INFLUENCE OF DIALECTRIC LANGUAGE PROCESSES ON THE LANGUAGE VARIABILITY

1. BASIC TERMS

Synchrony and diachrony

Classification of languages:
- areal classification of living languages
- classification according to the number of speakers
- typological classification
- genealogical (generic) classification of languages

Ferdinand de Saussure: Course in General Linguistics (1913, published by his students)
- language as a system consisting of units and relations among them
- synchrony: language system at one time point
- diachrony: language development

Arbitrariness of (a language) sign
Ferdinand de Saussure:
- a two-side model of (a language) sign

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{Signified} \\
\text{signifier}
\end{array}
\]

- communication

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{Signified} \\
\text{signifier} \\
\text{signifier} \\
\text{signified}
\end{array}
\]

- the relation between the signified and the signifier is arbitrary

TASK:
Does the existence of iconic words refute the assumption of the arbitrariness of (a language) sign?

En. cuckoo sign for a tree American sign language
Cz. kukačka Chinese sign language
Germ. der Kuckuck
It. cucù
Rus. kukushka
Concept of language relationship and a protolanguage

- Copying (borrowing) a word (from the Middle East En. coffee, Germ. Kaffee, Rus. kofe, Cz. káva/kafe)
- Relationship between languages

Sir William Jones, speech about Sanskrit (1786)

- Sanskrit, Greek, Latin are descendants of a common source, as well as Gothic, Celtic and the Old Persian
- The relations between languages
- The parallel development of languages

Languages undergo changes – all languages, all the time

- Protolanguage → Bahasa Indonesia → Latin → Portuguese
  Tolai
  Paamese
  Fijian
  Maori
  Spanish
  French
  Italian
  Romanian
- language death

Methods of language reconstruction

Old Slavonic *golva → Cz. hlava head
  Pol. glowa
  Rus. golova
  Upper Sorb. hłowa

Comparative method

- comparison of different languages, the common ancestor is looked for (protolanguage)
- every reconstruction works with changes which are probable, systematic
- as few changes between the protolanguage and the descendants as possible
- reconstructions should fill in the gaps in the systems rather than create unbalanced systems

Old Slavonic:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Voiced</th>
<th>voiceless</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Labial</td>
<td>p</td>
<td>b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental</td>
<td>t</td>
<td>d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Velar</td>
<td>k</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Internal reconstruction

- comparison of variants in one language, a former phase of the same language is looked for (prelanguage)

new Czech dům – domek *a house – a small house* (vowel quantity, quality)
old Czech dóm – domek (vowel quantity, ð – ů)

Reliability of the reconstruction

- the protolanguage is a linguistic model

Span. kabo
French /ef
It. k apo
Rom. kap

Reconstruction: *kapo
Original protolanguage: kaput
Determining relatedness
Finding families
- systematic meaningful correspondences in lexical items, morphology, and generally grammar
- Nonlinguistic features of speech communities, such as religion, race, genetics, or cultural practices, provide no evidence for language classification. Speech communities can and do shift languages, cultural practices, and religion.
- We cannot prove that two languages are not related.

Subgrouping
- Numbers in assorted European languages:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Dutch</th>
<th>German</th>
<th>French</th>
<th>Italian</th>
<th>Russian</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>wan</td>
<td>e:n</td>
<td>ains</td>
<td>ðe</td>
<td>uno</td>
<td>aďin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tu:</td>
<td>twee:</td>
<td>tsvai</td>
<td>dø</td>
<td>due</td>
<td>dva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ðai:</td>
<td>dri:</td>
<td>dsvai</td>
<td>tswa</td>
<td>tre</td>
<td>tr²i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fɔː :</td>
<td>fiːr</td>
<td>fι:s</td>
<td>katʃ</td>
<td>kwatro</td>
<td>tʃitir²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>farv</td>
<td>fɛi'f</td>
<td>fynf</td>
<td>s'ɛk</td>
<td>tʃɪŋkwɛp²al¹</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. TYPES OF DIACHRONIC CHANGES

Sound changes: phonetic and phonemic change
- phonetic description (phonetics); the basic unit: phone
- phonemic description (phonology); the basic unit: phoneme

\[ \text{world} \quad \text{American English: } \ddot{a} \]
\[ \text{British English: } \ddot{o} \]

Swedish \[ \text{Stockholm} \quad s \]

Czech \[ si:t \quad s \quad (sít) \quad \text{to seed} \]
\[ fi:t \quad í \quad (šít) \quad \text{to sew} \]

- method of discerning phonemes: minimal pairs

\[ d - d' \quad (ď) \]
Czech \[ d\acute{e}me \quad d \quad (jďeme) \quad \text{we are going} \]
\[ d\breve{e}me \quad d' \quad (jďěme) \quad \text{let us go} \]

