

An Attempt to Analyse Language Similarities in the Southern Dialect of Polish Language and Russian Language

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Abstract: This article presents a comparative analysis of the Podhale dialect as one of the varieties of the Polish dialect and the modern Russian language. Both examined objects belong to the same family of Slavic languages, but different branches (West- and East-Slavic). The aim of the analysis was to show the degree of kinship between these languages by searching for common features between them and trying to reconstruct words that could be common to both languages despite the fact that they currently differ from each other. The study of the vocabulary of the Podhale dialect and the Russian language has shown that it is impossible to accurately determine the changes occurring in languages and the time frame of these changes, however, thanks to comparative analysis it is possible to determine the degree of similarity in languages, an outline of the pace of change and the direction of development.

Key words: dialect, language, comparative studies, proto-language, pre-Slavic, Old Slavic, Russian

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1. The Origin of the Podhale Dialect and Russian Language

The dialect of the Podhale region as a variety of the Polish language, found in southern Poland, is a disappearing monument of the remains of the Slavic proto-language. The Slavonic language, as a common language creation of all Slavs, gave rise to modern Slavic languages, branching into East Slavic languages (Russian, Belarusian, Ukrainian), West Slavic (Polish, Slovak, Czech, Lower and Upper Sorbian, extinct Polabian) and South Slavic (Slovenian, Serbo-Croatian, Bulgarian, Macedonian). The Podhale dialect as a subunit of the Polish language is usually the subject of comparative analyses in relation to the Slovak language. This is mainly due to geographical distribution — this bustle occurs at the Polish-Slovak border. This article is an attempt to find common features between one variation of the West Slavic language and the other, originating in the East Slavic circle (a literary variety of the Russian language).

The Slavonic language, originating from the Pre-Indo-European family, existed from the beginning of 1500-1300 BC. Its disintegration into particular language groups could have occurred in the sixth-seventh century AD (some linguists postpone the time frame for the breakup of the Slavonic language to the eleventh and even the tenth century AD.) There is no monument written in that language in the period before the collapse, but one of its later varieties is Old Church Slavonic (Old Slavonic, Old Bulgarian) - the oldest literary language of the Slavs,

created by Cyril and Methodius in the 9th century, being one of the Macedonian-Bulgarian dialects. Cyril conducted his mission in Moravia, including southern Poland, until 885, and the language he created became the literary basis of, among others, the Russian language¹.

By studying the dialects of individual languages from the same language family, we can find more and more common features between them and try to reconstruct words that may have been common to both languages, although today they differ from each other.

Russian literary language has been evolving since the 9th century. (Old Belarusian period), through the "Moscow" period (16th–18th centuries), up to the modern period (the turn of the 18th and 19th centuries). The basic influence on its vocabulary, word-formation principles, and literary varieties and style had the Church Slavonic language, derived from the Old Church Slavonic language.

Russian and Polish had a great impact on each other. There are two main periods when strong interference from one to the other occurred. The first period is the 16th century, the period of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, when Polish had international status. The language used was at the Russian court, and knowing it was a sign of education and belonging to a higher social class. It also enabled career development. The second period of mutual influence of both languages was in the 1950s and the entire period of the Polish People's Republic, when in Poland Russian was a compulsory language.

The dialect of Podhale is one of the dialects of the Lesser Poland dialect. It covers the area of southern Poland - Podhale and stretches from the Tatra Mountains to the vicinity of Rabka to the north (its northern border is marked by the Gorce range) and from Piekielnik from the west, behind which the Orava area begins, to the towns located on Lake Czorsztyn, which marks the border of Spisz.

The contemporary highlander dialect (Podhale) is being polonized and even though a lot of people still use it every day, the influence of the literary norm of the Polish language can be noticed more and more often both in speech and in dialect texts. In order to get to the real bustle, it was necessary to interview the oldest inhabitants of Podhale. Relying on written texts is difficult and not entirely adequate, as there are no norms for writing it, so the same text may be written slightly differently by different users of this dialect. Nevertheless, you may notice some similarities with the Russian language.

