

Institute for Linguistic Studies (Russian Academy of Sciences),
Saint Petersburg, Russia
E-mail: dsuetina@yandex.ru

Patterns and mechanisms of lexical change in symbiotic communities: the case of Caraşova and Iabalcea (Banat, Romania)

The historical region of Banat is known as one of the most diverse multilingual areas on the map of Europe. It has become a true mosaic of multiethnic and multilingual communities mainly due to numerous waves of migrations (first of all, arrival of the Slavic tribes to the Balkans, which started between 5th or 6th centuries), but also due to colonization policy of Habsburg administration. It resulted in mixing of different nations (Romanians, Hungarians, Germans, Serbs, Gypsies, Ukrainians, Bulgarians, Slovaks, Jews, Czechs, Croats, etc.) on a limited territory. One of the most interesting (sometimes even referred to as “mysterious”) communities of Banat is the Catholic Christian population of the Karashevo microregion in Romania. There, the Krashovani Slavic dialect belonging to the Torlak dialect of Serbo-Croatian language is spoken in the village of Caraşova, and the Krashovani Romanian dialect belonging to Banat Romanian continuum is spoken in the village of Iabalcea. This ethnolinguistic situation can be described not just as an intimate language contact, but as a symbiotic interaction, considering that Krashovani from these two villages share religion, identity and traditional values, but use different languages in their everyday communication.

Our research focuses on the ways in which lexical and cultural codes interact in this community in 21st century. In order to explore this interaction, I examined the vocabulary of the traditional Krashovani wedding using a specifically elaborated bilingual questionnaire during my fieldwork in the microregion. Once the origins of both Romanian and Slavic lexicons were established, I investigated their interrelation and came to a conclusion that we are dealing with the same cultural code that can be presented as the same text, but in two different languages. Elements of the Slavic and Romanian lexicons are subject to „reciprocal exchange“ following three different strategies. Two of them (borrowing and loan translation) are widely known in contact linguistics, while the last one (a specific type of language material „transfer“) seems not to be discussed previously as a separate category. In this study, I will try to link these strategies to various intralinguistic (type of morphological structure, principle of linguistic economy, etc.), as well as extralinguistic (e.g. language attitude and determination) factors.

References

- Barth, Fredrik. 1969. Introduction. In Barth F. (ed.), *Ethnic Groups and Boundaries: The Social Organization of Cultural Difference*, 9–38. Bergen: Universitetsforlaget.
- Belić, Aleksandar & Jovan Erdeljanović. 1925. Tragovi najstarijeg slavenskog sloja u Banatu [Traces of the oldest Slavic layer in Banat]. In Josef Schráníl, Lubor Niederle (eds.), *Obzor praehistorický 4. Niederlův sborník*, 275–305. Praha: Společnosti československých praehistoriků.
- Buzărnescu, Ștefan & Sorin Pribac. 2002. Sursele istorico-antropologice ale interculturalității interactive din Banat [The historical and anthropological sources of interactive interculturality in Banat]. In Rudolf Poledna, François Ruegg, Călin Rus (eds.), *Interculturalitate: cercetări și perspective românești*, 164–177. Cluj: Presa Universitară Clujeană. http://www.intercultural.ro/carti/interculturalitate_detaliu.html (accessed 15 September 2015).
- Chambers, J. K., Peter Trudgill & Natalie Schilling-Estes (eds.). 2004. *The Handbook of Language Variation and Change*. Oxford: Wiley.
- Crețan, Remus, Paul Kun & Lucian Vesalon. 2014. From Carasovan to Croat: The „ethnic enigma” of a (re)invented identity in Romania. *Journal of Balkan and Near Eastern Studies* 16 (4). 437–458.
- Hinrichs, Uwe & Büttner, Uwe. 1999. Handbuch der Südosteuropa-Linguistik [Handbook of Southeastern Europe Linguistics]. [Special issue]. *Slavistische Studienbücher. Neue Folge, Band 10*.
- Konior, Daria. 2016. Leksicheskaia realizatsiia predmetnogo koda karashevskoi svad’by [“Objective code” of the Krashovani wedding vocabulary and its lexical manifestation]. *Acta linguistica Petropolitana (Trudy Instituta lingvisticheskikh issledovaniy)* 12(3). 629–649.
- Konior, Daria. 2018a. Text of the Krashovani traditional wedding in the light of Romano-Slavic contact in the Balkans. A manuscript.
- Konior, Daria & Andrey Sobolev. 2017. Osobennosti neravnovesnogo bilingvizma u rumynoyazychnyh karashevtsev v sele Yabaltcha [On some aspects of nonequilibrium Romanian-Slavic bilingualism in the village of Iabalcea]. *Indoevropeyskoye yazykoznanie i klassicheskaya filologiya* XXI. 985–1001.
- Lehman, Rosa. 2001. Symbiosis and ambivalence: Poles and Jews in a small Galician town. New York, Oxford: Berghahn Books.
- Petrovici, Emil. 1935. *Graiul carașovenilor. Studiu de dialectologie slavă meridională* [The Krashovani dialect. A Southern Slavic dialectology study]. București: Imprimeria Națională.
- Poplack, Shana & David Sankoff. 1988. The social correlates and linguistic process of lexical borrowing and assimilation. *Linguistics* 26. 47–104.
- Radan, Mihai. 2000. *Graiurile carașovene azi. Fonetica și fonologia* [The Krashovani dialect group now. Phonetics and phonology]. Timișoara: Anthropos.
- Simu, Traian. 1939. *Originea crașovenilor. Studiu istoric și etnografic* [The origin of the Krashovani people. A historical and ethnographic study]. Lugoj: Tipografia Corvin.
- Sobolev, Andrey. 2017. Yazyki simbioticheskikh soobshchestv Zapadnykh Balkan: grecheskiy i albanskiy yazyki v sele Palyasa v kraine Himara, Albaniya [Languages of the symbiotic communities of the Western Balkans: Greek and Albanian languages in Palasë in the region of Himarë, Albania]. *Vestnik SPbGU* 14(3). 420–442. http://vestnikphil.spbu.ru/sites/default/files/SobolevAN_0.pdf (accessed 2.02.2018).