ABSTRACTS

Albert Barrera i Vidal

SYMPATHETIC BUT CRITICAL OBSERVATIONS REGARDING LANGUAGE POLICY IN CATALONIA TODAY

Catalonia offers many insights into the mechanisms of language policy in border regions since the Països catalans are not confined to Spain but include adjacent countries as well. The history of the Catalanian language dates back to the 13th century. From the end of the 16th century Catalanian cultural life underwent a process of degradation that continued up to the Renaissance (Renaixença) in the 19th century. This Renaissance tried to bolster the linguistic and cultural identity of the Catalonians especially during the two periods of autonomous administration (Mancomunitat 1914–1925 and Generalitat 1932–1939). After 1939 the language policy of the Franco dictatorship aimed at systematic repression of all aspects of Catalanian cultural life. The process of democratisation after 1975 brought all minority languages equal rights. On this basis the Catalanian language received official support and was promoted in all areas of public life. Today the language is co-official with Spanish. Recent attempts to give the Catalanian language priority over Spanish threaten to reverse the former situation of Spanish domination. Certain organizations even advocate the transformation of Catalonia into a purely monolingual area. This attitude is criticised by many both inside and outside of Catalonia.

Adrien Finck / Maryse Staiber

REGIONAL LANGUAGE IN ALSACE

This study of language policy in Alsace today focuses on the importance of „regional language“. It is primarily aimed at stating the problem; it also presents and justifies the authors’ point of view. The main point of the argument is that „regional language“ in this context is to be defined as encompassing both Alsatian – used as a term designating the rich variety of dialects spoken in the Alsace – and German – i.e. „Hochdeutsch“ as the standard language or written language of the koine. This definition reflects a linguistic and historical reality which is still in existence today. The study also attempts to present future perspectives in a European context.

Lutz Götze

ON THE POSITION OF THE GERMAN LANGUAGE IN THE STATES OF THE CIS, THE CZECH REPUBLIC AND HUNGARY

The author describes the current situation of German minorities in the successor states of the former Soviet Union, in the Czech Republic and in Hungary. He also analyses the teaching of German at school and university level. Special attention is paid to the increasing demand for German language courses in Central and East European countries, a demand that cannot always be satisfied by the institutions of German cultural policy abroad. As a conclusion the author proposes an outline of future policies promoting the German language, a policy that is not tainted by visionary zeal.
The Franco-German war of 1870/71, which ended with the cession of the Alsace and German-speaking Lorraine, was not only a war of armies, but also by scholars of both participating nations, particularly by geographers, economists, theologians and historians. During this sharp and piercing dispute many scholars withdrew and joined the intellectual mainstream of their nation. In doing so they affirmed increasing antagonism between Germany and France in the next few decades, which gained its most irreconcilable expression in the myth of the „inherited enemies“ („Erbfeinde“). The study focuses on arguments extracted from the History of Language as a supposed nationbuilding force and from the concept of ‚Volkstum‘ (nationalité, race).

Johannes Kramer

The author analyzes a special kind of trilingualism that could be called „two-and-a-half-lingualism“ (asymmetrical trilingualism). Language A enjoying the highest prestige and having to be acquired at school is opposed to two quite different varieties of a second language B that is not closely related to A: the non-regional variety B₁ exists in a standardised form with a rich tradition whereas the regional variety B₂ is still in the first phase of „Ausbau“. Five examples of this linguistic situation are given: French (A), Italian (B₁) and Corsican (B₂) in Corsica, Dutch (A), Spanish (B₁) and Papiamentu (B₂) in Curacao, English (A), French (B₁) and Seychellois (B₂) in the Seychelles, German (A), Italian (B₁) and Ladin (B₂) in the Gröden Valley, French (A), German (B₁) and Lëtzebuergesch (B₂) in Luxemburg.

