

Word formation, grammar and lexicology

# Indogermanische Textlinguistik, Poetik und Stilistik

Herausgegeben von  
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Word formation, grammar and lexicology  
Contrastive, multilingual  
and comparative-historical perspectives

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# THE MULTILINGUALISM RESEARCH GROUP, ITS ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF CONTRASTIVE LINGUISTICS, AND SCHOLARLY PERSPECTIVES FOR A NEAR FUTURE OF JOINT STUDIES

Jens E. Braarvig, Oslo – Adriano V. Rossi, Rome/Naples – Velizar Sadovski, Vienna

The International Conference *Word formation, grammar and lexicology in a multilingual context: between comparative-historical, theoretical, and computational corpus linguistics* has been convened by the *Dipartimento di Lettere e culture moderne* of the University of Rome “La Sapienza” in co-operation with the international Multilingualism Research Group (Vienna), the Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW), ISMEO – The International Association for Mediterranean and Oriental Studies, and the Norwegian Institute of Philology. This was the 23<sup>rd</sup> Conference of the Multilingualism Research Group (out of 27 held so far), and the first major congress of the *Multilingualism and the History of Knowledge* series that took place in Rome. As founding members of the Multilingualism Research Group and representatives of the convening institutions, the present authors would like both to contextualize this event on the background of the scholarly meetings and publications issued so far and to outline some of the research, conference, and publication activities of the Group planned for the next years.

The idea of founding an international research cluster specifically concerned with themes and topics of Multilingualism, mainly in pre-modern Europe and Asia, was first expressed during a meeting on 2.9.2008 at the Rila Monastery (Bulgaria) of scholars participating in the Sixth International Conference of the Melammu Project with the title *Melammu: the Ancient World in an Age of Globalization*, held in Sofia, 1–3.9.2008. The new initiative has been set in motion almost immediately and three specific conferences of the (still nameless) group consisting at that time of nineteen researchers from seven countries took place in the year after. The first of these meetings was convened by Jens E. Braarvig and † Malcolm Hyman with the general subject of *Multilingualism, Linguae*

*Francae, and the Global History of Religious and Scientific Concepts*, at the Norwegian Institute at Athens, 2–5.4.2009. The second event took place within the symposium *Classification as a Hermeneutic Tool* convened by Gebhard J. Selz, one of the leading founding members of the *Group*, at the *Institut für Orientalistik* of the Vienna University, Vienna, 2.11.2009. A third panel, *Multilingualism in Ancient Iran*, was organized by Velizar Sadovski (Austrian Academy of Sciences), Adriano V. Rossi (ISMEO) and Ela Filippone (*La Tuscia* University of Viterbo) within the *Sektion “Historische Sprachwissenschaft”* convened by Oswald Panagl and Velizar Sadovski, in the frame of the *Österreichische Linguistiktagung 2009*, Salzburg, 5–6.12.2009.

The constitutive assembly of the *Multilingualism Research Group* took place in Vienna, in the framework of our fourth meeting, the International Conference *Multilingualism in Central Asia and Middle East from Antiquity to Early Modern Times*, convened by the Institute of Iranian Studies and the International Relations Department of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, 1–3.3.2010, organized by Jens E. Braarvig, Markham J. Geller, Adriano V. Rossi, Gebhard J. Selz, Velizar Sadovski, and Florian Schwarz. Ever since, the Austrian Academy of Sciences, together with the ISMEO and the Norwegian Institute of Philology have been functioning as the three major institutions co-ordinating the regular meetings of more than twenty different universities and academies from all over the world engaging in this initiative. The scholars participating in the Founding Assembly at Vienna decided to jointly organize conferences and discuss various topics of this subject on a yearly base and with changing host institutions.

The main idea behind these initiatives is the observation that ancient societies display, in varying degrees, a multilingual environment. Among the numerous studies dealing with this issue, the social implications of multilingualism have not yet received much attention. Therefore, central topics of the conferences that took place so far were: cognitive aspects of the relation between language and social experience in the dialectic conditions of a multilingual state; religious experience and social pragmatics in the context of ancient societies; attempts to impose the language of the elite upon the dependant classes, including its application for ‘imperialistic’ purposes; studying the relevance of linguistic forms of expression for the questions of social message, institutional communication and ‘invention of traditions’ within a specific socio-political system; social dimensions of literary genres (e.g. hymnal poetry vs. epic poetry in the field of tension between social strata such as priests vs. kings-warriors); ways of addressing the use and misuse of languages for establishing group identities, focussing on antagonistic social groups on various levels of a society.

