

Rajna Dragičević, ed. *Krugovi Irene Grickat: Gramatičko-semantička istraživanja savremenog srpskog jezika* [Circles of Irena Grickat: Grammatical and semantic explorations of the modern Serbian language]. Beograd: Savez slavističkih društava Srbije, 2020. 587 pp. ISBN 978-86-81622-02-5.

Reviewed by Danko Šipka

The present volume includes various papers by Irena Grickat (1922–2009), an important yet less known Serbian linguist from the generation of Milka Ivić, Pavle Ivić, and Ivan Popović. The volume is edited by Rajna Dragičević of Belgrade University, who continues Grickat's intellectual tradition and has been a moving spirit behind various recent important projects in the field of lexicology, lexicography, and lexical morphology.

There are nine circles of Irena Grickat's scholarly interests featured in this book: 1) verb semantics, 2) adverbial semantics, 3) the semantics of indeclinable words, 4) lexical morphological and semantic features of diminutives, 5) the semantic and grammatical role of prefixation, 6) the semantic role of suffixation in the past and today, 7) the paradigmatic lexical relations of antonymy, 8) syntagmatic lexical relations, and 9) lexicography. Indeed, exploring these intricate linguistic problems is akin to visiting the nine circles of hell, and lexicography is appropriately in the ninth circle.

The volume encompasses 587 pages. It opens with a comprehensive biography of Grickat written by Rajna Dragičević (9–44), who has also provided a note explaining the architecture of the volume (44–47). The nine aforesaid circles contain a total of 29 papers written by Grickat between 1955 and 2003. An index is conspicuously absent from the volume.

The circle devoted to verb semantics (51–76) contains two papers: "The development of the meanings of the verb *imati*" and "What are all the meanings of *značiti*". The former paper analyses the key semantic and syntactic components of the Serbo-Croatian verb *imati*, meaning roughly 'to have' by revealing undercurrents of historical processes in which two Proto-Slavic verbs, *jęti* 'to take' and *iměti* 'to have', merged. The paper about the meaning of the verb *značiti* 'to mean' strives to show that the meaning of this verb actually happens, that it is performative rather than fixed, as we find it in dictionary definitions.

The section about adverbial semantics (77–190) includes six papers arranged chronologically, from the first paper published in 1951 to the last one

in the year 2000. "Adverbs and their relationship toward adjectives and adjectival meanings" focuses on less common meanings and functions of adverbs, in particular those that are in some kind of relationship with adjectives. "About one peculiarity of adverbs and adverbial phrases in Serbo-Croatian" addresses the use of the same adverbs in referring to location and destination, which is rather uncommon in most other Slavic languages. "About adverbs in Serbo-Croatian linguistic scholarship" provides a broad review of the treatment of adverbs in various grammars, papers, and dictionaries, with an eye toward detecting general epistemological regularities in the history of that treatment. "Adverbial words seen through the phenomenon of antonymy" focuses on the asymmetry of adverbial antonyms and their peculiarities compared to adjectival antonyms. "About certain pronominal (and adverbial) words in *k-*" explores additional meanings of the words like *ko* 'who' and *kako* 'how'. "The phenomena of being metaphorical in adverbs" looks into the mechanisms of metaphorical extensions of the adverbs that determine verbs.

The third circle is about the "Semantics of indeclinable words" (191–203). It includes two papers: "Semantic potential in some indeclinable words", about the ways in which the meaning of some conjunctions and adverbs morphs into new functions, and "About the preposition *za* in Serbian", which provides a review of the network of meanings of this preposition, and how they are related to one another and to a broader cultural background of the language.

The fourth circle tackles "Word-formation and semantic features of diminutives" (205–99). "Diminutive verbs in Serbo-Croatian" explores a peculiar feature of Serbo-Croatian compared to other Slavic languages: it has developed an extensive and intricate network of verbal diminutives, e.g., *skakutati*, a diminutive from *skakati* 'to jump'. "In the meanings of affixal verbal diminution", Grickat provides important new insights continuing the research tradition of Radoslav Bošković in this field. "About some peculiarities of diminution" provides an elaborate review of typical sounds, affixes, and semantic patterns in diminutives.

"The semantic and grammatical role of prefixation" (301–26), the fifth section, includes three papers. "What is the importance of pure (grammatical) prefixal perfectivization for research on verbal semantics" is about the elusive nature of perfectivization, which defies a straightforward formal analysis. "The features of verbal aspect pairing as semantic indicators" analyses thirty relations between prefixed perfective and secondarily imperfectivized verbs in Serbo-Croatian. Finally, "The prefix *s(a)-* with verbs in Serbian" addresses the possibilities for deploying this prefix in its various meanings.

