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**ESSAYS IN THE HISTORY
OF LANGUAGES
AND LINGUISTICS**

**Dedicated to Marek Stachowski
on the occasion of his 60th birthday**

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Kraków 2017

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ISBN 978-83-7638-861-8

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PROFESSOR MAREK STACHOWSKI'S EVOLVING ACADEMIC PROFILE OVER THE YEARS 1984–2016

MANY OF THOSE WHO WILL READ THESE PAGES ARE FULLY AWARE OF PROFESSOR Marek Stachowski's scholarly achievements up to the present. How versatile and appreciated an author he has been is illustrated quite perfectly by the table of contents of the present tome. Indeed, Professor Stachowski is commonly regarded as a Turkologist whose varied academic career has been marked by a consistent approach to linguistic analysis: utilising historical-linguistic and philological methods while at the same time paying special attention to the historical background, cultural context, chronology, and the geography of linguistic contacts. Certainly, Marek Stachowski has helped broaden our knowledge of the history of Turkic languages and improve the methodology bequeathed to us by earlier generations. Additionally, however, thanks to his broad interdisciplinary approach – combining the experience and knowledge of a Turkologist with, primarily, the expertise of Uralists, Slavicists, Arabists, Iranists, Mongolists, and specialists in Yeniseic, Carpathian and Balkan studies – Marek Stachowski has been able to address issues lying beyond his main field of expertise. In fact, during his career he has highlighted just how relevant Turkology is to these research areas and, just as importantly, how much Turkology has been enriched by them. Thus, it would perhaps not be amiss to say that the central theme of his work has been its wide-ranging, multifaceted outlook.

Undoubtedly, it was Marek Stachowski's own father, Professor Stanisław Stachowski (born 1930), who guided him towards a career in interdisciplinary

linguistics.¹ At the time of his son's birth, on May 19, 1957, Stanisław Stachowski not only held a *Magister Artium* in Slavonic philology, but was also expanding his horizons by taking courses in Oriental studies. Marek Stachowski the linguist must have therefore treated the ethos of interdisciplinarity not so much as a crucial and necessary appendage to his work, but rather as something quite natural and obvious.

Marek Stachowski embarked upon his career shortly after obtaining his degree in Turkology (1976–1981) at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków. On May 28, 1981² he defended his MA thesis entitled *Neologizmy w Günce* [*'Dzienniki'*] *Nurullaha Ataça* [= Neologisms in Nurullah Ataç's *Günce* [*'Diary'*]]³ and began working as a full-time academic, initially in the position of a research assistant (1981–1988).⁴ By 1988, when he defended his doctoral thesis entitled *Westeuropäische Lehnwörter im Osmanisch-Türkischen*,⁵ he had already published 5 articles on Turkic etymology (Nos 10, 11) and the history of the Turkish lexicon (Nos 14, 15, 17). In addition, he had written 4 reviews (Nos 12, 13, 16, 18) and given a talk in Gießen (*Die osmanisch-türkische Kultur im Spiegel der westeuropäischen Lehnwörter*) at the invitation of Professor Klaus Röhrborn (*Institut für Orientalistik der Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen*) and the *Deutsch-Türkische Gesellschaft*.

The content of his first two etymological articles already gives the impression of an author with decades of experience as a scholar and researcher in Turkology. It is little wonder, then, that they were accepted for publication by the editor of

1 For more on Stanisław Stachowski, see the two biographies written by Siemieniec-Golaś (2005) and Mańczak-Wohlfeld (2010).

2 Unless indicated otherwise, dates and other details from Marek Stachowski's (academic) life are taken from ArchUJ Hab., ArchUJ Prof. and ArchUJ Prof. zw. (i.e. from the personal files of Marek Stachowski stored in the Archive of the Jagiellonian University and available to the public), from the personal correspondence with his colleagues as well as from the memory and notes of the present writer.

3 It was prepared for publication several years later and appeared in German in 1986 (cf. № 15 – references of this kind are intended to redirect the reader to Marek Stachowski's bibliography published in this volume; see Németh 2017).

4 Pol. *asystent*. More precisely, he was a student assistant in 1980–1981, a research apprentice assistant (*asystent-stażysta*) in 1981–1982, a research assistant in 1982–1985 and a senior research assistant (*starszy asystent*) in 1985–1988.

