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Articles

Conference Proceedings "'Folk Linguistics': Language from the Speaker's Perspective"

Vladimir Alpatov. 'Folk Linguistics' in Japan and Russia

'Folk linguistics' is an entirely natural phenomenon common among various peoples, in various cultures, and in various epochs. Its features might be easily spotted in any linguistic tradition in the early stages of its evolution. Over the past two centuries, linguists have been seeking to evade the influence of folk linguistics by developing strictly scientific approaches, with varying success. The basis of folk linguistics is the "belief rooted in naïve consciousness that one's own speech has an inherent and essential nature" (R. Šor). The pattern of folk etymologies is similar in every culture. Speakers use the same approach to explain words of other languages, both ancient and modern. Therefore, the first principle of folk etymology is the explanation of the unknown by the known. If an individual is monolingual, s/he will try to explain language facts by means of his/her own language, within the scope of what s/he knows about it. The second principle is phonetic similarity. Although there are no strict criteria for this similarity, it should be obvious to folk etymologists and evoke associative notions in them. Semantics remains in the background. The notions and concepts of folk linguistics can be demolished primarily by conscious language acquisition and linguistic education. Naïve consciousness, whilst good for poetry, is detrimental to science.

Keywords: folk linguistics, folk etymology, linguistic tradition, naïve consciousness, phonetic similarity.

Vlada Baranova. Compiling a Dictionary and the Emergence of a New Language

The paper deals with certain Russian-speaking communities which consider themselves to be a separate cultural or ethnic groups. Community members seek specific cultural properties, including a different language, to prove their new identity. Individual language features are evident in the dictionaries of these languages, compiled by people from the communities. The principles for compiling such dictionaries will be discussed, using the so-called 'Katsky language dictionary' as an example.

Keywords: new identities, dialect, dictionary, Katskary.

Elena Bondarenko. A Dictionary Compiled by a Dialect Speaker: A Pragmatic Aspect

The author analyses the pragmatic characteristics of the glossaries of 'local' words compiled by dialect speakers and exemplifying the complex expression of folk metalinguistic activity. Significant for this pragmatic aspect are the following data in the lexicographical work: the aim of the author; the author's notations about his/her expected readers; the author's sociocultural and linguistic experience (education, knowledge of other language varieties and so on).

Keywords: folk linguistics, folk lexicography, pragmatics, meta-linguistic awareness, dialectology, Russian dialects.

Natalia Bragina. Philosophical Demotivators and Non-Professional Definitions: The Correlation Between Verbal and Visual Content

The main topic of the article is the demotivator, which is considered to be a new Internet genre. The author analyses the correlation between verbal and visual content, focusing on so-called philosophical demotivators (in Russian *demotivatory so smyslom*). Philosophical demotivators combine pictures, concepts and their interpretations (non-professional (naïve) definitions). The study examines the types of non-professional definitions and offers comment on the association between definitions and pictures.

Keywords: demotivators, philosophical demotivators (*demotivatory so smyslom*), concepts, non-professional (naïve) definitions, verbal and visual content.

Elena Gekkina. Speech Errors as the Focus of Metalinguistic Reflection

Speech errors are viewed as objects of criticism by 'ordinary' native speakers in Internet discussions and in questions addressed to the Russian Language Service. The most commonly discussed types of speech errors are established. Speakers' attitudes to speech errors can be negative or positive. Therefore, the article investigates two groups of speakers' substantiations related to language structure and communicative settings.

Keywords: metalinguistic sentences, metalinguistic criticism, 'ordinary' native speaker attitudes, norms of speech and writing, speech errors, stylistic and pragmatic criteria, vocabulary, grammar, derivation, morphology, syntax, graphics, spelling, punctuation, orthoepy.

Valery Efremov. New Forms of 'Naïve Linguistics' in the Internet Age

The Internet contributes to contemporary Russian language and speech, presenting new forms of so-called naïve linguistics: (1) *Jargon padonkaff*, the most striking example of naïve linguistics, can be studied as a type of language game or linguistic resistance; (2) a *Grammar Nazi* is an Internet community whose members are committed to aggressively fighting for the purity and correctness of their native language at any time, in any place and in any situation; (3) *Linguistic trolling* is a variety of verbal aggression which manifests itself on the Internet in special forms of mocking and insulting behaviour. Unlike other forms of trolling, the main object of such behaviour may be poor literacy skills or even a typographical error.

Keywords: naïve linguistics, Russian Internet language, naïve lexicography, linguistic trolling, lurkmore, Grammar Nazi.

