

Cordula Ratajczakowa: Sorbian-German Lusatia – a bicultural area of non-meeting? Results from a school survey

This essay analyses selected results from a survey conducted in 2007/8 as part of a research project at the Sorbian Institute. In this survey schoolchildren in Bautzen were interviewed about their attitude towards the Sorbian language. The starting point is the conflict between the official political discourse of the “thousand year old situation of Germans and Sorbs living alongside each other” in the bilingual area and the apparent lack of acceptance of the Sorbian language by German-speaking schoolchildren. This conflict is analysed first of all in three sections. It is shown that the German schoolchildren have hardly any experience of the Sorbian language and that they come into greater contact with other languages, such as Russian or Spanish. Their (rare) contact with Sorbian is described by them in negative accounts, which range from (intentional) exclusion to a feeling of being put down, i.e. receiving the impression that Sorbs spoke in Sorbian in order to insult Germans with impunity.

At the same time a high level of acceptance of the Sorbian language in its own right and of bilingualism in the region was registered. This paradox is resolved if a distinction is made between a general acceptance of the language and a rejection of actual language contact. That both phenomena can manifest themselves at the same time can be explained by the background, in which biculturalism is still conceived in Lusatia in the form of two mutually exclusive parallel national worlds, German and Sorbian. The article concludes by arguing in favour of a new intercultural dialogue, which would allow in the future for the possible creation of a common environment in which both languages could exist.

Małgorzata Mieczkowska: Protest demonstrations by the Sorbs – a form of political communication

Organisations representing national minorities give expression to their respective collective interests. The way this happens depends on the external political circumstances and the internal possibilities at the disposal of a particular organisation. The structures and means of communication in a pluralist democracy form the basis for the modern ways of exercising power, as is shown in European minorities policy.

German unification in 1990 led in many fields to an extension of political activity. The Sorbs of Lusatia have since seen many examples of threats to their identity and have reacted to these in three fundamental situations: 1. the destruction of Sorbian and German-Sorbian villages as a result of lignite mining; 2. the cuts in the network of Sorbian schools in Saxony; 3. the reduction of financial resources for the Sorbian institutions by central government.

The article describes demonstrations by Sorbs in Bautzen and Berlin in 2008, which represented a completely new form of dealing with national conflicts. Among other things, the question is raised about the political effectiveness of these communicative strategies.

Peter Barker: Sorbian Ethnic Interests, the GDR State and the Cold War (1945–1971)

The development of the Sorbian minority during this period presents a clear example of the clash between international, national and local ethnic politics, in which local interests were subservient to national and international interests. The result was continuing assimilation despite the introduction of a network of cultural institutions and support from neighbouring Slav countries in the very early period up to 1948, especially from Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia. The SED, under pressure from the Soviet administration, did embark on a policy of support for Sorbian culture and language through the creation of a network of Sorbian cultural institutions in the late 1940s and early 1950s, but ethnic politics became subservient to national and international politics, and Sorbian leaders had to accept that, or face the consequences. The only structures which were able to provide significant support were the Churches, in particular the Catholic Church, where a Sorbian identity was equated with a Catholic religious identity. It was here the grassroots in the Sorbian community found its local support, as the Domowina had been forced to give way to the pressures of national policy, which, despite the rhetoric, did not always have Sorbian ethnic interests at the heart of its concerns. Also, it could not escape the political influence of the Cold War, which meant that the external activities of the Domowina, especially those which took place in the context of the German-German conflict, were constrained by the superpower conflict in the Cold War.

Katharina Elle: The Sorbs as a central theme in novels. A comparison of novels by Arnold von Vietinghoff-Riesch and Werner Bergengruen

The writer Werner Bergengruen (1892–1964) and the forestry specialist Arnold von Vietinghoff-Riesch (1895–1962) were contemporaries and both of German-Baltic origin. They were moreover both authors of novels “Am Himmel wie auf Erden” (In heaven and on earth)/ “Der tanzende Kranich” (The dancing crane), which give a prominent place to the Sorbs in very similar ways.

The question of the function of the Sorbian theme in the novels is at the centre of this analysis. It concentrates on the image of Sorbian culture and mentality which the two authors present, and their attitude towards the object of their observations. The main focus is on the two Sorbian characters in the novels (both women, Worschula and Marie), who are both examined in particular.

Jens Bulisch: Wenceslaus Warichius the Elder and his time. Lutheran priesthood between orthodox erudition and farming

Wenceslaus Warichius achieved a place of honour in the history of Sorbian literature and culture as a result of the publication of the first book in Sorbian in 1595, Luther’s *Small Catechism*. This present article investigates the life of the Göda pastor and sets it in the general context of the time.

Warichius studied in Wittenberg; he became curate in Göda in 1587 and priest of the parish in 1589. As a result he took over one of the largest parishes in Saxony. The parish was divided between the Saxon patrimonial lands and Upper Lusatia and shaped the working conditions of the priest. The author considers, amongst other things, the econo-

mic conditions of his work as a priest, spiritual/theological issues, as well as the liturgical structure of services from the bilingual point of view. In this connection the translation of the *Catechism* is acknowledged as an outstanding intellectual/religious achievement.

Saskia Pronk-Tiethoff: The language and authorship of *Tón Prawé Khatolski Spihel* (1752)

In 1752, the book *Tón Prawé Khatolski Spihel* was published. Although the work was published anonymously, Handrij Dučman attributes it to Měrcin Golian (1867: 554, 563–564). Golian was parish priest at the Church of Our Lady on the Salzmarkt (now Kirchplatz) in Bautzen and canon in the chapter of the St. Petri Cathedral. In the *Catalogus Cleri Lusatii*, Hauptmann describes him as a “great benefactor of the motherland, who published Sorbian books at his own cost”.

The present study is concerned with an analysis of the language of *Tón Prawé Khatolski Spihel*. It will be shown that the language is not uniform throughout the book: the language in the first half of *Tón Prawé Khatolski Spihel* differs significantly from that in the second part of the book. The differences concern the orthography, phonology, morphology as well as the lexicon and are such that the work appears to comprise texts from two different authors.

Lechosław Jocz: The phonological and sound characteristics of the vowels of the Schleife dialect

The vowel system of the Schleife dialect is given a new analysis in this article. It is based on recordings from the archive of the Sorbian Institute, on archival recordings from the Sorbian broadcasting station as well as on the personal recordings of the author, carried out in March 2006. The first part deals with a phonological analysis of the Schleife vowel sounds, in which the starting point is a comparison of the author’s personal observations with the three previously suggested interpretations. On this basis the author postulates a vowel system with eight elements: /i/, /ɪ/, /e/, /ɛ/, /a/, /o/, /ʊ/, /u/. The second part presents the results of a phonetical/sound analysis of the Schleife vowels. It records the average values of the first two formants and suggests an interpretation in graph form. In addition it explains the variation in the articulation of individual sounds from speaker to speaker.

Heinz Schuster-Šewc: The place names of Lusatia (Part II)

This present paper is the continuation of the article published in *Lětopis* 55 (2008) 2, pp. 94–108, ‘Die Ortsnamen der Lausitz – Anmerkungen zum Stand ihrer Erforschung’ (The Place Names of Lusatia – Notes on the Present State of Research). A further 25 Upper Sorbian and 26 Lower Sorbian place names, as well as 5 additional waterways, not dealt with in previous research, are discussed and analysed from the point of view of their meaning and formation. The article includes a list containing the surviving place names as examples, which identifies lexical root forms which are no longer known in present day Upper and Lower Sorbian.