

Theses of the PhD Dissertation

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**The Development of the Slovak legal and political
terminology from the second half of the 19th century**

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Over the past two decades, there has been a growing interest in terminology. Most of the changes occurred in the IT (Information Technology) sector, but similar changes were experienced in the natural sciences and human research. Several expressions, earlier exclusively used in certain areas of research, appeared in today's everyday speech.

Nowadays the translation of new terms in one's mother tongue is not a problem anymore (at least not in Hungarian). However, there is a major difference between the present use of foreign terms, and the use of these expressions at the time of the establishment of the standard languages in Central Europe (at the end of the 18th century). Although the technological and scientific development was not as fast as today, it still had a significant affect on language development.

The development of the Slavic languages (Slovak, Croatian, Serb, Czech) in Central Europe:

The criteria of standardisation were determined by V. Bockolt as follows:

1. standard writing system,
2. regulated orthography, correct pronunciation, normative grammar and dictionary,

3. obligatory use,
4. not only regional use
5. polyfunctionality
6. appropriate cultivation

Comparing the Hungarian and the Slavic languages of Central Europe (Czech, Croatian, Slovenian and Slovak), all of these criteria were more or less fulfilled. The basic requirement for standardisation is the regulation, and the cleansing of the language from foreign elements.

The development of the language norm in the Western Slavic region (in relation of Czech - Slovak):

The first signs of the revival of the Czech literary life began to appear at the end of the 18th century. The reforms of Maria Theresa and Joseph II were significant. Czech language centres were established in many places (at the universities of Prague and Vienna). As a consequence of this, the first Czech school books, and grammar books (first in German, than in Czech) were published (e.g. Pelcl: *Grundsätze der böhm. Grammatik* 1795, Dobrovský: *Entwurf der. böhm. Deklination* 1803. etc.).

Josef Dobrovský, one of the leading figures of the Czech

philology, published his new grammar book in Prague: *Ausführliches Lehrgebäude der böhm. Sprache zur gründlichen Erlernung derselben für Deutsche, zur vollkommeneren Kenntniss für Böhmen*. In the preface to his book, he first wrote about the division of the Slavic languages, and the division of the Slavic zone [„*slovanská zóna*“]. He distinguished 10 different languages: Czech, Slovak, Croatian, Vend (Slovenian), Illyrian (Serb), Russian, Polish, Upper and Lower Sorbian, Old Church Slavonic.

Following Dobrovský, Josef Jungmann was on the same opinion that literature and language were inseparable. It was Jungmann who proposed spreading the new terms not only in the literature, but also in other scientific areas. The first Czech scientific journal, *Krok* (step), was initially published in 1821. Jungmann's biggest scientific enterprise was the five-volume *Slovník Česko-Nemecký* (Czech-German dictionary). Talking about the Czech standard language, you have to mention the name of Ján Kollár who wanted to clean the Slavic languages from all foreign elements.

The work of František Palacký was of great importance as well for the Czech standard language. Sciences continued to improve even more. The *Kralovská společnost nauk* (Royal

Scientific Society), from the 18th century, still functioned. In the academy, a big emphasis was placed on terminology.

Several scientific commissions were founded (P. J. Šafárik *Německo-český slovník vědeckého názvosloví*, *German-Czech scientific encyclopaedia*‘, 1853; F. L. Rieger *slovník naučný*, *scientific dictionary*‘ 1860-1874 (=Riegrův slovník); *Slovník naučný*, *Scientific dictionary*‘ (=Ottův slovník) published by J. Otto between 1888 and 1908).

Stages of Slovak language development: 1. Bernolák-era, 2. Štúr-era, 3. Reform-era, 4. Matica-era, 5. Martin-era, 6. Interwar period, 7. Post war period, 8. Modern era.

The movement of Bernolák played a very important role in the establishment of the standard language. It was among the most significant factors for the codification of the Slovak language, that the Habsburg Monarchy was also reached by the ideas of the European Enlightenment.

The book *Grammatica Slavica* (Slavic grammar) also included the grammar of Bernolák. He processed the vocabulary in two papers: 1. *Etymologia vocum slavicarum* 2. *Slovár slovenskí česko-laťňsko-ňemecko-uheriskí*.

The Štúr-era lasted from the 1830s and 1840s to 1852 (Martin

Hattala: *Krátká mluvnica slovenská*). The standard Slovak language (by Štúr) was codified in 1843 (Štúr-Hurban-Hodža). Both the phonology and the morphology of the new „language” differed from the previous one.

Later, the so called *Opravená slovenčina* (revised Slovak language) became the new form of the standard language. Its spelling and morphology was very similar to the present-day Slovak language.

1863, the *Matica Slovenská* was created. It was the beginning of the so called *Matica-era* (*matičné obdobie*) of the Slovak language.

