Review: *Studies in Accentology and Slavic Linguistics in Honor of Ronald F. Feldstein; Exploring the US Language Flagship Program: Professional Competence in a Second Language by Graduations*

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Recommended Citation


DOI: https://doi.org/10.70163/0036-0252.1086

Available at: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/rlj/vol66/iss1/9

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on his task a tremendous amount of experience from teaching this subject, and he has an indubitable gift for simplifying things so that the subject is accessible to various kinds of readers. In light of all the questions students confront early on in connection with exceptional forms, this book could reasonably be recommended as supplemental reading material even for a first-year Russian class. For classes on historical Russian linguistics I believe it should be required reading and that it will be enthusiastically received.

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As the title states, this volume was compiled in honor of the work and influence of Ronald F. Feldstein on the fields of accentology and Slavic linguistics. Though Professor Feldstein did some work in most of the areas covered in the volume, the book is unified by the ideas of the Prague Linguistic Circle and Jakobsonian structuralism, of which Feldstein was an important representative for many Slavic linguists working today.

The volume starts with two essays by colleagues dedicating the collection and praising the significant influence of Dr. Feldstein, one by an early mentor and then later colleague of Professor Feldstein, Charles E. Townsend (Townsend also includes a collection of English, Russian and Czech limericks.), the other by a colleague at Indiana University, George Fowler. Also included is a full bibliography of Ronald Feldstein’s publications.

Based on the focus of the articles in the collection, the book might be more accurately called “Studies in Aspect, Accentology, and Other Areas of Slavic Linguistics.” There are four articles on aspect in Russian
or comparative Slavic, three articles on accentology, and four on topics loosely related to some of Feldstein’s publications in other areas.

As mentioned above, the largest concentration of articles in the volume is in the area of verbal aspect. Stephen Dickey’s contribution, “Parameters of Slavic Aspect Reconsidered: The East-West Aspect Division from a Diachronic Perspective,” is an attempt to clarify and reassess some of his earlier work on Slavic aspectual differences. Dickey has some interesting things to say about innovations in the meaning of the perfective in North Slavic and about German contact in western languages of both West and South Slavic as an explanation for lack of innovation there. Edna Andrews’ article, “Can Markedness Theory Contribute to a Deeper Understanding of Russian Verbal Aspect,” is an evaluation of the importance, or lack thereof, of markedness explanations in an analysis of Russian verbs. Frank Y. Gladney, “On the Aspect of Unprefixed Verbs in Russian,” and Laura A. Janda, “Russian Aspectual Types: Croft’s Typology Revised,” both contribute data-driven analyses of Russian verbal aspect. Janda’s contribution is of particular interest because she evaluates and modifies Croft’s typology of the semantics of aspect in light of distinctions found in Russian verbs. She also analyzes Croft’s means of diagramming aspectual contours.

Three articles in this volume deal with accentology, approaching the subject from a decidedly historical point of view. V. A. Dybo’s contribution, “Акцентологические наблюдения над новоболгарскими Дамаскинами XVII в.,” represents an analysis and comparison of several 17th century Bulgarian manuscripts. Based on a close examination of the accentuation of i-verbs, Dybo is able to locate the text geographically. Miriam Shrager, “Common Slavic Deverbatives and Their Origin,” and S. L. Nikolaev, “К реконструкции акцентуационно-морфонологических классов индоевропейских глагольных корней,” are both working on the reconstruction of the connection between Common Slavic and Indo-European verbal forms as regards their accentual-morphophonological classes.

The four remaining articles in the volume are difficult to group together in any traditional way. Two are only loosely connected to Slavic linguistics. Robert Fradkin, “Latin Conjugation for Slavists,” based on the idea of Jakobson’s “one-stem” verb system, proposes a single inflectional profile for Latin verbs. Bronislava Volkova, “Semiotic
Concepts of the Prague Linguistic Circle on the American Continent and the Theory of Emotive Language,” discusses the structuralist ideas of the PLC in her publications on the semiotics of language and literary analysis. Steven Franks and Catherine Rudin’s contribution, “Invariant -to in Bulgarian,” investigates the connection of invariant -to, found in relative clauses and wh-constructions, to inflectional -to, found in the neuter definite article. They use syntactic theory as well as comparative Macedonian data to examine the issue. Finally, Donald Reindl, “The Fate of German (Post)Velars in Slovenian Loanwords,” tries to impose some order on a seemingly chaotic situation. German words were borrowed into Slovenian at various times, from various German source dialects, and into a complicated array of Slovenian dialects. In the article, Reindl classifies German velars in three broad groups of correspondences, those explained by historical source language phonology, those explained by Slovenian sound changes, and those with no clear explanation. This contribution adds significant clarity to the sound correspondences between German and Slovenian as well as adding information to several etymologies.

Studies in Accentology and Slavic Linguistics in Honor of Ronald F. Feldstein represents an eclectic but valuable and interesting contribution to the field of Slavic linguistics.

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This volume is a well-thought-out product that at once provides a rationale, history, and description of the now eleven-year-old US Language Flagship program, accompanied by individual vignettes of various aspects of the program across the nine Flagship languages: Arabic with 5 host institutions, Chinese (14 hosts), Hindu/Urdu (3 hosts),