

Abstract

Variation of forms inside morphological paradigms of preterit tense in Slovak dialects

During the process of grammaticalization of the preterit tense (which has an origin in perfect emerged in late Proto-Slavic period) in Slovak dialects we can identify several types of variation. Besides regional dialectal differentiation, known also in many other grammatical forms, there is a variation inside the dialects themselves. There are three types of inner variation:

- **formal** – in dialects of East Slovakia there are three various forms of preterit tense – two analytical forms: *l*-form + auxiliary *be* (*robil som*) and pers. pronoun + *l*-form (*ja robil*) and synthetic form (*robilem*) [‘I worked’] which coexist without any grammatical, semantic or stylistic differentiations;
- **paradigmatic** – variation of forms inside one paradigm:
 - one type of this variation is common for majority of West Slavic dialects and it is based on loss of auxiliary *be* in the 3rd persons (sg. – *robil* + \emptyset , pl. – *robili* + \emptyset).
 - in another type of paradigmatic variation there are, besides elliptic forms of the 3rd persons, also synthetic forms in 1st person with ending *-m* (< *jesm*), or *-x* (originated in psl. aorist) and/or in the 2nd person with ending *-š* or *-s* (in various groups and parts of Slovak territory);
- **syntactic** – endings of the synthetic forms *-m*, *-š*, or *-x* can be put to *l*-form of the verb (*robilam*, *robilax*) but also to a pronoun (*jax robila*) or to other member of the phrase (*chlebax robila*).

In the presentation I will focus on the paradigmatic types of variation from the point of view of the grammaticalization process and language contacts.