Marek Łaziński
LANGUAGE POLICY IN POLAND TOWARDS THE GERMAN MINORITY

The author describes the present situation of the German minority in Upper Silesia and outlines the development of the official policy of the Polish government towards them. The problem is analysed mainly on the basis of data provided by the Polish Ministry of Culture, the only government institution dealing with minority problems, but some German sources are also included. In spite of some new conflicts described in the paper the author finds some evidence that the situation is improving, especially in the field of public education.

Roland Marti
LANGUAGE POLICY IN THE BORDER AREAS OF THE SLAVIC LINGUISTIC CONTINUUM

Historically, language policy in the Slavic linguistic continuum may be divided into three periods: prehistory and „emancipation“ of the Slavic standard languages; language policy based on the concept of a linguistically homogeneous state (the state determines the language); national
language policy (the language determines the state). Furthermore, external language policy (directed towards neighbouring non-Slavic languages) has to be distinguished from internal language policy (directed towards neighbouring Slavic standard languages). The development of all the Slavic standard languages follows more or less the same pattern but different stages occur at different times; most important in this aspect is the 19th century. External language policy is mainly defensive and mainly directed against German. Internal language policy displays a range of interesting developments. One of them is the creation of new standard languages in areas that were formerly roofed over by another standard language (e.g. the Macedonian standard language). The most unusual kind of internal language policy is the unification of standard languages. This is attested in the Slavic linguistic continuum in the case of the Czechoslovak and the Serbo-Croatian language.

Hubertus Menke

'I AM A DANE AND SPEAK GERMAN'. ON LINGUISTIC HISTORY AND LANGUAGE POLICY IN THE GERMAN-DANISH BORDER AREA

The language spoken by territorial or social groups has not always and not necessarily been a defining element in forming a state. This linguistic indifference used to be characteristic of Denmark. The situation changed when the idea of the nation state gained ground in the 19th century, and this in turn led to serious linguistic conflicts. In the course of time, however, linguistic minorities on both sides of the German-Danish border found solutions to such conflicts mainly by introducing the concept of self-declaration (cf. the declaration of Kiel 1949 and the treaty of Bonn/Copenhagen 1955). This allows for "separation of powers" between citizenship, (ethnic) cultural ties and the choice of language: I am a Dane and speak German!

Alicja Nagórko

POLES IN GERMANY AS MIRRORED BY LANGUAGE

The degree of maintainance of the Polish language and the functions it still fulfills in German Polonia has not aroused much interest amongst German slavists. Attention was mainly paid to the traditional labour migration to Northrhine-Westfalia, where the largest concentration of the Polonia in Germany is found; traces of this coexistence of Poles and Germans that lasted for over a century are to be found in the Ruhr regiolect with its numerous polonisms. A new look at the sociolinguistic situation of the Solidarność emigration and the so-called Aussiedler shows that a lot of myths connected with the Polonia will have to be discarded. It shows that the will to assimilate is much stronger than the declared attachment to Polish language and culture.

Peter Hans Nelde

VITALITY AND DYNAMISM OF EUROPEAN LINGUISTIC MINORITIES LIVING IN BORDER AREAS

In contrast to Breton defining the dynamics of small languages as the sum of language spread and language development, we prefer the less "static" classification of language boundary minorities, which is, nevertheless, incomparably more difficult to describe. Thus, "dynamics" appears as a relational concept, which is context-dependent and can hardly be generalized.
Dynamics are discussed using examples of small and world languages. Tendencies of language maintenance and language loss in the nineties are particularly emphasized.

