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DIACLEU

An introduction to dialect classifications in Europe

3rd issue

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INTRODUCTION

This is the third issue of DIACLEU, Dialect classifications of languages in Europe, published in *Dialectologia*. In the first issue (*Dialectologia*, special issue X, <<http://www.edicions.ub.edu/revistes/dialectologiasp2022/>>) the project was introduced. It also contained a theoretical paper on dialectometry, and an overview of classifications of Basque, Finnish, Gallo-Roman, Greenlandic, Irish, Italian, Luxembourgish, Norwegian and Welsh dialects.

The second issue started with a theoretical contribution on the genealogical classification of languages by Matej Šekli, which was followed by eight papers, presenting a historical overview and analysis of classifications of Albanian, Faroese,

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Galician, Icelandic, Kashubian, Lithuanian, Polish and Balkan Turkish dialects (*Dialectologia*, special issue XI, <<http://www.edicions.ub.edu/revistes/dialectologiasp2023/>>).

This issue starts with a theoretical contribution by Jean Léo Léonard. He introduces the theory of Complex and Adaptive Dynamical Systems (CADS) (Gros 2015) and how it can contribute to the theories and methods of dialect classification. Two case studies are presented to show how it can be applied. The first study focuses on Mazatec, a Popolocan language spoken in Mexico. The second one focusses on a language spoken in Europe, Occitan, one of the Gallo-Roman varieties, see Brun-Trigaud (2023: 127-154). Léonard's contribution is followed by eight papers, presenting a historical overview and analysis of classifications of Asturleonese (Ramón de Andrés Díaz-Madariaga), Corsican (Stella Medori), Czech (Milena Šipková and Martina Ireinová), Friulian (Paolo Roseano and Franco Finco), Georgian (Marina Beridze, Zakharia Pourtskhvanidze and Lia Bakuradze), Hungarian (Fruzsina S. Vargha), Slovak (Gabriela Múcsková) and Spanish (Isabel Molina Martos). Several language families are covered in this issue. There were additions to the Romance (Asturleonese, Corsican, Friulian and Spanish), Slavic (Czech and Slovak) and Uralic (Hungarian) language families discussed in the previous issues, and the language genetic scope was widened with Kartvelian (Georgian).

Like in previous issues, the languages differ in sociolinguistic situation and official status. Some of them are official languages in their nation: Czech in the Czech Republic, Georgian in Georgia, Hungarian in Hungary, Slovak in Slovakia and Spanish in Spain. Spanish is also widely spoken and has official status in Central and South America and Equatorial Guinea, as a result of colonial expansion in the past.

Asturian and Leonese have a part II recognition under the European Charter on Regional and Minority Languages (ECRML) in Spain, but Asturleonese does not have co-official status in one or more of the autonomous regions, in contrast to Aragonese, Basque, Catalan, Galician and Valencian. Asturleonese dialects are also spoken in the north-eastern part of Portugal, where Asturleonese is recognised (as Mirandese) alongside Portuguese and where its use is promoted in the region Miranda do Douro. Portugal signed the ECMRL in 2021 but has not ratified it yet. Italy also signed the charter in 2000, but without ratifying it. However, Friulian is recognised under Italian

legislation, but Corsican (spoken on Sardinia) does not have this recognition. Also in France, Corsican, like the other regional languages, does not have any official recognition.

Other languages, as Asturleonese, Corsican and Friulian are recognized under the European Charter on Regional and Minority Languages (ECRML). However, not all of them enjoy official recognition in the countries where they are spoken. For example, Asturleonese, although spoken in most of Asturias, in Leon and in the north-eastern part of Portugal, is not a co-official language in any of the regions in which it is spoken. Corsican has a regionally protected status on Corsica and Sardinia (as Gallurian), but it is not officially recognised by the respective national governments (France and Italy). Finally, Friulian is officially recognized in Italy.

Dialect classifications do not always include the varieties spoken by endogenous language communities outside the borders of the nation state where the language is an official language. The choice to include these varieties or dialects depends often on the political situation (e.g., shifting state borders, travel restrictions, language policy), as in the case of Hungarian. The contribution on Georgian dialect classifications discusses in detail how political changes, oppression and (forced) migration shaped both dialectology and the dialect landscape in Georgia.

As also seen in the previous issues, the vigour of dialectal research and its classifications does not depend on the status of a language. The dialects of the languages analysed in this issue have been classified mainly within the framework of isoglottic dialectology; in most languages exclusively, in others in conjunction with dialectometry or perceptual dialectology: Asturleonese has eight classifications (all of them isoglottic classifications), Corsican seven classifications (all of them isoglottic classifications), Czech has five (isoglottic) classifications, Friulian two (both isoglottic), Georgian five (all isoglottic), Hungarian nine (six isoglottic and three dialectometric classifications), Slovak four (all isoglottic) and Spanish thirteen (eight isoglottic, four dialectometric and one perceptual classification). Spanish spoken in South and Central America are generally included in the Spanish dialectological tradition, but in this paper we asked the author to focus on the dialect classifications about the Spanish

spoken in Europe. The geographical scope of the DIACLEU project, overrules in this case our principle 2 (respect national or language specific traditions (Aurrekoetxea et al. 2022: 11)).

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