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Review of: Circum-Baltic Languages Vol. 1: Past and Present, and Circum-Baltic Languages Vol. 2: Grammar and Typology

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guese just differs (such as the behavior of clitics). Another positive aspect of this volume concerns the micro-parametric level of variation; some papers deal with (differences between) European and Brazilian Portuguese, and one even with diachronic aspects of the language. All in all, we're dealing with another great book in a very successful series. [KLEANTHES K. GROHMANN, *University of Cologne*.]

Language and the internet: A linguist looks at discourse on the internet. By DAVID CRYSTAL. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001. Pp. 272. $23.00.

How is the internet affecting language? What might be the end result? These are the questions David Crystal addresses, developing the view that the language of the internet (what he calls Netspeak) is a new medium blending properties of speaking, writing, and rapid electronic exchange. The book consists of eight chapters. Ch. 1, 'A linguistic perspective' (1–23), establishes some relevant linguistic preliminaries including the features of language C sees as relevant (graphic, orthographic, grammatical, discourse, phonetic, and phonological) and the web situations he examines in later chapters. Ch. 2, 'The medium of Netspeak' (24–61), considers whether the language of the internet is more akin to writing or speech. C notes that email, chatgroups, and virtual worlds rely heavily on core properties of speech combined with graphic richness. C also includes some discussion of Paul Grice's maxims and of how they are undermined by such net practices as *spoofing*, *trolling*, *lurking*, *spamming*, and *flaming*.

Ch. 3, 'Finding an identity' (62–93), gives background on prescriptive vs. descriptive approaches and discusses internet style guides (such as *Wired Style: Principles of English usage in the digital age*, by Constance Hale and Jessie Scanlon, New York: Broadway Books, 1999). C also discusses the salient features of Netspeak: its unique jargon and acronyms, emoticons (such as :-(for sadness), shorthand abbreviations such as *imo* (in my opinion) and *btw* (by the way), minimalist punctuation, and the suppression of capital letters. In Ch. 4, 'The language of e-mail' (94–128), C discusses such structural elements of email messages as headers, salutations, message length, typing errors, paragraph structure and length, the message within a message technique, and the practice of framing answers by cutting and pasting from other messages. C also provides further discussion of email style in relation to the prescriptive tradition and to business communication.

In Ch. 5, 'The language of chatgroups' (129–70), C considers the language of multiparticipant electronic forums—chatgroups, newsgroups, and lists. The discourse may be synchronous (as in chatrooms which rely on internet-relay-chat or instant messaging and which may develop their own rebus-like abbreviations and jargon) or asynchronous (as in lists or discussion groups). C speculates that the rambling nature of some electronic conversation may have a role in creating community. He also cites work on classroom conferencing and suggests that asynchronous groups in particular may emerge as a distinct discourse type. Ch. 6, 'The languages of virtual worlds' (171–94), describes the linguistic creativity found in multi-user dimensions (MUDs and MOOs) geared toward role-playing. These have an innovative terminology (*wizard, emote, gag*, etc.) and also evince a range of stylistic options (sharing a tendency toward economy). Ch. 7, 'The language of the web' (195–223), describes the linguistic features of web pages which include interrupted linear text, banners and popup pages, and hyperlinks. C also discusses the linguistic problems involved in search issues and the growth and management of the web, including its likely trend toward a more multilingual nature. Finally Ch. 8, 'The linguistic future of the internet' (224–42), deals with what comes next. Just as radio yielded to television, changes in bandwidth and wireless technology may see full screen text-based communication supplanted by short screen variants. C also suggests that specialized subject-related domains will incubate further language change.

C writes accessibly to a general audience, and he provides good descriptions of both linguistic concepts and the various internet communication types. His work here serves several roles. He dispels the folk view that Netspeak is randomly sloppy language, highlighting for the general reader its creativity and evolving nature. He documents the variety of Newspeak and its unique character. And he brings together his own observations with discussion of some of the linguistic research already done (by Lynn Cherny, Boyd Davis and Jeutonne Brewer, Susan Herring, and others) to focus our thinking about the future of language on the internet. [EDWIN BATTISTELLA, *Southern Oregon University*.]

Circum-Baltic languages. Vol. 1: Past and present. Ed. by ÖSTEN DAHL and MARIA KOPTJEVSKAJA-TAMM. (Studies in language companion series 54.) Amsterdam & Philadelphia: John Benjamins, 2001. Pp. xx, 382. $130.00.

Circum-Baltic languages. Vol. 2: Grammar and typology. Ed. by ÖSTEN DAHL and MARIA KOPTJEVSKAJA-TAMM. (Studies in language companion series 55.) Amsterdam & Philadelphia: John Benjamins, 2001. Pp. xx, 423. $140.00.

