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## DEVELOPMENT OF SLOVENIAN LINGUISTIC TERMINOLOGY IN GRAMMARS OF SLOVENIAN

### 1. HISTORY OF SLOVENIAN GRAMMARS AND LINGUISTIC TERMINOLOGY

Slovenian linguistics and Slovenian linguistic terminology have a relatively rich and long history, both of which are inextricably tied, at least in the early periods, to grammars of the Slovenian language. For the purposes of this article, the history of Slovenian grammars with respect to the development of linguistic terminology is divided into three periods: 1. Initial Period (1584–1791), 2. Intermediate Period (1809–1863), and 3. Modern Period (1863–2017).

#### 1.1. Initial Period (1584–1791)

The Initial Period is marked by the publication of the first grammar of Slovenian (Bohorič 1584) and by first attempts at creating Slovenian linguistic terminology in a systematic manner (Pohlin 1768).

The beginnings of Slovenian linguistics can be traced back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century when the first grammar of the Slovenian language was published: Adam Bohorič's *Arcticae horulae succisivae* (1584)<sup>1</sup>. This grammar was written in the Latin metalan-

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<sup>1</sup> Basic information on Slovenian grammars is drawn from the descriptions published on the portal *Slovenske slovnice in pravopisi* (*Slovenian Grammars and Usage Guides*, Ahačič 2015). This portal contains descriptions of 44 Slovenian grammars and 7 usage guides published in the period 1584–2008. The Slovenian portal is based on the portal *Corpus de textes linguistiques fondamentaux* (*Corpus of Key Linguistic Texts*, Colombat 2020) as it uses the same categories for the description of Slovenian grammars as the original French portal (selected descriptions of Slovenian grammars and usage guides were subsequently translated and incorporated into the portal *Corpus de textes linguistiques fondamentaux*). The portal *Slovenske slovnice in pravopisi* was created within the framework of the project *Incorporation of the selected grammars by Slovenian authors into the international corpus CILF – Corpus de textes linguistiques fondamentaux and establishment of the portal of the*

guage (it contains no Slovenian linguistic/grammatical terms<sup>2</sup>), as is the case with many grammars of vernacular European languages in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The author's goal was to show, among other things, that Slovenian is as capable of expressing the entire range of meanings as Latin. This means that descriptive categories and concepts developed for the description of the Latin language were applied to the description of Slovenian. Within Slovenian grammaticography, Bohorič's grammar was highly influential as its influence persisted for several centuries after its publication. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century, apart from Bohorič's grammar there was only one grammatical description of Slovenian: a grammatical sketch of Slovenian appended to Megiser's quadrilingual dictionary (Megiser 1592). Slovenian literary language of the 16<sup>th</sup> century consists of prints published by Slovenian protestant writers: these texts are predominantly religious in nature. There are only a handful of texts dealing with other topics, e.g., introductory textbooks for learning to read and write. As there are no proper linguistic texts written in Slovenian in this period, it is difficult to talk about proper linguistic terminology with regard to the 16<sup>th</sup> century (see Toporišič 1986). However, there were some expressions used in metalinguistic works (passages) which had the potential to acquire the status of terms (and some of them actually did become terms in the following centuries): *gramatika* 'grammar,' *konzonant* 'consonant,' *puhštab* 'letter,' etc.<sup>3</sup>

In the 17<sup>th</sup> century, only one grammar of Slovenian was published: da Sommaripa's short grammatical sketch written in Italian as part of the introduction to an Italian–Slovenian dictionary (da Sommaripa 1607).

