STRUCTURAL CONVERGENCES

OCT. 17TH

LET'S REMEMBER

A BASIC CONCEPT

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    - -> PROMOTES VARYING DEGREES OF LEXICAL BORROWING

    - BUT WHAT ABOUT STRUCTURAL BORROWINGS?

SPANISH IN LOS ÁNGELES

- SILVA-CORVALÁN (1994) STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN SPANISH DUE TO ENGLISH INFLUENCE.

- CHARACTERISTIC OF VARIETIES OF SPANISH SPOKEN BY BILINGUAL SPEAKERS IN SPANISH AND ENGLISH.

  - THIS DOES NOT REPRESENT ANYTHING NEW TO SPANISH SYNTAX

SPANISH IN LOS ÁNGELES

- LA SPANISH:
  - SE LO DIO P'ATRAS (para atrás)
  - TO-HIM IT SHE GAVE BACK
- GEN. SPANISH:
  - SE LO DEVOLVIÓ
  - TO HIM SHE RETURNED IT

  - In Spanish "atrás" means only behind, but in LA it has acquired the meaning of "back" due to literal translation

SPANISH IN LOS ÁNGELES

- LA SPANISH:
  - CUANDO NO TENGO NADA QUE HACER, *JUEGO* MÚSICA
  - WHEN I HAVE NOTHING TO DO, I PLAY MUSIC
- GEN. SPANISH:
  - CUANDO NO TENEGO NADA QUE HACER, *TOCO* MÚSICA

    - In spanish music is not played, is "touched"

SPANISH IN LOS ÁNGELES

- What do we mean, then, by saying "structural changes" but not borrowing syntactic structures from English?

  - LA SPANISH: *mi padre es seis pies*

  - ENGLISH: *my dad is six feet*

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  - LA SPANISH: *y tu carro que compraste, ¿cómo te gusta?*

  - ENGLISH: *and the car that you bought, how do you like it?*

  - GEN. SPANISH: *y el carro que compraste, ¿te gusta?*

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    - GEN. SPANISH: *y el* *carro* *que* *compraste,* *¿**te* *gusta?*

        - *STRUCTURAL CHANGES -> ALTERATIONS OR SHIFTS IN THE ORGANIZATION IN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ELEMENTS.*

FRENCH/ENGLISH CONTACT ON PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

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- English has influenced Acadian French spoken in the island.

  - Heavy lexical borrowing, like in all varieties of French in Canada

  - BUT also function items!

      - Prepositions

      - Wh- words

      - Adverbial particle *back*

        - *THIS HAS LED TO STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN PEI FRENCH*

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- FRENCH PREPOSITION OCCURRING WITH VERBS OF ENGLISH ORIGIN
  - Crasher dans (crash into); Picker su (pick on); Lander su (land on)
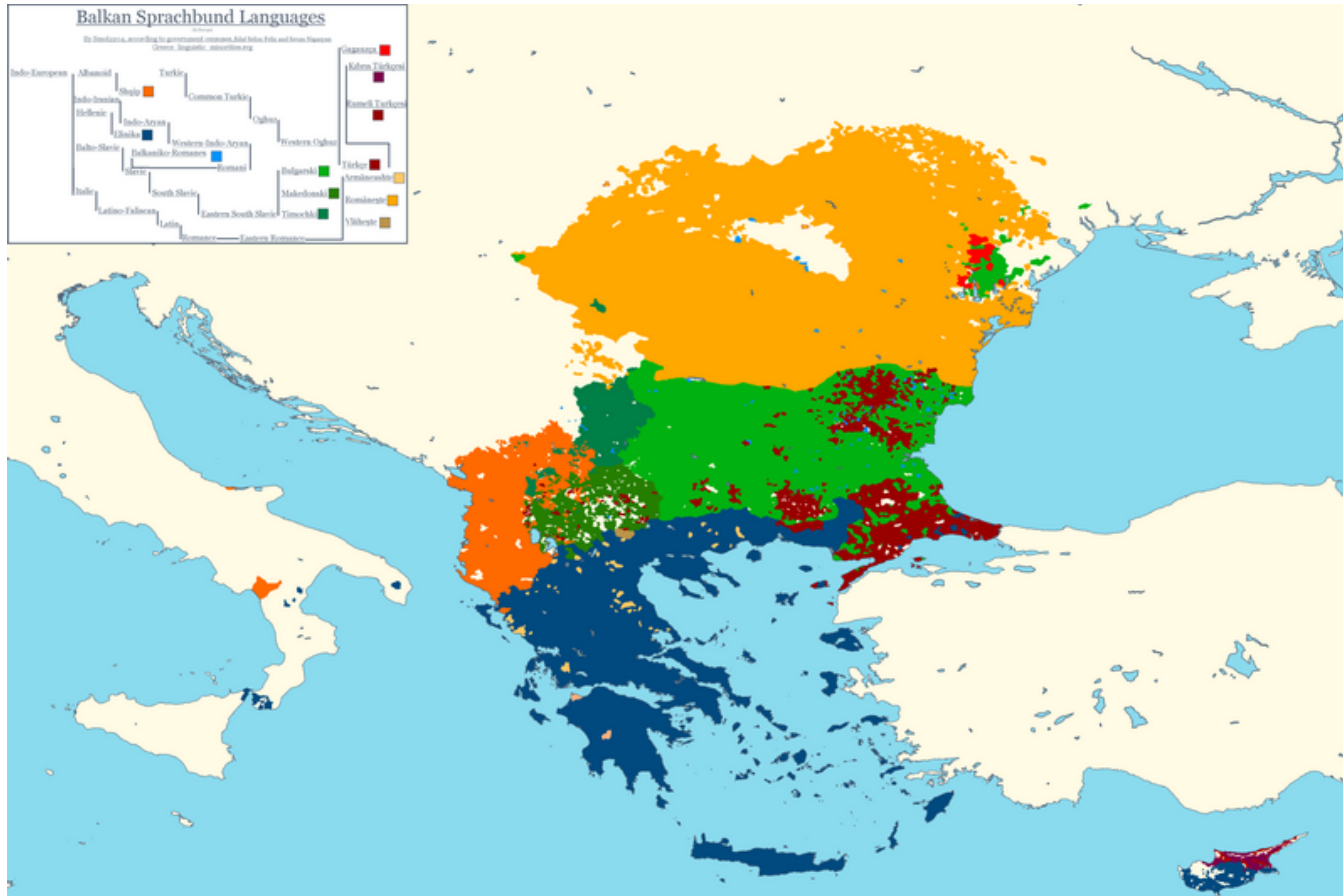
BALKAN SPRACHBUND