**Stefan Oeter**

LEGAL ASPECTS OF LANGUAGE POLICY

Legal aspects of language policy are traditionally discussed under the specific heading of 'minority protection'. Protection of minorities was a prominent concept after 1918, and it has experienced a political revival since the end of the eighties. The binding legal outcome of that revival has been minimal, however. Several draft conventions failed, and the Council of Europe’s ‘Framework Convention’ will not be of great importance. The article demonstrates the legal problems concerning minority protection, with due reference to the recent attempts at codification. It also highlights the political difficulties which characterize the struggle for minority protection in the internal legislation of European states, and it tries to understand the underlying rationale of these difficulties. The result of this analysis leaves no doubts: the entire notion of minority protection tends to contradict the traditional concept of 'nation state'. As long as European states are obsessed with ideas of ethnic homogeneity and unitary 'national culture', the problems involving the status of cultural and linguistic minorities will be difficult to solve, and the 'minority question' will continue to be a constant source of unrest and political violence.

**Max Pfister**

PRIVILEGED AND UNDERPRIVILEGED LINGUISTIC MINORITIES IN SOUTH TYROL AND IN THE EASTERN PART OF NORTH ITALY

The contribution deals with the problem of linguistic minorities in the eastern parts of North Italy that can be described as either more privileged or less privileged. In the centre of interest are the Ladin valleys in the Dolomites, the cultural and linguistic unity of which has been destroyed by historical events. Belonging to different political and religious administrative districts, these multilingual valleys in the Dolomites – they are part of the provinces of Bolzano, Trento and Belluno – receive varying degrees of support as far as the culture and the language of the Romance language minorities are concerned. Thanks to the status of autonomy of South Tyrol, the Val Gardena is privileged, while parts of the Ladin valleys in the province of Belluno are underprivileged. These are disparities that are analysed in some of the most recent sociolinguistic studies on this region.

**Friedrich Prinz**

LANGUAGE AND NATION IN THE BOHEMIAN COUNTRIES (1848–1938)

The revolution of 1848 brought the 'national question' in Bohemia between Czechs and Germans to the fore and led to a new permanent division in society that cut across traditional structures. Taking this as a starting point the development of the respective national movements and their climax within this period are outlined. At the centre of the presentation is the so-called 'Mährischer Ausgleich' of 1905, which tried to replace the nationalistic confrontation between the two people with another political model, and did so with considerable success. It was based on the central concept of national 'personal autonomy' (a concept devised by Karl Renner), according to which each citizen could decide
whether he wanted to belong to the Czech or the German nationality and could have his name entered in the corresponding Czech or German national register („Nationalkataster“). This decision in turn influenced his political and social actions to a considerable degree. A decisive advantage of this concept (devised on the basis of similar concepts in the area of religious affiliation) was the neutralisation or at least reduction of the struggle about „linguistic borders“ that had poisoned political life until then.

Since more than 90% of the states represented in the UN are multi-ethnic, multinational and often multi-denominational as well, the basic concepts of the „Mährischer Ausgleich“ of 1905 have considerable importance for the present and the future.

Steffen Renner

DID THE ENGLISH TRY TO DESTROY THE WELSH LANGUAGE IN FIGHTING OWAIN GLYNDWR?

In describing the events of the year 1401, Adam of Usk mentions how the people of Cardiganshire were allowed to keep their language in spite of a royal decree to destroy Welsh. As no such decree seems to have existed, the circumstances that could have caused the chronicler’s false assumption are analysed. First the paper gives a brief outline of Welsh history since the Norman conquest of England and proceeds with a description of life and career of Owain Glyndŵr. In dealing with the Welsh rising, attention is drawn to numerous alliances between Welsh and English in disregard of the language division. The aims of the Commons are analysed and compared with the aims of the government in regard to the rising. Further, it is shown that the survival of Welsh law well into the sixteenth century was possible only with the active support of the rulers of both the Principality of Wales and the Marches. Thus it is established that Welsh was accepted even in formal dealings between the two peoples. While it can be shown that no serious attempt was made to vanquish Welsh, language as such was an important topic in political dispute during the early years of the rising: Owain Glyndŵr was repeatedly accused of aiming at the destruction of English by both high-ranking English officials and the English people of the border shires. The paper argues that threats against the opponents’ language may be interpreted as expressions of extreme hostility and may – in the case of the English – have been used to draw nationwide support for a hard-pressed government.