The 18<sup>th</sup> century saw a rekindled interest in grammar-writing: there were three adaptations of Bohorič's grammar and a few original new printed grammars: Marko Pohlin's grammars (Pohlin <sup>1</sup>1768, <sup>2</sup>1783), Gutschmann's grammar (Gutschmann 1777) and Zagajšek bilingual grammar (Zagajšek 1791); all of these grammars were influ-

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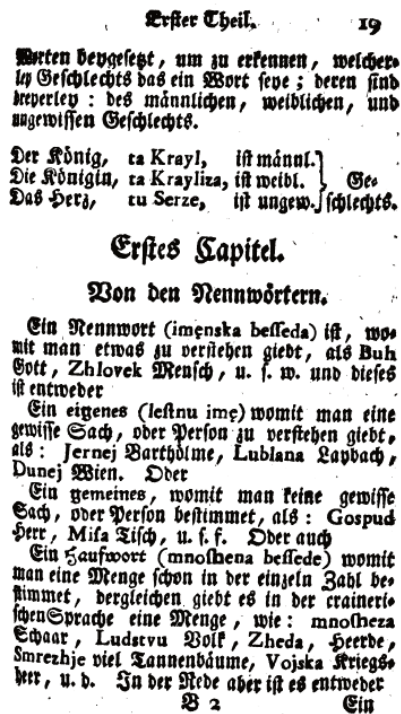
*Slovenian grammars and orthographical dictionaries* (J6–4092) managed by Kozma Ahačič and funded by the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency. For other reviews of the development of Slovenian grammaticography and linguistic terminology, see especially Rotar (1958), Ramovš (1971), Stankiewicz (1984), Toporišič (1986), Ahačič (2007), Trojar (2017: 162–169).

<sup>2</sup> For the purposes of this article, *grammatical terminology* ('terms found, used, discussed in (traditional descriptive or prescriptive) grammars and originating from such grammars, but not exclusively limited to the use in such grammars, which denote language-related phenomena, such as *noun*, *adjective*, *subject*, and are known to and shared by most specialists in the field of linguistics') is considered to be a subset of *linguistic terminology* ('any term used in linguistics to denote language-related phenomena, such as *sentence*, *penthouse principle*, *archiphoneme*, which may or may not be known to and shared by most specialists in the field of linguistics').

<sup>3</sup> It should be emphasised that particularly in diachronic research on terminology much depends on the defining criteria for an expression to be considered a term. In this article, a more restrictive view of terminology is adopted, the main criterion being the occurrence of terms in fairly specialized texts (e.g., grammars when dealing with linguistic terminology). Note that even in the earliest stages of literary language(s) development, the process of determinologization must be taken into account (see Legan Ravnkar 2023; Trojar 2023).

enced, to various degrees, by Bohorič's grammar. From the perspective of Slovenian linguistic terminology, the most significant one is Pohlin's grammar: although it employs German metalanguage, Pohlin added some Slovenian equivalents, enclosing them in parentheses (see Figure 1 below). Pohlin did not provide Slovenian equivalents to all German terms he used, but was consistent enough to be considered the first grammarian to undertake the creation of Slovenian linguistic terminology in a fairly systematic manner.

Figure 1. A sample page from Pohlin's grammar (Pohlin 1768: 19)



The Initial Period ends with the publication of Zagajšek's (1791) grammar which is a bilingual grammar: each page in German is followed by its translation into Slovenian, which means that Zagajšek had to translate all German terms into Slovenian.

## 1.2. Intermediate Period (1809–1863)

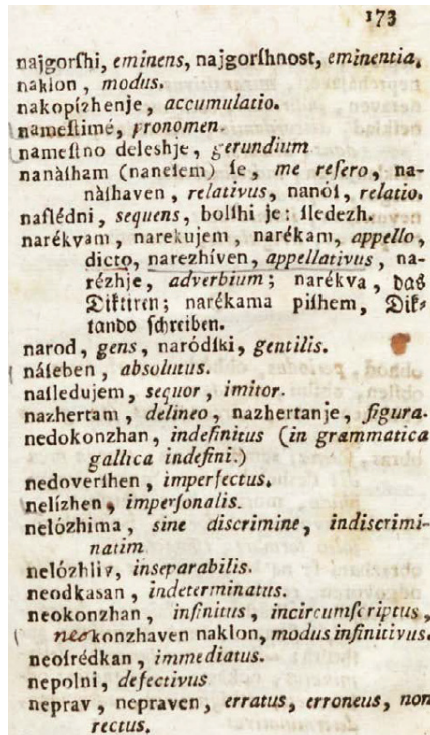
The Intermediate Period is marked by the proliferation of grammars describing the Slovenian language and also by the proliferation of grammars written in the Slovenian metalanguage. The most influential grammars of this period include:

