

In the scope of the master thesis under the title “Language Change and Language Contact Phenomena in the Old-Russian documents between the Hansa and Russia and Livonia and Russia” is language change of the Old Russian, its relation with the Low German and the Latin and their contact from the 12th till the 15th ct. For representation of this problem there are used 35 Russian documents, 29 Low German documents and 10 Latin ones from the period mentioned. The ancestor of this paper was a bachelor paper, in which the peculiarities of the town Polock were examined and compared with the Low German material from this region. In the master thesis this problem is deepened, so that the texts from the other West Russian towns as Novgorod, Pskov, Smolensk and Vitebsk are examined, because there was although the contact with German merchants and Livonian knights. Attention is particularly paid to the text description in summa and to the pragmatic strategies, which differ typologically between the Old Russian documents from the different areas and the Low German documents.

The paper contains 4 parts: introduction and theoretical part, description of protocol, description of the core of documents and conclusion, there is a list of the literature as well. In the introduction the author describes the problems of the Russian documents’ research and its history, makes historical remarks on the documents described, copes with some theoretical problems and provides classification of the documents. Protocol is described in the second part of the paper: there are the Russian documents scrutinized, and their protocol is compared within the Russian region and with the Low German material. In the third part there is a description of the documents provided from the functionally communicative point of view. Thus there are the documents from different Russian regions compared and although the comparison with the Latin and the Low German documents done.

The author examines the text as the whole system, where the genre (business letter) and the tradition (Byzantine and West European) are very important. The author concludes, that the West European tradition is although found in the region of Polock. That means, that this Polockian tradition has been derived from the western examples and has plenty of cooccurrences with them.