

12. letno srečanje Združenja za slovansko jezikoslovje  
Povzetki prispevkov

12th Slavic Linguistics Society Annual Meeting  
Book of Abstracts

XII ежегодная конференция Общества славянского языкознания  
Тезисы докладов

Ljubljana, 21.–24. 9. 2017

*Živí naj vsi naródi  
Ki krepené dočákat' dan,  
De kóder sónce hódi,  
Prepir id' svéta bó pregnán,  
De roják  
Prost bo vsák,  
Ne mág, le sósed bo meják.*

Slavic  
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Univerza v Ljubljani  
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**12. letno srečanje Združenja za slovansko jezikoslovje: Povzetki prispevkov**  
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# **12. letno srečanje Združenja za slovansko jezikoslovje**

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Slavic Linguistics Society

Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts  
Fran Ramovš Institute for the Slovenian Language

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Department of Slavistics, Department of Slovenian Studies, Department of Comparative and General Linguistics

# 12th Slavic Linguistics Society Annual Meeting

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Общество славянского языкознания

Научно-исследовательский центр Словенской академии наук и искусств  
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кафедра славистики, кафедра словенистики, кафедра сравнительного и общего языкознания

# **XII ежегодная конференция Общества славянского языкознания**

**Тезисы докладов**

Любляна, 21–24 сентября 2017 г.



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## **Demonstrative pronouns in comparison with morphologically bound article as exponents of definiteness**

The function of definiteness – to present something as separate from the multitude, as familiar to the participants in the speech situation – can be expressed both lexically and morphologically. If, for a certain category, several different formal exponents exist, it is assumed that the grammaticalisation of one exponent as opposed to another gives rise to certain idiosyncrasies, that is, that such development necessarily imposes the specialisation of one exponent over another for certain speech and language situations. In the opposite case, though, the existence of one specialised type alongside another within the language system becomes pointless.

If we juxtapose the demonstrative pronouns and article, which in fact historically represents a demonstrative pronoun in post-position, we can assume that its grammaticalisation has also generated a specialisation for certain positions, contexts, and types of definiteness. According to Krámský, the essential property of the article is its use in generic constructions. In opposition to this view, Topolińska suggests situational definiteness as a context with article exclusivity. An important part in all this is also played by linearisation and syntactic function (e.g. the subject in an initial non-negated construction is accompanied by an article by analogy, and it is the theme in the sentence). To these two cases we shall add a third, marginal one, regarding the instances of article use in possessive (situational) constructions, as well as certain propositional contexts, non-equivalent with those where the article is used, which demonstrate examples of low frequency of the use of demonstrative pronouns in generic contexts and contexts of situational definiteness.

In conclusion, a question arises, which has already been tackled: if the demonstrative pronouns and article “are assigned different functions as bearers of definiteness of the nominal syntagma, that is, of various types of referential characteristics of this syntagma (...), then what is the function of the article? Also, does it differ from the function of demonstrative pronouns, and, if it does, how?” (Topolińska 2006: 8).

The answer may be found in cases and instances that distinguish the article, particularly that with a T-root, in relation to other exponents of definiteness; specialise as the sole exponent its field in the segments of situational definiteness and generic reference; and, according to the above criteria, identify it as a real article, as opposed to the other elements in the system. Thus, it may also be said that the definition of a “three-fold

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article” is merely formal, rather than functional (see Topoljinska 2006). This viewpoint is also espoused by Lindstedt who offers a conditional interpretation of the three-fold article: the syntactic position of the other article morphemes (vis-à-vis the T-root) is the same, but “functionally and typologically, they are pronouns, and not definite articles” (Linstead 2013: 5–6). Other circumstances may be taken into consideration as regards the case of Macedonian (e.g. sentences such as *Daj mi go penkalovo* or *Izgreva soncevo*), where both the V- and N-roots perform purely article functions. Yet, in this case, we no longer view them through the lens of historical development, but as having received an additional functional (stylistic?) load, taking over some of the meanings of the “real article” (the T-root), albeit only in certain (marked) contexts.

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