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Mutual intelligibility in the Slavic language area

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Propositions

Belonging to the PhD thesis

Mutual intelligibility in the Slavic language area

Jelena Golubovic

1. The division between West and South Slavic languages is visible across all linguistic measurements, with Bulgarian being an outlier in terms of syntax (Chapter 2).
2. The intelligibility between Croatian and Slovene is asymmetric – Slovene participants understand Croatian better than vice versa (Chapter 3).
3. Cross-language intelligibility of Slavic languages can be predicted to a substantial degree using a combination of linguistic and extra-linguistic factors (Chapter 5).
4. Even a short teaching intervention improves the intelligibility of Croatian for Czech speakers substantially – 105% in the experimental group compared to 27% in the control group (Chapter 6).
5. Serbian and Croatian speakers find each others' language significantly less beautiful than their native language, despite the great similarities between the two varieties (Chapter 7).
6. You can never understand one language until you understand at least two (Geoffrey Willans)
7. If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart (Nelson Mandela).
8. A language is a dialect with an army and a navy (Max Weinreich)