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DIACLEU - An Introduction to Dialect Classifications in Europe, 4th issue

Abstract

This is the fourth issue of DIACLEU, Dialect classifications of languages in Europe, published in Dialectologia.

This issue starts with a theoretical contribution on perceptual dialectology by Anne-France Pinget, Cesko Voeten, Martijn Kingma, Nika Stefan and Hans Van de Velde: "Placing accents: A quantitative, perceptual-dialectological study of language variation in West Frisian". From the 1980's onwards, perceptual dialectology has complemented the tradition of production-based dialectology (Preston 1989), which investigates the subjective evaluation and classification of geographical variation by the language users themselves. The paper has a two-fold methodological aim: (i) avoiding the drawbacks of forced-choice categorization and free-classification tasks by introducing a map-based recognition-task, and (ii) capture the present-day regional variation patterns resulting from dialect levelling and dialect loss. The assumption that these new patterns are geographically organized along traditional geographical production patterns was tested on (West) Frisian spoken in the Netherlands and is only partially confirmed.

This issue also presents a historical overview and analysis of classifications of Bulgarian (Ana Kocheva), West Frisian (Arjen P. Versloot), Ladin (Paul Videsott), Latvian (Anna Stafecka), Macedonian (Veselinka Labroska, Marjan Markovikj and Victor Friedman), Romansh (Stefano Negrinelli) and Swedish (Anna Westerberg). Thus there were additions to the Romance (Ladin and Romansh), Slavic (Bulgarian and Macedonian), Baltic (Latvian) and Germanic (Frisian and Swedish) language families discussed in the previous issues. Like in previous issues, the languages differ in sociolinguistic situation and official status.