The fruit of this ambitious outline of topics was a series of conferences held in Vienna (2009, 2010, 2011, 2016, 2017, 2018), Athens (2009), Berlin (2010, 2011, 2019), Mamaia (2012), Marburg (2011), Munich (2010), Münster (2013), Oslo (2017, 2019), Rome (2019), Salzburg (2009), Sofia (2008, 2012), Verona (2016, 2019), in various configurations offered by the scholarly interests of its members:

- Panel *Organization of knowledge in Asian Cultures: Lists, catalogues and classification systems between orality and scriptuality*, convened by Jens Braarvig and Velizar Sadovski in the framework of the 31<sup>st</sup> German Oriental Studies Congress (31. *Deutscher Orientalistentag*), Marburg, 24.9.2010.
- *Crossing Boundaries: Multilingualism, Lingua Franca and Lingua Sacra. A TOPOI conference held at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science*, convened by Markham J. Geller, Freie Universität zu Berlin and Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, 8–10.11.2010.
- Panel ‘*Listenwissenschaften*’ in the framework of the TOPOI conference *Knowledge to Die For: Transmission of Prohibited and Esoteric Knowledge through Space and Time*, convened by Florentina Badalanova Geller, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, 2–4.5.2011.
- *Vielsprachigkeit und Wissensgeschichte in Asien von der Antike bis zur frühen Moderne*, convened by Velizar Sadovski, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna (3–5.11.2011).
- *Sacred Texts and Magic in Ancient Near Eastern Societies. An International Symposium in honour of Antonio Panaino*, convened by Velizar Sadovski, Florentina Badalanova Geller, Markham J. Geller, Sergey Ignatov and Teodor Lekov, New Bulgarian University, Sofia, 20–21.12.2011.
- *International Symposium in memory of Prof. Manfred Mayrhofer*, convened by Bert G. Fragner, Velizar Sadovski, and Florian Schwarz, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, 10–12.5.2012.
- International Symposium ‘*Poetical Language and Ritual Pragmatics in Ancient Indo-Iranian Traditions: Charms and Medicine in Atharvavedic and Avestan Texts and Rites*’, convened by Jan E. Houben, Julieta Rotaru, Velizar Sadovski and E. Michael Witzel, Mamaia, 23–27.9.2012.
- *From Elam to Iran. An international symposium. In memoriam Manfred Mayrhofer*. Convened by Antonio Panaino, University of Bologna, Ravenna, 22–23.3.2013.
- *Multilingualism and Social Experience in Ancient Eurasia*. A panel convened by Gebhard J. Selz and Velizar Sadovski in the framework of the 32<sup>nd</sup> German Oriental Studies Congress (32. *Deutscher Orientalistentag*), Münster, 24–25.9.2013.
- *Tra antico-iranico e indoeuropeo*. Lectures of Rüdiger Schmitt and Velizar Sadovski, organized by Maria Carmela Benvenuto, Flavia Pompeo, Paolo Di Giovine, *La Sapienza*, Rome, 9.12.2013.
- *Achaimenidika I*. Symposium organized by Adriano V. Rossi and Ela Filippone (DARIOSH Project, Naples/Viterbo), with Rüdiger Schmitt and Velizar Sadovski (ÖAW), Rome, 10–11.12.2013.
- \**Ṛtamanas-*, *Ṛtavacas-*, *Ṛtadipi-*\* – ‘Of Right Thoughts, Right Speech, Right Writings’. *In honour of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Prof. Dr. Rüdiger Schmitt*. Symposium convened by Velizar Sadovski and Florian Schwarz, Institute of Iranian Studies, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, 20.6.2014.
- Multilingualism Panel organized by Adriano V. Rossi and Ela Filippone in the framework of the *Convegno internazionale “Dinamiche sociolinguistiche in aree di influenza greca: mutamento, variazione e contatto”*, Rome, *Sapienza University*, 22–24.9.2014.
- *Multilingualism in pre-modern societies of Ancient Europe and Asia. An international conference in honour of Prof. Dr. Gebhard J. Selz*. Convened by the Institute of Iranian Studies of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, the *Institut für Orientalistik* and the *Orientalische Gesellschaft* of the University of Vienna, and the Austrian Academy of Sciences Press, Vienna, 1–3.7.2015.

