

Anca Claudia Prodan: Reflections on a (New Materialist) Conceptualization of Sorbian Digital Culture

Contemporary culture is characterized by the omnipresence of digital technology in all areas of life, all around the world. The Sorbs also use digital technology intensively, leading to the development of a Sorbian digital culture over time. However, this has not yet been researched, leaving many unanswered questions, the most fundamental of which is how to define Sorbian digital culture. This article offers reflections on this question by reviewing definitions of both Sorbian culture and digital culture. It shows that considering the material infrastructure of digital technology is a precondition for defining Sorbian digital culture. New materialism is introduced as a possible approach, and examples are provided to support this argument.

Keywords: Sorbian culture, digital culture, digitality, new materialism

Detlev Rein: “Minority schools” and the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

Based on the frequent use of the term “minority schools”, the author examines whether this is suitable as a legal term and, also how the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM) deals linguistically and normatively with the issue of teaching both the respective minority language, as well as in it, and the teaching of the state language, as well as in it. From the numerous opinions of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention (ACFC) on the Convention, case studies are presented which show that the ACFC rejects monolingual schools, and even more so segregation in the educational system, and prefers a bi- or multilingual educational system that begins in this form as early as preschool.

Keywords: School system, minority school, segregation, minority language, state language, framework convention, minority in a minority

Goro Christoph Kimura: A Survey of Strategies to Maintain and Construct Sorbian language Areas where German Speakers are Present

Using Sorbian where non-speakers of Sorbian are present is a challenge to the preservation and formation of Sorbian language areas. In this article, such strategies are presented from a sociolinguistic perspective using concrete examples from Lusatia, and their potential is discussed. A widely recognized strategy to avoid the exclusive use of German is language mediation through translation and interpreting. However, the use of this strategy alone confirms the existence of parallel worlds of German and Sorbian, and does not provide added value to bilingualism. It therefore makes sense to utilise alternative strategies such as the inclusion of German speakers into Sorbian, creative and receptive bilingualism. The targeted promotion of these strategies is a task for interlingual language planning.

Keywords: Interlingual language planning, language mediation, creative bilingualism, receptive bilingualism, translation

Thomas Menzel: Differential Gender. Substantivized Adjectives and Participles in Sorbian from the Point of View of Gender-Linguistic Preferences

Adjectives and participles converted into nouns are subject to “differential gender”. This means that the feminine/masculine gender of personal referents is distinguished by gender-specific inflections only. In this way, a symmetrical expression of gender differences is made possible, which corresponds to gender-linguistic preferences in a particular way. In this study, we evaluate the inventory of personal nouns derived from adjectives and participles in the online lexicography of Lower and Upper Sorbian. We examine firstly whether these forms appear in gender pairs. Secondly, using semantic and formal criteria, we examine whether they appear as loan translations from German and would thus be able to transfer the gender-linguistic preferences of this major contact language into Sorbian. This process applies in both Sorbian languages to almost half of the substantivized forms. The present-day lexicography of Lower Sorbian works in a more regular way in relation to the gender pairing of substantivized adjectives and participles with reference to persons, as compared with Upper Sorbian online lexicography.

Keywords: Gender linguistics, differential gender, Sorbian online lexicography, substantivization, symmetrical expression of gender differences, lexical gaps

Bernd Koenitz: *Žičeń/Seitschen* – the Identity Problem of a Lusatian Village and its Name. (Did Thietmar von Merseburg know it, name it?)

The controversial question of whether the Upper Lusatian village of *Žičeń/Seitschen* can be historically identical with the castles <Sciciani>, <Ciani>, <Cziczani> and <Schizani> mentioned in medieval historical documents – including the famous chronicle of Thietmar von Merseburg – is discussed once again. This study deals with linguistic and also non-linguistic arguments that were recently put forward in *Lětopis* by Karlheinz Hengst in favour of the thesis that the mentioned place names can be definitively separated from the traditional handing down of the name *Žičeń*. In this article, the written forms of the „<Sciciani> group“ are analyzed anew. Alternative suggestions for their etymology are presented. Partially deviating significantly from previous research, the part of the name history of *Žičeń* that is generally recognized as undoubtedly proven is also explained anew with detailed documentation of previous research.

Keywords: Upper Sorbian, Old Sorbian, onymy, etymology, integration, language contact, High Middle Ages

Friedrich Pollack: A Polemical Treatise against the Wendish Theological College in Leipzig and the Pastoral Care of Sorbian Clergy in Upper Lusatia of 1768 (Edition)

This article deals with an unpublished treatise of 1768 by the Sorbian deacon, Matthäus Schultze / Matej Šořta, which was discovered in the papers left by the pastor and historian, Christian Knauth, after his death. In this treatise Schultze heavily criticizes the Wendish Theological College in Leipzig and cites a number of shortcomings in the Sorbian Lutheran Church. Schultze's polemical attack provides insights into different aspects of Sorbian intellectual and cultural history in areas of tension in Pietism, the Enlightenment and the development of a national consciousness. It makes it possible, above all, to come to a precise and subtle understanding of the different factions and controversies in the Sorbian, Lutheran clergy in the 18th Century. Schultze's observations on the problem of pastors without mother-tongue language skills and on the situation regarding the translation of religious texts in the early modern period are particularly revealing. This unique source is made completely accessible to research for the first time in this edition.

Keywords: Matthäus Schultze, Christian Knauth, Church history, Wendish Theological College, Pietism, the Enlightenment, polemical treatise

Thomas Menzel: Gender Stereotypes in the Paroemiology of Sorbian

All the entries that address the gender roles or relations of natural sexes are selected from two collections of Upper and Lower Sorbian proverbs. These roles are regularly recorded stereotypically in paroemiological units. Due to the currently low usage of the documented proverbs among speakers of Sorbian, only the historical state of the linguistically fixed gender stereotypes can be established here. Proverbs referring to women dominate over those referring to men. The taxonomic differentiation in the present proverb corpus is striking: although the majority of proverbs express negative gender stereotypes, a considerable number of proverbs show positively evaluated attributes, especially with reference to women.

Keywords: Gender linguistics, Lower Sorbian, Upper Sorbian, proverbs, stereotypes, gender roles, paroemiological dictionaries

