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*Majda Merše***Megiser's dictionary and the forming of Slovene linguistic standards in the 16th century**

At the end of the 16th century, Hieronomus Megiser placed Slovene as a non-first (complementary) language into two multilingual dictionaries: into the German-Latin-Slovene-Italian dictionary *Dictionarium quatuor linguarum* of 1592, and into the *Theaurus Polyglottus* of 1603. A consideration of the literary form of Slovene which had developed from its Trubarian beginnings from 1550 onwards and its concurrent appearance in Megiser's dictionaries demonstrates that the latter captured more characteristic features of Slovene literary language from the second half of the 16th century. Because of the generic associations of his dictionaries (they are both multilingual) and because their lexicographical information is focused only on select linguistic fields, a rich informativeness is perhaps to be expected, especially with respect to the lexical corpus. On the basis of demonstrated written and phonetic pairs, it is also possible to become acquainted with the real problematic at the written and phonetic levels. Individually, the non-systemic and mostly indirectly demonstrated data about the inflection and valency of words does not suffice for an acquaintance with the characteristic features of the contemporary morphological and syntactical system.

In Megiser's dictionaries the attested writing system demonstrates distinctive features. Compared to the language of Dalmatin's translation of the *Bible*, the following stand out: a less stable notation of sibilants and palatoalveolar fricatives and affricates, changing patterns in the writing of other consonants (e.g., soft /l/ and /n/) and a rarer and less stable use of accent signs. The two dictionaries offer many examples of the unwritten reduced vowel (?) in word-final syllables (e.g., *ba?n*, *pametn*), and also expose more types of orthographic variability (e.g. the writing of verbal calques either together or separately). Megiser's dictionaries furthermore demonstrate generally recognised phonetic variants (e.g., *divji* – *divje*, *slobodnost* – *slaboden*, *cagav* – *cagov*, *sirota* – *sorota*; *priseči* – *persegati*; *nezastopnost* – *nezestop*; and also, *črešnja* – *češnja*, *človečki* – *človeški*; *slišati* – *šlišati*), which for the most part mirror still developing current phonemic processes. In the case of the majority of lexicographically mediated word forms, whether already known or novel, it is possible to uncover their formation using established morphological models. The morphological variability also typical of 16th century literary language is demonstrated by numerous pairs of lexicographically attested synonyms (e.g., *baržagar* – *baržager*, *plešiv* – *plešast*).

At the same time, the multilexical Slovene complementary strings in Megiser's dictionaries mirror typical lexical constructions as used in literary works: besides indigenous words, older and more recent borrowings (the latter mostly from German) are also woven into them. Megiser's dictionaries also