

Summary

Linguistic Evidence of the Medieval German-Slavonic Contact Area between the Rivers Saale and Mulde (since 10th c.). Analysis and Interpretation

This article explains historical forms of toponyms since the tenth century in a region of language contact between Slavonic and German speakers in the Eastern parts of Germany. Special attention is given to the adaptation of Oldsorbian place names by German people and their recording in Latin texts during the Middle Ages. In this paper, a distinction between the names in Oldsorbian and in the borrowing German language with the states of *Transsumt*, *Transponat*, *Integrat* and *Adaptat* will be presented. Communicational situations in the region with languages in contact during the Middle Ages are described by means of sociolinguistics. Hence, one can differentiate between a certain culture-based bilinguality and a partial bilinguality at different times. In the final part of the paper, the practical advantage and profit of analysing the phenomena of languages in contact is illustrated and documented. Examples are primarily Slavonic place names and also a Pre-slavonic toponym; examined are their phonemic, graphemic and morphemic structures.