Jernej Kopitar's *Grammatik der Slavischen Sprache in Krain, Kärnten und Steyermark* (Kopitar 1809), which is considered by some to be the first scientific grammar of Slovenian, Valentin Vodnik's *Pismenost ali Gramatika sa Perve Shore* (Vodnik 1811), which is the first Slovenian grammar to be written in the Slovenian meta-language exclusively, and Anton Janežič's *Slovenska slovnica s kratkim pregledom slovenskega slovstva ter z malim cirilskim in glagoliškim berilom za Slovence* (Janežič 1854), which significantly contributed to the stabilization of Slovenian grammatical terminology (especially from its second edition onwards, i.e. Janežič 1863, see below).

Valentin Vodnik's *Pismenost ali Gramatika sa Perve Shore* is noteworthy because of its influence on several concise grammars published around 1850. It also contains the first terminological dictionary of Slovenian linguistic terms (see Figure 2 below), i.e. a Slovenian–Latin terminological dictionary (partially enriched by equivalents from other languages, e.g., French and German).

Unsurprisingly, the quantitative increase of grammars written during the Intermediate Period, especially after 1850 when several grammars of Slovenian were published, also brought about divergences in terminology between authors (i.e.,

Figure 2. A sample page from Vodnik's grammar: terminological dictionary (Vodnik 1811: 173)



different authors used different terms to refer to the same concepts). Anton Janežič, himself a grammarian, perceived this as a problem and opened a public discussion in the journal *Slovenski glasnik*, which he edited. His goal was to invite other linguists to propose and choose the best terms for each concept. Many linguists did respond to his call: they contributed to the discussion and published their suggestions in papers submitted to the journal. Moreover, 'the second edition of Janežič's 1854 grammar, i.e., *Slovenska slovnica za domačo in šolsko rabo* (Janežič 1863), can be said to be the result of a terminological consensus between linguists. In 1862, Janežič announced he would send a manuscript of his grammar to leading Slovenian linguists of the time. The manuscript was accompanied by a notebook where his fellow linguists could write their comments on the content of the grammar and the terminology that he used. Janežič's 1863 grammar was thus a result of collective efforts of many linguists to reach a consensus with regard to the core grammatical terminology.

### 1.3. Modern Period (1863–2017)

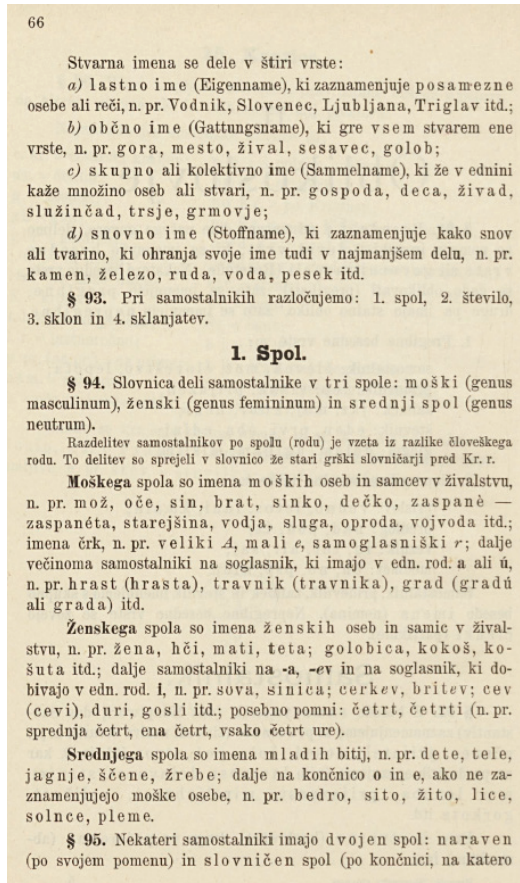
The Modern Period is marked by relatively unified core grammatical terminology. After 1863, Janežič's grammar was published in eight editions (its ninth and tenth editions were published in 1906 and 1910, respectively). Janežič's grammar(s) proved to be a decisive factor in establishing Slovenian grammatical terminology. Breznik (1916, see Figure 3 below) and Toporišič ('2000) both largely respected the terminological tradition and made relatively few changes with respect to Janežič's proposal (see Section 2 below). This is also true of Kozma Ahačič's grammars (2017a, 2017b), which are the most recent Slovenian grammars written in Slovenian<sup>4</sup>: the differences between Toporišič's and Ahačič's grammars are only minor. The Modern Period is, however, notable for an increasing number of linguistic text types other than grammars (e.g., articles in linguistic journals, monographs) that have become even more important than grammars with respect to the dissemination of (new) linguistic terminology in highly specialized subfields of linguistics, such as sociolinguistics, lexicography, applied linguistics etc.

