

**Žanna Nekrašević-Karotkaja: The Custom of Vogelhochzeit (Bird Wedding) and Songs with Bird Motifs in the Folklore of North-Western and Eastern Slavonic Nations: Pragmatic and Functional Aspects**

Sorbian, Polish, Russian, Ukrainian and Belorussian folk songs with bird motifs are examined in this article, including that of Vogelhochzeit. Traces of different genre combinations, modifications and revisions were discovered during an analysis of the structural content of these carols, which are linked to their functionality. So, for example, birds are celebrated in popular Polish carols, influenced above all by the story of Bethlehem. These carols present particularly typical social and psychological kinds of behaviour in the form of bird allegories. In this connection, the way this manifested itself moved in recent, and most recent, times from the level of traditional folklore into the sphere of ethno-pedagogy.

**Keywords:** Vogelhochzeit, bird motifs, North-Western Slavonic folklore, Western Slavonic folklore, functional changes

**Jean-Rémi Carbonneau: “Institutional Completeness” as a Dimension of Cultural Security. The Example of the Lusatian Sorbs.**

The notion of institutional completeness developed by French Canadian sociologist Raymond Breton is a conceptual tool devised to assess the institutional dimensions of the social integration of individuals belonging to minority ethno-linguistic groups. Using this notion as a basis, this article proposes a neo-institutional analysis of the Sorbs of Lusatia. It takes a closer look at Sorbian community-based institutions and organizations as well as formal and informal institutional constraints faced by this small Slavic people since the German unification of 1871.

**Keywords:** institutional completeness, cultural security, protection of minorities, resilience, comparison of the Sorbs with the Francophone minority in Canada

**Lechoslaw Jocz / Jan Měškank: Articles on Sorbian Phonetics and Phonology. Part 1 – On the Sound-system of Lower Sorbian: The Distribution of [ɛ] und [e]**

The quality, distribution, and the phonological and normative status of open and closed variants of *e* in Lower Sorbian, are discussed in this article. Analysis of previous contributions show that these problems are described in very inconsistent and contradictory ways, in which the influence of Upper Sorbian grammar descriptions can be seen to play a role. The problematic nature of this is analysed in this essay using recordings from the research project “Documentation of Endangered Languages” (in part provisionally). Firstly, pronunciation is discussed, taking account of its position (1) between hard consonants, in initial position in front of hard consonants, and in the final position after hard consonants, (2) between a soft and a hard consonant, (3) between a hard and a soft consonant and (4) between two soft consonants, whereby the nature of the consonants and the syllable structure are taken into account, if this is appropriate. Finally, orthoepic suggestions are formulated and provisional phonological conclusions presented. Also, the problem of the adaptation of the long German /e/ is addressed in this connection.

**Keywords:** Lower Sorbian, phonetics, phonology, orthoepy, vocalism

**Harald Bichlmeier: On Certain Upper Franconian Place and Field Names together with Certain Parallel or Closely Related Terms in Sorbian and/or Old Polabian**

This article deals with the etymology of the place name Gemlenz (Kulmbach district), as well as the field names Göglitz (Forchheim district), Greifnitz (Lichtenfels district) and Greunitz (no exact location). It is demonstrated that for all four names, a Slavonic basis can be shown to be more likely than competing suggestions, only adopted in more recent times, to trace the etymology of these names as being of Western Germanic-German origin. In addition, it can be shown that these names produce partly exact parallels, partly morphologically close relatives, in the (Old) Sorbian or Old Polabian area.

**Keywords:** Bavarian Slavonic, Bavaria slavica, processes of phonological integration, morphology of Slavonic toponyms, historical phonology of Slavonic

**Walter Wenzel: The Old Sorbian Place Names Ending in *-ici* and *-ovici***

The Old Sorbian place names ending in *-ici* and *-ovici* belong to the oldest strata of place names. They already existed at the time of the gentile society. Their formation is based on the Old Slavonic suffix *\*-it'b*, which expresses close relationship. Old Sorbian *\*Radomirici* meant 'the people of Radomir'. Once the users of the name no longer relate it to the inhabitants but to the settlement, an inanimate object, the accusative form ending in *-ě* replaced the nominative form ending in *-i*. Old Sorbian *\*Radomiricě* meant 'the settlement of the people of Radomir'. This rule was not always applied in onomastics. It also applies to place names ending in *-ěne/-jane*, as well as to place names created from the plural forms of personal names, furthermore to the names of tribes.

**Keywords:** place name, Old Sorbian, *-ici*, *-ovici*, settlement

**Martina Noack / Peter Schurmann: The Members of the Mašica Serbska, their Social Origins and their Relations with Society in Upper Lusatia**

The Mašica Serbska, which was founded in 1880, achieved its largest number of 266 members towards the end of its first decade of existence. Afterwards, the numbers declined continuously up to its prohibition in 1937. Since its refoundation in 1993 it has registered a little more than 20 members. The proportion of Lower Sorbian scholars rose significantly from a quarter to roughly 40 percent over the first three decades. The number of farmers, however, went down steeply, starting from way over a half, then going down to around 20 percent. The proportion of women rose only in the first decades, but, on the other hand, it was only in the Weimar Republic that a woman was entrusted with a leadership role. Up to the turn of the century more than three-quarters of all members came from the Cottbus district, particularly from the parishes of Briesen, Cottbus, Papitz, Werben, and Vetschau. The church superintendent district of Cottbus had the most members with its fifteen parishes. Then came the church districts of Senftenberg and Calau, each containing two parishes, as well as the church district of Spremberg with one parish.

**Keywords:** Lower Lusatia, Upper Lusatia, Sorbian associations, Mašica Serbska, Mašica Serbska, membership and social structure, regional distribution, networks

**Jan Měškank / Astrid Schmiedel: The Development of a Text-to-Speech Function for the Lower and Upper Sorbian Literary Languages – Introduction and Survey**

The development of a text-to-speech function for the Lower and Upper Sorbian literary languages is the subject of a five-year research project. The desired goal of creating a user-friendly service, which enables its users to read out texts in the Sorbian language comprehensibly on the website of the Sorbian Institute, as well as on other websites, requires basic research on the phonetics and phonology of Sorbian. The project makes it possible to combine providing an online service with closing a large gap in research in this area. A well-founded description of the orthoepy of both Sorbian languages can contribute to the preservation of Lower and Upper Sorbian. The results of the research outcomes and the technical developments, which follow from this project, are intended to be published in a series of further articles.

**Keywords:** text-to-speech, language synthesis, unit selection, MaryTTS, Lower Sorbian, Upper Sorbian