Historical Corpora of Bulgarian Language and Second Position Markers

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Abstract

This paper demonstrates how historical corpora can be used in researching language phenomena. We exemplify the advantages and disadvantages through exploring three of the available corpora that contain textual sources of Old and Middle Bulgarian language to shed light on some aspects of the development of two words of ambiguous class. We discuss their behaviour to outline certain conditions for diachronic change they have undergone. The three corpora are accessible online (and offline – for downloading search results, xml files, etc.).

1. Introduction

This paper presents part of an ongoing work on the historical evolvement of clausal second position clitics and the clitic cluster in Bulgarian which attempts at explaining the conditions for the placement and movement of clitics and clitic-like elements towards the second position in the phrase and/or clause (it is the position immediately after the first emphatic (strong or stressed) syntactic constituent – the so-called Second Wackernagel position where reflexive, discourse, interrogative, and pronominal clitics can be found in different periods in the history of Bulgarian language). In this paper, we discuss the behaviour of two words – δo (bo "for, then") and $oy\delta o$ (oubo "then, indeed, therefore") that are often found in second position, in the context of methodological issues in development of historical corpora.

In the next section, we present the three corpora we have used for our study with a brief overview of their characteristics. In section 3., we discuss a couple of practical issues in dealing with historical corpora. Section 4. contains an empirical study of the two words that are often classified as conjunctions or particles in the traditional literature with an outline of the conditions when the research has to employ the data from historical corpora available.

2. The Corpora

We started our study by excerpting data from three corpora with Old Church Slavonic/Old Bulgarian texts. They are representative of the textual collections available nowadays for linguists to work with. The first – PROIEL corpus¹ – contains annotated texts without considering the variation in data, redactions, and transparent access to parallel data (the corpus contains parallel texts but they have been used for automatic and semi-automatic annotation and texts are not readily available in parallel). The second – Old Church Slavonic subcorpus in the TITUS database² – gives parallelized texts but they have been lemmatised only; parallel data involves the gospel text. The third corpus – the Historical Corpus of Bulgarian Language³ – has being developed for a couple of years to give access to an impressive electronic collection of texts – broad and diverse, although lacking transparent annotation so far.

¹http://foni.uio.no:3000/users/sign_in

² http://titus.uni-frankfurt.de/indexe.htm

³ http://histdict.uni-sofia.bg/textcorpus/list

The PROIEL corpus has been developed at the University of Oslo since 2008. The corpus contains the gospel text from *Codex Marianus* (following the edition of Vatroslav Jagić, cf. Jagić, 1883), parts of the gospel text according to *Codex Zographensis* (again following the Jagić's edition, cf. Jagić, 1879) that is missing in *Codex Marianus* (Matthew 1:1 – 1:27) and texts from *Codex Suprasliensis* (this part of the corpus is still under preparation, and not all texts from *Codex Suprasliensis* are included and annotated; here, we use only the available texts⁴). Although the texts are annotated (normalized wordform, lemma, part-of-speech, and applicable morphological information, plus syntactic annotation and attempt at information structure annotation), there is no readily usable marking of corresponding passages across languages and texts. We have isolated the patterns (syntactic, with respect to word ordering and right and left adjoined constituents) that we are interested in for the discussion in Section 3. However, texts are translations, so the access to sources pertaining to different redactions and/or translations, is needed to support the comparative research across texts and language phenomena (as shown by example (4) in 4.1., there are well known differences between the texts according to different manuscripts).

The TITUS corpus gives a valuable access to aligned and parallelized texts albeit not annotated with morphological and/or syntactic information. However, they are lemmatized and it is easy to search for different inflectional and orthographic forms. Access to parallel texts with corresponding passages across texts and in comparison to Greek New Testament (NT) is easy although it does not resolve the issue of handy access to different sources within the Byzantine tradition. There is no marking of the common passages across texts either (quotations, idiomatic constructions, etc.).

The third corpus – the Historical Corpus of Bulgarian Language (HCBL) – gives access to a great variety of texts (104 as of June 2014), some of which are of very late dating. The still missing annotation makes comparative research a bit complicated but the collection is extremely valuable because it covers texts according to manuscripts (and not editions), some rare and very interesting non-canonical texts, and late developments. This corpus is open-ended in the sense that non-canonical and non-literary materials can be added such as inscriptions, dialect data, databases of toponyms, personal names, etc.

