

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

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***THE BALKAN LINGUISTIC
LEAGUE, 'ORIENTALISM', AND
LINGUISTIC TYPOLOGY***

**Friday, May 25, 2001
at 3:00 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

The linguistic focus on the Balkans as a unique and prototypical “Sprachbund” (‘linguistic league’) can be viewed as a manifestation of what Edward Said has called “orientalism”, or by what Maria Todorova has called “Balkanism”. There has been a strong tendency to regard linguistic leagues as somehow typologically exotic. Rather, I shall try to show that the Balkan languages typologically are closer to a Romance language type than, e.g., to North Slavic typology, and are in many ways more “Western European” than North Slavic. In this respect, I shall argue that even English can be viewed as a “Balkan” language. Following Colin Masica, I shall attempt to show that it is counterproductive to put sharp boundaries on a “Sprachbund”, and that it is more important to set up series of overlapping areas which extend in varying directions beyond the traditionally defined linguistic area. So, for example, I shall try to demonstrate that one critical “Balkanism”, the special treatment of definite direct objects of a verb, extends to Hungarian to the north and Turkish and Armenian to the East. The study of the Balkan languages does indeed have much to offer to general linguistic theory, but such a statement would likely be equally true for any linguistic area viewed in its context. Finally, I shall argue for the greater importance of dealing with structural features as opposed to formal features.

The Speaker

Howard I. Aronson received his doctorate in Slavic linguistics from Indiana University in 1961. He wrote his doctoral dissertation (*Morphophonemic patterns of the Bulgarian inflection (compared with those of Russian)*) on Bulgarian inflectional morphophonology. In the year 1961-62 he taught at the University of Wisconsin at Madison and since 1962 has been at the University of Chicago, where he now holds appointments in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, the Department of Linguistics, the Committee on Jewish Studies, and the undergraduate College. He has served as Chair of the Slavic Department and the Department of Linguistics and is currently acting chair of the Slavic Department. His areas of research interest include Bulgarian and Balkan linguistics, Georgian linguistics, Yiddish, and questions of the application of linguistics to the teaching of foreign languages. He is the author of numerous articles in these areas, and has written three influential books: *Bulgarian Inflectional Morphology* (Mouton, 1968), *Georgian: A Reading Grammar* (Slavica, 1982), and *Georgian language and culture: a continuing course with Dodona Kiziria of Indiana University* (Slavica, 1999). In addition, Professor Aronson has edited or co-edited five volumes, including a special Festschrift issue of the *International Journal of the Sociology of Language* co-edited with the late Kenneth Naylor in honor of Edward Stankiewicz.

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 renewable 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 on 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, a major in Linguistics and a minor in Classics), and Harvard University (M.A. 1976, Ph.D. 1978, both in Linguistics), with a year in Greece doing research on his dissertation. After a year as an Izaak Walton Killam Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Alberta, he began in 1979 as Assistant Professor of Linguistics at The Ohio State University, where he has been ever since, becoming a full professor in 1988, and serving as Chair 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, an Erskine Visiting Fellowship at the University of Canterbury in New Zealand in the summer of 1997, a Fulbright Research Award in Greece in 1987, an NEH Fellowship for 2002, 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 12 volumes, Professor Joseph's long list of publications includes many dealing with Balkan linguistics. He is currently working with Professor Victor Friedman, the first Naylor Lecturer (in 1998), on a book on the Balkan languages for Cambridge University Press.

Other Naylor Lectures

The Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures is pleased to announce the Naylor Memorial Lecturer for 2002: Christina Kramer of the University of Toronto. Dr. Kramer is a South Slavic specialist, with Macedonian as her main focus.

The Naylor Memorial Lectures are published in the newly-created Naylor Memorial Lecture Monograph Series. The 1998 Lecture by Victor Friedman ("Linguistic Emblems and Emblematic Languages: On Language as Flag in the Balkans") and the 1999 Lecture by Ronelle Alexander ("In Honor of Diversity: The Linguistic Resources of the Balkans") are now available and the 2000 lecture by Wayles Browne ("What is a Standard Language Good For, and Who Gets to Have One?") will be available later this year; for information, contact the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures (614-292-6733).



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