

Sijmen Tol and René Genis, eds., with Ekaterina Bobyleva and Eline van der Veken. *Bibliography of Slavic linguistics: 2000–2014*. 3 Vols. Leiden: Brill, 2015. Vol. 1: lxxvii + 1102 pp.; Vol. 2: xi + 1276 pp.; Vol. 3: vii + 1279 pp. ISBN 9789004292918.

Reviewed by Rosemarie Connolly

The *Bibliography of Slavic linguistics: 2000–2014* is a comprehensive guide to finding anything and everything ever published on a particular topic pertaining to Slavic linguistics within this fifteen-year period. Editors Sijmen Tol, coordinator of the Linguistic Bibliography project at Brill, and René Genis, Ekaterina Bobyleva, and Eline van der Veken, all members of the Linguistic Bibliography team, have ample experience in compiling bibliographies—experience that is displayed on every page of this work. With close to 68,000 entries, the *Bibliography* covers the Slavic languages from Common Slavic and Old Church Slavic to each of the standard modern languages, as well as less-commonly studied languages such as Kashubian, Pomeranian, Polabian, Sorbian, and Rusyn. Many of the standard languages are divided into works on old, middle, and modern varieties. The table of contents is initially sorted by language family, then individual language, and finally subdivided into individual fields of study, from general topics through the history of the language and historical linguistics, phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, semiotics, applied linguistics, stylistics, psycholinguistics, neurolinguistics, sociolinguistics, computational linguistics, corpus linguistics, translation studies, typology, and many more. This three-volume set of over 3,600 pages includes research conducted in over thirty publication languages, such as (but not limited to) Albanian, Dutch, English, Finnish, German, Modern Greek, Hungarian, and Japanese in addition to the Slavic languages.

The introduction by Marc L. Greenberg reviews the origins of the field of Slavic linguistics, through the multitude of changes that have occurred over the past couple of decades with increased accessibility to research and information. In the current post-Soviet context in which student enrollments and funding have dwindled, Greenberg paints a promising picture of future trajectories for research with the growth of Internet-based corpora, including a list of all Slavic national corpora, and searchable historical databases, including access to Birchbark letters, the Freising Folia, the *Obščeslavjanskij lingvističeskij atlas*, the *Ètimologičeskij slovar' slavjanskix jazykov*, and Vasmer's *Ètimologičeskij slovar' russkogo jazyka*. This increased access to information is complemented by a number of conferences promoting international coopera-

tion and exchange of research, such as the Slavic Linguistics Society, Formal Approaches to Slavic Linguistics, the International Workshop on Balto-Slavic Accentology, the Slavic Cognitive Linguistics Association, and the International Congress of Slavists, among others.<sup>1</sup> Greenberg gives special attention to the Slavic Linguistics Society with its all-inclusive mission statement, noting the society's diverse modes of research as well as its geographically diverse researchers. Greenberg also points to new prospects of research in cooperation with fields beyond Slavic linguistics, such as general linguistics, history, archaeology, and genomics, for the study of Slavic diachronic geolinguistics, mentioning the debate over whether the vast spread of the Slavic languages was due more to migration, more to the use of Slavic as a lingua franca, or a combination of the two. Greenberg is pragmatic about the future of the field, citing the separate Russian rating system of journals,<sup>2</sup> and the evolving and increasingly important role of journal-impact factors and Hirsch-index measurements for our relatively small field and the limitations that these relationships create on Slavic linguistic scholarship internationally. However, he also recognizes the greater exchange of information and research through open-access publications, websites like Academia.edu, and various linguistically sophisticated blogs authored by scholars. This greater flow of research through digital access does not necessarily help scholars seeking tenure in an increasingly competitive job market, and it may not encourage institutions to broaden—or, sadly, even maintain—Slavic departments, but for scholarship in general the new access keeps the field vibrant and continually engaged. This is evidenced by the massive work under review.

A work of this magnitude if not carefully organized could have expanded to many more volumes than the present three. The *Bibliography* is meticulously organized and abbreviated in a reader-friendly manner, as long as the reader utilizes the explanations. The front matter includes 40 pages on the organization of the entries, transliteration tables (all Cyrillic is transliterated), and lists of abbreviations. All journal titles are abbreviated for purposes of space conservation. Some abbreviations are more intuitive, such as *BEL* for *Bälgarski ezik i literatura*, *JSL* for the *Journal of Slavic linguistics*, or *NLLT* for *Natural language and linguistic theory*, while others are less so, such as *PrJO* for *Prace jezykoznawcze* or *RALinc* for *Atti dell'Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei: Rendiconti della Classe*

<sup>1</sup> One conference missing from his list is Formal Description of Slavic Languages, held biennially in Europe, with frequent “half” meetings on the off years. Another conference stressing international cooperation that is missing from the list, while not pan-Slavic, is the Biennial Conference on Balkan and South Slavic Linguistics, Literature, and Folklore, held in North America.

<sup>2</sup> See “Èkspertnaja ocenka rossijskix naučnyx žurnalov po versii NIU-VŠÈ (2015).” *Polit.ru*, 8 April 2015, available at [http://polit.ru/article/2015/04/08/list\\_journals/](http://polit.ru/article/2015/04/08/list_journals/), accessed 7 October 2016.