There are relatively few terminographic (lexicographic) resources on Slovenian linguistic terminology: the most complete one till this day has been Jože Toporišič's *Enciklopedija slovenskega jezika* (1992), a concise encyclopaedia of the Slovenian language and linguistics that also contains proper noun entries. Another noteworthy resource on linguistic terminology is *Slovarček jezikoslovnih izrazov*, a concise glossary of linguistic terms used in the Slovenian usage guide *Slovenski pravopis – Pravila* edited by Jože Toporišič's (1990).

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<sup>4</sup> *Kratkoslovnica* (Ahačič 2017a) is a didactic grammar intended for primary schools, whereas *Slovnica na kvadrat* is a didactic grammar intended for secondary schools (Ahačič 2017b).

Figure 3. A sample page from Breznik's grammar (Breznik 1916: 66)



## 2. QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS OF TERMS DENOTING 50 CONCEPTS IN 19 GRAMMARS IN THE PERIOD 1768–1916

The research goal of the quantitative analysis<sup>5</sup> was to verify (i.e., confirm or reject) the hypothesis that Anton Janežič's made the largest contribution to the stabilization of Slovenian grammatical terminology in terms of the number of terms he introduced in his grammars (Janežič 1854, 1863).

<sup>5</sup> The quantitative analysis was conducted as part of the research conducted for the PhD thesis *Development of Slovenian Linguistic Terminology in Slovenian Grammars in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries* (University of Nova Gorica, PhD supervisor: Kozma Ahačič, see Trojar 2017). The original analysis is reported in this article but has since been updated to include selected Slovenian grammars published since the beginning of the 20th century, see Trojar (2024).

The analysis took into account 50 concepts in 19 grammars in the period 1768–1916 (the period starting with Pohlin (1768) and ending with Breznik (1916))<sup>6</sup>. Table 1 below shows a selection of 10 Slovenian grammatical terms included in the analysis: the first column shows selected terms used by Breznik (1916), whereas the second column indicates its first appearance as well as the year (publication year) when the term in question first appeared in one of the examined grammars<sup>7</sup>.

**Table 1. Selected Slovenian grammatical terms from Breznik’s 1916 grammar: their first appearance in one of the analysed grammars (adapted from Trojar 2017: 171–172)**

Breznik 1916	Grammarian who introduced the term + year of introduction
<i>besedna vrsta</i> ‘part of speech’	Breznik (1916)
<i>samostalnik</i> ‘noun’	Janežič (1863) ( <i>samostavnik</i> )
<i>lastno ime</i> ‘proper noun’	Pohlin (1768) ( <i>lestnu ime</i> )
<i>moški spol</i> ‘masculine gender’	Pohlin (1768)
<i>ženski spol</i> ‘feminine gender’	Pohlin (1768)
<i>srednji spol</i> ‘neuter gender’	Vodnik (1811) ( <i>srédni spol</i> )
<i>imenovalnik</i> ‘nominative’	Malavašič (1849) ( <i>imenovavnik</i> )
<i>dajalnik</i> ‘dative’	Janežič (1854) ( <i>dajavnik</i> )
<i>tožilnik</i> ‘accusative’	Janežič (1854) ( <i>toživnik</i> )
<i>števnik</i> ‘numeral’	Janežič (1863)

