

Writing a syntax of A.M. Kurbskij's "Novyj Margarit"

The "anomalous" adjectival locative of the type *v domu božiju* revisited

Abstract

This article contains a case study of the syntactic analysis of works written by Prince Andrej Mixajlovič Kurbskij (1528–1583). The case study is devoted to seemingly anomalous adjectival locatives in expressions like *v domu božiju* 'in the house of God' and to their linguistic interpretation in Kurbskij's East Slavic works, among them especially the "Novyj Margarit" (NM). The NM is a collection of religious writings that predominantly consists of texts translated from Latin into Church Slavonic of the East Slavic recension. The paper illustrates major difficulties in the syntactic analysis of works from the Kurbskij corpus and presents viable solutions. Based on Bounatirou (2018a), a number of issues are further explored or expanded upon in greater detail. Thus, investigating the locative inflection *-u* such as in *v domu božiju*, this article also analyses its occurrence in East Slavic literature outside the NM in more detail.

1. Introduction

The "Novyj Margarit" (henceforth NM)¹ is a collection of texts which was in all likelihood composed under the aegis of Prince Andrej Mixajlovič Kurbskij (1528–1583) after his flight from Muscovy to the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in 1564. The text collection consists mostly of homilies and other works with religious content, translated into Church Slavonic of the East Slavic recension – or, in other words, the East Slavic bookish language – under the direction of the prince. The vast majority of these translations were made, as could be shown (see the detailed argumentation given in Bounatirou 2018a, vol. 1, 157–217), from Latin sources and, above all, from a Latin edition of the works of John Chrysostom published in Basel in 1558 (Basel 1558; cited by volume, column and page number). The NM was edited for the first time completely and critically by Inge Auerbach (1976–2005). It is the text of this edition that has served as the basis for our studies. Auerbach's text rests on the manuscript from the Herzog August Library in Wolfenbüttel, Germany (W). In addition, in my analysis of the NM, I

¹ In 2018, I published a two-volume monograph on the NM (Bounatirou 2018a), which is a slightly revised version of my PhD thesis. In this article, I take some of the main conclusions from the monograph (cf. especially Bounatirou 2018a, vol. 2, 737–744) as a starting point to pinpoint certain related issues that call for further discussion.