

Handbook on Slavonic Gender and Queer Linguistics

Dennis Scheller-Boltz / Vojko Gorjanc (eds.)

In Slavonic Studies, gender linguistic research has been growing, developing, and obviously increasing diversity for more than 25 years now. Today, gender linguistics must be seen as an established and generally accepted linguistic discipline that offers a wide range of important research questions and research fields and that, moreover, wishes to build a bridge between research and society which is highly necessary and invaluable today. However, a general and, thereby, compacted, and interdisciplinary overview of what has been done and investigated within Slavonic gender linguistics is still missing – quite apart from the fact that there is even no comprehensive overview of gender-linguistic research for only one language. Furthermore, one has to take into account that gender-linguistic research has emerged in Slavonic Studies long before the 1990s because linguistic questions concerning, for example, the relation between grammatical gender and sex have always played a significant role within Slavonic linguistics, although those questions have, of course, never been labelled as gender-linguistic.

A definitely new linguistic discipline which, however, is tightly linked to gender linguistics and which, moreover, has evolved from gender linguistic research is the field of queer linguistics. And to deal with the relation between language, gender, and sexuality is new insofar as talking explicitly and openly about sexuality has been a taboo in many socialist Slavonic countries. Furthermore, a relation between language and sexuality was not noticed for a long time. And even nowadays, the concept of queerness and the treatment of queer linguistic questions seem to be new and somehow difficult to handle. Nevertheless, queer linguistic research is catching up so that one can notice at least some development in this research field which will be more and more important even within Slavonic studies in the future.

Now, it is high time to compile all the results from Slavonic gender and queer linguistic research. The planned Handbook on Slavonic Gender and Queer Linguistics tries to fulfil this mission. It pursues the aim of bringing together research findings in Slavonic gender and queer linguistics and it will show which linguistic sub-disciplines have been investigated from a gender and queer linguistic perspective so far. In doing so, the handbook will not only give overviews of gender and queer linguistics within each Slavonic language (Polish, Czech, Slovak, Sorbian, Russian, Ukrainian, Belorussian, Bulgarian, Slovenian, Croatian, Serbian, Bosnian, Macedonian, Montenegrin). It will also apply a cross-language and cross-cultural approach in order to show similarities and differences in Slavonic languages and to bring all these languages together. This concept will not only bring to light diverse research approaches and research findings, but it will, finally, also lead to an integrative research on gender and queer linguistics within Slavonic languages. Not least, international, above all this means “Western” research will be integrated in each overview, for international works are the spirit which Slavonic gender and queer linguistic research is based on.

Among the contributors to the handbook, one will find internationally renowned researchers from Slavonic linguistics as well as from non-Slavonic disciplines. The handbook is planned to be published in 2018.

The editors