

DLIpl in nominal declension in several West Ukrainian (Transcarpathian) dialects

This paper is devoted to the development of nominal declension in several villages in Transcarpathian Ukraine. The Transcarpathian dialects, separated from the Ukrainian-speaking mainland for nearly a thousand years, display not only numerous archaic features, but also a number of interesting innovations.

The morphological development in the Transcarpathian dialects encompasses changes in sets of endings, as well as redistribution of lexemes between inflectional types, and appearance of new types, conditioned by new factors. Relative ability of certain factors to underpin inflectional types varies across time. General development in some Slavic languages has been from unmotivated inflectional types to grammatically, semantically and pragmatically conditioned categories (Zalizniak). It is interesting to test this hypothesis against the data of specific dialects, especially Transcarpathian, because of their archaic character.

The paper, based on my field recordings in several Transcarpathian villages, discusses changes in DLIpl of nominal paradigms. On the whole, in the more innovative dialects the factors determining redistribution are not morphophonemic (the type of stem-final consonant), but rather grammatical (gender, number). This leads to some features unusual for East Slavic languages, e.g., the distinction between masc. and neut. in the oblique cases of plural (this feature, however, occurs also in neighbouring Slovak).