

### 1. Research project objectives/ Research hypothesis

The aim of the project is an integrative account of the Polish-German bilingualism in Poland and Germany, including linguistic as well as sociolinguistic aspects. The main objective is answering the question if morphosyntactic changes induced by the German-Polish language contact in bilingual speech differ across generations. The research will focus on the interplay between language biographies and speech of two generations of bilingual community which has experienced important historical events. On the one hand the research concentrates on the bilingual speakers, on the other hand on the processes of pattern replication in both languages: Polish and German. We hypothesize that the types of replication of the morphosyntactic patterns depend on the systemic differences between Polish and German; however the non-systemic factors may influence the frequency and variability of these patterns. The result of the research will be a data corpus on Polish-German bilingualism, available online, as well as scientific publications.

### 2. Research project methodology

Language differentiation across generations will be analyzed on authentic material collected during the field research. The research will focus on bilingual persons of two generations whose biographies have been influenced by different historical conditions: 1) the oldest generation, living in Poland on the territories that before 1945 belonged to Germany; 2) middle generation, born in Poland on the same territories, living at present Germany. The study will therefore include persons belonging to two generations, derived from the same families and / or local communities, but living in a different language environment. We will apply a grounded theory (empirical data serve to pose several hypotheses and formulate conclusions) and the language biography method, based on free-form autobiographical interviews, aiming at collecting data on acquisition and use of languages from the speaker's perspective. The interviews will be conducted in two languages by the Polish-German pair of researchers. In order to provide empirical material to other researchers and to the public, there will be a linguistic data corpus created. The interviews will be transcribed, and the replication patterns will underline morphosyntactic annotation, which will help the user to search the data corpus. Texts prepared in this way will form the basis for the research on the morphosyntactic replications. The language biographies of the informants will be analyzed in terms of the order and conditions of the languages' acquisition, their functional distribution, as well as the emotional bonds of the speakers towards the languages (language attitudes). The final stage of the research will be the correlation between the analyzes of use of the morphosyntactic replication and language biographies of speakers belonging to the two generations as well as an explanation of the relationship between them.

### 3. Expected impact of the research project on the development of science, civilization and society

The results of the project will have a significant impact on the development of linguistics in terms of theories on language contact, teaching of Polish and German as foreign languages, as well as on the development of digital humanities. The research on language biographies will affect the development of cultural anthropology, ethnology, and in particular the studies on identities of national minorities. Due to the fact that people speaking German dialects in the Polish border regions are the elderly, the project will play an important role in the documentation of endangered linguistic varieties. The results of the research will be conducive to the development of language policy towards national minorities in both countries.

### 4. Added value of Polish-German cooperation

Implementation of the project is possible only in cooperation of Slavic and German philologists from both countries. The previous research on bilingualism has been conducted from the national perspective, only from the perspective of German philology or just from the Slavic one. The researchers involved in the project have unique and profiled knowledge. This combination makes the project and its design innovative. Their cooperation will contribute to the transnational transfer of knowledge. A significant added value of the project is the education of young scientists from Poland and Germany.