

From the Editors

The 60th issue of “Zeszyty Łużyckie” is dedicated to Ignacy Doliński, PhD – accomplished researcher of Slavic linguistics at the Institute of Western and Southern Slavic Studies, University of Warsaw, member of the Polish National Committee of the Slavic Linguistic Atlas (OLA), and longtime contributor to this journal.

The focus of the present volume are minority languages in Central and Eastern Europe and their place on the dialect map of Slavic languages; however, the selection of topics covered in the presented works is much broader. The collected articles aim at showing some of the ways in which minority languages, rather than taken existing on their own, are not only constantly surrounded by the official languages of the respective countries, but also should be considered within specific linguistic backgrounds; therefore, they are often classified as transitional dialects or dialects of the official languages of other countries. Such is the case with numerous minority languages in Central and Eastern Europe that are important points on the larger map of Slavic dialects.

Considering minority languages in a dialectological perspective provides a number of research methods and tools which help better understand the particular linguistic and cultural backgrounds as well as their relationship with the official language and its users. The distribution of minority languages on the Slavic dialect map can be examined within both a synchronic and diachronic approach, as relevant to their historical and current development. Likewise, research methods from various fields such as i.a. sociolinguistics or cultural, social, and political studies, may be employed.

The issue opens with an interview with Ignacy Doliński in which he recollects his beginnings as a researcher and the following many years of work in the field of linguistics – Slavic and beyond, and describes, in fascinating detail, his numerous interests, both strictly academic and broader.

The topic of minority languages as dialects is addressed in Matej Šekli's *Slovene as a "minoritized language" in Austria, Italy, Hungary, and Croatia: genealogical linguistic and sociolinguistic aspects*, where Slovene dialects in the neighboring countries of Slovenia are studied from the point of view of linguistic genealogy as well as sociolinguistics.

The situation of Montenegrin as a minority language in post-Yugoslav states is discussed by Robert Bońkowski in his article *Constitutional and legal status of the Montenegrin language as a minority language in the states of the former Yugoslavia*.

Milena Hebal-Jeziarska describes the disputes concerning the so-called *obecná čeština*, its features, definition, distribution, and its place in the stratification of the Czech language in her paper *Obecná čeština – the Controversial Non-Literary Variety of the Czech Language*.

Josip Lasić and Željka Macan discuss the dialectical, archaic, and foreign linguistic features of Josip Badalić's travelogue in their essay *A Few Words on the Lexis and Style of Moslavačke razglednice ("Postcards from Moslavina")*.

The regular Sorabian section of the journal features two articles: Tadeusz Lewaszkiwicz analyzes Upper Sorbian compound words with the *wulko-* prefix found in the short-lived journal "Nowa doba" in his study *Upper Sorbian compound words with the wulko- element in "Nowa doba" from 1977 to 1980 (based on the history of compounds with wulko-)*, and Slavka Keremidchieva presents the findings of the research on Sorbian kinship terminology conducted for the Slavic Linguistic Atlas in her article *Sorbian kinship terminology according to the data in Volume 11. "Degrees of Kinship" of the Slavic Linguistic Atlas (preliminary results)*.

Finally, in the *Varia* section, Zbigniew and Krzysztof Kopociński respond to the review of their book *Horka – łużycka Golgota służby zdrowia 2. Armii Wojska Polskiego*, published in the 57th issue of "Zeszyty Łużyckie", and Karolina Gortych-Michalak provides an *In Memoriam* dedicated to Mimmo Nucera "Milinari", a figure of immense importance for the Greko language and culture.

Janusz Szablewski