Alexander Ritter

BORDERS BETWEEN CULTURES AND TEXTUAL HISTORY: ON THE CONDITIONS FOR AND THE PROBLEMS OF DEALING WITH GERMAN LITERATURE OF THE DIASPORA

The development of minority literatures is a complex process. Production and reception are a result of the impact that diverse historical-political, geographical-economic, lingual-cultural and demographic-sociological conditions have on the author. He is continually confronted with the different, interfering cultures of the nation he lives in, the minority he is part of and the heritage of his ancestors’ country. Because of these divergent and convergent circumstances, the conception of literature deals with a multiplied reading society, additionally complicated by sociological structures. Writing literary history as part of history writing involves dealing with these suppositions regarding the modern debate on the theory of literary history and history writing. Especially facts such as identity of culture, historical consciousness, heritage and so
called 'Historismus' have to be taken into account. Since the already-published literary histories of German speaking minorities have not succeeded in finding an adequate conception for future projects, the following facts should be considered: scholarly disposition and writing always being aware of the triple reception by the international scholars, journalistic and private readers; the necessary supposition of an author trained in scholarship, who is polyglot and acquainted with the specific circumstances of a minority culture; the knowledge of the complex conditions of literature development, with minorities being bound to a specific view on one minority and its literature; the awareness of writing literary history as being part of literary history and history in general.

Reinhard Schneider

LANGUAGE POLICY IN THE MIDDLE AGES

The contribution distinguishes between linguistic policy in the sense of intralinguistic reformative efforts and language policy, which, in favour of one, mostly one's own language, tries to dominate other languages and eventually to displace them as well. Both concepts can be traced to the Middle Ages; they are, however, generally used in a moderate manner, for it seems that really aggressive modes of behaviour towards different languages are not supported by documentary evidence. Within the often multi-ethnic territories and empires, the variety of languages has, as a rule, been respected and attempts have also been made to act in accordance with it, especially as regards the rulers' postulate of speaking several languages.

 Günter Scholdt

„CUIUS REGIO, EIUS LINGUA.“ LITERARY REFLECTIONS OF LANGUAGE POLICY IN THE GERMAN-FRENCH BORDER AREAS AFTER 1871

Since 1870 Alsace and Lorraine have changed their official language no fewer than four times (always on the basis of the principle „cuius regio, eius lingua“) and they were subjected to additional pressure in the area of linguistic policy. The population of the Saarland was afraid of a similar development in their area after 1919. The author analyses numerous literary texts dealing with this linguistic problem. The analysis shows that truly cosmopolitan authors remained a minority for a long time. Only recently has an entente crossing the borders begun to develop, an entente that does not view nationality and language as two elements that must be made to coincide at all costs.

Peter Wiesinger

ON THE LINGUISTIC SITUATION AND LANGUAGE POLICY IN THE MINORITY AREAS OF AUSTRIA

Austria borders on countries with official languages other than German. In addition to this, she is home to six ethnic minorities recognised by law, viz. the Slovenian minority in Southern Carinthia, the Croatian and Hungarian minorities in the Burgenland, the Czechs and the Slovaks in Vienna and the Roma and Sinti, who are dispersed, their largest concentration being in Oberwart in the Burgenland. Origin, territory, size and language of these minorities are described in the article. Even though the legal basis is the same for all minorities, the official use of their respective languages in school, administration, church and broadcasting varies
considerably. The linguistic situation is characterised by general bilingualism, with the minority language being used in the dialectal and/or standardised variety. The sociolinguistic situation may be different in the various minorities but in general the minority language is predominantly used in oral communication. Furthermore its use is declining amongst the younger generation.

**BIARCHISCHEN ANGABEN**


**Götze, Lutz**, Prof. Dr., Universität des Saarlandes, Fachrichtung Germanistik, Forschungsschwerpunkt: Deutsch als Fremdsprache.


413