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Preface

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PREFACE

This issue of *Linguistica Brunensia* is dedicated to the research of the Slavic proto-language in its internal structure and development as well as in its external contexts. Although in recent decades we have observed a certain preference in linguistics for the study of present-day varieties, researchers are still drawn to historical and comparative studies of the ancient and reconstructed languages due to many unresolved questions. The three studies presented here address three such Slavic topics.

Stephen M. Dickey introduces a new hypothesis regarding the development of the Slavic aspectual system. The author proposes that the earliest stage was built on the opposition between simplex and prefixed forms of factitives in *-i-*. This assertion is based on an analysis of the behaviour of the prefixes *u-*, *o-*, and *po-* in Old Church Slavonic.

Emanuel Klotz's contribution concerns the problem of the relative chronology of Slavic phonetic changes. The author enriches his “*Slavia Tirolensis*” research with another contribution, discussing two dozen Bavarian proper names of Slavic origin. In addition to the specific results in the form of new etymologies and dating of borrowings, the paper demonstrates the general strength of Georg Holzer's model of Proto-Slavic and the early phases of individual Slavic languages.

Finally, archaeologist and historian **Florin Curta** touches on the fundamental problem of the spread of the early Slavs, and thus their language, from the hypothetical homeland. Under the neutral term “expansion”, various phenomena can be concealed: migration, demographic spread, and/or language shift. The author points to the absence of archaeological evidence supporting the migration and therefore does not consider this scenario likely.

As is evident, the results obtained in all three cases generate further questions. What were the other stages of the development of the Slavic aspect? What additional material from the Slavic-Germanic contact is available? If not migration, then what?

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(guest editor)



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