

**SECOND ANNUAL KENNETH E.
NAYLOR MEMORIAL LECTURE IN
SOUTH SLAVIC LINGUISTICS**

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and Literatures*
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IN HONOR OF DIVERSITY:
**THE LINGUISTIC RESOURCES OF THE
BALKANS**

**Wednesday, April 7, 1999
at 3:30 p.m.**

**The Ohio State University
Faculty Club Grand Lounge
181 South Oval Mall
Columbus, Ohio**

**A reception at the Faculty Club
Grand Lounge will follow**

The Lecture

Language is the most intimate and precious possession of a people. With it they name the persons, places, things and ideas that have meaning for them, through it they communicate in a way that affirms their belongingness, and by means of it they keep alive the narratives that remind them who they are. Languages are said to be distinct from one another when they are mutually unintelligible. Dialects of a language are variants peculiar to a social class or geographic locale which are not thought sufficiently distinct to be classified as separate languages. In terms of function, however, each dialect is a self-contained linguistic system which serves the basic needs of its group, and is studied by linguists as such. The truest distinction between language and dialect, in fact, is that attributed to many a famous linguist: "A language is a dialect with an army and a navy." The range of dialectal variation is especially rich in the Balkans, where ethnographers from many lands have worked assiduously since the last century to collect and classify dialectal data, and where the several vexed "language questions" cannot begin to be understood without dialectology. After the coming of socialist governments and mass literacy, it was presumed that dialects would die out and the standard languages would predominate. The reverse has happened, however: in many areas, dialectal diversity has survived and flourished. The present study, which surveys the discipline of South Slavic dialectology and attempts to explicate the tenacity of dialectal diversity, is dedicated to the honor of Kenneth E. Naylor, who began his own distinguished career in South Slavic linguistics in the field of dialectology.

The Speaker

Ronelle Alexander, a native of the state of Washington, received her B.A. and M.A. degrees from Washington State University and the University of Washington, respectively. She then moved to Harvard, where she studied with Horace Lunt and Albert Lord. For her doctoral research, she spent 1970-71 in Yugoslavia (supported by a grant from the American Association of University Women), where she undertook extensive field work in a number of different villages in southern Serbia and northern Macedonia. She received her Ph.D. in 1975, the same year in which her dissertation was published as *Torlak Accentuation*. After short term teaching positions at the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill, Yale University, and UCLA, she joined the faculty of the University of California at Berkeley in 1978, where she has held the rank of Professor since 1987. She teaches all South Slavic languages except Slovene, and courses in South Slavic linguistics, literature, folklore and cultural history. She is the author of four books and numerous articles on linguistics, folklore and poetics. She has traveled and lectured in many countries, including Siberia and Central Asia. In 1997, with support from the Rockefeller Foundation and the Trust for Mutual Understanding, she co-organized "Oral Traditions of the North Pacific Rim, a Performance Workshop", which brought together in California scholars from several countries and singers and storytellers from Siberia. Her central research activity remains dialectology, and she is one of the few American Slavists with both theoretical and practical research expertise in the field of dialectology. Since 1990 she has been carrying out extensive field work in Bulgaria, culminating in her leadership of the 1996 joint Bulgarian-American field expedition "Revitalizing Bulgarian Dialectology", sponsored by the International Research and Exchanges Board, and in the forthcoming volume of the same name.

The Professorship

The Kenneth E. Naylor Professorship of South Slavic Linguistics was established on November 5, 1993 in the College of Humanities through gifts to The Ohio State University from the estate of Dr. Naylor. The professorship is a five-year appointment, and is dedicated to preserving and continuing the scholarly legacy of Dr. Naylor. Professor Brian D. Joseph, a Balkan/Greek scholar of the Department of Linguistics at the Ohio State University and a colleague of Dr. Naylor, has the distinguished honor of being the first Kenneth E. Naylor Professor. He now holds joint appointments in the Department of Linguistics and the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures.