5 He was awarded the degree and title of *doktor* on January 21. This paved the way for his appointment as assistant professor (*adiunkt* in 1988–1995; *adiunkt z habilitacją* in 1995–1999) at the Jagiellonian University.

the Ural-Altaic Yearbook (Bloomington, USA), Gyula Décsy (1925–2008). However, it was his review of Benzing's *Kalmückische Grammatik zum Nachschlagen* (№ 16) that proved, in the opinion of the present writer, to be the real harbinger of his academic potential, in that he had significantly broadened his research interests.

Let us imagine for a moment that we are the young Marek Stachowski and we would like to write a review of a book published, say, in 1985. There were a number of purely Turkological titles for him to choose from at the time, for instance, monographs by Adamović (1985), Doerfer (1985) and Majda (1985). There would thus have been no need for him at this stage of his career to make any excursions into other areas and review a book on the subject of Mongolian studies written by a person of such stature as Johannes Benzing (1913–2001) – *nota bene* a book published as the first volume in the *Turcologica* series. On paper (*vide* bibliography), Marek Stachowski was a Turkologist with an already proven track record of working with Turkic (including dialectal Turkish) material. However, given that the review in question is not a simple recapitulation of the content of Benzing's book, but rather a skilfully written article containing many critical thoughts and suggestions on how the reviewed work could be improved, it is beyond any doubt that young Stachowski's competence was far beyond the skills of a Turkologist that one might have expected based solely on his bibliography.

His PhD thesis did not appear as a separate monograph as had originally been planned. Instead, the results of his research on Western European elements in Ottoman Turkish (with special emphasis on the chronology of borrowings and the routes they took to reach their final destination, i.e. issues which had previously often been neglected and would continue to be so afterwards) were published in several articles (Nos 19, 21, 24, 41) in the years 1988–1993. However, even though this topic would reappear later in his bibliography (Nos 9, 66, 123, 131, 146) and the history of Ottoman Turkish remains even now an important field of interest for him,⁶ 1988 must certainly be considered the first and, perhaps, most important turning point in his academic career.

Beginning in 1988, North Siberian Turkic Yakut and Dolgan became permanent features of his research, and they would remain so for the next two decades. In that year, he gave a lecture on declension in Yakut (*Deklinacja jakucka*, cf. № 22) at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań. The year 1989 saw his first

6 In all his articles and monographs on the history of Ottoman Turkish published to date, he has primarily dealt with the questions of etymology, derivation, historical phonology, phraseology, and lexicography.

publications on Yakut (Nos 20, 22), while in 1990 he began work on a dictionary of Dolgan (№ 1).

At the time of writing of this biography, the present volume is still believed to be a surprise for the dedicatee. For this reason, we can only speculate, rather than ask him directly, why Marek Stachowski chose Yakut and Dolgan to be his primary languages of interest. The presence of Professor Stanisław Kałużyński (1926–2007), one of the most important figures in Yakut studies, in Marek Stachowski's academic milieu must have had a great impact on his work (see e.g. the importance of Kałużyński's 1962 study).⁷ Indeed, in his first article on Yakut (№ 20: 121), it is Kałużyński and his own father, Stanisław Stachowski, to whom M. Stachowski expresses his heartfelt thanks for their thoughts and opinions, which helped improve the article. Moreover, Yakut and Dolgan, with their special status among the Turkic languages and, hence, importance for historical-comparative research and reconstruction of Proto-Turkic, must have appeared a tempting and promising area to both himself and his advisers.

What cannot be disputed, however, is that his chosen research area, combined with his enthusiasm for exploring new horizons, brought him further international recognition. In 1990, he attended the *Zweite Deutsche Turkologen-Konferenz (Westeuropäische Eigennamen als Appellativa im Osmanisch-Türkischen*, cf. Nos 24, 41). In the same year he became a member of the prestigious *Societas Uralo-Altica* (Hamburg).⁸ In 1989, he attended the 32nd *Permanent International Altaistic Conference (Über jakutische Glossen im Werk von W. Sieroszewski)* in Oslo, and two years later he organised the 34th *Conference* in Berlin (July 21–26, 1991). In 1992, he organised another international Turkological conference in Berlin (July 7–10, 1992; he co-edited the conference proceedings, cf. Kellner-Heinkele, Stachowski 1995). Importantly, however, prior to the latter event, in 1991, he was