- *The Ritual Sphere. An international symposium* convened by Paola Cotticelli (University of Verona) and Velizar Sadovski (Austrian Academy of Sciences), Verona, 17–19.3.2016.
- *Achaemenid texts and contexts: syntax, stylistics and text linguistics. (Achaemenidika II)*. A panel in memory of M. Mayrhofer, convened by Velizar Sadovski and Adriano V. Rossi within the *11<sup>th</sup> Biennial Iranian Studies Conference* of the Association for Iranian Studies, Vienna, 3–5.8.2016.
- *Multilingualism and Social Reality in Pre-Modern Societies of Ancient Eurasia*. International Conference at the Institute of Iranian Studies of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, convened by Velizar Sadovski and Florian Schwarz, Vienna, 13–15.12.2016.
- *Scriptura franca: A Symposium of the Multilingualism Research Group*, convened by Jens E. Braarvig and Amund Bjorsnes, Norwegian Institute of Philology, Oslo, 5–7.6.2017.
- *Grammatica Iranica, Indo-Iranica necnon Indo-Europea: An Austro-Italian symposium* convened by the Institute of Iranian Studies of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, the Vienna Linguistic Society, and the Sodalizio Glottologico Milanese and organized by Velizar Sadovski, Hans-Christian Luschützky, Maria Patrizia Bologna, and Gebhard J. Selz, Vienna, 22–23.5.2018.
- International workshop *The Morgenstjerne Archives* convened by the Norwegian Institute of Philology and organized by Jens E. Braarvig and Amund Bjorsnes, Oslo, 25–27.08.2019.
- Panel *Contacts and interference in Old Persian and Avestan linguistic cultures* convened by Velizar Sadovski, Adriano V. Rossi, Ela Filippone, and Marco Mancini in the framework of the *Ninth European Conference of Iranian Studies*, Berlin (Freie Universität), September 9–13, 2019.
- *Organization of Knowledge in Ancient Indo-European Cultural Traditions. A workshop in honour of the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday of Prof. Dr. Rüdiger Schmitt*, convened by the University of Verona (Paola Cotticelli, Attilio Mastrocinque), the ERC Project *PaLaC* (Federico Giusfredi), and the Austrian Academy of Sciences (Velizar Sadovski), Verona, 26–27.11.2019.

Proceedings of the meetings of the Multilingualism Research Group are regularly published in four international monograph series: The first two volumes appeared at the ÖAW in Vienna in the series *Multilingualism and the History of Knowledge*, directed by four of the founders of the Multilingualism Research Group – Jens Braarvig for the Norwegian Institute of Philology, Mark Geller for the University College of London and the *Max Planck Institute for the History of Science*, Velizar Sadovski for the Austrian Academy of Sciences and Gebhard Selz for the University of Vienna. The first volume of this series has the title *Buddhism among the Iranian Peoples in Central Asia*, ed. by Matteo De Chiara, Mauro Maggi, and Giuliana Martini (Sitzungsberichte der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften. Phil.-hist. Klasse 836: Iranische Onomastik 11), Vienna: ÖAW, 2013. Vol. II collects the papers of a Munich colloquium on the subject of *Linguistic Developments along the Silkroad: Archaism and Innovation in Tocharian*, ed. by Olav Hackstein and Ronald I. Kim (Sitzungsberichte der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften. Phil.-hist. Klasse: 834: Iranische Onomastik 12), Vienna: ÖAW, 2012. — A volume with the proceedings of the Berlin meetings in 2010 and 2011 has been published in the *Max Planck Studies in Multilingualism* under the title *Multilingualism, Lingua Franca and Lingua Sacra* (Max Planck Research Library for the History and Development of Knowledge: Studies 11), Berlin: Editions Open Access, 2018, ed. by Markham

Geller and Jens Braarvig. Three further volumes – in honour of M. Mayrhofer and R. Schmitt, as well as the proceedings of the *Achaimenidika* Symposium – are in press at the ÖAW.

The present volume with the title *Word formation, grammar and lexicology* ed. by Maria Carmela Benvenuto, Jens E. Braarvig, Flavia Pompeo, Adriano V. Rossi, and Velizar Sadovski, is appearing in the framework of the publication series *Indogermanische Textlinguistik, Poetik und Linguistik* directed by Oswald Panagl and Velizar Sadovski at the Baar-Verlag in Hamburg. In its previous issues, the same monograph series hosted volumes edited or authored by other members of the Research Group, viz. *In Participle We Predicate* ed. by Paola Cotticelli-Kurras (Verona) and Velizar Sadovski (Vienna) with the editorial participation of Alfredo Rizza (Verona), Vienna: Holzhausen, 2017, and *Towards a Morphosyntax of Old Persian Cases: the Genitive* by Flavia Pompeo and Maria Carmela Benvenuto (*La Sapienza*, Rome), Hamburg: Baar, 2020.