*di scienze morali, storiche, e filologiche*. The fact is, multiple journal titles could be abbreviated the same way, so users of the *Bibliography* should always consult the list of abbreviations. (For example, *Limba română*, *Language research*, and *The linguistic review* could all potentially be abbreviated LR.) Entries for the journal titles are organized alphabetically by abbreviation rather than title, and include place of publication as well as the ISSN and eISSN, if available.

Individual entries are given first with a reference number that allows for faster cross-referencing with the indexes than page numbers would. Each entry includes authors' full names (also including the author's name on the publication in brackets if it has since changed) and full title and subtitle. Book entries include city and place of publication, year of publication, and the number of pages, though they do not include ISBNs (see below). Entries for articles within books include the reference number to the book and the page range, as well as the language(s) of the abstract and alternative titles, if provided in additional languages. Entries for articles in journals include the journal abbreviation, volume (and issue) number(s), year, and pagination, as well as abstract information. *Festschriften* have their own section, with the name of the honoree provided in boldface. Entries within each section are alphabetized by author.

For information more specific than the major languages and fields of study offered in the table of contents, the final 400 pages of volume 3 comprise three indexes, divided into name, language, and subject categories. The index of names is the longest and includes authors, editors, reviewers, honorees of *Festschriften*, and even names that appear in titles (e.g., "Jakobson, Roman" has three entries). The index of languages contains not only the Slavic languages, including some not listed in the table of contents such as Novgorodian or the pidgin *Russenorsk*, but also every other language touched upon in individual works, such as Afrikaans, Classical and Modern Arabic, Dutch, Gagauz, Hebrew (Pre-Biblical, Biblical, and Mishnaic, as well as Medieval and Modern), Italian, Mansi, Portuguese (Modern Iberian and Non-European), Romansh, Somali, Turkish (Old, Middle, and various modern dialects, as well as Turkish Sign Language), and Yoruba, to name a few. The index of subjects dissects the comprehensive list of fields from the table of contents into more specific subjects, spanning more than the final 100 pages of the volume. Each entry in the three indexes references the entry number of the relevant work.

Though the bulk of these volumes is dedicated to works published from 2000 to 2014, in fact the contents are not entirely limited to publications within those time limits. For example, if a book was published in the late 1990s but a review of that book was published in 2000 or later, said book is also included in the bibliography, along with all reviews of that book published both before and after 2000. Also, a section in volume 3 entitled "Older References" contains citations for older works referenced by other entries within the main body of the *Bibliography*.

Use of this volume is quite easy, although it requires access to all three volumes at once. Starting with the full, comprehensive table of contents for all three volumes in volume 1, one can find the volume and pages of a particular language and topic. For example, I chose to look at aphasia in Modern Polish, for which I found 16 references in volume 2, written in Polish and English. About half of the articles appear in books and half in journals, and there was one book entry. Following up on one of these entries, an English-language article in a book, in order to find the book's complete reference information, I had to go to volume 3 under Other References: Miscellaneous.

What the book entry does not include—nor indeed does any book entry include—is the book's ISBN, which in this case would be extremely useful to a librarian or the interested interlibrary loan (ILL) requester, considering that the entries directly above and below the example entry are citations of other books with the same title and the same editors and only different dates of publication (listed as 2008, 2010, and 2009);<sup>3</sup> the length of the first two books (2008 and 2010) is even quite similar (181 pp. versus 191 pp.), making it that much harder to correctly locate the exact book being referenced. Another piece of information lacking in the example above is the fact that the 2010 volume is available in its entirety online on the website of its publisher. Granted, a quick Google search will take the interested reader to this site, but one must consider searching for it online before submitting an ILL request.

Another important point is that the 2010-book entry in the example above includes a reference to a book review. This is quite a useful feature of the *Bibliography*—listing book review citations with the book entries themselves. In this entry, however, the book-review reference (in *Prace językoznawcze*, also available for free online in its entirety) is for the 2008 publication. Of course, the careful reader would in this case easily notice the discrepancy, since the publication of the book review is 2009, listed with the 2010 book.

My coming across this error was no more than happenstance, and a survey of other citations showed them to be accurate. And with a work of this magnitude, it is understandable to find minor mistakes. Humans are nothing if not imperfect, and that includes meticulous editors. Even with the chance occurrence of a mistake, this three-volume work is an invaluable resource in the vibrant, continually broadening field of Slavic linguistics. The one major drawback I see is the *Bibliography's* lack of reference to online publication information, especially for open-access materials. Even the open-access journals mentioned in Greenberg's introduction do not have URLs in the list of journals and their abbreviations. The only reference to online access for any of

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<sup>3</sup> While this may initially appear to be a mistake, I believe it is not, as the publisher of the 2009 book is different from that of 2008 and 2010, thus setting it alphabetically after the 2010 book, despite the year of publication. I verified this difference in the listed publisher online.

this information is, in fact, in Greenberg's introduction and the accompanying reference list.

Since *JSL* is the official journal of the Slavic Linguistics Society, it may be worth noting that Brill is offering a 25% discount off the list price of 499 € or US\$629 for members of SLS. This discount is good for calendar year 2016. A message was sent to the SLS listserv in January with the discount code to be used at <http://www.brill.com>.

On a final note, for those of us with less than perfect vision, be aware that these volumes are printed in 9-point font, and the two footnotes in Greenberg's introduction are printed at 7 points. It may be wise to have a magnifying glass handy when using these volumes.

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Received: June 2016