- Sprachbund ->

BALKAN SPRACHBUND

- Sprachbund -> Convergence situation of linguistics. Where a group of languages share areal features resulting from proximity and language contact.

    - These languages can be genetically unrelated or distant related, but the sprachbund characteristics might give a false appearance of relatedness

BALKAN SPRACHBUND

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- Primary languages of the Sprachbund include
  - Albanian (albanoid language)
  - Greek (hellenic language)
  - Romanian (romance language)
  - Bulgarian (slavic language)
  - Macedonian (slavic language)
  - Serbo-Croatian (slavic language)
  - Judezmo or Judeo-Espanol (romance language)
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Whats the background to this?

- 800 - 1700 A.D. -> Prolonged contact among the language groups

- Contact due to -> war, conquest, trade, animal herding

- Invasions from Slavs -> long period of migration across language boundaries -> multilingual communities

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  - BYZANTINE CIVILIZATION + GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

    - Greek seems to have been the source of, or vehicle for, many of the diffused features.

    - Greek, nevertheless, was also the recipient in some cases. The picture is up to debate.

BALKAN SPRACHBUND

- Full details on this contact situation are still unknown.

- However, LINGUISTIC CONSEQUENCES can be seen.

  - Phonology: Balkan languages absence of suprasegmental features such as length and nasalisation in vowel articulation

  - MORPHOLOGY: post-posed enclitic definite article (all languages except Greek and Turkish)

Consequences in morphology

- Post-posed enclitic definite article (all languages except Greek and Turkish)

-

	Noun	Noun+Article	Meaning
Bulgarian	voda	Voda-ta	Water
Romanian	lup	lup-ul	Wolf
Albanian	shok	shok-u	Comrade

Consequences in morphology

- Merger of dative and genitive cases in Albanian, Bulgarian, Greek and Romanian

- Merger of locative and directional expressions in Bulgarian, Greek and Romanian

  - Greek: stin eláda (In Greece / Into Greece)

Consequences in syntax

- Use of redundant personal pronouns to cross-index direct or indirect animate objects

  - Romanian: I-am scris lui John

    - To-him I wrote him John (I wrote to John)

Consequences in lexical items

- Borrowing of single lexical items such as

  - Greek *Dromos* > Alb. *Dhrom;* Bulg. *Drum;* <u>Rom. *Drum*</u>

  - Turkish *Boya* > Alb. *Boje,* Bulg. *Boja,* Greek *boyá*

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- NUMERALS 11 - 19 ARE EXPRESSED BY COMBINATIONS WHOSE LITERAL MEANING IS "ONE ON TEN, TWO ON TEN...) not found in modern greek, but occurring in medieval greek.