7 In the preface to *Iacutica* (№ 63: 11–12), a volume dedicated to this eminent Mongolist and Turkologist (Kałużyński 1995), Marek Stachowski recalls an invitation he received to attend Tadeusz Lewicki's (1906–1992) name day party, where he had the opportunity to discuss with Kałużyński certain matters connected with the chronological layers of the Yakut lexicon. Even though he does not give any exact dates, this must have taken place in 1988 (probably in the autumn) since his son (Kamil, born 1981) is mentioned as a 7-year-old. In that preface written seven years after the event, Marek Stachowski admits that he was very deeply impressed by Kałużyński's knowledge and warm personality.

8 In 1994, he was elected auditor (*Rechnungsprüfer*) of the Society for the period 1994–1997, see *Bericht* (1994: 303).

invited to establish, in cooperation with Prof. Dr. Barbara Kellner-Heinkele, the *Institut für Turkologie* at the *Freie Universität Berlin* – an institute he worked and taught at up until 1996.⁹

Marek Stachowski's stay in Berlin opened a prolific chapter in his academic career. Up to April 1996, he gave 9 lectures in Germany (1994, 1995), Hungary (1993), and Poland (1993, 1995) – primarily on Yakut and Dolgan morphology, on the people of Yakutia (cf. his expedition described below), and on several aspects of the history of linguistics. In those six years, he published three books (Nos 1–3), among them the dictionary of Dolgan mentioned above (No 1) and his *Geschichte des jakutischen Vokalismus*, which he later submitted as his habilitation thesis (No 2), as well as more than 60 articles (including reviews and review-articles), which have mostly appeared in internationally renowned journals. Many of his later publications were also the fruit of that intensive period in Berlin.¹⁰

This is true above all in the case of his *Dolganische Wortbildung* (No 4; published in May 1997) and *Dolganischer Wortschatz. Supplementband* (No 5; published in July 1998). In the autumn of 1994, Eugen Helimski (1950–2007; Евгений Арнольдович Хелимский) invited Marek Stachowski to join him in an expedition to the Taymyr Peninsula. Helimski was an outstanding scholar who by that time (covering the period 1971–1993) had already published over 120 articles and 8 monographs,

9 In the winter semester of the academic year 1996–1997 and already after his return to Kraków, Marek Stachowski continued to give lectures in Berlin (*Übersicht über die modernen Türksprachen*) as a visiting lecturer. During his years spent in Berlin, he remained affiliated to the Jagiellonian University.

10 The present author often uses the year of publication as the date of reference, for these are the dates when the articles and books discussed here entered academic circulation. Obviously, however, it is difficult to determine, based solely on a bibliography, when Marek Stachowski actually worked on his articles, for they typically lack prefaces. For instance, from the editorial note introducing the very first volume of *Turkic Languages* (= TL) we know that his first article published in the journal in 1998 (No 106) was sent to the editors of TL much earlier, see: “Since our call for papers has elicited an unexpectedly positive response, it is already clear that the next issues will contain a comparable variety of contributions. [...] Coming issues will also include contributions by [...], Marek Stachowski, [...]” ([Johanson] 1997: 1). Hence, Marek Stachowski most probably prepared this article, i.e. *An example of Nganasan-Dolgan linguistic contact*, while still in Berlin, all the more so as we know that the Dolgan linguistic material the article is based on was collected in the summer of 1995 during Marek Stachowski's stay in Dudinka on the Taymyr Peninsula, see Stachowski (1998a: 126).

and had extensive field work experience¹¹ and with whom Marek Stachowski had already been in correspondence.¹² Naturally, then, this was an offer that Marek Stachowski could not refuse. In 1993 he finished work on two books, namely *Dolganischer Wortschatz* (№ 1) and *Geschichte des jakutischen Vokalismus* (№ 2), which, on the one hand, meant that he was more than well prepared for the task of collecting linguistic material (from both a lexicographic and a linguistic point of view; the experience of a field linguist was to be gained on site...) and, on the other, he had the comfort of knowing that he had fulfilled (with something to spare) the requirements for applying for a habilitation degree in Poland. Thus it was during this four-week-long expedition in the summer (July–August) of 1995, that he managed to collect a vast amount of linguistic material which constituted the basis of *Dolganische Wortbildung* and *Supplementband* (Nos 4, 5). A good illustration of how extensive his research at the Taymyr Peninsula was is the size of the latter compared to his *Dolganischer Wortschatz*: 264 pages vs. the 282 page-long supplement.¹³ *Nota bene*, he was the first Turkologist ever to visit the inhabitants of this region.