The area of the Podhale dialect is far away from the Polish-Russian border (about 300 km from the Ukrainian border, where until recently Russian was the official language, a little further from the Belarusian border and 800 km from the Kaliningrad region). So are the similarities to the Russian language due to history and political conditions, or are they just a remnant of a common proto-language? The answer to this question is extremely difficult, because I did not manage to get to the texts written in a dialect that would be older than the turn of the 19th and 20th century. However, one can attempt lexical and grammatical analysis by a comparative method to at least partially determine the degree of similarity between the units studied.

Comparative analysis, in order to look for similarities between the Russian language and the Podhale dialect, can be carried out on morphological, phonetic, syntactic and lexical levels. For this purpose I will use the words of folk songs, poems texts and quoted fragments of conversations of users of the Podhale dialect. Russian language dictionaries will be the basis for reference to the Russian language. Below I will use abbreviations:

GW: fragment of the text written in the Podhale dialect

PL: translating text into modern Polish,

¹ <https://wiaraprzyrodzona.wordpress.com/2016/08/31/slowianski-jezyk-staropolski-mowaniprzodkow>.

RU: text in Russian,

SCS: Old Church Slavonic (Old Slavonic)

PSŁ: pre-Slavic language, the word is preceded by *, because it is only its reconstruction, there are no monuments written in this language.

Italics are used to extract the analysed fragments.

2. Comparative Analysis of Podhale Dialect and Russian Language.

GP: Hej, Janicku, siwy włos, przydźe ku mnie choćby roz, hej, jo bedem cekała, hej tobie wyzierała.²

PL: Hej, Jasiu, siwy włos, przyjdźże do mnie choćby raz, hej, ja będę czekała, ciebie wypatrywała.

RU: *приди ко мне* - the preposition *к* (*о*) as the equivalent of the Podhale preposition “ku” (in Polish “do”).

The Slavonic language inherited many prepositions from the pro-Indo-European language. In PSŁ, the number of prepositions increased due to new formations based on adverbs, and also due to prepositions formed from other parts of speech. We call these prepositions primary and prepositions based on adverbs in the SCS language — new. Many of the original prepositions could be used as prepositions (with names) and prefixes (with verbs). The preposition *къ* (derived from * *kŭn*) always performed only the function of the preposition, never the prefix³.

RU: *тебя высматривать* — pronoun in the accusative *тебя* as the equivalent of Podhale “tobie” in the accusative (in Polish “ciebie”).

This pronoun *тебя* comes from the Proto-Indo-European * *teue* in the accusative (* *tū* in the nominative case). In Old Slavonic and Old Russian, the genitive pronoun variant had the same form as in the accusative: *tebe*, while in the dative: *tebě*, *ti*. In Polish, the pronoun *ciebie* appears in the genitive: (*kogo? czego wypatrywała?*), While in GP there is a form of a dating for *komu? czemu? Tobie*. In SCS, this form in the viewfinder had the form *tobě* (Lehr-Splawiński, 1973, p. 53).

GP: *Ka sie bieres? Nika.*

RU: *Куда собираешься? Никуда.*

PL: *Dokąd idziesz? Donikąd.*

In the Slavonic language, there were many different variants of making prepositions, which is reflected in various modern Slavic languages. Other suffixes (*-dy*, *-аѣ*, *-dzie*) and suffixes and suffixes joined the Old Slavic roots *къ-*, *тъ-*, *въ-*, *ов-*, resulting in Polish prepositions where: *<дъаd* (Galster, 1998, p. 286).