  - Albanian *një% -mbë%- dhjetë*

  - Bulgarian *edi(n)-na-deset*

  - Romanian *un-spre-zece (<*unu-supre-dece)*

Consequences in lexical items

- Calques on idiomatic expressions
  - "Without a doubt" is expressed by "without order"
    - Albanian: *pa tjetër*
    - Bulgarian: *bez drugo*
    - Greek: *xorís álo*
  - The expression "whether one VERB or not" is conveyed by the structure "VERB-not-VERB". Greek could have been the source of this pattern
    - Bulgarian: *pie ne pie* "whether one drinks or not"
    - Greek: *fíji de fíji* "whether one leaves or not"
    - Romanian: *vrea nu vrea* "whether one wants or not
    - Turkish: *ister istemez* "willingly or not"

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- Where does all this borrowing come from and what does it suppose?

- Sandfeld (1930) -> diffusion due to borrowing from a single language (Greek) into the other

- BUT some evidence points to asymmetrical patterns of dimension

- It has been claimed that Bulgarian is generally the recipient language in grammar, BUT the source of phonological innovations. Especially in Romanian.

  - STILL CONTROVERSIAL

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- INFLUENCE OF A PRE-EXISTING SPECH COMMUNITY ON THE LINGUISTIC GROUPS THAT CAME TO SETTLE IN THE BALKANS?

  - More likely that mutual accommodation and shift among the immigrant groups themselves promoted the spread of features.

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Conclusion

- Degree of lexical and structural diffusion found in most of the languages is not that extensive

- Ongoing mixture involving European languages and native languages in colonies is at least as extensive as in the Balkans -> Language maintenance, particularly when the groups involved belong to quite distinct communitieS

EXTREME STRUCTURAL DIFFUSION

Borrowing or substratum influence?

- THOMASON AND KAUFMAN (1988): "traditional prerequisite for structural borrowing […] is the existence of a bilingual group within the borrowing language speaker population"

  - Definition of structural borrowing: "Structural interference initiates by native speakers of the recipient language" -> vague as to the actual mechanism of change involved in the cases

OLD NORSE ON OLD ENGLISH

- England invaded by Norse-speaking Norwegians and Danes (865 - 955)

  - Considerable lexical and some structural influence from Norse -> Norse speakers gradually shifted to English over the next 100 years, but their language left its mark on Northern and Midland varieties of English

OLD NORSE ON OLD ENGLISH

ADOPTED GRAMMATICAL TRAITS

- PRONOUNS: *they, them, their* replacing Old English equivalents *hie/he:o, him/hira* and *heom/hora*

- QUANTIFIERS: *minne* "less", *seer* "various" replacing OE *loe:ssa, syndrig*

- VARIETY OF STRONG FORMS OF VERBS: *give(n), gas, geeven* (TO GIVE); vs OE *jefa(n), joef, jefen*

- PREPOSITIONS: *til (to), fraa (from)*

OLD NORSE ON OLD ENGLISH

ADOPTED GRAMMATICAL TRAITS

- MOTIVATIONS FOR NORSE TO AFFECT ENGLISH?

  - *PRESTIGE*

  - *ECONOMIC ADVANTAGES FROM KNOWLEDGE OF THE LANGUAGE*

  - *NORSE SPEAKERS RETAINING FEATURES OF THEIR LANGUAGE WHEN SWITCHING TO ENGLISH*

OLD NORSE ON OLD ENGLISH

In contemporary English

- Norse influence is still pronounced in rural dialects of the north and midlands, but has made its way to London English

  - We still find Norse survivors such as *give, run, thrive, get;* pronominal forms *they, them, their* and functional words like *though, till* and *again(st)*

  - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6I4CXg1hkbs

  - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MU5L9rIOaqw

  - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=luuA6bEoQIE (Scottish English)

SUMMARY

- THERE IS NOT ALWAYS A CONSISTENT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DEGREE OF LEXICAL AND STRUCTURAL DIFFUSSION

- IN SITUATIONS OF UNSTABLE BILINGUALISM, ONGOING SHIFT APPEARS TO LEAD TO SOMEWHAT MORE STRUCTURAL INNOVATION IN AN ANCESTRAL LANGUAGE UNDER THREAT FROM A DOMINANT LANGUAGE.

- INNOVATIONS ARE APPARENTLY INTRODUCED BY HIGHLY PROFICIENT BILINGUALS, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO USE THE DOMINANT LANGUAGE AS THEIR PRIMARY MEANS OF LEXICAL DIFFUSSION

- IT IS NOT EASY TO PINPOINT THE PARTICULAR STRUCTURAL AND SOCIAL FACTORS THAT REGULATE THE OUTCOME OF CONTACT SITUATIONS.

- REGARDING SOCIAL FACTORS, IR APPEARS THAT THE DEGREE OF INTIMACY OF CONTACT DETERMINES THE DEGREE OF STRUCTURAL DIFFUSSION