



Symposium

Language Policies in the Light of Anti-Discrimination and Political Correctness: Tendencies and Changes in the Slavonic Languages

21-24 March 2018, WU Vienna

Every two years, the International Research Group on *Slavonic Gender and Queer Linguistics* organises a symposium on a specific topic in the context of gender and queer linguistics. The symposia complement each other and reflect – due to their thematic diversity – the multifaceted and, what is more important, topical state of the art. The symposia serve as a mirror of the ongoing research in Slavonic gender and queer linguistics, they bring international research findings and researchers together, and they intend to make Slavonic gender and queer linguistics grow and, more important, visible on an international arena.

Next year's second symposium of the International Research Group on *Slavonic Gender and Queer Linguistics* is dedicated to current measures and ongoing activities in the field of language policies which are meant to guarantee an anti-discriminatory and politically correct language use in the context of identity.

1) We wish to discuss the topical state as to the use of motion suffixes and other linguistic options to make women visible in and throughout language. In this context, it is not only important to give an insight into word-formation processes, semantic and pragmatic studies as well as into conversation and discourse studies. Considering other disciplines, e.g. lexicography, cognitive studies as well as translation studies and intercultural studies and how they deal with motion suffixes is also relevant. As a consequence, we must question no less to what extent gender-neutral language plays a role in textbooks and in teaching lessons because motion suffixes or the general process and the actual attempt at making women visible in and throughout language bear a high socioculture-bound potential. And even this sociocultural specific can be of great importance in a lot of different situations and areas. In addition to this, guidelines on gender-neutral, anti-discriminatory, or politically correct language use are an interesting object of study as they are gradually developed for Slavonic languages. The symposium will be a good platform to present those guidelines and to discuss their *raison d'être* and development.

2) Moreover, non-heteronormative identity concepts will be addressed during the symposium. It is clear today that discussing gender-neutral language use – especially in the light of anti-discrimination and political correctness – and focussing on the respective language-political measures and activities must not be limited to a gender-binary perspective. Our reality and everyday life as well as the ongoing changes in the world call for a more precise look at identities so that, as a consequence, one must discuss options of language use in a diverse identity context much broader.

3) There will also be room for discussions about general gender- and queer-related topics.

Researchers are invited to give presentations on the abovementioned topics. The corresponding proceedings will be published in the series *Slavonic and East European Gender and Queer Linguistics*, edited by Dennis Scheller-Boltz, Alla Arkhangelska, Ursula Doleschal, Alla Kirilina, and Olena Levchenko (Kubon & Sagner Media 2018).

No conference fee

Languages for presentations: every Slavonic language or English

Proposals are accepted until 31 August 2017 (incl. title, abstract, short biogram)

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