

**Marc L. Greenberg**, *“Prekmurje Slovene Grammar”*: *Avzug Pavel’s Vend Nyelotan (1942)* [Critical edition and translation from Hungarian, *Studies in Slavic and General Linguistics*, vol. 47] (Brill; Leiden, 2020), 215 pp.

Marc L. Greenberg, an undisputed authority on the historical Prekmurje language and the modern Prekmurje dialect, has translated the *Prekmurje Slovene Grammar*, written by Avzug Pavel in the Hungarian metalanguage, into English, commenting on parts of it.

Avzug Pavel (1886, Cankova, –1946, Szombathely) is the first scientist, linguist, literary historian, ethnologist, poet, and writer from the area of the so-called Slovenian March (*Slovenska krajina*), i.e., what is today the region of Prekmurje. This is the area of the easternmost dialect of the Pannonian dialect group of the Slovenian language, surrounded by the Croatian, Hungarian, and German language areas. In 1909, the Hungarian Academy of Sciences published Pavel’s *Phonetics of the Slovene Dialect of Cankova*, and shortly after, he started to collect materials for a complete Prekmurje grammar, which he wished would serve as a comparative grammar for experts as well as describe the characteristics of all Prekmurje dialects. As noted by Pavel in the *Preface*, he had gathered the materials for the grammar by 1916, but the book could not be published then due to inauspicious circumstances; instead, it was published almost thirty years later, adapted for schools and practical needs. The *Prekmurje Slovene Grammar (Vend Nyelotan, 1942)* is thus the first work describing the Slovenian Prekmurje dialect – the grammar was translated to Slovenian in 2013 (by Marija Bajzek Lukač, Maribor: International publishing house of the Department of Slavic languages and literature, Faculty of Arts). The creation of the grammar in 1942 was heavily influenced by the desire and need to affirm the existence of the “native Prekmurje standard language.”

In 2020, the grammar also received an English translation, which, as noted by Greenberg in the Introduction, had mostly been finished by 2010, with the publication of the Slovenian translation fostering the solution of specific dilemmas faced by the translator. The original *Prekmurje Slovene Grammar* consists of five numbered chapters, though the first chapter (*The people and their language: Dialects*) is not numbered. In Chapter 1, the author discusses the terms for Prekmurje Slovenians in different historical periods, their literature, dialects, and the placement of the Prekmurje language in a broader Slavic context. Chapter 2 examines phonetics, namely the anatomy of speech organs, the letters and the alphabet, vocalism (including monophthongs and diphthongs), the pronunciation and quantity of sounds, accentuation, vowel alternation, quantity and quality alternation, traces of nasalization, the reduction of vowels, contraction, as well as consonantal phenomena, such as assimilation, the dropping of consonants, the interposition and metathesis of consonants, assimilation and clipping. Chapter 3, which is the most extensive, covers the Prekmurje morphology, namely the declension patterns for feminine, masculine and neuter nouns, the inflection and comparison of adjectives, pronouns, and numerals, the conjugation patterns for verbs, the types of adverbs, prepositions (and their government with specific cases), conjunctions and interjections. Chapter 4 is dedicated to lexicology, including the explanation of word-formation procedures (derivation, reduplication, and prefixation), and to semantics, within which it discusses the original and figurative meanings of words, synonyms, homophones, onomatopoeic expressions, and borrowed words. Chapter 5, the final chapter, discusses syntax – the

simple sentence, parts of speech, the complex sentence (coordination, subordination), and word order.

Compared to the original, Marc L. Greenberg's critical translation displays differences in the names of subchapters and paragraphs, e.g., English: *Phonetics and phonology*, (Prekmurje) Slovenian: *Glászoszlôvje*, Hungarian: *Hangtan* (Chapter 2); English: *Units of analysis*, (Prekmurje) Slovenian: *Govor*, Hungarian: *Beszéd* (Chapter 2, § 5). Another difference is that the original grammar consists of five chapters (*The people and language. Dialects*, I. *Phonetics*, II. *Morphology*, III. *Lexicology*, IV. *Syntax*), whereas the English translation consists of eight (1 *The people and their language: Dialects*, 2 *Phonetics and phonology*, 3 *Punctuation*, 4 *Morphology*, 5 *Lexicology*, 6 *Semantics*, 7 *Lexicon* and 8 *Syntax*).

The translation is enhanced with Greenberg's critical notes, which differ in nature; they include additional clarifications, explanations and comments on forms referred to in the original, e.g. a) the emergence of the form *nisziki* 'low' by analogy to *visziki* 'high' (§ 41); b) a more precise geographic definition of a particular consonantal phenomenon (§ 44), c) a description of the adjacent sounds when the *m* phoneme is preserved (§ 47); d) a comment on the reduction of a vowel (§ 73); e) corrections of information in the original (§ 83, § 292); f) explanations of the origin of a phoneme or form (§ 84, § 85, § 89, § 222, § 454); g) internal cross-references to paragraphs with additional information (§ 90 refers to § 257); h) terminological clarifications (§ 90, § 92, § 344); i) methodological and theoretical clarifications (§ 94, § 346); j) word-formation clarifications (e.g. for the formation of place names ending in *-ci*) (§ 126); k) clarifications based on his own materials from the field (§ 207); l) explanations of meaning (§ 219); m) comparing forms in Prekmurje Slovenian and standard Slovenian (§ 258) and n) clarifications of extralinguistic (e.g. historical) facts (§ 327).

Almost sixty years passed between the creation of the original (1942) and the English translation (2020), which indicates that Pavel's *Prekmurje Slovene Grammar* is still relevant today as it represents the most comprehensive view of a grammarian on Prekmurje Slovenian as a whole so far.

MOJCA KUMIN HORVAT