Conditions	PROEIL	TITUS	HCBL
Metadata	Bibliographic reference to the edition only	Mirroring reference to the editions of the manuscripts	Reference to the manuscripts
Access to source	No	No	No
Annotation	Morphological, syntactic, lexical	Lemmatised only	No
Parallel data	No	Yes (no marking of parallel passages, citations, etc.)	No
Search engine	Yes	Yes	No
Text diversity	No	No	Extensive time period and genres

Table 1: Summary of the most important characteristics of the three corpora.

3. Practical Issues

Historical language study relies almost exclusively on written data as there are no sources that are more reliable for this research purpose. Corpus data is the empirical basis for diachronic linguistics, and by analysing it, we build hypotheses about linguistic processes within or outside a particular linguistic theory.

⁴ Codex Suprasliensis is included as part of the work in the UNESCO-funded project *The Tenth Century Cyrillic Manuscript* Codex Suprasliensis that aimed at digitizing this largest Old Church Slavonic manuscript.

As historical linguists do not have ready and non-compromised access to balanced corpora with well described sources covering entire periods, diverse content and genres, they often search for open-ended databases to collect materials they need. In this context, the notion of corpus may need broadening to cover different resources such as electronic text collections, editions, linguistic atlases, and dictionaries (Kytö, 2011). The Historical Corpus of Bulgarian Language is the only one among the three corpora used for our research that contains texts of diverse time periods and genres. However, it is still neither a corpus because it lacks annotation and metadata, nor a database because it is not really searchable. Therefore, here we define it as an open-ended e-text collection.

The trend, though, makes even harder to collect and align the materials to extract and observe the data because if we aim at studying the language system and its change in time (Mair, 2008), we need to take into account the linguistic phenomena as attested over time. Thus, although we may not be interested in the history of individual texts as instances of the output of the language system, we still have to take into account textual history (and the history of sources) to interpret the data we collect and analyze.

Moreover, if researchers do not have access to thoroughly described and annotated textual data, they may make use of design and arrangement of the data in a way that will rely on already available knowledge (reflected in traditional grammars and dictionaries, already annotated corpora, dialect atlases, and other handy data collections). One such approach involves heuristic alignment of historical texts with contemporary editions and/or translations of the same texts or editions of other texts that are readily available. For example, the TITUS database offers a parallel view of Old Church Slavonic NT text according to different manuscripts (*Codex Marianus, Codex Zographensis, Codex Assemanius, and Codex Sabbae*), Greek NT and Modern Russian NT translation. This parallel view is a fantastic tool for studying parallel constructions and specific phenomena.

In the next section, we will employ the three corpora for a field study on behavior of two words attested as early as the period of the earliest sources and preserved in some contemporary dialects. While summarizing our findings, we will sketch out the specifics of the three corpora.

4. Empirical Study

Our empirical study covers the words δo^5 (*bo* "for, then") and *oy6o* (*oubo* "then, indeed, therefore"), with additional notes on *u6o* (*ibo* "because") – the origin of all of them can be traced to *6o. Eo* and *oy6o* are predominantly found in the second clausal and/or phrasal position after (prosodically and syntactically) strong constituent (in the Second Wackernagel position or 2P). The first strong constituent can be a wh-word in complementizer function such as $\kappa to mo$ (*kāto* "who"), u to mo (*chāto* "what"), etc., including a prepositional phrase with a wh-word such as *no* uto (po chāto "why"). The strong constituent (verb, noun, adjective, adverb) in the first position can be preceded by a conjunction or a subjunction, negation particle *ue* (*ne* "not"), and/or followed by the reflexive particle *cA* (*sen* "self"), discourse particle *sce* (*zhe*), pronominal clitics such as *mA* (*ten* "you-ACC,Sg"⁶), *mu* (*ti* "you-DAT,Sg"), etc. These are mostly prosodically weak constituents – proclitics or enclitics (depending on whether the strong constituent is after or before them). In section 4.1., we discuss our observations on an annotated corpus (PROIEL), with additional data from the parallel texts included in TITUS. For further analysis, we need the Greek correspondences but parallel and comparable corpora of these sources are not readily available (and annotated). Therefore, we need to look further into traditional critical editions to extract the information about the Greek equivalents (Nestle-Aland, 2013).