"The semantic role of suffixation in the past and today" (327–54), the sixth circle, includes three papers. "Attempts at creating Serbian scholarly terminology in the mid-19th century" presents an analysis of the word-formation (mostly suffixal) patterns in the scholarly terms proposed before the reforms of Vuk Stefanović Karadžić. "About words derived in *-ar* and *-ač* in Serbo-

Croatian" analyses the criteria of differentiation of these two suffixes, which are both rough equivalents of the English suffix *-er*. "About the suffix *-ak* and in connection with it" is about the functions of this suffix in forming diminutives and hypocoristics.

"Paradigmatic lexical relations: Antonymy" (355–84) is in the seventh circle and includes two papers. "About antonymy" is an attempt at unearthing a deeper linguistic sense of antonymy and delimiting it from other similar lexical relations. "About some problems of negation in Serbo-Croatian" analyses Serbo-Croatian lexical means of negation against the background of other Slavic languages.

"Syntagmatic lexical relations" (385–438) are explored in the eighth section. It contains the following two papers: "Figures of speech in light of linguistic analyses", which points to the importance of differentiating linguistic analysis of figures of speech from their treatment in literary scholarship, and "Expressive phrases with genitives in Serbo-Croatian", devoted to phrases of the form *thela pillar of*.

The volume is crowned by the section on "Lexicography" (429–587), which contains six papers. First, there are two different papers about "Academic dictionaries and their tasks". They are published in two different venues on the occasion of the publication of the first volume of the *Dictionary of Serbo-Croatian Literary and Vernacular Language*, under the aegis of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts. Academic in this context means: sponsored by national academies of sciences (which are central cultural institutions in Slavic and many other European countries). "Lexicographic treatment in the dictionaries of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts and the Yugoslav Academy of Sciences and Arts" is next. This paper discusses two multi-volume unabridged dictionary projects, the former unfolding in Belgrade since 1958, the latter running from 1880 to 1976 in Zagreb. The fourth paper in this circle is titled "The problems of descriptive lexicography". It is the author's acceptance speech for the membership in the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts. The paper discusses a range of issues encountered in monolingual descriptive lexicography. "Dictionary of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts" is next. This paper presents various interesting qualitative and quantitative data about this dictionary, from its prehistory and the motivation for its initiation to the number of words in the first 14 volumes. The final paper in the volume is titled "Language scholarship and the activities of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts". In it we will find a historical review of linguistic research sponsored by the Academy.

What all these diverse papers have in common is the following. First, all of them are based on solid data. Second, the author always clearly identifies the issues that need to be analyzed and then chooses appropriate methodology to tackle problems at hand. Third, the author never remains in the narrow realm of the Serbo-Croatian phenomena she analyzes. She always introduces evi-

dence from other Slavic and, not infrequently, non-Slavic languages. Fourth, the papers appropriately include synchronic and diachronic perspectives. Fifth, they are written in a beautiful language with the line of argumentation not always following the strict architecture of scholarly papers. These features of Grickat's writing style are quite common in Slavic philological traditions. Finally, all papers are all clearly rooted in a structuralist lexicological and metalexicographical approach, as practiced in Slavic countries.

This last fact is something that will make the volume interesting to the readership of the *Journal of Slavic Linguistics*. Slavic linguistics in North America is dominated by syntax and phonology, which leaves lexicology and metalexicography on the sidelines. Additionally, data from Slavic languages are used primarily to advance the claims of an approach to which the researcher in question adheres. Given all that, it will certainly be useful to get acquainted with an alternative research agenda, one that is very common in all research traditions in Slavic countries. In the approach followed by Irena Grickat, Slavic-specific phenomena and their elucidation are front and center. Even the titles of the chapters in this volume sound rather different from what one is accustomed to in the North American research tradition. Needless to say, in addition to having the walls of one's own research agenda breached and getting a chance to look at various linguistic problems through a very different lens, the reader will get a wealth of information about Serbo-Croatian words. While the words are in the center of analysis in the present volume, the relevance of the conclusions reached in each paper spreads across various linguistic fields. The volume will be of interest not only to lexicographers and lexicologists, but also to syntacticians, semanticists, those working in the field of lexical morphology, students of writing styles, historical linguists, and, some of them, even to phonologists and historians.

The papers in this volume have been published across decades, some more than a half-century ago. Obviously, new findings have been unearthed in the intervening period. However, this fact does not change our general perception of the papers. They still stand as coherent accounts of the phenomena they analyze and they are still a rich source of important insights. Readers are in for a feast of hands-down research on a range of interesting issues. Rajna Dragičević, the editor of this volume, should certainly be applauded for gathering in one volume diverse texts that could have remained less known, being dispersed in various publication venues across a long span of time.

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