Within the *Matica Slovenská* different commissions were set up: a commission for philology, history, legal philosophy, mathematics and natural sciences and music. The development of terminology and the publication of several studies of terminology were also typical for this era.

This period of history of the standard Slovak language was followed by the so called 'Túroszentmárton-era' (*martinské obdobie*) which lasted from 1875-1918, to the foundation of the first Czechoslovak Republic. The sub-periods: 1) 1875-1890. 2)

1890-1902. 3) 1902-1918. The most significant linguist of this era (along with Škultéty, Vlček etc.) was Samuel Czambel/Czambel Samu. In his work *Slovenský pravopis historický nákres od dra s. czambela* (published in 1890) Czambel distinguished three different spellings.

1902 (1915, 1919) were published *Rukoväť spisovnej reči slovenskej*. The following period in the history of the standard Slovak language is called as the 'interwar period' (*medzivojnové obdobie*) by the Slovak literature. This period was strongly influenced by the reorganised *Matica Slovenská* in which two linguistic workshops were functioning (Vážný, Škultéty).

The *Pravidlá slovenského pravopisu* (Slovak spelling rules) came out in 1931. The Slovak language journal, *Slovenská reč*, whose theory (Basic purist theory in four points) was worked out as a counterpoint to Vážný's codification, was launched in 1932.

The Linguistic Institute of the Slovak Academy of Arts and Sciences (founded in Bratislava, 1943) achieved its most important scientific results in the so called 'modern era' (publication of dictionaries, encyclopaedias etc.). Today, with

the help of the latest digital technology, the Slovak national corpus (established in 2003) is constantly developing.

The subject of the terminology:

The terminology is a branch of lexicography. According to the latest research, the terminology is an inter- and transdisciplinary field which deals with terms and their symbols (with the technical terms and expressions by itself). We can distinguish two fundamental approaches (research methods) to terminology: a professional and a linguistic approach.

The terms were summarized by D. Šipka in the following way:

1. Transparency, 2. Internationalism, 3. Permanency, 4. Briefness, 5. Systematicity, 6. Clearness, 7. Accuracy, 8. Avoid the synonymic use of terms.

Criteria of Havránek: 1. Accuracy, 2. Security, 3. Clarity 4. Definition 5. Conventionality, 6. Codification.

Criteria of Horecký: 1. Clear meaning, 2. Regularity, 3. Permanency, 4. Clearness, Accuracy, 5. Expressiveness, 6. Elements of folk speech, 7. Internationalism, 8. Czech elements (in case of the Slovak terms).

The legal and political terminology of the 19th century in

Central Europe

The vocabulary of law and social sciences, especially the expressions of criminal and procedural law, already existed in the 19th century. The creation of the terminology was a challenging task. The old language, the folk speech and other related languages were the sources of the 19th century terms.

The role the 19th century dictionaries in the development of terminology

Dictionaries play a dual role in terminology development. First, they collect the terms. However, it is equally important, that you could find an equivalent for a foreign expression in your mother tongue. Already by the composition of the first terminological dictionary, experts from various fields were working together (in editorial boards). Terms and expressions are also to be found in the bilingual dictionaries. By studying the history of dictionaries, we can follow the process of terminologisation.

First, I explored the legal-official terms and expressions of Bernolák's *Slovár (slovár slovenský česko-laťinsko-ňemecko-uherský, 1825)*. It is a characteristic of this dictionary that it uses less legal terms of foreign origin than that of Slovak origin.

The *Juridisch-politische Terminologie* (legal-political terminology)

The *Juridisch-politische Terminologie für die Slawischen Sprachen Österreichs* was published on the basis of the so called 'imposed constitution' from March 4, 1849, in several different Slavic languages of the Empire as well. The first special edition in German-Czech (*Deutsch-böhmische Separat-Ausgabe*) was published in Vienna in 1850. The German-Rusyn (*Deutsch-Ruthenische Separat-Ausgabe*) and the German-Croatian-Serb-Slovenian (*Deutsch-Kroatisch-Serbische und Slovenische Separat-Ausgabe*) editions came out in 1851 and 1853, respectively.

Pavel Josef Šafárik was the head of the commission, responsible for the composition of the dictionary. The commission was supported in the collection by a number of prominent figures of all the languages of the dictionary. The members of the commission worked in sections. The keywords of the dictionary were taken over from the imperial journal of law and public administration and earlier sources of law. The keywords were translated into the Slavic languages and as a result of this, it became possible to issue laws in Slavic languages as well.

Slovak equivalents in the German-Czech special edition of the
Juridisch-Politische Terminologie

Altogether, there are 58 keywords (with derivations) in the dictionary with the label 'Slowakisch' (there are also seven keywords, marked as Moravian, three of which were marked as 'Moravian and Slovak'). In fact, in most of the cases 'a common Slavic equivalent or word stem' could be noticed. In the grouping of words, I was guided by the conclusions of Mária Zsilák: 1. Synonyms 2. Old Slovak words or adaptations 3. Replacement for other Slavic words.