The main aim of the particular conference whose proceedings are appearing in the present volume is to display advances in interdisciplinary research into word formation (derivation and compounding) between intrinsic language change and linguistic interference. The interdisciplinary target of this part of the initiatives of the *Multilingualism Research Group* combines methods of synchronic, historical and computational linguistics as well as the united competence of leading European specialists in these specific linguistic disciplines in order to improve the conceptual and methodological apparatus necessary for working in the fields of descriptive and historical morphology, lexicology and syntax. The participants in the conference at Rome, the major part of whose papers has been included into this volume, came from universities and academies in Austria, Germany, Israel, Norway, Spain, Switzerland, as well as from twelve Italian universities and scholarly associations in Bologna, Messina, Milan, Naples (“Federico II” and “L’Orientale”), Rome (“La Sapienza”; ISMEO; Marconi; Roma – Tre), Siena, Verona, Viterbo.

If we finally come to talk of future perspectives of the common meetings of the Multilingualism Research Group, they comprise the following topics proposed by the last assembly in Vienna in December 2016 (the list not being exhaustive):

- Linguistic and philological problems of ancient texts and practices, cross-culturally or in a specific ethnic/cultural tradition: lexicon, text structures, forms of composition.
- Sacred royalty and its impact on the issue of the ritual aspects of political activity in the Ancient East.
- Royal/statal decrees, activities, and meta-activities as means of creating, changing, rectifying or manipulating historical processes or the memory of them.

- Solemn sacrifice and political propaganda: official rituals and festivities between self-reflection and self-aggrandizement.
- Categories of persons concerned with language of sacrificial ritual: priests, poets, bards, exegetes.
- Poetics and pragmatics of medical ritual: “how to heal with words” in Ancient Near East.
- Teaching magic and medicine: the use of ritual texts in an environment of mainly oral instruction and employment of knowledge.
- Possibilities of reconstruction of genetically related ritual and textual traditions and/or forms of areal (substrate, superstrate, adstrate) influence and osmosis of traditions.
- Organization of knowledge in Ancient European and Asian Cultures: lists, catalogues and classification systems between orality and scriptuality.
- Sources for the localization and history of texts and of corresponding ritual traditions: regionality and ethnicity vs. “wandering motifs” and “vagabond spiritual knowledge”.
- ‘Magic’ vs. ‘religion’ in Ancient Eastern context: comparative and historical perspectives.
- Analytical and metanalytical texts concerning medical ritual and/or magic traditions.
- “Life before canonization”: problems of the transmission of ritual texts and practices before the written fixation of the corresponding canons.
- *What’s to come, is still unsure*: Reception and afterlife of ancient texts and practices in later traditions. Inherited traditions vs. “inventions of traditions”.

A fourth monograph series has recently been founded at the premises of the Norwegian Institute of Philology. Its title is *Ritual Texts and Contexts: Philology, Pragmatics and Cultural History*, directed by Jens E. Braarvig and Velizar Sadovski. The first volume that has just appeared unites papers of the Multilingualism Research Group conference in Verona under the title *The Ritual Sphere in cultic texts and practices from the Ancient and Early Medieval East*, ed. by Paola Cotticelli-Kurras and Velizar Sadovski, Oslo: Hermes 2020. The next one is in course of preparation and will contain the proceedings of the conference in honour of Gebhard J. Selz under the working title *Multilingualism and ‘Listenwissenschaften’*, ed. by Jens E. Braarvig, Adriano V. Rossi, Velizar Sadovski, and Klaus Wagensonner. And a third volume will display the results of a research conference in memory of Georg Morgenstierne, to be organized in 2022 at Oslo by the Norwegian Institute of Philology (Jens E. Braarvig, Amund Bjorsnes) with the participation of the main research institutions committed to the *Multilingualism* initiative.

The authors of this historical outline express their joint conviction that the imminent conference initiatives and the new monograph series will canalize the efforts of the members of the *Multilingualism Research Group* and will grant appropriate opportunities of meetings and publications for upcoming decades of fruitful work.