4.1. Earlier Texts

In this section, we will present our observations on the earlier texts that are part of the PROIEL corpus with some raw and inconclusive numbers (instances of both 60 and 0960 in the two large annotated textual segments of *Codex Marianus* and *Codex Suprasliensis* – respectively, Cod. Mar. and Cod. Supr.).

⁵ As the words will be repeated in the next pages, the transliteration will not be repeated and translation is to be given only to differentiate specific meanings in appropriate discussion passages.

⁶ The following abbreviations and conventional labels are used in the paper: ACC – accusative; DAT – Dative; GEN – Genitive; Sg – Singular; Pl – Plural; FUT – Future tense form; CL – clitic; QuCL – interrogative clitic; Pron – pronoun; PP – prepositional phrase.

Conditions	Cod.Mar.	Cod.Supr.	Cod.Mar.	Cod.Supr.
	бо	бо	оубо	оубо
After wh-pronoun (incl. wh in PP)	9	12	47	27
After a verb (incl. быти (byti "be")	136	128	32	62
After a noun (incl. pronoun, etc.)	109	170	27	50
After any constituent followed by <i>sice</i>	0	0	10	11
After any constituent followed by <i>c</i> A	0	0	8	11
After any constituent followed by weak pronoun	0	0	4	7
After any constituent followed by λu (<i>li</i> – interrogative particle)	0	0	2	2
After иже (izhe "who/what")	18	12	3	6
After auge (ashte "if")	3	21	16	9
Before <i>sce</i>	0	0	0	0
Before <i>c.</i> A	13	24	0	0
Before a weak pronoun	21	21	0	0
Before <i>ли</i>	0	0	0	0
Before auge	10	2	0	0

Overall, *Codex Marianus* attests for 172 instances of *oy6o* and 343 of *6o*, and the texts of the *Codex Suprasliensis* included in PROIEL contain 272 instances of *oy6o* and 442 of *6o*.

 Table 2: Positions of 60 and 0960 after and before other constituents as attested in Codex Marianus, and the texts from Codex Suprasliensis (in the annotated texts in PROIEL)

Originally, δo was a particle for emphasis and verification (Sławski, 1974: 285–286) of the preceding constituent – the emphasized word (often syntactically focused constituent). In the data, δo is almost exclusively preceded by only one constituent, except for $\partial poyzer \kappa \partial poyzoy$ (drug kă drugou "one another"), and the preceding constituent can be preceded only by a preposition or a negation (*ne* "not", *nu* "neither"). Other syntactically weak constituents such as *c*.A and pronominal clitics are placed after it.

The origin and clausal position of δo are parallel to the Greek $\gamma \dot{\alpha} \rho$ (gar "for, indeed") that was colloquially used to highlight the faculty or the property of something or someone. In the history of Bulgarian language, δo was gradually adopted for various functions, which, on the one hand, overlapped (partially or fully with the meaning of $oy\delta o$), and, on the other, were very close to those of $\varkappa c e$ in its function of emphatic particle (there is no co-occurrence of $\varkappa c e$ and δo alone – not as $\varkappa c \varepsilon \delta o$, $\omega \kappa c \delta o$, etc. - in the texts here). It was also adopted to function as a conjunction – in our data δo is found after the negation particle alone (without a preceding constituent). The conditions for the overlap depend on its position and function to emphasize the meaning of the preceding word (just like $\varkappa c e$), as: 1) a marker of cause or reason - "for" (introducing the reasoning); 2) a marker of clarification - "for, you see"; 3) a marker of inference - "certainly, by all means, so, then".

