

Abstract

The German influence on Kashubian and its confrontation with the Polish influence

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The theme of this dissertation is the evolution of the presence of the language contact phenomena in a particular example of a contact situation on the Slavonic-Germanic linguistic border in the 20th century. The research is based on the analysis of Kashubian according to the following three aspects: the extent of the Germanic (both Low and Literary German) interference in Kashubian, the diachronic view consisting in the evaluation of the impact of a rapid sociolinguistic turn (change of the ‘High’ Language from German to Polish) and the birth of a literary language seen from the point of view of contact linguistics.

The study is divided into two main parts. The first half of the study is dedicated to a deep analysis of both the morphosyntactical and the lexical influence of German in Kashubian based on a corpus of a written record of spoken language from c. 1900. The second half of the study discusses the analyses of the presence of contact phenomena (described in the first part of the essay) in the selected literary works covering the period from the late 19th century up to the present day. The outcome of the dissertation is the identification and description of the fate of the German morphosyntactical and lexical phenomena in Kashubian and the integration of new features coming from general Polish.

In accordance with the results of the dissertation, we can distinguish six types of German interference in Kashubian from a diachronic point of view. The 1st type comprises the features which were not accepted by literary Kashubian (e.g. specific expression of negation, *ad hoc* borrowings). The presence of the 2nd type (e.g. German word order, sequence of tenses, loan translation of subjunctive mode) in the literary language is very limited and does not generally continue beyond the mid 20th century.

The 3rd type comprises the phenomena which were almost grammaticalized around c. 1900 (overt subject, Present Perfect and Pluperfect, phrasal verbs), but their further use becomes rather sporadic. The 4th type of German interference represents the phenomena which have survived fully (e.g. Low German words from the private sphere, non declinable loan adjectives, use of some prepositions, periphrastic imperative). The 5th type is made up of the phenomena which were adapted due to Polish influence (e.g. the substitution of Low German words by the old German loanwords in Polish). The last type comprises the features that were not so frequent in the primary corpus, but their use became more widespread due to the influence of literary Kashubian (some lexical units).

The dissertation aspires to be a contribution to the current process of the codification of Kashubian.