Boris Iomdin. Naïve Ideas of Word Meanings in Russian

The paper discusses various techniques of studying ideas about the meanings of word that are common to native speakers of modern Russian. These ideas sometimes differ significantly from traditional lexicographic descriptions. Alongside standard surveys where the informants are addressed directly, more specific experiments are performed, such as studying the behaviour of those participating in various linguistic games. The results of these experiments provide interesting linguistic material which proves useful for lexicographers working on modern explanatory dictionaries.

Keywords: semantics, lexicography, definitions, artefacts, linguistic experiments, linguistic games.

Valeria Kolosova. 'Folk Linguistics' as an Instrument of Magic

The article concerns folk understandings of etymologically-opaque phytonyms in Slavonic languages and the consequences of these understandings, such as creating plant symbolism in folklore, their usage in etymological magic, folk medicine and agricultural practices. The author proposes a principle for the distribution of cases of etymological magic along a scale based on the ratio of verbal and contagious magic.

Anastasia Lopukhina. "No One Speaks Worse Than Us" vs "We're the Only Ones Who Speak Properly": Dialect Speakers' Changing Attitude Towards Their Speech

This paper is based on material from one of the Arkhangelsk dialects and examines the ideas of these dialect speakers about their language's status in comparison to other dialects and standard language. The results are compared to the results of similar research from the middle of the 20th century.

Alexei Prikhodkin. "You Really Don't Sound Like Us": The Effect of Proper Names' Ethnicity on Listener Expectations

This article explores the association between a standard variety of French and ethnicity by measuring the impact of non-verbal social information (proper names) on speech perception in French-speaking Switzerland. Given the current trend in Swiss integration policy, under which knowledge of the local language has become a favoured assessment tool of foreigners' improvement in terms of integration, our research provides empirical evidence that the mastery of this standard variety of French is not a magical key for the non-discriminatory treatment of people of immigrant descent. The results are discussed in terms of the discrepancy between cultural nationality and legal citizenship, and the limits of de-standardization processes in standard European languages.

Dmitry Sichinava. Pljuskvamperfekt(um) (Pluperfect) in Russian: a Linguistic Term in Non-Linguistic Contexts and Typological Data

The paper presents metaphorical uses of the Russian word *pljuskvamperfekt* ('Pluperfect') in literature and journalism at different periods in time. It demonstrates that the semantic associations of this word in non-linguistic contexts are strikingly close to the typology of pluperfect semantics in the languages of the world.

Keywords: pluperfect, grammatical typology, metaphorical use, naïve linguistic

Hélène Favreau. Speakers' Attitudes to Language: Generators or Mirrors of Sociolinguistic Changes? (The French Example)

The aim of this article is to present the results of a survey about the French and to analyse French speakers' attitudes towards language. After setting the theoretical framework and explaining the methodology of our fieldwork, we focus on some of the main themes of our questionnaire, which include language idealization, attachment to language, self-perception and the perception of other speakers' practices. Finally, we attempt to draw a parallel between speakers' attitudes and sociolinguistic changes.

Keywords: linguistic representations, norms, standard, socio-linguistic changes, French language, fieldwork.

Igor Sharonov. Folk Etymology and Quantitative Collocations in Russian

The article studies some questions of folk and naïve linguistics based on the material of lexical units and phraseology. The main body of the article concerns the role of folk linguistics in reconsidering the problematic grammatical construction "two (three; four; both; one and a half) + adjective + noun" (*four small goats, in Russian lit. "four of small goats"*).

Keywords: folk etymology, quantitative collocations, Russian stylistics.

On Flags, Dragons and Jokes

Sergey Neklyudov. These Capricious and Lazy Dragons: From Proverb to Myth

The title of this article harks back to a traditional Mongolian belief that it rarely thunders when there are many dragons in the skies, but if their number dwindles, it thunders more often. According to Rashid-al-Din Hamadani (14th century) as well as more recent data

