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Rudolf Muhr (ed.)

Pluricentric Languages and Non-Dominant Varieties Worldwide

Part I: Pluricentric Languages across Continents.
Features and Usage

In collaboration with Kelen Ernesta Fonyuy,
Zeinab Ibrahim and Corey Miller

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**Pluricentric Languages and Non-Dominant Varieties
Worldwide:
Volume 1: Pluricentric Languages across Continents -
Features and Usage**

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Table of contents

I. Key note: Theoretical aspects of pluricentricity and the description of variation

1. **Rudolf MUHR** (Graz, Austria): *The state of the art of research on pluricentric languages: Where we were and where we are now* **9**

II. Plenary lectures –Different types of pluricentricity in differing environments

2. **Adrian TIEN** (Dublin, Ireland): *Perspectives on “Chinese” pluricentricity in China, Greater China and beyond* **33**
3. **Kelen Ernesta FONUYU** (Bambili, Cameroon): *French and English in Cameroon: Pluricentricity in the context of multilingualism and nativisation* **53**
4. **Tariq RAHMAN** (Lahore, Pakistan): *The Social and Political Uses of Pluricentrism: A case study of identity-driven dominance in Urdu and Hindi* **68**
5. **Gerhard EDELMANN** (Vienna, Austria): *Euskara / Basque: The importance of status for the development of a pluricentric language* **83**
6. **Evgenija ZHURAVLEVA** (Astana, Kazakhstan): *Trends in the formation of Kazakhstan’s variety of Russian* **99**
7. **Jasmine DUM-TRAGUT** (Salzburg, Austria): *Migration – integration – social network: Armenian varieties in the 21st century – Or the development of a new variety?* **109**

III. African pluricentric languages and non-dominant varieties

8. **Georg ZIEGELMEYER** (Vienna, Austria): *Identifying “Standard” Hausa and its non-dominant varieties* **127**
9. **Daniela WALDBURGER** (Vienna, Austria): *Swahili in Eastern Congo – from a dominated to a dominant language or vice versa?* **139**
10. **Abdenour AREZKI** (Bejaia, Algeria): *The case of Tamazight/Berber: Discrepancies between statutory recognition of a language and social practice* **155**

IV. Arabic – The history of a pluricentric language

11. **Mariam ABOELEZZ** (Lancaster, UK): *A history of the Arabic language and the origin of non-dominant varieties of Arabic* **163**

V. Asian languages – Second level and migrant pluricentricity, pluricentricity in roof languages

12. **Corey MILLER / Hooman SAELI** (Maryland / Stillwater, US): *Second-level pluricentricity in Tehran* **177**
13. **Mariko TAKAHASHI** (Kyoto, Japan): *A corpus-based comparative analysis of indigenous invariant tags in Asian Englishes: features, usage, and registers* **191**
14. **Sabiha HASHAMI** (New Delhi, India): *Hindi as contact language in Bihar and Jharkhand: A socio-phonetic study of a non-dominant variety of Hindi* **207**
15. **Elaine BALLARD / Taiying LEE** (Auckland, New Zealand): *Language attitudes and maintenance in the New Zealand Mandarin speaking community* **223**

VI. The pluricentricity of European languages inside Europe

Austrian German, Luxemburg German, Swiss German – NDVs as invisible languages, issues of language loyalty, status and purification

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 16. Anna HAVINGA (Bristol, UK): <i>Non-Dominant varieties and invisible languages: the case of 18th- and early 19th-century Austrian German</i> | 235 |
| 17. Ilona Elisabeth FINK (Vienna, Austria): <i>Language loyalty to the Austrian variety of the German language</i> | 249 |
| 18. Karl ILLE (Vienna, Austria): <i>Variety contact and the codification of pluricentric German: An analysis of Austrian German markers inherited from Romance varieties</i> | 263 |
| 19. Melanie WAGNER (Luxemburg) : <i>German at secondary schools in Luxembourg: a first, second or foreign language. Pluricentricity on test</i> | 277 |
| 20. Stefanie WYSS (Bern, Switzerland): <i>National variation in the German language of science</i> | 293 |

Hungarian - Problems of formal status and description

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 21. Máté Imre HUBER (Szeged, Hungary): <i>The problems and advantages of treating Hungarian as a pluricentric language</i> | 303 |
| 22. István KOZMÁCS / Ildikó VANČO (Nitra, Slovakia): <i>The Hungarian language in Slovakia: The use of the dominant standard in education in Slovakian Hungarian schools and the effects on education and training</i> | 315 |
| 23. Szilárd SEBŐK (Bratislava, Slovakia): <i>Language cultivation vs. pluricentricity: the debate on Hungarian language use out-side of Hungary</i> | 337 |
| 24. Anna BIRO (Budapest, Hungary): <i>An insight into the Serbian Hungarian language</i> | 351 |

Belgium French, Dutch and Swedish – Legitimizing non-dominant norms

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 25. Bénédicte SNYERS / Philippe HAMBYE (Louvain, Belgium): <i>Linguistic legitimacy among "peripheral" speakers: The case of Belgian French</i> | 363 |
| 26. Godelieve LAUREYS (Ghent, Belgium): <i>Luxury or Necessity? The representation of non-dominant varieties in monolingual and bilingual dictionaries: the cases of Dutch and Swedish</i> | 377 |
| 27. Marie NELSON (Stockholm, Sweden): <i>Swedish as a non-dominant dominant variety – The language situation on the Åland Islands</i> | 393 |

