

Ágoston Pável. (Marc L. Greenberg, ed./trans.) *Prekmurje Slovene Grammar: Avgust Pavel's Vend Nyelvtan (1942)*. Leiden: Brill-Rodopi, 2020. xxvii + 215 pp. ISBN 978-90-04-41911-7.

Reviewed by Grant H. Lundberg

Marc Greenberg's translation and annotation of Avgust Pavel's 1942 *Prekmurje Slovene Grammar* is important for several reasons. First, it is often noted that the Slovene speech territory is a contact zone for the major language families of Europe. It is the place where Slavic, Romance, Germanic, and Hungarian meet. This is true in a more concentrated way for the Prekmurje region of Slovene. In this area, the languages and dialects of Slovene, German, and Hungarian are in intense contact. This is a region where national borders have often shifted, and linguistic minorities have been strongly influenced by the titular languages of the countries they were located in. Greenberg's work makes important linguistic details more widely available. Second, the grammar was written at an important time. Pavel's work captures the state of the dialect region and literary Prekmurje Slovene at a time (1942) before the onset of heavy influence from Standard/Central Slovene, which would soon follow. The grammar preserves evidence of linguistic forms that are no longer observed. This provides valuable comparative material for the study of Slavic dialects and language history. Third, the grammar was translated and annotated by the recognized expert on the phonological history of Slovene and its dialects. He literally wrote the book on the topic. Greenberg's introduction to the translation is a careful summary of all the important topics in the phonological history of the Prekmurje language. Along with the bibliography, the introduction and commentary serve as a foundational resource for the study of Prekmurje Slovene.

Greenberg's introduction to the translation is a brief discussion of the Prekmurje dialect and its early differentiation, along with Pannonian dialects, from other neighboring Slovene and Kajkavian dialects, as well as a sketch of Prekmurje's role in the dialect continuum between West and South Slavic (p. 1). There is an especially interesting review of research on the distribution of variants of several verbal suffixes and lexical items that point to dialect divisions in Slavic before the great migration around 500 AD (3–4). Greenberg also covers the development of the vocalic systems in Prekmurje in the context of South Slavic, as well as the internal differentiation of Prekmurje (4–5). This

is complicated material presented by a specialist who has mastered dialect and historical details as well as the broad Slavic and Indo-European context. Finally, the introduction also contains a brief discussion of the history of the written tradition of Prekmurje Slovene and Pavel's role in the failed Hungarian efforts to standardize the language (2).

Greenberg's annotation within the grammar is interesting and insightful. He conducts it like a conversation with Pavel's material, commenting on and explaining ambiguous statements, sometimes confirming Pavel's observations with his or others' dialect research, sometimes correcting historical claims based on etymological research completed after Pavel's time. I will give several illustrative examples below.

In his discussion of the phonetics and phonology of Prekmurje Slovene, Pavel indicates that expected long vowels are shortened when the syllable is closed by a nasal consonant. Greenberg notes that this is a feature of the Cankova dialect, which Pavel generalizes for the entire grammar, "though there is no evidence that this shortening rule applies to other parts of Prekmurje" (24). Even though it is not the aim of the grammar, on several occasions Pavel points out what he understands to be the derivational or lexical history of modern forms, which Greenberg corrects based on etymological and dialect research: "In the particular examples he adduces, however, the derivations are not formed as he claims" (30). In another example, Pavel points out the origin of borrowed forms, e.g., *pelati* 'to travel' from Italian and *topor* 'ax' from Turkish. Greenberg points out, "[n]ewer work has shown that *peljati* is native Slavic", as is *topor* (186). In his discussion of morphology, Pavel notes that most village names in Prekmurje are plural feminine nouns ending in *-ce*. Greenberg clarifies that there are still some village names in the west of Prekmurje with feminine plural forms in *-ce*, "[h]owever, the feminine nominative forms in Prekmurje adduced by Pavel have been replaced by masculine plurals in *-ci*" (56).

The translation of Pavel's *Prekmurje Slovene Grammar* is a valuable addition to the available material about a dialect and literary language in an important contact zone at an important time in the development of Slovene. Greenberg's introduction and annotation make the grammar more valuable because they provide broad context and specialized knowledge.

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