The Lecture Series

As part of the Naylor Professorship, Professor Joseph has established an annual Lecture on South Slavic Linguistics in Kenneth Naylor's memory that will bring leading scholars in the field to OSU each Spring to give a public lecture and to lecture in Professor Joseph's South Slavic classes.



Brian D. Joseph, first and current Kenneth E. Naylor Professor of South Slavic Linguistics

Kenneth E. Naylor, Jr.

Kenneth E. Naylor, Jr. was born on February 27, 1937 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He received his B.A. in French linguistics from Cornell University in 1958, and his M.A. in General linguistics from Indiana University in 1960. At Indiana, he began to study Slavic with Professor Edward Stankiewicz, who became a personal friend and mentor. When Professor Stankiewicz moved to the University of Chicago, Kenneth Naylor went with him. There he received his doctorate in Russian and South Slavic linguistics in 1966. Dr. Naylor was an assistant professor at the University of Pittsburgh from 1964 to 1966. In 1966, he began teaching Slavic linguistics at The Ohio State University. At the time of his death, Dr. Naylor was the Acting Director of the Center for Slavic and East European Studies at the Ohio State University. Dr. Naylor was the recipient of numerous awards, grants and fellowships from many sources, including the American Council of Learned Societies, the Fulbright program, and the countries of Bulgaria and Yugoslavia, from which he was awarded medals of honor (the Jubilee Medal and the Order of the Yugoslav Flag with Golden Wreath, respectively). In 1990, he testified before the U.S. House of Representatives, Foreign Affairs Committee on ethnic rivalry in Yugoslavia and the development of the Serbo-Croatian language. Dr. Naylor's research centered on the Serbo-Croatian language and on South Slavic linguistics in general. He served as editor of the journals *Balkanistica*, *Folia Slavica*, and *The American Bibliography of Slavic and East European Studies*. The overwhelming majority of his seventy articles focused on Serbo-Croatian and Balkan linguistics. His dedication and many accomplishments live in his work and in the love of the field he instilled in his students.

Brian D. Joseph

Born in New York in 1951, Brian D. Joseph was schooled at Yale University (B.A. Cum Laude, 1973, with a major in Linguistics and a minor in Classics), and Harvard University (M.A. 1976, Ph.D. 1978, both in Linguistics), spending a year in Greece doing research on his dissertation. After a year as an Izaak Walton Killam Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Alberta, Dr. Joseph began in 1979 as Assistant Professor in the Linguistics Department at The Ohio State University, where he has been ever since, becoming a full professor in 1988, and serving as Chair of the Department of Linguistics from 1987 to 1997. Dr. Joseph has been the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including the 1995 OSU Alumni Distinguished Teaching Award, the Erskine Visiting Fellowship at the University of Canterbury in New Zealand in the summer of 1997, and the currently held Kenneth E. Naylor Professorship of South Slavic Linguistics. Professor Joseph is recognized worldwide as one of the leading specialists in the history and structure of Greek and in Balkan linguistics. His primary scholarly interest is in historical linguistics, with an emphasis on the latter history of Greek. This has led him to study Greek in relation to its neighboring languages in the Balkans, including the South Slavic languages. His work on the Balkan *Sprachbund* explores the effects of years of language contact and bilingualism which have led to converging linguistic developments in the languages of the area. This area of research was one in which Dr. Naylor was also deeply interested. Author or co-author of 5 books and editor or co-editor of 8 volumes, Professor Joseph's long list of publications includes many dealing with Balkan linguistics. He is currently working with Professor Victor Friedman on a book on the Balkan languages for Cambridge University Press.

The 2000 Naylor Lecture

The Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures is pleased to announce the Naylor Memorial Lecturer for 2000: Wayles Browne of Cornell University. Dr. Browne specializes in South Slavic Linguistics, with Serbo-Croatian as his particular focus.



The late, distinguished professor of South Slavic linguistics, Dr. Kenneth E. Naylor
