Jan Fellerer. *Urban Multilingualism in East-Central Europe: The Polish Dialect of Late Habsburg Lviv*. Lanham, Maryland: Lexington Books, 2020. viii + 295 pp. [Studies in Slavic, Baltic, and Eastern European Languages and Cultures.] ISBN 978-1-4985-8014-4.

Reviewed by Robert A. Rothstein

Jan Fellerer is associate professor in non-Russian Slavonic languages at Wolfson College of the University of Oxford. His *Urban Multilingualism* is a masterful demonstration of how one can conduct a sociolinguistic study without direct access to speakers of the language(s) in question. His portrayal of what he calls "Lviv borderland Polish" (LBP) is based on close reading of two kinds of material: Polish and Ukrainian popular satirical periodicals and, perhaps surprisingly, police and court records. His reading is informed by his profound knowledge of Polish and Ukrainian, both their standard versions and geographically relevant dialects.

The core of the book consists of four chapters: 1. The City's Languages, 2. Patterns of Bi- and Multilingualism, 3. Distinct Morpho-Syntactic Characteristics of Lviv Borderland Polish, and a final summary chapter. The languages considered are Ukrainian (especially the Dnister subdialect of its southwestern dialect), Polish (especially LBP, in contrast to the literary standard) and Yiddish (in what he labels as the mid-eastern dialect of eastern Yiddish). German also plays a role as the traditional language of bureaucracy. Unfortunately, although the author mentions *passim* Yiddish influences, he apparently had no sources for examples. (Page 259 offers "Further Yiddishisms are *bajojkis* 'scrape, unfortunate situation', Yid. *paihe*…" but this is a non-existent Yiddish word, cited from a source that is absent from the bibliography. That sentence also provides a presumably authentic example from an 1883 issue of the Polish "satirical-political" monthly *Szczutek*: "*zmyszyginowaciać* 'to go crazy', Yid. *meschugene*", which could likely only be from Lviv, where the magazine was published.) The second chapter provides an account of who spoke what in what circumstances. The third chapter is the most detailed,

together with the conclusions constituting nearly 60% of the volume. Finally, there is an impressive bibliography of primary and secondary sources.

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