The derivation variants of δo are many – $u\delta o$ (*ibo*, "for, because"), and $oy\delta o$, among others. They were often used in earlier Old Bulgarian texts to translate specific Greek constructions and are mostly calques (unlike δo). The following examples show co-occurrence of δo and u in the form of $u\delta o$ (phonetic variant of $u\delta o$ used to translate parallel constructions in Greek (with $\kappa \alpha i$ (*kai* "and") and $\gamma \alpha \rho$ (*gar* "for, indeed"; see also the occurrence of u in the meaning of "even, also" after $u\delta o$), as in:

(1)	a.	ι <i>бο</i> indeed καὶ γὰο	<i>u</i> even	бесѣда speech ἡ λαλιά	твоѣ your σου	abቴ out δῆλόν	та уои ое	творить give ⁷ лоιεĩ	(Cod. Mar. Mt. 26:73
	b.	ι <i>бο</i> indeed καὶ γὰο	<i>u</i> and	пси dogs τὰ κυνάρ	ποд und οια ύπο	er ta	oaneso ble ίς τρο	οι κ απέζης	ѣдать (eat ἐσθίουσιν	Cod. Mar. Mk. 7:28 ^{,8}
	c.	ι <i>бο</i> indeed καὶ γὰο	່ດີກະ Son ດໍ ນ	hum	δчьскы an ἀνθρώπα	не not วบ oบ้ห		приде come ἦλθεν	Cod.	Mar. Mk. 10:45
	d.	ι <i>бο</i> indeed καὶ γὰϱ	Ι	члвкъ man dvopwnd	есмъ am о́с εі́µı	подъ under v́лò	auth	телы ority νσίαν	оучиненъ appointed τασσόμεν	

The use of *oy6o* as particle for explanation and emphasis, if synonymous with 6o, is considered the earliest (Tseytlin, 1994: 721–722). The further use of *oy6o* was dependent on its use after pronouns and pronominal adverbs, mainly in interrogative clauses (after a wh-word) – it is probably among its first functions as it is closest to the particle function (Tseytlin, 1994: 721-722).

(2)	a.	отъ коуд <i>я</i> from when πόθεν	0	иматъ have ἔχει	плѣвелъ weed ζιζάνια		Cod. Mar. Mt. 13:27
	b.	who	<i>οyбο</i> ect then be ἄοα` ἐσ	fait	ъны hful ιστòς	рабъ servant δοῦλος	и мждры. Cod. Mar. Mt. 24:45 and wise καὶ φρόνιμος,
	c.	why	<i>ôyбo</i> therefore τοίνυν	о̂сѫждаı judge крі́vεις	€́ши∙	нё́гоже whom őv Cod	богъ не осжждають God not judge δ Θεός κατακρίνει . Supr. 359:1 (PROIEL Supr. 31:147-148)
	d.	бракъ marriage Ὁ μὲν γά	<i>οyбο</i> truly μος	готовъ ready ἕτοιμός	есть be ẻотіv,		Cod.Mar. Mt. 22:8

The corresponding Greek constituents vary a lot $- \check{\alpha} \varrho \alpha$ (ara "then"), $\mu \dot{\varepsilon} v$ (men "indeed"), $o \tilde{v} v$ (un "therefore"), $\tau o \dot{v} v v$ (toinun "indeed, therefore"). The conjunction $o \tilde{v} v$ "then, therefore" is overwhelmingly placed in second position and is also found as $\varepsilon i o \tilde{v} v$ (ei un) – aue oy60 (ashte oubo "if then"). The adverb $\mu \dot{\varepsilon} v$ "indeed, truly" in (2d) occurs after the article in the NT Greek text while oy60 is in 2P.

oy60 can be found (albeit sporadically) in the first clausal position – typical for subjunctions and conjunctions (5 instances in Cod. Mar., and 2 in Cod. Supr.), and in the last position (as some adverbs, 1 in Cod. Mar., 2 in Cod. Supr.). oy60 is also found immediately after a weak constituent such as the conjunction u (i "and") and ∂a (da "to"). If there is another clitic, oy60 is usually found after it or after clitics in the clitic cluster (unlike δo). This means that it is placed (almost) exclusively after weak constituents such as cA, λu , $\beta ce - (3a)$ and (3b), and pronominal clitics such as mu (ti "you-DAT") and mu (mi "me-DAT") – (3c).

 $^{^{7}}$ Glosses are given only if there is no appropriate translation, i.e., *dogs* instead of dog-PL, but Israel-DAT (for the Dative form).