In SCS, there were such forms of prepositions: *kamo-*, *kadu-*;

RU: *kuda, nikuda;*

GP: *ka, nika.*

GP: - *Ka sie bieres? - Nika sie nie bierem.*

RU: - *Куда собираешься (берёшься)? - Никуда.*

PL: - *Dokąd idziesz (bierzesz się)? – Donikąd.*

In the verb *bierem sie* Polish typical for Polish language, consisting in moving “*ę*” w “*o*” in position before hard consonants (*r*) [www 1]:

PL: *biorę się,*

² Słowa pieśni ludowej.

³ <http://tezauros.oc3.ru/docs/1/articles/3/3/7/>.

GP: bierem sie,

RU: берусь

In addition, in PL the consonant “r” in the verb to be taken occurs only in 1 pers. single (biorę się) and 3 pers. Single (biorą się). In other persons there is in RU, in the verb “братья” there is a consonant in all persons. In GP: also in all persons of the verb brać się to take appear “r”.

GP: Jest hań co kupić?

PL: Czy można tam coś kupić

RU: Есть там что-то купить?

In both RU and GP, the verb “jest” is in the form of 3rd person. Capacity in the sense it exists and comes from the pre-Slavic word “byti” – “jestь” (be-is) (Strutyński, 1998, p. 72).

GP: Jo jus w chałpie (doma).

PL: Jestem już w domu.

RU: Я уже дома.

In GP, as in RU, the verb “być” in part the present one is rare, sometimes it is also replaced by the reflexive pronoun “se”, e.g., “Jo se doma”⁴.

GP: Bier kielo fces.

PL: Bierz ile chcesz.

RU: Бери сколько хочешь.

The numeral pronoun (non-personal) in PSL had the form * kyo-, and in the SCS it had the form kolikъ [www 4].

GP: Hanka Jantków.

PL: Hanka córka Antka.

RU: Ханна Антоновна.

Paternal names are practically not used in Polish. In Russian, the paternal name is used as the second name derived from the name of the father of the person introducing himself in one person. In the dialect of Podhale, sometimes the name of the father in the genitive plural is used, and only when talking about third parties.

GP: Mamó, kie sie wrócicie?

PL: Mamó, kiedy wrócisz?

RU: Мама, когда вы вернётесь?

In the dialect of Podhale, the plural form is used so far to address the elderly, or who deserve respect (including parents). In Russian, the use of pluralis maiestatis is common and replaces the form of “pan/pani”. In Polish, the plural is rarely used in this reference.

The verb come back has a reverse form only in the dialect of Podhale, while in Polish it has a non-returnable form. The Russian equivalent also has a feedback form (вернуться).

GP: On piyknie tońcuwoł/tońcowoł.

PL: On pięknie tańczył.

RU: Он прекрасно танцевал.

In Russian, the verb is formed by the suffix *-eva-*. It is used to create iterative (multiple) forms of verbs (Bartula & Lehr-Spławiński, 1973, p. 125). In the dialect, however, there is an elongation of the imperfective verb

⁴ https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gwara_podhalańska.

with the suffix *-uvo* - / - *ovo*-.

W j. rosyjskim czasownik utworzony jest za pomocą sufiksu *-eva*-. Stosuje się go do tworzenia form iteratywnych (wielokrotnych) czasowników (Bartula i Lehr-Spławiński, 1973, p. 125). W gwarze natomiast występuje wydłużenie formy czasownika niedokonanego za pomocą sufiksu *-uvo/-ovo*-.

GP: *syr, cisty, corny*;

PL: *ser, czysty, czarny*;

RU: *сыр, чистый, чёрный*.

In the dialect of Podhale there are so-called Podhale archaism, i.e., the pronunciation of the type *'c'isty*, is similarly pronounced in noun in Russian. *Syr* and *corny* nouns also have very similar pronunciation to Russian equivalents⁵.

GP: *Jo tak rada* cie widzieć!

PL: Tak się cieszę, że Cię widzę!

RU: *Я так рада* тебя видеть!

