

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

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Studies  
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**DISCOURSE MARKERS AS  
BALKANISMS**

**Friday, April 29, 2005  
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***

The Balkan Sprachbund allows for comparative linguistic studies of a genetic and a typological nature across its languages. Typically, so-called Balkanisms involve the phonological, morphological, syntactic and lexical levels. But, the discourse-pragmatic level, and discourse markers in particular, may also yield relevant insights into language contact since discourse markers are particularly susceptible to borrowing. The Slavic adversative connectives *ama* and *ami*, both translatable as 'but', are a case in point. Both are multifunctional, serving as conjunctions to link clauses or as discourse markers to link larger chunks of discourse, and they exist alongside native Slavic adversative connectives (*no*, *a*, and *ali*), but are not necessarily interchangeable with them. Moreover, the geographical distribution appears to be consistent with the central versus peripheral nature of Balkan features in South Slavic, being more prevalent in standard Bulgarian and Macedonian than in standard Serbian and Croatian. Several interesting questions arise in connection with the patterning and behavior of these connectives, among them:

i) How to distinguish their use as a conjunction from their use as a discourse marker? Is their position, i.e., sentence-medial versus utterance/sentence-initial, respectively, a sufficient and/or necessary condition, or are there other discourse-pragmatic factors involved?

ii) How to account for the choice of the borrowed forms versus native counterparts? In Bulgarian, *ama* and *ami* are typically called colloquial, suggesting register or style is a factor in the choice.

iii) Are these discourse markers in fact borrowings? Neither is attested in Old Church Slavic, but native derivations for them have been proposed, parallel to the case of *ali* (from native Slavic connectives *a* and *li*). Still, they have the feel of borrowings from Turkish (although Greek may be the ultimate source).

iv) What does their geolinguistic distribution imply for the Balkan Sprachbund? Although *ama* is attested in all South Slavic languages, it seems to be used as a conjunction only in Balkan Slavic

(Bulgarian and Macedonian). In Serbian, Croatian and Bosnian *ama* is typically restricted to the discourse marker function and is stylistically marked, while the adversative connective *ali* is preferred in the conjunction function.

This analysis of *ama* and *ami* shows how the study of discourse markers, as items primarily found in the vernacular, and the use of naturally occurring data provide a window through which we can observe the dynamics of languages in contact.

***The Speaker***

Grace E. Fielder received her doctorate in Slavic linguistics from UCLA in 1983, with a doctoral dissertation on *Aspect of the Infinitive Complement in Russian*. She taught at the University of Virginia from 1983-1992, moving to the University of Arizona in 1992, where she now is Professor in the Department of Russian and Slavic Languages. Since 2000 Professor Fielder has served on the National Policy Advisory Committee, Slavic and East European Language Resource Center at Duke University/University of North Carolina, and she has been the Chair of the Discipline Advisory Committee for the Fulbright Program.

Her areas of research interest include Bulgarian and Balkan linguistics, discourse analysis, and grammaticalization. She is the author of several articles in these areas, having published in both major journals and international conference proceedings (e.g. *Slavic and East European Journal*, *Balkansko Ezikoznanie*, *Proceedings of the International Congress of Slavists*, etc.) and important anthologies, and has written a very influential book, *The Semantics and Pragmatics of Verbal Categories* (Edwin Mellen, 1993). Professor Fielder has held grants from IREX and the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences for research in Bulgaria, as well as an ACLS postdoctoral grant

***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, 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 and present Kenneth E. Naylor Professor.

### ***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 brings leading scholars in the field to OSU each Spring to give a public lecture and to speak 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 Serbo-Croatian and on South Slavic linguistics in general. He served as editor of *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 (MA 1976, PhD 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 NEH Fellowship for 2002, designation as a Distinguished University Professor in 2003, election to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2004, 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 2006: Tom Priestly of the University of Alberta. Dr. Priestly is a South Slavic specialist, with Slovene as his main focus.

The first three Naylor Memorial Lectures (1998, by Victor Friedman; 1999, by Ronelle Alexander; and 2000, by E. Wayles Browne) have been published in the Naylor Memorial Lecture Monograph Series (OSU Dept. of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures). Plans are in place for publishing the others (2001, by Howard Aronson; 2002, by Christina Kramer; 2003, by Zuzanna Topolinska; and 2004, by Ilse Lehiste) with Beech Stave Press, later this year. For more 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*