(observations made in the last two centuries), dragons have always been considered to be the source of thunderstorms, and the dragon's characteristics and functions indicate its Chinese origin. But the Mongolian word for 'dragon' (*luu)* was in fact taken from Uyghurlar literary sources (Uyghur. *luu* < Chin. *lung*) and has been used in Mongolian written language from the 13th century onwards. Moreover, it has the same range of meanings as in the Uyghurlar where it refers not to the thunder creatures but to the calendar (as in 'the year of the dragon') or to the parts of the Buddhist cosmos ('the kingdom of dragons', 'the king of dragons'). It means that the image of the dragon (*luu*) as the spirit of thunderstorms belongs to (and was formed in) oral culture. Another possible influence comes from the Tibetan system of beliefs, which includes the water and weather spirits *klu*. In the Central Asian Buddhism these are often identified with chthonic serpents (sanskrit *nāga*) and therefore assume some of the latter's characteristics. The last stages of this process involve an additional semantic and functional interaction between Mongolian *luu* and Chinese *lung* and, finally, the merging of thunderstorm dragons with the guardian spirits of certain places. It leads to the emergence of new mythological constructs, *lus* (< *luus*, plural from *luu*) and *lusuud* (plural from *lus*), which are the guardian spirits of water sources here on earth and are not associated with the thunder makers *luu*. The disproportionate number of thunderstorms compared to dragons comes from Chinese saying: "Many dragons (*lung*) — the skies are dry, many daughters-in-laws — no one cooks". The Mongols took the first part and have reinterpreted it in a mytho-logical sense.

Keywords: mythology, folklore, popular meteorology, dragons, thunder makers, thunderstorm, thunder, lightning, guardian spirits, Buddhist, Mongolian, Uyghurlar, Chinese, Tibetan.

Nikita Petrov. The Russian Flag: Phonosemantic Memory Technique and Folklore Texts

The article describes the content and structure of mnemonic words and sentences for the colours of the Russian flag (white-blue-red). The author analyses mnemonic texts created to remember the sequence of the coloured stripes ("White tsar on the blue sea beat red Turks"; "Boris [meaning Boris Yeltsin] sits in the Kremlin") and also demonstrates and comments upon explanations of this very specific sequence. The analysis is based on material taken from Internet blogs, terminology discussions on professional forums and interviews. Mnemonic formulas, phrases and figurative utterances designed to be a reminder of the colour sequence of the flag utilise folklore symbolism, contain important historical information (for example, relating to the flag change in 1991) and correlate to pseudo-

historical chronological symbolism (the bloody past, disturbing present and bright future). Through analysing these kinds of texts, which are intended (at first glance) to help people remember the colour sequence, we can better understand the mechanisms for incorporating and interpreting important cultural meaning and its transmission through time.

Keywords: phonosemantics, mnemonics, Russian flag, memory technique, folklore tradition.

Alexandra Arkhipova, Manolo Alejandrez. Political Humour of Liberty Island: What Cubans Say About Fidel Castro

This work is the first scholarly publication on political jokes about the Cuban leader Fidel Castro. The collection includes 80 joke types, many with different text variants, which were recorded during fieldwork in Cuba in 2013. The jokes are presented in Spanish and Russian and complemented with linguistic, historical and typological comments. The preface of the collection is dedicated to the functioning of contemporary political jokes in Cuba, as well as to problems related to plot adaptation. The typological analysis carried out enables us to trace some political jokes as originating from Soviet jokes that were assimilated in Cuba from the 1960s, and to identify how they were subsequently modified.

Keywords: political joke, Cuba, Fidel Castro, joke type index, Arvo Krikmann, joke typology.

Anastasiya Astapova. "These People Can't Even Sort Potatoes Without Their Father": Belarusian Political and Ethnic Jokes

This article includes the publication of contemporary Belarusian political and ethnic jokes collected through oral interviews, written questionnaires, and statuses on social network websites (2011–2013). It also describes the circumstances in which the material was collected, as well as the features of how the jokes function and fears related to joke-telling in contemporary Belarus. The texts of jokes are arranged according to their frequency (from the most to the least often recorded) and accompanied by references (if ethically permissible). Based on the corpus of 93 Belarusian texts collected from oral and quasi-oral sources and their further comparison to jokes not related to Belarusian circumstances, the author observes that most popular jokes have Soviet and post-Soviet (non-Belarusian) versions. Moreover, a single joke type frequently exists in several versions, including a non-political one. It leads the author to the following hypothesis: there are certain plot schemes that adapt easily to multiple circumstances, which makes them productive and popular for various situations, not merely in totalitarian and political

circumstances. Realising that such conclusions cannot be final based on a collection of just 93 texts, the author suggests that joke researchers should pay more attention to oral texts — which are increasingly ignored in the face of much easier fieldwork on the Internet — as oral jokes may provide unique ideas that may be difficult to find through analysing Internet humour alone.

Keywords: political joke, totalitarian joke, joke type, frequency publication, oral joke, Internet humour.

Materials from Expeditions

Dmitry Pantyukhin. The Experience of Gathering Jokes in Cuba: A Fieldwork Trip in 2013

The article reports on the problems that the author encountered in Cuba during field work. The main goal was to gather jokes, primarily about the character Pepito. It turned out that Cubans are very cautious and for the most part would only reluctantly relate the jokes, especially if they had a political context. Of course, this was not conducive to gathering representative material.