⁸ Nestle, Aland, 1979: 113, readings from various witnesses. The version of PROIEL follows Tischendorf, 1869: καὶ τὰ κυνάρια.

(3)	a.	слышасте heard	ли QuCL	<i>оубо</i> indeed		Cod. Supr., 1, 3, 14a, 12 (27)
	b.	състарѣвъ he became ol	же d Dise	ca cCL ReflCL	<i>оубо</i> indeed	Cod. Supr., 1, 16, 104b, 2 (208)
	c.	подобааше ἔδει suited	ти σε you-DAT	<i>оубо</i> <i>o</i> vv Г indeed		Cod. Mar. Mt. 25:27

There are isolated examples of immediate closeness to oy6o and 6o that can be interpreted as a result of an overlap in their functions. In TITUS, there is even a disagreement in translations in the parallel corpus (6o oy6o in Codex Marianus, only oy6o in Codex Assemanius, and oydo6b in Codex Zographensis).

(4)	a.	ѣко as ὥσπερ	бо оубо therefore ovv	is gra	рањтъ anted έγεται	the	велы. weeds ζιζάνια	Cod. Mar. Mt. 13:40		
	b.	Ъкоже as	<i>оубо</i> therefore	плѣв weed		събіранж granted	ать са	Cod. A	ssemanius Mt	. 13:40
	c.	ѣко as	<i>оудобь</i> conveniently('		събираы granted	КТЪ	плѣвелы weeds		Cod. Zogr. N	At. 13:40

The example with the variant readings in (4) shows that the correct interpretation of the language phenomena with respect to the language change requires access to parallel data.

4.2. Open-ended Text Collection

In this section, we discuss the additional data available through an open-ended text collection where we follow the changes in the phenomena. Sources are part of the Historical Corpus of Bulgarian Language which comprises diverse texts, with some very late ones such as *Damascenus Troianensis* (17^{th} c.; NBKM N₂ II, 11 or Kodov 88).

The raw statistics (without taking into account different meanings) shows interesting results with many later non-canonical sources exhibiting higher number for $oy \delta o$ and not for δo (in contrast to the earlier sources). The observations give a complex picture of the interplay between δo and $oy \delta o$.

Source	бо	оубо
Zlatoust of Jagić (13 th с.; RNB, St. Petersburg, Q.п.I.56)	525	17
Manasii Chronicle (14th c.; GIM, Moscow, Syn 38)	249	434
Borili Regis Synodicum (14 th c.; NBKM 289)	19	37
<i>Codex of German</i> (14 th c.; Library of Romanian Patriarchy, №1)	48610	115
Laudatio sanctae magnae martyris Dominicae (1479; Rila Mon. 4/8, 603v-611v)	45	42
Laudation sanctorum magnorum aeqalium apostolic regum Constantini et Helenae (1483; Rila Mon. 4/5, 424r-439r)	44	82
Vita et acta sancti patris nostril Hilarionis episcope ex Moglen (1483; Rila Mon. 4/5, 161r-175r)	41	57

⁹ Co-occurring with оубо.

¹⁰ With one со-оссиггенсе: *вако бо 8бо и колико н.ж.*

Vita et acta sancti patris nostril Ioannis in monte (14 th c.; Zogr. Mon. 172 (olim 103 II g.6), 93r-104r)	30	81
Vita et acta sanctae matris nostrae Parascevae (14 th c.; Zogr. Mon. 172 (olim 103 II g.6, 93r-104r), 74r-82v)	36	38

Table 3: Occurrences of 60 and oy60 in later texts from the Historical Corpus of Bulgarian Language

In the latest source – *Damascenus Troianensis* – there are no instances of oybo and bo. Historicalapocalyptic literature consistently prefers oybo instead of bo in later texts. *In Homilia Hypatii Ephesiensis* there is only bo (disregarding the meaning), as in the following examples:

(5)	a.	бь God			днъ се в'се (in the name			
	b.	надь over	тѣми them-IN	<i>бо</i> indeed	вьторана second	смр'ть death	имать has	власти power

The same is observed in Visio Danielis propheti. De regibus. De novissimis diebus. De fine saeculi:

(6)	И	сьразеть	бо	ce	бранию крѣпькою
	and	(stroke down)	indeed		(with the fierce battle)

A possible explanation extends to postulated stylistic differences between $\delta \sigma n oy \delta o$. In *S. Methodii episcopi revelatione de regibus et novissimis diebus*, all 17 instances of δo are associated with different meanings; $oy \delta o$ is found only once but in the same discourse contexts as $\delta o -$ in (7d) below, where we give the translation of the segment with the difference in the meaning between the two words.

