

Review of Doctoral (PhD) dissertation

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Title: A typology of East Slavic (Ukrainian and Russian) lexical borrowings in the Transcarpathian Hungarian contact variety

The dissertation entitled *A typology of East Slavic (Ukrainian and Russian) lexical borrowings in the Transcarpathian Hungarian contact variety* presents a clear, well-structured, and empirically rich analysis of Ukrainian- and Russian-origin borrowings. It is based on an extensive and carefully compiled dataset and makes a significant and original contribution to research in contact linguistics, minority language studies, and Hungarian linguistics. The work successfully addresses an important research gap by providing the first comprehensive and systematic typological analysis of Slavic borrowings in this regional variety.

Since the pre-defence, the candidate has responded in a highly constructive and professional way to the comments and suggestions formulated in the review. The response document shows a clear willingness to reflect on critical remarks and a strong commitment to improving the dissertation both conceptually and technically.

With regard to the introductory chapter, the candidate has accepted the observation that the research questions and hypotheses are highly ambitious and cover multiple dimensions. In the revised version, this is addressed by clarifying that the aim of the dissertation is not exhaustive treatment of each dimension, but the development of a comprehensive analytical framework. The candidate also explicitly acknowledges that some hypotheses, such as the dominance of nouns and the prevalence of direct borrowing, are not intended as entirely new theoretical claims, but rather as general contact-linguistic tendencies tested in the specific context of Transcarpathian Hungarian.

The theoretical framework has been strengthened in different ways. Most importantly, the candidate has committed to explaining the adopted theoretical approach more clearly and showing how the different models are integrated. This directly addresses the earlier concern regarding the limited clarity of the theoretical framework. In addition, the candidate clarifies the rationale behind the selection of theoretical models and acknowledges that the discussion does not aim to be exhaustive but rather methodologically relevant and coherent.

Furthermore, several formal and conceptual issues have been corrected appropriately. The candidate has clarified the use of transliteration and justified the application of Hungarian-based

forms from a contact-linguistic perspective. The use of abbreviations has been revised, including the introduction of ISO-based conventions where appropriate. The structure of the theoretical chapter was also improved through the addition of introductory “roadmaps” and clearer transitions, which are expected to enhance internal coherence.

The methodology chapter, already one of the strongest parts of the dissertation, remains methodologically sound. The candidate has taken into account suggestions regarding clarity and organisation by adding structural guidance (such as introductory overviews), while preserving the strengths of the dataset and analytical design.

Concerning the results and discussion, the candidate has explicitly addressed one of the most important critical points: the need for deeper qualitative interpretation. The revised version includes a more developed discussion of the sociolinguistic implications of the findings, particularly concerning the high proportion of mixed Ukrainian–Russian borrowings and the dominance of Soviet-era lexical material. The candidate has linked these results more clearly to historical multilingualism, generational differences, and identity-related interpretations, while also maintaining a careful and balanced interpretation.

The referencing system and formal aspects have also been thoroughly reconsidered. The candidate has accepted the need to:

- prioritise original English-language sources where possible;
- clarify the function of citations (e.g. through cf., see, or narrative referencing),
- remove unnecessary elements such as ed. in in-text citations, and
- expand the bibliography with more recent international literature.

The candidate has replaced some less appropriate or outdated references with more recent and more appropriate works. He has also taken the review comments very seriously and made substantial efforts to improve the dissertation in terms of clarity, theoretical coherence, methodological transparency, and overall academic quality.

Final Evaluation

In its revised form, the dissertation meets the requirements of a PhD degree. It demonstrates a high level of theoretical knowledge, methodological competence, and independent research. The work is extensive and carefully carried out, and its results are relevant not only to Hungarian linguistics but also to broader discussions in contact linguistics and minority language research. The candidate’s ability to engage critically with feedback and to refine the work accordingly is particularly impressive and reflects an independent scholarly attitude.

On this basis, I recommend that the dissertation be accepted for defence and that the candidate be awarded the PhD degree upon successful completion of the defence.

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