Keywords: Pepito, Cuba, Cuban folklore, joke.

Reviews

János Géczi. *The Rose and its Symbols in Mediterranean Antiquity.* Tubingen: Narr Verlag, 2011. 453 p. (*Valeria Kolosova*. That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet...)

The review considers János Géczi's monograph *The Rose and its Symbols in Mediterranean Antiquity.* The book concerns the forming of rose symbolism in Ancient Greece, Ancient Rome, and the culture of early Christianity. Moreover the monograph describes various aspects of Mediterranean life in antiquity — its mythology, literature, art, medicine, politics, economy.

Keywords: ethnolinguistics, ethnobotany, ethnobiology, Slavonic folklore, Slavonic studies, plant names, folk culture, lexicon, symbolism, motivation.

S.A. Shtyrkov. *Predanija ob inozemnom nashestvii: krestiansky narrativ i mifologija landshafta (na materialakh Severo-Vostochnoj Novgorodchiny)* [Historical Legends about Foreign Invasion: The Peasant Narrative and Mythology of Landscape (based on material from the north-east Novgorod area)]. SPb.: Nauka, 2012. 228 p. (*Eugeniy Platonov*)

The review considers the book by S.A. Shtyrkov, which is devoted to the investigation of popular folk narratives about *Lithuanian invasion*

or *Lithuanian war,* which are widespread within the north-west region of Russia. The modern sacred landscape of the villages is believed by locals to be a consequence of this *war.* The author tried to discover the roots of these narratives in the writings of the medieval Russian church.

Keywords: narrative, natural holy places, Lithuanian invasion, folklore, north-west Russia.

Tracy McDonald. *Face to the Village: The Riazan Countryside under Soviet Rule, 1921–1930.* Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2011. xviii + 422 p. (*Jonathan Waterlow*)

This monograph examines early attempts to 'sovietize' the country-side, skilfully avoiding simplistic 'state'-'population' binaries and instead presenting us with a nuanced picture of the complex and often ambiguous relationship which emerged between the two. Drawing on extensive research, McDonald significantly develops our understanding of how the early Soviet countryside functioned, what this semi-separate society was like on an everyday basis and greatly enhances our understanding of how the 'centre' and the 'periphery' were engaged with and mutually influenced one another.

Keywords: Soviet studies, 'Sovietization' of the countryside, 'centre' and 'periphery', Riazan region.

Reconstructing the House of Culture. Community, Self, and the Makings of Culture in Russia and Beyond / Ed. by Brian Donahoe and Joachim Otto Habeck. N.Y.; Oxford: Berghahn Books, 2011. 336 p. (*Denis Maslov*)

The reviewer briefly describes the contents of the reviewed book *Reconstructing the House of Culture. Community, Self, and the Makings of Culture in Russia and Beyond* and analyses the methodology of the study as a whole.

Keywords: Siberia, house of culture, Post-Socialism.

V.B. Kolosova. *Leksika i simvolika slavianskoi narodnoi botaniki. Etnolingvisticheskii aspekt.* [The Lexis and Symbolism of Slavonic Folk Botany. The Ethnolinguistic Aspect]. M.: Indrik, 2009. 352 p. (*Alexandra Ippolitova*)

The review considers V.B. Kolosova's monograph *The Lexis and Symbolism of Slavonic Folk Botany. The Ethnolinguistic Aspect*, concerning ideas about wild herbaceous plants in traditional Slavonic culture.

Conferences

Irina Sedakova. Urban Festivals in Changing Times

This analytical review of the conference which took place in Vilnius (30th–31st October 2013) reveals the wide array of research attitudes towards the transformation of urban festivals. Changes in the form and content of celebrations have been studied by historians, ethnologists, folklorists and musicologists. The coexistence of Christian and Muslim ritual practices and feasts and different ethnic traditions in a single city are discussed through the issues of migration, multiculturalism and globalization.

Anna Smelova. Religious Nationalism in Theory and Practice

A review of the conference 'Religious Nationalism as Concept and Practice', which took place in St Petersburg on 25th and 26th November 2013, describes each paper presented at the conference and summarises the discussions.

In Memoriam

Calvert Watkins (13th March 1933 — 20th March 2013) (*Yaroslav Vasilkov*)

An obituary for Calvert Watkins — the greatest American specialist in Indo-European linguistics in the second half of the 20th — beginning of the 21st century. The significance of his works extends far beyond the limits of linguistics. His studies on proto-Indo-European culture and poetic tradition may be of interest to anthropologists, archaeologists, folklorists and humanitarians of other specializations.