The number of entries devoted to Yakut and Dolgan in Professor Marek Stachowski's bibliography is impressive: the total of two dictionaries, four monographs, and nearly 50 articles published in years 1989–2013 would suffice for a lifetime. But it is not the quantity, but rather the quality of these publications that makes them remarkable. The two dictionaries, i.e. the *Dolganischer Wortschatz* and its

11 In the years 1968–1999 Helimski organised more the 20 expeditions aimed at collecting linguistic data on Komi, Enets, Nenets, Nganasan, Selkup and Ket (see Anikin 2009: 9).

12 For more information on the life and work of Helimski, whom, it ought to be mentioned here, Marek Stachowski held in very high esteem, see e.g. Anikin (2009), Knüppel (2009), Stachowski (2009), and Widmer (2009).

13 He started work on *Dolganischer Wortschatz* in Kraków in the autumn of 1990 and finalized its text in the autumn of 1992; it was published in 1993 (see Stachowski 1993: 7). Thus, the *Supplementband* contains not only his own materials collected from the Far North of Russia, but also linguistic data from studies published after the autumn of 1992 (primarily Aksenova, Bel'tjukova, Koševerova 1992) as well as from printed materials available only in Dudinka (see Stachowski 1998b: 17–18). I would like to thank Anna Alekseevna Barbolina, Candidate of Pedagogic Sciences (Dudinka), one of Marek Stachowski's Dolgan linguistic informants (see Stachowski 1998a: 126–127; 1998b: 22), for sending the editors of the present volume her recollections regarding Marek Stachowski's work among the Dolgans.

Supplementband, were practically the first Dolgan dictionaries ever written¹⁴ and, moreover, they can by no means be considered simple Dolgan–German dictionaries. This is because every single lemma contains the exact location where a respective word is recorded and, importantly, a concise etymological sketch.¹⁵ Thus, what the reader actually receives is a tool equally ideal both for reading the latest news reported in *Таймыр*, i.e. the only newspaper to publish in Dolgan (besides Russian), and for collecting linguistic material for historical-comparative research in the field of Turkology or Siberian studies. In turn, his habilitation thesis, i.e. the *Geschichte...* (№ 2), was the first monograph devoted to the historical phonology of Yakut (in which the author investigated the vocalism of the native lexicon and its importance for the reconstruction of Proto-Turkic) and the second work of this type in Turkology in general. Finally, in his articles on Yakut and Dolgan, he touched upon a wide variety of issues, including etymology, the importance of Northern Siberian Turkic in Proto-Turkic reconstructions, the areal linguistic contacts between the languages of Northern and Southern Siberia, historical phonology, historical phonetics, historical morphology, word formation, lexicon, the history of Yakut and Dolgan, and the previously unexplored or unappreciated issue of Arabic, Persian and Russian loanwords in these two languages.

During his “Berlin period” Marek Stachowski did not confine himself solely to Ottoman Turkish, Yakut or Dolgan. In fact, during these years he published approximately 30 articles not primarily related to these three languages. Their content shows that their author was a highly versatile Turkologist and a very active reviewer. To take several examples from this period only, he dealt with Turkic etymologies (in various Turkic languages, see №s 27, 49, 52, 53, 60, 68, and 77), Arabic and Persian loanwords in South Siberian Turkic (№ 38) or Azeri (in Iran) and the Ottoman Turkic lexicon from a historical-linguistic perspective (№s 35, 41, 66).

14 The dictionary of Aksenova, Beltjukova, and Koševerova (1992) mentioned above was intended for primary school pupils. Dolgan lexicon was, to a certain extent, also taken into consideration in the Yakut dialectological dictionary of Afanašev, Voronkin, Alekseev (1986).

15 A distinctive feature of many of his studies was the etymological dimension he added to his lexicological comments. For instance, similar etymological remarks are appended to the entries of his *Studien zum Wortschatz der jakutischen Übersetzung des Neuen Testaments* (№ 3; based on a source from 1898) – the first study ever to be written on a translation of the New Testament into any Turkic language.