French \[ djö \quad d \quad (mon Đieu) \quad \text{my God} \]
\[ džö \quad d' \quad (mon Đieu) \quad \text{my God} \]

\[ i: - y: \quad (ü) \]
German \[ fi:š \quad i: \quad (vier) \quad \text{four} \]
\[ fy:š \quad y: \quad (für) \quad \text{for} \]

Czech \[ mi: \quad i: \quad (mí) \quad \text{my} \]
\[ my: \quad y: \quad (mí) \quad \text{my – non standard, but individually possible} \]

\[ a - á \]
central Czech \[ mila: \quad a: \quad (milá) \quad \text{nice} \]
\[ mila: \quad a: \quad (myla) \quad \text{washed – non standard prolonging of vowels in last syllables} \]

Diachronic view on the phonetic and phonemic changes:

\[ \text{world} \quad \text{American English: } \ddot{a} \]
\[ \text{British English: } \ddot{o} \]

\[ n - ň \]
Old English \[ singə ň \quad \text{(singer)} \]
Modern En. \[ sinə ň \quad \text{(singer)} \]
vs.
\[ sinə n \quad \text{(sinner)} \]
### Types of sound changes

#### Lenition and fortition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stronger</th>
<th>Weaker</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>p</td>
<td>b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p</td>
<td>f</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f</td>
<td>h</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x</td>
<td>h</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b</td>
<td>w</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v</td>
<td>w</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>ə</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d</td>
<td>l</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>s</td>
<td>r</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>k</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Latin  
*flo:sis – flo:ris*  of the flower

#### Sound loss

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Written form</th>
<th>Spoken form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>Chat</td>
<td>fá (*) cat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fils</td>
<td>fi (*) son</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>History</td>
<td>hist∈u (*)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Sound addition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Written form</th>
<th>Personal pronunciation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Old Czech</td>
<td><em>izba</em></td>
<td>jizba room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>okno</td>
<td>vokno (dial.) window</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modern Czech</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Metathesis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Written form</th>
<th>Personal pronunciation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Engl.</td>
<td>relevant</td>
<td>revelant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech</td>
<td>permanentka</td>
<td>permanentka (season ticket)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>velryba</td>
<td>verlyba (whale)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Systematic metathesis: languages of the Philippines – consistent switching of word-final s and initial t

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Written form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tagalog Ilokano</td>
<td>subut redeem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamis</td>
<td>samqit sweet</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Fusion and fission

French: vowel + nasal – nasalized vowel  
*bon – bɔ*  good

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Written form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>li:ziŋ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech</td>
<td>li:ziŋk</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Assimilation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Syllable</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>im-</td>
<td>imbalance before bilabial consonants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>in-</td>
<td>inconsiderate before velars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>in-</td>
<td>inadmissible, indivisible before other sounds incl. vowels</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dissimilation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Syllable</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afrikaans</td>
<td>*sxo:n – sko:n</td>
<td>clean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*sxoudør – skoudør</td>
<td>shoulder</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TASK:**
Many places in England have spellings that do not reflect their actual pronunciations. Suggest the kinds of phonetic changes that may have taken place as suggested by the original spellings:

- Cirencester: *sista*
- Salisbury: *salzbai*
- Barnoldswick: *ba:lik*

**Morphological changes**

- basic unit: morpheme
- boundary shifts:
- analogy: A : B :: C : D
  - example: *meaning*: meaningประโยชน์ : formประโยชน์ : formประโยชน์
**Syntactic changes**

Morphological types:

- **Isolating type**

  Hiri Motu (Papua New Guinea)
  
  `Lauegu sinana gwarume ta  ia  hoia Koki dekenai.``
  
  "My mother bought a fish at Koki."

- **Agglutinating type**

  Sye (Erromango island in Vanuatu)
  
  `Ov-nevya rep  yu-tw-ampy-o yh-or u-ntoy``
  
  Plural-boy they_will_not-want_to-see-them in-sea
  
  "The boys will not want to see them in the sea."

- **Inflecting type**

  Lat.
  
  `Marcell-us amat Sophi-am``
  
  Marcellus (subj.) loves Sophia (obj.)
  
  "Marcellus loves Sophie."

Typological changes in a cycle:

morphological reduction  \[\rightarrow\]  phonological reduction

morphological fusion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Old Slavonic</th>
<th>Old Czech</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*nova ja &gt; *novaja &gt; nová &gt; ta nová</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New_fem the_fem the_new_fem new_fem the_fem new_fem</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

isolating expression  \[\rightarrow\]  agglutinating  \[\rightarrow\]  inflecting  \[\rightarrow\]  isolating