The *německo-český slovník vědeckého názvosloví*

Also as an influence of the 1849 constitution, a German-Czech specialised dictionary for grammar schools and secondary schools was published in Prague, 1853. Although it contains a number of legal and official terms, it is mainly distinguished by its extensive vocabulary of natural sciences. Šafárik was chosen again as head of commission, responsible for the composition of the dictionary

The official expressions of the dictionary can be categorized as follows: 1. Commercial terms 3. Legal terms 3. Legal and commercial terms. This dictionary had a great influence on the

Hungarian and Slavic (mainly South Slavic) encyclopaedias (Ferenc Toldi, 1858, Pest, German-Hungarian Scientific Encyclopaedia, Šulek Bogoslav, 1875, *Hrvatsko-njemačko-talijanski rječnik znanstvenoga nazivlja*; Matej Cigale, 1880, *Znanstvena terminologija s posebnim ozirom na srednja učilišča*).

The impact of the *Juridisch-politische Terminologie* and the *Německo-český slovník vědeckého názvosloví*

Only one scientific dictionary was published in the Slovak language area until 1919 (Zoch: *Slovár vedeckého slovenského názvoslovia*), however, a number of smaller studies on terminology began to appear from the 1890s in the Slovak journal *Slovenské pohľady* and in the column of *Terminologické drobnosti*.

During the period between 1848 and 1919, only small dictionaries were published, written by school teachers for students. An important piece of work was the new Slavic-Hungarian and Hungarian-Slavic dictionary, published in Szarvas, 1848, by István Jancsovcics (Štefan Jančovič).

The Slovak legal terminology of the 20th century

Law dictionaries between 1919 and 1965:

The launch of the new journal *Právny obzor* ('legal horizon') in 1917 also resulted in the publication of the *Návrh slovenského právneho názvoslovia* (Draft Slovak Legal Terminology), an approximately 100 pages long collection of legal terms and expressions, translated from Hungarian into Slovak. The first law dictionary, entitled *Maďarsko-slovenská právnická terminológia*, came out in Trencsén, 1919, edited by Gabriel Bargár. The *Maďarsko-slovenský odborný slovník* (1919, Kassa, edited by Dezider Lauko) assisted the Slovak population in the Hungarian offices.

The *Právnický terminologický slovník* was published in Túrócszentmárton, 1921 (2nd edition, 1925). The first volume was Hungarian-Slovak, and the second, from 1923, Slovak-Hungarian. The editors were Adolf Zátúrecký and Vladimír Fajnor. The publication is dominated by such legal expressions most of which is used in the present-day Hungarian and Slovak legal system.

The *Maďarsko-slovenská právnická terminológia*, a work of Michal Slávik was published in Bratislava, 1921 as well. Bertalan Szokolszky's dictionary for registrars appeared in Kassa, 1923. The commission on legal terminology was

reorganised in 1947. The next study of this kind only came out in 1952 under the auspices of the Legal Terminology Commission of the Linguistic Institute on the Slovak Academy of Sciences, in Bratislava: *Právnický terminologický slovník (slovensko-maďarský)*.

The extended version of the 1952 dictionary, the *Právnický terminologický slovník slovensko-maďarský*, came out in 1965, but it was not published for commercial sale.

Legal terminology in the journals *Slovenská reč* and *Slovenské odborné názvoslovie*

The journal *Slovenská reč* was launched in 1932, followed later by the *Slovenské odborné názvoslovie*. Both journals favoured a clear and accurate use of the Slovak language. In the first volumes of the two journals, several articles were written about the legal terminology which will also be presented in details in the dissertation.

The Slovak legal and political terminology from 1993 to the present

After 1993, in the newly independent Slovakia, new laws were passed, the state apparatus was changed, and the country had to

establish its international relations. Under these new circumstances, the bi- or trilingual legal, official and administrative publications were indispensable and essential. Of course, the influence of the Czech language, used in the state apparatus until the independence of Slovakia, was not over, from one day to the next.

Today, thanks to the ever-growing popularity of the internet, the so called online (or CD, DVD) versions of the Slovak legal dictionaries are also available.

With the EU accession of Slovakia, the Slovak legal and political terminology was further extended by new expressions.

Comparing the dictionaries

In the last chapter of the dissertation I compare the corpuses (keywords) of the dictionaries. The 39 terms can be listed in the following categories: 1. Judicial terms 2. Legal-procedural terms 3. General legal terms, 4. Payment obligations, 5. Official documents, 5. Terms, related to the legal practice.

Summary

The deliberate development of the legal and political terminology in the 19th century was part of the language reform movements. This deliberate development of the Czech, Slovak,

Hungarian and Croatian languages was very similar, since this period (from the end of the 18th century until the last third of the 19th century) saw the rise of nation-states of these people as well.