

The extinct since 18th century Polabian language is considered – together with Kashubian and the extinct Slovincian – a closest relative of Polish. The language was used in the area of Hannover in modern Germany and knowledge about it comes from few dictionaries created by German-speaking people. The most important Polabian texts are *Vocabularium Venedicum* by pastor from Wustrow Christian Hennig (approx. 3000 words), *Vocabulaire Vandale* by Johannes Fiedrich Pfeffinger (approx. 600 words), Polabian-German glossary by Johann Parum Schultze (approx. 500 words) and some other glossaries and translations of prayers.

From all Polabian texts only Schultze's glossary was written by a person who knew Polabian language. Unfortunately, this glossary is not appreciated among scholars – Schultze is accused of inconsistency in spelling and too poor education to undertake task like this. The opinion about glossary has not been preceded by proper philological analysis – the charges against him have been formulated due to low level of correspondence between Schultze's spellings and closer to each other dictionaries by Hennig and Pfeffinger. It is hard to agree with presented allegations, while even sketchy philological analysis shows, that in terms of spelling's consistency in using specific letters to represent sound of Polabian vocals and consonants, Shultze is without equal. Thus previous observations are not the result of careful analysis, but mechanical implications of the development known from other sources onto Schultze's glossary. It cannot be excluded that we are dealing here with other Polabian dialect deserving separate description.

The aim of the project – besides philological analysis – is to look at the extinct Polabian language through Schultze's glossary and correct present state of research about Polabian phonetical development, morphological issues (inflectional and word-formational) and verify hitherto etymologies. The reexamination of Schultze's glossary and formulating on its basis general Polabian conclusions is necessary for modern studies of Slavic languages, especially placing Polabian in West-Slavic dialectal continuum and it has also a significant value for onomastics concentrated on the field of Slavic settlement in North-East Germany.