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Contributions to the Contacts between Finno-Ugric and Slavonic Linguistics in the Late 18th and Early 19th Century

The famous Czech linguist Jozef Dobrovsky had good contacts with his Hungarian collegue Samuel Gyarmathi. Dobrovsky exerted remarkable influence on him, which also manifested itself in Gyarmathi's "Affinitas Lingua Hungaricae". (Angyal, 1954; Pražak, 1967.) Dobrovsky, in one of his manuscripts that has come down to us listed the Slavic loan-words in Hungarian. (Danczi, 1969.)

Dobrovsky was also the person who put much effort into and ispired the birth of Subcarpathian or Rusyn linguistics. The first modern Rusyn linguists, Lutskay and Fogarassy, too, were very well acquainted with contemporary Hungarian linguistics. However interesting it would be to speak about the new results yielded by latest research on Dobrovsky's findings in the field of Hungarian in view of the limits of this paper we are going to discuss a third aspect: the contacts

between Rusyn and Hungarian linguistics.

The questions of contacts between Hungarian and Subcarpathian (Rusyn) linguistics are not so well-known, so it seems to be useful to tell a few words about the history of Rusyn philology in the early 19th century. The Subcarpathian Rusyn people had no intelligentsia, no ruling class speaking Rusyn, no chances to come close to European culture before the establishment of the Greek Catholic Church. The orthodox priests were serfs and they had no access to theological training. After the union of Ungvár (Uzhorod, 1646th), and, particularly, after the establishment of the Diocese of Munkács (1771) the Greek Catholic priests studied in theological seminars and academies. Subarpathian seminarists studies in Eger, a town in the north of Hungary, were bishop Esterházy founded a famous library containing books of all kinds on contemporary European science. (Magocsy, 1987; Földvári, 1995.)

Queen Maria Theresa established the Greek Catholic seminar at the St. Barbara parish in Vienna (1774) where the alumni of Slavic peoples of the Habsburg Empire studied, and so did many Rusyn seminarist from Subcarpathia. (Plochl, 1975.) They had contacts with Bartolomeus Kopitar and Josef Dobrovsky in Vienna, whose activity and works are generally accepted as the foundation of Slavic linguistics in the age of the Enlightenment, when modern philology was being formed. Dobrovsky's influence on Lutskay's and Fogarassy's Rusyn Grammars (Buda, 1830th and Vienna, 1833th) was analysed in detail by Tichy, 1929 and 1938. In the present paper special attention is paid to the the contacts between Michael Lutskay and Hungarian linguistics in the early 19th century.

Lutskay was born in Velikije Luchki ('Great Luchka'), a Subcarpathian village near Mukachevo. Writing his parallel grammar of Church Slavonic and the Subcarpathian vernacular, he took the Rusyn dialect of his birthplace Velikije Luchky as basis. (Gerovskij, 1930.) Lutskay changed his surname when he was a pupil of the Hungarian secondary school in Nagyvárad (now Oradea in Roumania) and instead of the original family name 'Pop' he adopted the Hungarian name 'Lutskay' meaning 'a person from Luchka'. Later he studied in Barbareum in Vienna when he took an active part in the cultural life of the town and became interested in philology as well. After graduating from the seminar, he correspondended with Dobrovsky. Later he served in the Greek Catholic parish at Carlo Lodended with dended with the dended with the dended parish at Carlo Lo-dovico Bourbon's court in Lucca. It was at that time (1829-1830) that he wrote his Grammatica Slavo-Ruthena. (Gordynskij, 1918; Hadzhega, 1929.)

S. Rót has pointed out that Lutskay was well acquainted with the Hungarian Grammars of his time and owing to their influence he did not accept the existence of some Latin patterns in Hungarian. As a result of the authority of Latin several grammars of national languages written in 17-18th centuries accepted some Latin syntactic patterns which did not exist in them. Authors of Hungarian grammars did not make such mistakes because the Finno-Ugric character of Hungarian constructions did not allow it. S. Rót has pointed out Verseghy's influence on M. Lutskay, but he refers to Verseghy's Grammar as the only example of the contacts between Lutskay and contemporary Hungarian authors. (Rót, 1983 and 1991.)

In our view, Verseghy's influence is only one of the aspects of this issue. As it is well-known, the early 19th century was the time of controversy between Verseghy's and Révay's parties in Hungarian linguistics. The main point of the debate was whether the forms of Hungarian vernacular were acceptable in the literary language, especially in its orthography (Verseghy), or the literary language must follow the ethymological principle (Révay)? (Eder, 1991.) So, which of these two sides of Hungarian linguistics influenced Lutskay's works? The most probable

answer is that both did.

M. Lutskay followed the Rusyn vernacular in the Ruthenian part of his Grammar. For instance, he did not use the hard 'jer' in the positions where it had no phonetic sense. (Rót, 1983.) Thus, he accepted Verseghy's views in this case. On the other hand, Lutskay emphasized that the literary version of any language cannot accept the forms of the vernacular: "...nullam existere lingvam eruditam cum plebe communem, nam id significaret, ut ruricola similes idaeas, et conceptus innatos habeat, quos eruditi per instructionem, et lectionem nanciscuntur." (Lutskay, 1830: vii.).

He proposed that Church Slavonic should be literary language of all Slavic peoples and he referred to German as an example: "Unde nec Gallica, Italica, tantominus Germanica eadem est lingva eruditorum et Communis plebis, sed ideo nulli incidit, communes modulationes, flexiones, et expressiones anteponere Litterariis. Et ideo eadem manet Litteraria Germanica Londini, Petropoli, quae Vien-

nae." (Tbidem.)

There is no place for the detailed analysis of Lutskay's Grammar in this paper. What we would like to point out is that Verseghy's work is not the only source of Lutskay's Grammar. Although the original idea of Church Slavonic functioning as a common literary language of Slavic peoples comes from Josef Dobrovsky, M. Lutskai was familiar with the Hungarian linguistic theories of his age and there are more reminiscences of Hungarian Grammars in Lutskay's book than those generally discussed in the specialist literature on the subject.

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