The adjective *pad* / *pada* has its equivalent in the dialect of Podhale: *rad* / *rada*, in Polish *cieszyć się*. The form of *rad/rada* also existed in Polish, but today it can be considered archaism.

GP: Zaboczyłak to wziońć.

PL: Zapomniałam to wziąć.

RU: Я забыла это взять.

The verb *zabocyć* is closer to Russian *забыть* than to Polish *zapomnieć*. In Polish, the verb attentive has a different meaning: *uważać na coś* (watch out for something).

GW: *Malutki Pon Jezus przysel na te Ziemie*.⁶

PL: *Maleńki Pan Jezus przyszedł na tę Ziemię*.

RU: *Маленький Господь Иисус пришёл на Землю*.

The Praslavian verb * *iti* had supplementary forms 1) from the subject *i-* (infinitive * *iti*, * *itъ*, 2) from the subject * *idti* (imperative in Russian *иди!*) The asigmatic aorist (the aorist expressed past deed) had the form *idъ*, the sigmatic aorist II had the form *idoхъ*, 3) from the subject *šъd* — participle active part past with the suffix *-l-* (*šъd-l-*). Over time, there was a simplification of the past tense form and a feminine form was created in Polish *szła, poszła* (for the masculine form, there is still *szedł, szedłem* — from subject **idti*). In Russian there remains a simplified form for all types: *шёл, шла*. There is also a simplified form in the dialect: *seł, sła*⁷.

GP: *Bierem się do Nowego Torgu*.

PL: *Jadę do Nowego Targu*.

RU: *морг*

In PSŁ, in connections like: * *тъrt*, * *тъrt*, * *тъlt*, * *тъlt*, there were syllables closed by the consonant “r” or “l”, where “t” was any consonant. The disintegration of these groups took place in various groups of Slavic languages: through metathesis, i.e., a change with the extension in South Slavic language, through the metathesis in West Slavic language alone — as a result of these processes an open syllable (ending in a or ě) was created. In Eastern Slavic syllabic consonants were liquidated and the reduced vowels returned to their places, which then became vocalized (converted into vowels o or e) (Strutyński, pp. 34–35).

⁵ <https://ru.wiktionary.org/wiki/сколь>.

⁶ Fragment wiersza S. Nędzy-Kubińca *Pastoralka góralska p.t. Cosik mi się widzi*.

⁷ <http://www.sovershenstvo-mysli.ru/pismennost/grammatika-staroslavjanskogo-yazyka-glagoly.html>.

PSL: *tǫrgъ – > *trǫǵъ

SCS: TPЪГЪ – trǫǵъ

RU: topъ

GP: torg

PL: targ

3. Conclusion

However, the above comparative analysis of one of the varieties of the Lesser Poland dialect: Podhale dialect and modern Russian, showed similarities between them. In the background of comparisons there were Polish, Old Slavonic and Praslavic languages. The existence of similarities between the studied objects while the occurrence of differences within the same language (differences between the dialect of Polish and literary Polish) testify to the origin of a common proto-language, but also that the dialects and dialects are subject to slower changes than literary varieties language.

The similarities between the dialect of the West Slavic language and the East Slavic language, however, are not large enough to be able to read texts freely or talk between users of both. Significant differences occur primarily in the dictionary — in the dialect there are often concepts related to life only in this particular community, e.g., oscypek, shepherd, goat (twig). Many of them are borrowed, among others from Slovak, Romanian, Hungarian and German. In addition, both Russian and dialect have completely different expressions. In the dialect, the accent usually falls on one syllable from the beginning, while in Russian it is movable (in Polish, it falls on the second to last syllable).

There are probably none, or at least I am not aware of any, monuments before the nineteenth century, written in highlander dialects (among others in the dialect of Podhale), so we cannot accurately trace the changes taking place in languages, determine the time frame of these changes. However, a comparative analysis of two languages or dialects helps determine the degree of similarity in languages, an outline of the pace of change, and direction of development.

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