(7)	a.	рече	бо	бь	Излю ·				
		said	then	God	Israel-DAT				
	b.	вь ти	бо	дни	і · боу(д)ть	ь чліві	ци ·		
		in thes	se ther	n day	s be-FUT	men	ı		
	c.	творити	бо	нач'н]ет	ь тыг(д)а ·	знам[ени	аи]	чюд[еса	многа
		create	then	start	then	signs	and	wonders	many
						C			·
	d.	тог(д)а	всѣке	<u>бо</u>	хетрости/!/	то	динавол	оу	съкр[а]тѣють
		then	every	then	skills	Conj	Demon-	DAT	go short of
			2			5			C
		и не	оуспѣют	ть нич	есоже	сиі <u>о</u> иб	о нечис	ти скврьні	ьни гноусни юзыци
		and not	succeed	notl	ning-GEN			-	disgusting people
		" then ev	ery Devil		U	2			in disgusting people
		will not a	2		11 /		v		

The observations are additionally hampered by the orthographic variants such as $\delta\omega$ and $\delta\sigma$; $oy\delta\sigma$, $8\delta\omega$, $oy\delta\omega$, etc. Variation in graphics and the changes in lexical and morphological forms of the words are among the greatest obstacles to the annotation and structuring of these data.

Nowadays, δo can be found in most Slavic languages (Trubachev, 1975: 141–142). It has preserved its particle function, and keeps the second position. In Russian dialects, δo is synonymous with $\partial c e$ as in:

¹¹ The examples are excerpted from the corpus so there is no reference to edition (http://histdict.uni-sofia.bg/textcorpus/list).

Caducb 60, принеси 60 "Take a sit *then*, bring along *then*". If it is kept as a conjuncition, it moves towards the first position in the clause as in the Russian Smolensk dialect H_{π} *noŭde, 60 foumca 920* "(He) didn't go *because* he is afraid of him" (Filin, 1968: 34–35). The last example shows that *60* has kept its unique syntactic function of connecting two clauses while it is placed in the second clause but not in the first position of the clause it introduces (unlike most conjunctions).

Some authors (Mladenov, 1941: 36) have stipulated that Bulgarian dialects keep traces of δo in $\delta o e \partial h o$ (boedno), $\delta o e \partial h a$ (boedna), $\delta o e \partial h o$ (boedno) (with variants of $\delta y \partial$ - (bud-), $\delta a \partial$ - (bad-) in the Rhodope and Southern Bulgarian dialects) to be traced back to δo e $\partial h a$, δo e $\partial h a$ with the meaning of the indefinite pronoun $h \kappa \delta u$ (nyakoy "somebody-M"), $h \kappa \delta a$ (nyakoya "somebody-F"), $h \kappa \delta a$ (nyakoya "somebody-N"), $h \kappa \delta a$ (nikoya "nobody-N"), and sporadically can be interpreted as negative pronouns $h \kappa \delta u$ (nikoy "nobody-M"), $h \kappa \delta a$ (nikoya "nobody-F"), $h \kappa \delta$

5. Closing Remarks

The discussion above shows that the benefits of a corpus study for an observation on the evolvement of language phenomena in context. However, neither available collection of historical texts of Bulgarian language offers working access to structured comprehensive data. The lack of context means that valuable linguistic information on syntax, for example, remains hidden which hampers the access to syntax-semantics information for the status of the markers we have studied in this paper.

The historical linguists interested in the history of Bulgarian still need structured resources with user-friendly marking (annotation) of the linguistic information, metadata (sources, dating, editions, etc.) and visualization and search interface to allow them to make use of valuable data.

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