*, Malinka Pila from the University of Konstanz gives a description of the forms and functions of the imperfect in Resian, a linguistic variety spoken in Val Resia, Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region, Italy, which has been in a situation of language contact with Romance varieties for centuries. The comparison between the imperfects found in the oldest documents (eighteenth and nineteenth century) and those used in modern Resian shows a significant shift of its functions. The imperfect, in fact, has lost its original aspect-temporal values, now expressing mainly counterfactuality and the future in the past. The analysis includes a discussion of the potential role of foreign influence in these developments.

The article *Dinamicheskie izmeneniya v russkoi grammatike* by Igor' A. Sharonov from the Russian State University for the Humanities is devoted to the evolutionary processes in Russian grammar at the end of the twentieth century and at present. The article deals

with 1) the cases of gradual change of noun case forms: *kupit' khleba i moloka* 'buy bread.GEN and milk.GEN' - *kupit' khleb i moloko* 'buy bread.ACC and milk.ACC'; 2) with cardinal numbers the case forms changes: *dvukhsot* 'two hundred'- *dvukhsta* 'two hundred. Gen.'; 3) with a sharp increase in the trend towards immutability of new borrowings; 4) with substitution of a particle *NI* for a particle *NE* in subordinate clauses, and 5) with the influence of feminism on the restructuring of professional names: *rezhisser* 'director-masc.'- *rezhisserka* 'director-fem.'.

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