Klaus-Peter Wegera, Sandra Waldenberger & Ilka Lemke: *Deutsch diachron. Eine Einführung in den Sprachwandel des Deutschen.* **2., neu bearbeitete Auflage. Berlin: Erich Schmidt Verlag, 2018, 341 Seiten.**

In the first two decades of the new millennium a remarkable methodological shift has taken place that seems to affect most subfields of linguistics. Namely, while the second half of the twentieth century saw the rise of linguistic theories along with the continuous refinement of their technical arsenal and the deepening of conflicts between them, in the last about two decades it has been the nature of data that has gained serious attention. It is not only the case that new data sources have been considered in order to widen the empirical base of linguistic research, but the diversity of data has also been acknowledged as a prerequisite of the progress of the discipline. The book under review fits into this process of the evolution of linguistics.

Wegera et al.'s volume is the second edition of an introduction to the history of German. It makes use of a sort of 'big data' in historical linguistics: its structure, the empirical underpinnings of the findings concerning linguistic change as well as the didactic tools applied are rooted in digital and annotated historical text corpora. The first edition that appeared in 2012 has already been characterized by this property, and the second edition even widens the electronic corpora referred to. It also considers the latest developments concerning the topic of the book as well as critical reflections on the first edition.

It consists of 6 chapters, a register of the sources, the list of digital historical data bases of German, an extremely rich list of references, a glossary and a subject index. The chapters are uniformly structured insofar as they comprise two levels: the main text and typographically marked additional information explaining details and background of the issues introduced in the main text.

Chapter 1 clarifies basic notions and main features of the approach to the history of German. Within historical linguistics, it distinguishes between the 'external' and the 'internal' history of language and within the latter, between diachrony and the historical-synchronic perspective. The title of the book has already indicated that what the authors have in mind is diachrony. However, they use this term in a broad sense:

Primär geht es zwar um die diachronen Veränderungen des Deutschen von den schriftlich überlieferten Anfängen bis in die Gegenwart; dies ist aber nicht möglich, ohne jeweils auch auf synchron-historische Zustände zurückzugreifen. Da sprachliche Veränderungen immer auch durch außersprachliche Einflüsse begleitet, durch diese verursacht, aber auch behindert werden können, sind sprachgeschichtliche Ereignisse immer ein wichtiger Teil der Entwicklung. *Diachrone Sprachwissenschaft wird in diesem Sinne als diejenige Teildisziplin der Linguistik verstanden, die versucht, Einzelsprachen übergreifende Sprachwandeltheorien und die Sprachgeschichte einer Einzelsprache zusammenzubringen.* (11-12; emphasis added)

This chapter also clarifies in a very concise way what kinds of data the diachronic linguistics of German sets out to analyze. Presupposing that the readers of this book have had already some idea of how synchronic linguistics proceeds, it contrasts the data types of the latter with the data base of diachronic research. While synchronic linguistics may use introspective data, experimental data, elicitation with the help of questionnaires as well as oral and written corpora, diachronic investigations are basically restricted to the evaluation of written corpora, and to a lesser extent, metalinguistic statements which have been available since the advent of the modern era. However, since cognitive processes are assumed to be universal, the cognitive basis of different historical periods of a language is similar to that of its current state. Having clarified these issues, the chapter also touches on the consequences of the varieties of German for diachronic linguistics and the problem of how to determine diachronic periods.

Chapter 2, which is of central importance, introduces the notion of language change emphasizing that language change takes place on every linguistic level and even by transgressing the levels, and that it is neither monocausal nor teleological. The first subchapter argues that language change has several dimensions and can basically be viewed from at least four perspectives. One of them is the social perspective including phenomena like language contact, contact of language varieties, cultural and social change. However, language change is also a cognitive phenomenon. The reader gets a relatively detailed overview of different kinds of analogy – as the extension of rules – illustrated by easily understandable examples from the history of German. Then, cognitive processes on the lexical level are overviewed. Thereby, it is metaphorical, metonymical and synecdochical processes that are highlighted. The authors summarize findings of cognitive linguistics without, however, citing the original works e.g. by Lakoff and Johnson and others. Furthermore, a very short subchapter

touches on the biological-physiological conditions of language change. The last perspective considers language change as related to human creativity. Here mention is made of the ways the lexicon may be enriched by contacts between languages, of language purism and of the role of metaphor, metonymy and synecdoche as products of the creative treatment of language. A separate section raises the issue of the relationship between language change and language acquisition. The second subchapter is devoted to the types of language change. After a brief discussion of the two types of quantitative change (i.e. the elimination of elements and the enrichment of language by new elements), qualitative change is discussed at length. Among others, the notion of grammaticalization is introduced. The last subchapter deals with typological change which may be of three kinds: prosodic, morphological and syntactic.

