

**ÖSTERREICHISCHES DEUTSCH
SPRACHE DER GEGENWART**

Herausgegeben von Rudolf Muhr

Rudolf Muhr / Benjamin Meisnitzer (eds.)

**Plur centric
Languages and
Non-Dominant
Varieties Worldwide**

New Pluricentric Languages – Old Problems

20



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Preface

This volume comprises a selected number of 30 papers that were presented at the “5th World Conference of Pluricentric Languages and Their Non-Dominant Varieties – Nation, Space and Language” (WCPCL). It was held at the University of Mainz (Germany) on July 13th–15th, 2017. It was the fifth gathering organized by the “Working Group on Non-Dominant Varieties of Pluricentric Languages” (WGNDV) since the foundation of the group in 2010. The authors of the papers of this volume come from 15 countries and deal with 14 pluricentric languages (PLCLs) and directly or indirectly with a total of 31 (non-dominant) varieties (NDVs) around the world.

The conference pursued several objectives, especially (1) to deepen the theory of PLCLs and the methods for the description of NDVs in particular and (2) to get exhaustive reports of the situation of as many PLCLs and NDVs worldwide and in particular of lesser known and researched PLCLs and NDVs. The editors are happy to say that the central objectives (1) and (2) have been met. This volume contains an extensive overview on misconceptions about PLCLs and pluricentric theory (R. Muhr). In respect to task (2), the number of known PLCLs has again been extended. There are now 43 PLCLs in all. Apart from papers on “new” PCLs that have been recently identified, there are others on varieties where specific or renewed descriptions were lacking. Such an example is Malay. Although Malay has been known as a PLCL since M. Clyne’s volume of 1992, we are happy that Prof. Omar has provided an updated and extended description of Malay as a PLCL. Other first-hand papers of this category are: A paper on Somali as a (new) PLCL (M. Nilsson), on Romanian (M. Hutanu/A. Sorescu-Marinković) in Serbia (that also show the extreme monocentric language policy of the Romanian state), and two papers on Albanian as a PLCL (L. Jusufi/A. Muco) that depict the battles between a pluricentric viewpoint and a “one language-one nation-one norm” approach of Albanian. Three papers deal with NDVs of Hungarian in Slovakia (Jank/Gál/Kozmács) and (for the first time) with Hungarian in Croatia (Oszkó). They too show how difficult it is to reach linguistic self-definition against a rather centralized language attitude in the dominant variety (DV). O. Goritzka is detailing the search for expressions of identity via ethnonyms in Belarusian Russian. The paper of M. Saeedi deepens the knowledge about the development of Persian as an PLCL in its history, S. Hashami details second-level and even third-level pluricentric situations in Hindi in India. R. Calabrese/K. Russo report about of multiword constructions in Indian English and Australian Aboriginal English and K. Fonyuy about Cameroon Pidgin English that is shedding light

on the growing importance of pidgin varieties in (West-)Africa. The complex trilingual language situation in 8 Luxembourg is dealt with in two articles (H. Sieburg/G. Edelmann). They give an impression about the precarious situation of Luxembourg German and the development of Lëtzebuergesch from a regional variety of German into the national language of Luxembourg.

Eleven articles supply data about three “large” PLCLs: Spanish, French and Portuguese. The papers about Spanish deal with the language assistant SIRI of Apple and its adaptation to different varieties of Spanish (F. Klos/S. Müller), with Anglicisms in US Spanish (J. Thomas), variation in the use of present perfect in different varieties of Spanish (A. Hennemann/B. Meisnitzer) and about a possible standard pronunciation in Judeo-Spanish (Ch. Gabriel/J. Grünke). Two papers go into historical sociolinguistics by looking into the use of the term “perulero” during the 16th - 19th century and the Hispano-American lexicography in the 19th century (H. Tellez). The rather difficult situation of Quebec French (QF) and Arcadian French (AF) is shown by the papers of D. Cyr/A. Cyr and K. Gauvin. Similar difficulties are also found by N. Schröder in La Reunion with uncertainties about teaching the French Creole of the island and formal French in school. E. Duarte et al. show the implementation of endogenous syntactic features in the written language of Brazilian Portuguese and J. Abracado gives examples about the expression of future tense in seven NVs of Portuguese around the world. M. Martins et al. explore the diachrony of interinfluence of Brazilian and European Portuguese in the constitution of the norm. Finally, F. Scetti completes the section with observations on migrant pluricentricity of Madeiran speakers of Portuguese in Montreal, Canada. Many papers give insight in the struggle in “new” PLCLs and NDVs about self-definition and the trouble connected with attempts in turning away from the one language-one nation-one norm ideology.

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Rudolf Muhr and Benjamin Meisnitzer
Graz and Mainz in March 2018

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