These twin volumes grew out of a six-year research program entitled 'Language typology around

the Baltic Sea', sponsored by the Faculty of Humanities at Stockholm University and directed by one of the editors (Maria Koptjevskaja-Tamm). They seek to unite the broad sweep characteristic of typological inquiries with the finer-grained detail typical of language contact studies. While K-T concedes that Circum-Baltic (CB) languages are not a true Sprachbund, she emphasizes that the contact situation in northeastern Europe has never been assessed holistically because the languages spoken there have traditionally been the domain of separate disciplines founded on genetic lines. Many facets of the historical interaction between the CB Germanic, Baltic, Slavic, and Finnic languages have therefore never received the attention they deserve.

Vol. 1 surveys individual CB languages from a historical perspective, with special attention to dialects and geographically minor language forms which exhibit some of the most interesting contact-induced features. Chapters by LAIMUTE BALODE and AXEL HOLVOET cover Latvian (3–40) and Lithuanian (41–80); VALERIY ČEKMONAS discusses contact phenomena involving the rural Russian dialects of Old Believers in the Baltic during Tsarist times (81–100) and nineteenth-century Russian as spoken in Tallinn, Riga, and Vilnius (101–36). ANNE-CHARLOTTE RENDAHL examines Swedish dialects of the Baltic littoral, including the once substantial Livonian Swedish population (137–78). JOHANNA LAAKSO surveys Finnic languages (179–212). These articles mainly focus on typological features of special significance for language contact and dialect genesis.

ÖSTEN DAHL's 'The origin of the Scandinavian languages' (215–35) gathers evidence to argue that Danish influence beginning in late Roman times homogenized previously differentiated local Germanic dialects across Scandinavia by circa 600 AD. To drive this point home, the conclusion of D's convincing proposal is subtitled 'Why do Swedes speak Danish?' (231). The prevailing hypothesis hitherto was that the small, scattered Nordic settlements in pre-Viking times somehow managed to maintain strong linguistic unity over several centuries despite desultory mutual contact.

Other entries explore specific contact situations. LARS-GUNNAR LARSSON investigates Baltic contact features in Finnic (237–53). STEFAN M. PUGH explores the role of contact in the formation of Karelian (257–70). ÉVA ÁGNES CSATÓ's 'Syntactic code-copying in Karaim' (271–83) discusses northern Europe's only long-established Turkic speech community, with 200 speakers in Lithuania. There are also articles on Baltic forms of Yiddish both past and present (285–311, NEIL G. JACOBS), North Russian Romani (313–37, ALEKSANDR YU. RUSAKOV), and CB features in Pskov-Novgorod Russian (339–59, Valeriy Čekmonas).

Most of the articles in the second volume deal with specific phonological, morphological, or syntactic features that developed in a single language due to contact or have come to be shared by more than one language. Many focus on typologically interesting features of the languages under consideration. These include passive and impersonal constructions in Baltic and Finnic (363–90, Axel Holvoet), nominative objects in East Baltic (391–412, VYTAUTAS AMBRAZAS), Latvian and Livonian verbal particles (413–42, BERNHARD WÄLCHLI), Estonian verb aspect (443–80, HELLE METSLANG), Latvian and Estonian nominal morphosyntax (481–98, BAIBA METUZĀLE-KANGERE and KERSTI BOIKO), and the Baltic and Finnic genitive (499–520, SIMON CHRISTEN). MARIA KOPTJEVSKAJA-TAMM discusses partitive and pseudo-partitive nominal constructions (523–68), LEON STASSEN nonverbal predication (569–90), and THOMAS STOLZ instrumentals and comitatives (591–612).

The unifying gem of this collection is the masterful synthesis by Maria Koptjevskaja-Tamm and Bernhard Wälchli (615–750). Rather than a Sprachbund, the authors view the CB area as a 'contact superposition zone' formed by a series of overlapping linguistic influences sponsored by several competing centers (Viking, German, Polish-Lithuanian, Russian), none of which ever fully dominated the entire territory. This led to an interface between 'Standard Average European' and Central Eurasian language types as well as to partial convergence involving a host of diagnostic structural elements between these various centers of influence and the individual CB languages. The CB area also turns out to be intermediate in terms of Nichols's 'spread' vs. 'residual' zones (Johanna Nichols, *Language diversity in time and space*, Chicago & London: University of Chicago Press, 1992), since the Baltic Sea was only a partial impediment to language spread and homogenization. This article closes with a table listing CB areal features, their typological frequency in the rest of Europe and globally, and their probable origins (729–31).

Vol. 2 also contains two immensely useful appendices—one referencing the individual language contacts to their mention elsewhere in the volumes (751–53) and the other comprising a complete listing of CB crosslinguistic phenomena with plausible historical explanations (754–60). The introduction and indexes repeat in both volumes while the pagination of the contributing articles is continuous.

Despite occasional misprints (Russian speakers in Lithuania in 1989 are given on p. 41 as 98.3% rather than 9.83%), not unexpected in a work of this complexity, the study succeeds in providing a fundamental yet fine-grained linguistic profile of northeastern Europe from both a cultural/historic and a typological perspective. [EDWARD J. VAJDA, *Western Washington University*.]