In January 1995, the degree of *doktor habilitowany* was conferred upon Marek Stachowski by the Jagiellonian University.¹⁶ In April 1996 he left Berlin and continued to work with even greater zeal at his *Alma Mater's* Institute of Oriental Philology.

The very same month he returned to Poland, Marek Stachowski founded *Studia Etymologica Cracoviensia* (= SEC), which was the only exclusively etymological journal (yearbook) in the world. He remained its editor-in-chief until it ceased publication in October 2015.¹⁷ In 1998 he edited the fifth volume of *Studia Turcologica Cracoviensia* (= STC) entitled *Languages and culture of Turkic peoples* (Kraków 1998), a commemorative volume dedicated to Professor Tadeusz Kowalski (1889–1948), the founder of modern Oriental studies in Poland.

Perhaps the defining moment in Marek Stachowski's academic career came in October 1997, when he set up the Siberian Studies Research Group (*Zespół Studiów Syberyjskich*; in November 2001 it was renamed *Zespół Językoznawstwa Syberyjskiego*, i.e. Siberian Linguistics Research Group) at his institute. Later, the Group formed the core of the Department of Central Asiatic and Siberian Languages (*Katedra Języków Azji Środkowej i Syberii*),¹⁸ which he headed from February 2004 until October 2013.

His main goal in establishing a new research centre for Siberian studies was, in his own words, “to give the feeling of belonging together to those few young people who were interested in the linguistic history of Siberia” (Stachowski 1999: 7). Indeed, the journal and the research group became an excellent platform both for developing scholarly contacts between his own academic milieu and the rest

16 His academic output received excellent reviews (in 1994) from Stanisław Kałużyński (Warsaw), Alfred F. Majewicz (Poznań) and Edward Tryjarski (Warsaw).

17 A total of 20 volumes of the journal were published containing 304 articles submitted by authors representing 29 countries in four continents. They were predominantly papers discussing the origin of, generally speaking, Indo-European lexemes (Armenian, Friulian, Hittite, Iranian, Latin, Latvian, Lithuanian, Old Prussian, Proto-Indo-European, Proto-Germanic, Phrygian, Slavonic, Tocharian, Welsh, etc.). Many articles were also devoted to the Turkic lexicon (Bashkir, Dolgan, Karaim, Proto-Turkic, Turkish, Yakut, Yugur, etc.). Last, but not least, studies from other fields were also very much welcome and frequently published. We can thus find articles focusing on Afro-Asiatic, Ainu, Finnish, Hungarian, Japanese, Korean, Mongolic, Semitic, Proto-Uralic, Yeniseic, etc. Nine volumes of the journal were reviewed by seven authors, see Gökçe (2004), Ölmez (1997), Petit (2000, 2004), Polomé (1997), Pomorska (1998), and Zoltán (2011).

18 For some more information on the early years of the department and on SEC, see Pomorska (2011) and Stachowski (1999).

of the world, and for entering into new inter- and intradisciplinary academic relationships.¹⁹ He considered the latter extremely important not only for himself and his colleagues, but also, if not primarily, for the new generation of linguists under his tutelage.²⁰

Marek Stachowski's involvement in Siberian studies was, in a broader sense, a natural course to take, which was determined by several factors. First of all, his interest in Turkic comparative linguistics, etymology and linguistic reconstruction meant that South Siberian Turkic was for him the ideal material with which to work (cf. Nos 28, 38, 60, 77, 96, 111, 112, 205). Moreover, the linguistic history of Dolgan and Yakut (cf. e.g. Nos 39, 165, 210, 213) required broadening his range of interests to include the Tungusic and Mongolic languages. His fluency in Russian made cooperation with Russian-speaking linguists or linguistic informants easier or, in some cases, simply possible, which was invaluable in the light of the limited access to the languages of distant Russia. His close collaboration