Bosnian/Serbian/Croatian, Russian, Cyprus Greek – Finding names for pluricentric languages, reconvert NDVs into dominant ones, L2-learner attitudes

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 28. Gordana ILIĆ MARKOVIĆ (Vienna, Austria): <i>Creating a name for a pluricentric language: From Serbian to Serbo-Croatian, Bosnian / Croatian / Serbian</i> | 407 |
| 29. Salvatore DEL GAUDIO / Jurij DOROFEEV (Kiev, Ukraine/Crimea): <i>The Russian language in Crimea : from pluricentricity to monocentricity</i> | 423 |
| 30. Dimitris EVRIPIDOU / Sviatlana KARPAVA (Larnaca, Cyprus): <i>Attitudes of Russian L2 learners of Greek towards the Greek language varieties of Cyprus</i> | 443 |

Preface

This is the first of two thematically arranged volumes with papers that were presented at the “World Conference of Pluricentric Languages and their non-dominant Varieties” (WCPCL). It comprises papers about 21 PCLs and 17 NDVs around the world. The second volume encompasses a further 17 papers about the pluricentricity of Portuguese and Spanish. The conference was held at the University of Graz, (Austria) on July 8th-11th 2015. It was the fourth gathering organized by the “Working Group on Non-Dominant Varieties of Pluricentric Languages” (WGNDV) since the foundation of the group and at the same time celebrating its 5th anniversary. The main objective of the conference was to get more information about the situation of as many pluricentric languages and non-dominant-varieties (NDVs) as possible. We hoped to get more empirically secured descriptions of the effects of non-dominance in order to strengthen the theory of pluricentric languages (PCLs) and to extend the description of pluricentric languages around the world. And there was the hope that papers about “new” PCLs, lesser known and researched PCLs and NDVs would be presented.

The editors are happy to say that all objectives have been met. Four “new” PCLs were identified: Euskara/Basque (G. Edelmann), Hausa (G. Ziegelmayr), Swahili (D. Waldburger) and Tamazight/Berber (A. Arezki) in Africa which brings the total number of known PCLs to 38. And there are papers about NDVs that have never been researched before. For the first time research is being presented on Kazakhstan’s Russian (E. Zhuravleva) and on Russian in Crimea (Del Gaudio/J. Dorofeev) whose features of a NDV of Ukraine Russian is presently brought into line with Russian Russian. Among the NDVs with little or no research so far are papers about Asian Englishes (M. Takahashi), Hindi in Bihar (S. Hashami), Mandarin in New Zealand (T. Lee/E. Ballard), Swedish on the Åland Islands (M. Nelson), Luxembourg German (M. Wagner), and on second level Pluricentrism in Tehran Persian (C. Miller / H. Saeli). Another important result of the conference is the large number of papers about Hungarian as a PCL (M. I. Huber) and the difficult situation of its NDVs (A. Biro) that are pressed by the DV to follow the centralized norm of Hungarian Hungarian (S. Sebők), causing problems for the educational system (I. Kozmács / I. Vančo).

The complex language situation in diglossic and multilingual language communities is discussed in several papers. They deal with the development of diglossia in Arabic (M. Aboelezz), the multilingual situation in Cameroon (K. E. Fonyuy), the double pluricentricity of Hindi and Urdu (T. Rahman) as national

languages in Pakistan and India and their function as “roof languages” (Dachsprachen). The situation of “Chinese” which subsumes many “fangyan” (regional languages) under the roof term “Chinese” resembles the one of Hind/Urdu (A. Tien). Language contact is typical for “exiled languages” too, leading to new varieties as the contact of Eastern and Western Armenian shows (J. Dum-Tragut)

Another 15 papers deal with the pluricentricity of European languages inside Europe. They show how Austrian German became “invisible” in the course of the 18th century (A. Havinga), the effects of intensive contact of this variety with Romance languages (K. Ille) and the missing language loyalty of Austrian teachers towards their native language (I. E. Fink). While Swiss German texts of science are purified of native features (St. Wyss) is Luxembourg German burdened by its unclear status in the educational domain that complicates its tuition (M. Wagner). Hungarian in Slovakia and Serbia is also struggling with problems of status and the acknowledgement of its native norms for educational purposes. The low status of a NDV is also reflected in learner’s attitudes of Cyprus Greek as a foreign language (D. Evripidou/S. Karpava). Legitimizing problems are also a major problem for Belgium French (B. Snyers/Ph. Hambye) while the codification of Belgium Dutch and Finland Swedish are now done on a symmetric basis (G. Laureys). How complicated it can be to find an appropriate name for a PCL is shown on the example of Serbian which has changed its name several times (G. Ilić Marković). The results of five years research are summarized and integrated in an updated account of the theory of pluricentricity developed by the WGNDV (R. Muhr). The papers complement earlier data about PCLs and their NDVs in many ways, support the information that was gathered in the previous publications of the WGNDV and complete the picture on NDVs.

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Rudolf Muhr, Kelen Ernesta Fonyuy,
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