The third chapter overviews the history of the Latin script as applied to German. By citing basic historical documents, the first subchapter briefly touches on the principles along which the Latin script was borrowed. The second subchapter discusses the problems of the adaptation of the Latin script focusing on the ways in which the notational system based on Latin was extended as well as the differences between Latin script and the sounds of vernacular German. Then, a quite detailed subchapter goes into problems of the orthography of German from a historical perspective. The fourth subchapter on graphical systems and their development explains one of the central problems of historical linguistics, which is raised in a clear and concise way:

> Methodologisch werden historische Lautverhältnisse aus der überlieferten Schriftlichkeit ermittelt. Die Zuordnung eines Schriftzeichens zu einem (vermuteten) Laut erfolgt in der Regel reflektiert oder unreflektiert etymologisch über einen Wortkörper, d.h. unter Rekurs auf zuvor erschlossene Laute. […] Aus einem graphischen Befund kann nicht unmittelbar auf das zugrunde liegende Lautinventar geschlossen werden. Mit entsprechendem Vorbehalt sind Inventarübersichten zu historischen Texten zu lesen […] Vielmehr ist für jeden einzelnen Schreiber bzw. Text auf der nächsthöheren Ebene für jede Schreibstube, jede Kanzlei oder Druckoffizin und auf einer weiteren Ebene für jede Schreib-Landschaft zu ermitteln, mit welchem Inventar jeweils gearbeitet wird und wie sich das jeweilige graphische System zu dem (vermuteten) Lautsystem (Phonemsystem) verhält. (p. 95)

Chapter 4 is a detailed analysis of the sound change processes of German. The chapter summarizes well known facts in a systematic way and adds new insights. Its leading idea is that the articulatory

processes that govern sound change closely interact with syllable structure and word structure. After presenting a brief overview of the basic types of sound change such as phonetic and phonemic, where the latter comprises paradigmatic and syntagmatic change as well, a long subchapter follows on the processes of sound change. It starts with assimilation processes in Old High German, and among others it discusses the changes in the syllable structure of Old High German as well as the restructuring of syllable structure. Within paradigmatic processes of sound change, a series of phenomena are discussed such as the Middle High German monophthongization and the New High German diphthongization, lenization, fricativization, palatalization and further ones.

Chapter 5 is devoted to the changes of the morphological and the syntactic subsystem of German. It provides a sophisticated presentation of the highly complex process that led from the dominantly synthetic structure of Old High German to the morphological and syntactic structure of New High German, which has both analytic and synthetic features. However, the chapter demonstrates that this process is not linear and not unidirectional. Rather, it has been shaped by minor changes in local regions and has also been influenced by a series of historical factors like borrowing from other languages or the establishment of norms. After the brief overview of the essence of these issues, the second subchapter goes into the discussion of the changes affecting the structure of the noun phrase, and the third one reveals the restructuring process of the verb phrase. The last subchapter concentrates on the position of the verb whose changes are central for the syntactic structure of German.

The six subchapters of the last chapter systematically overview lexical change, semantic change and the history of word formation. It reveals the rich network of different factors that are responsible for the complicated processes that result in phenomena which also ordinary speakers of German without linguistic erudition may realize in certain cases and to certain extents.

The above summary of the content and of the conception of book may have already indicated the reviewer's evaluation. First, it synthesizes knowledge of the history of German cumulated over many decades of research. Second, the presentation of the issues discussed is highly differentiated and sophisticated insofar as it highlights the complexity of factors whose interplay influenced the particular phases of the development of German. The book successfully avoids the kinds of oversimplification which often endanger the quality of textbooks.

Third, it is characterized by a wide perspective in that it also reflects on current findings of synchronic linguistics. Finally, and most importantly: its data handling technique fits into the current methodological renewal of the language sciences. The book should be recommended both to students of German and to all those who, besides the particular history of German, are also interested in approaches to linguistics in general.

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