

Partitivity in Slavic-Romance language contact

Walter Breu
University of Konstanz

In Slavic, partitivity is often expressed by the genitive case, especially also when negation is involved, e.g. Serbo-Croatian *nema problema*.GEN.PL ‘there are no problems’. Only Russian has a specialized partitive case, though restricted to a single noun class, cfr. *naroda* GEN.SG vs. *narodu* PART.SG ‘people’. It possibly goes back to Finnic substrate influence. On the other hand, adstrate influence in the realm of partitivity is a result of Romance-Slavic language contact in the Molise Slavic minority language (MSL) in Southern Italy. This is particularly evident in the pronominal system, where we find calquing of Italian partitive constructions of the type *non c’è* ‘there is not’ (⇒ MSL *nije ga*), with the partitive particle *ci* being rendered by the neuter genitive pronoun *ga*, or in the particle verb *andarsene* (MSL *si ga pokj*) ‘to go away’, with *ga* corresponding to the Italian partitive particle *ne*. In the construction *ce ne sono* (⇒ MSL *jesu hi*) ‘there are’ both partitive particles are rendered by the genitive-plural pronoun *hi*. Apart from such cases of pattern borrowing, we will also deal with the question of matter borrowing in the case of the MSL partitive particle *na ~ ne*, being used in constructions like *do vode*.GEN.SG *je*.GEN.SG *ne ~ na*.PART *je čuda*, corresponding to Italian *d’acqua ce n’è molto* ‘there is much water’.