

SPRACHE UND GESELLSCHAFT IN DER SOWJETUNION: 31 DOKUMENTE AUS DEM RUSSISCHEN INS DEUTSCHE ÜBERSETZT UND KRITISCH EINGELEITET. Edited by *W. Girke* and *H. Jachnow*. Kritische Information, 23. Munich: Wilhelm Fink Verlag, 1975. 381 pp. DM 36, paper.

This volume offers a translation of thirty-one "documents" (mostly articles, but also excerpts from books) concerning language and society. They are selected with the threefold purpose of illustrating: (1) contemporary Soviet sociolinguistics, (2) its development since 1917, and (3) its connections with Marxist ideology. It is the successful blending of these three purposes that makes this anthology particularly useful. For example, a programmatic declaration by Marr and a thunderous denunciation of the non-Marrists by Filin are followed by a condemnation of Marr by Stalin and some related Stalinist papers. The collection includes a group of articles from the 1920s and early 1930s (Vinokur, Shor, Polivanov), which show approaches later silenced by Marrism, as well as examples from a period when the best, exemplary language was found in—of course—the prose of Lenin, whereas the promoter of excessively dry, impersonal style and language was—of course—shown to be Stalin (Panov, 1962).

Considered from a purely linguistic standpoint, the most interesting papers are probably those dealing with the statistics of socially conditioned linguistic variation (Graudina, Badmaev, Krysin, Felinger, and others). The chapter on language planning, on the other hand, seems to be deficient. It starts with excerpts from Lenin and ends with a paper on Lenin's principles (Avrorin). What Lenin said pertains to broad strategies of the day and vast conceptions of the future; however, the political status of the languages of the Soviet Union is ultimately governed by Stalin's work on the "national problem," from which no excerpt is given.

The remaining papers are primarily concerned with conceptual problems (for example, Iakubinskii's polemics with de Saussure), reports from other countries (the fiasco of language planning in Norway, written by Steblin-Kamenskii), and various approaches (Dzhumusov-Isaev), rather than with factual data from the Soviet Union. (A notable exception is Skorik's essay on the minor languages of the north.)

Space does not allow discussion of all the papers. It may suffice to say that the sensitive reader will get a good idea of the development of Soviet (socio-)linguistics, and of its spiritual atmosphere, in this excellent anthology.

The translations are good. The original texts are laudably shortened; but the original titles, promised on page 16, have been omitted.

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KHUDOZHESTVENNAIA ZHIZN' ROSSII NA RUBEZHE XIX-XX VEKOV.

By *G. Iu. Sternin*. Moscow: Izdatel'stvo "Iskusstvo," 1970. 293 pp.

KHUDOZHESTVENNAIA ZHIZN' ROSSII NACHALA XX VEKA. By *G. Iu.*

*Sternin*. Moscow: Izdatel'stvo "Iskusstvo," 1976. 221 pp.

*G. Iu. Sternin's* two small volumes on artistic life in Russia at the turn of the century are important and highly interesting publications on several accounts. Based on extensive perusal of often untapped contemporary sources—diaries and correspondence—in addition to journals, the books survey a crucial period in the history of Russian art. The years between 1890 and 1907 marked a transition from collective programs to the artist's individual quest, from public responsibility to social nihilism, from