

Emerging voices: secondary syntax in a diachronic perspective

Phenomena such as parentheticals, paraphrases or vocatives are quite common in contemporary written texts. They are, however, remarkably rare in diachronically older documents. The present paper aims at accounting for the gradual appearance of these phenomena of secondary syntax in Early Balkan Slavic prose, arguing that it is closely tied to the development of text types and literary genres.

Phenomena of secondary syntax are basically indexical. This indexicality is signaled by explicitly positioning these structures outside the structures of primary syntax. They thereby establish a relation to their textual and/or communicative context, e.g.:

- towards the interlocutors: vocatives, addresses, meta-commentaries
- towards the utterance: parentheticals
- towards the current text: paraphrases
- towards other texts: quotations

In each case, the process of narration (Jakobson's 1971 speech event and its participants) is related to the object of narration (Jakobson's 1971 narrated event and its participants). Thereby, the 'narrating voice' is made explicit, as is characteristic of the narrative text type and literary genres based on this type (cf. Sonnenhauser 2015).

Early Balkan Slavic prose belongs to a transitional period as concerns linguistic and literary development. During this period, new genres are emerging which are characterised by the increasing role of author and narrator as opposed to the copyists and translators of earlier texts. The author becomes visible in apostils and annotations, the narrator by the explicit reflection on his narration. What can be observed, thus, is the introduction of narrative text types, besides the more traditional mimetic and descriptive ones.

The narrative voices reflecting on the narration become visible, among others, by the increasing usage of secondary syntax phenomena. Examples are given in (1)-(4): reference to the utterance (1), to the current text (2), to the interlocutors (3) and to another text (4). The latter are mostly passages from the Bible, given in Church Slavonic instead of the vernacular.

- (1) *Zašto ako edna rečь se govori na edno męsto po Turski [...] (ili i po drugi nekoj jazykь [...]) na drugo męsto naxođdašь taę ista rečь da se govori čisto Bulgarski. (Grammatika 5)*
Because if at one place one word is pronounced in Turkish (*or in some other language*), the same word is pronounced in plain Bulgarian at another place.
- (2) *za da stani soveršenь ili filosofь (vь *Filosofičeskata nauka*) [...] ili Doktorь (vь *xekimadžiiskata nauka*) (KN 11)*
in order to become perfect as a philosopher (*in the philosophical arts*) or a doctor (*in the medical art*)
- (3) a. *poslušajte blagosloveni xristiani (Punčo)*
listen, blessed Christians
b. *videteli kakvo xorotuva svetaja Paraspekva georgiju (Punčo)*
do you see what Saint Paraskeva says to Georgij
- (4) *prinčina [...] da potopi Bogь zemlje-ta vь voda [...] i „reče Bogь: potreblju čelovęka, egože sotvorixь, ot lica zemli, jako umnožišasę zloby čelovękovь [...]“ (LS 1844/1)*
the reason why God drowned the earth in the sea, and „*God said: I will annihilate mankind, that I created, from the face of the earth, because human malice has increased*“

Traditionally, the phenomena illustrated in (1)-(4) have been dealt with from a lexicological point of view (i.e. borrowing), with respect to the vernacularisation of the language used in written documents and as concerns the development of a literary language. Analysing them within the framework of secondary syntax, as proposed in this paper, allows figuring out their common function and sheds light on the interrelation of linguistic and literary development.

References

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Sources

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- LS: *Ljuboslovie* [journal]
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