19 It should be pointed out here that in 1997–2013 Marek Stachowski invited to Kraków and took care of many scholars from all over the world, among them (in brackets we have indicated the country in which they were based at the time of their stay in Poland) Hakan Aydemir (Hungary, 2003), Sebastian Cwiklinski (Germany, 2007), Bahriye Çeri (Turkey, 1999), Faruk Gökçe (Turkey, 2013), Eugen Helinski (Germany, 1997–1998), Koichi Inoue (Japan, 1998), László Károly (Hungary, 2003, 2005), Michael Knüppel (Germany, 2008), Roy Andrew Miller (USA, 1998), Galina Miškinienė (Lithuania, 2003), Vladimir Napoľskich (Russia, 2000), Mehmet Ölmez (Turkey, Turkey/Japan; 1997 (twice), 1999, 2008), János Pusztay (Hungary, 1999), Ralf-Peter Ritter (Germany, 2000, 2001–2011), Volker Rybatzki (Finland, 2010), Tapani Salminen (Finland, 2005), Łukasz Smyrski (Poland, 2005), Eberhard Winkler (Germany, 2001) or Robert Woodhouse (Australia, 2008). Of course, he also invited guests prior to 1997, hosting in Kraków Jens Peter Laut (Germany), Claus Schönig (Germany), Wolfgang Veenker (Germany), and Sergej Kľaštornyj (Russia). He also continued inviting scholars after he joined the Institute of Linguistics in 2013 (see below), a good example being Andrii Danylenko's (USA, 2016) visit to Kraków.

20 The doctoral defence of Marzanna Pomorska, his first PhD mentee (see Pomorska 2004), took place in May 2004. In October 2003, he founded a debating club called *Klub pod Sufiksem* ("The Suffix Club") in which young linguists could meet regularly under his supervision (initially on a monthly basis) and discuss the topics they were working on at that time and exchange experiences. It should be pointed out that the club's members represented a variety of disciplines, namely: Hungarian, Indo-European, Iranian, Japanese, Romance, Slavonic, Tungusic, and Turkic studies. Over 40 meetings were held, the last taking place in July 2014.

with E. Helimski provided him with an excellent opportunity to contribute to the debate on Turkic–Samoyedic comparisons (cf. e.g. 67, 68, 128, 133, 159)²¹ and probably drew his attention to Turkic–Yeniseic contact, given Helimski’s interest in the latter (cf. his expedition to study the Ket language).²² The influence that Russian and its dialects had exerted on all the languages spoken in the area became another strand in M.S.’s scholarly life (cf. Nos 6, 83, 129). Finally, his interest in the Yeniseic languages must have also been a response to the needs of Siberian studies, given that these languages were, at that time, underresearched (cf. e.g. Nos 82, 92, 122, 162, 169, 170). Moreover, it is noteworthy that the 1990s saw the publication of a series of major and very inspiring studies by Heinrich Werner (1990, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997a–c). As a result, in 1997–2013, i.e. until the closure of the Department of Central Asiatic and Siberian Languages, Stachowski published nearly 50 articles on Siberian languages (including Dolgan and Yakut), which represents approximately one third of all his work published in this period. However, if we add up all his articles and studies on Siberian languages, it gives us an impressive total of over 150 items.

Following his return from Berlin, Marek Stachowski focused his efforts on developing his own research centre. However, he also remained an active participant at many scholarly events organized in other cities in Poland and abroad. As was mentioned above, between October 1996 and January 1997 he commuted between Kraków and Berlin, where he also gave lectures to his former students.²³ In October 1998, and thus in the very same month he was awarded the highest Polish academic title of Professor (at the unusually young age of 41), he was invited by Dr. Uwe Bläsing to spend three months in Leiden as part of a research project entitled *Lehnwörter des Dolganischen*. He lectured (*Introduction to Yakut*)

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- 21 In an interview, Marek Stachowski admitted that his interest in Turkic–Uralic linguistic connections goes back to the time when he was still a student. In those days, learners of Turkology had to enrol in Hungarian language courses (Wojnar 2009: 18). This must have been a good opportunity for him to make his first observations on this topic.
- 22 A good example of how both linguists profited from such cooperation was Helimski’s observations (1994) regarding unexpected Nganasan archaisms preserved in Yakut.
- 23 In fact, two of his former students, Elif Dilmaç and M. Gürkan Önal, followed him from Berlin to Kraków. In April 1997 M. Stachowski dealt with all the administrative formalities of their move. They joined his research group in 1997 (see Stachowski 1999: 7) and defended their MA theses in June 1998.