The analysis confirmed that it is Janežič who made by far the most substantial contribution to Slovenian grammatical terminology by introducing 27 terms out of 50 studied terms (in both his 1854 and 1863 editions of his grammar), which represents 54% of the 50 terms retained by Breznik. Vodnik (1811) introduced 7 terms found in Breznik, i.e., 14% of the sample. Pohlin, Muršec and Majar each introduced 3 terms (6% each).

<sup>6</sup> Initially, the analysis was supposed to include Toporišič’s grammar (2000) as well. As it turned out, Breznik’s (1916) and Toporišič’s grammar (2000) only differ in 5 terms selected for analysis, which is why Breznik’s grammar can be roughly considered as representative for the state of grammatical terminology at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (his grammar is the first original grammar in the 20<sup>th</sup> century following adaptations of Janežič’s grammars) as well as for contemporary grammatical terminology (21<sup>st</sup> century). See Appendix 2 in Trojar (2017: 349–358) for a complete list of terms and grammars used in the analysis.

<sup>7</sup> Terms enclosed in parenthesis show the original spelling of selected terms and possibly also slight phonetic variants of terms as found in each grammar. These spelling/phonetic variants are not considered significant enough to represent different terms (but rather the same term).

The results thus confirm the hypothesis that Janežič's grammars are the ones in which the largest portion of terms retained by Breznik were introduced. This is not surprising given the circumstances in which Janežič's grammar was created: Janežič actively sought consensus among linguists on to the terminology used in his grammar.

### 3. CONCLUSIONS

Slovenian grammars played a key role in establishing Slovenian grammatical (linguistic) terminology. Although the first grammar to provide Slovenian grammatical terms appeared relatively late (Pohlin 1768), the process of establishing and stabilization of the core grammatical terminology can be said to have been completed fairly quickly: without trying to discount Pohlin's and Zagajšek's contributions to the development of Slovenian grammatical terminology<sup>8</sup>, the process starting with the creation of the entire set of Slovenian grammatical terminology (Vodnik's 1811 grammar being the first grammar of Slovenian to be written entirely in the Slovenian metalanguage) and ending with the stabilisation (unification) of core grammatical terminology (unification being achieved through various editions of Janežič's grammars) was completed in the course of the 19<sup>th</sup> century<sup>9</sup>.

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<sup>8</sup> Pohlin's grammar did not provide the entire range of grammatical terminology, whereas Zagajšek grammar and his terminology were not influential enough (Zagajšek's terminology in particular was often considered poorly formed).

<sup>9</sup> The research presented in this paper was conducted within the research programme *The Slovenian Language in Synchronic and Diachronic Development* (P6-0038) funded by the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency.



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***Development of Slovenian linguistic terminology in grammars of Slovenian***

## Summary

This article presents the main stages of the development of Slovenian linguistic (grammatical) terminology in Slovenian grammars. The overview covers the most prominent Slovenian grammars written in different metalanguages between 1584 and 2017, from Adam Bohorič's first grammar of the Slovenian language *Arcticae horulae succisivae de Latinocarniolana Literatura* (1584) to Kozma Ahačič's most recent grammars *Kratkoslovnica* and *Slovnica na kvadrat* (2017). The outline is followed by the results of an analysis of the terms that denoted key grammatical concepts in the period 1768–1916, which demonstrated that most of the terms for the concepts in question had been stabilised by the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**Keywords:** history of linguistics – Slovenian grammars – linguistic terminology – grammatical terminology.

Trans. Marta Falkowska