

The project is concerned with *Early Slavic (Palaeoslavie) Studies*: a multidisciplinary humanities subdiscipline dealing with the history of the early Slavic languages, literatures and cultures. We focus on the understudied topic of how exactly the Church Slavonic language, which was not a spoken language, influenced the individual vernacular language varieties of the Cyrillic printed books and manuscripts from the 15th to the 18th centuries, the period during which individual non-Church-Slavonic languages based on the vernacular first started to arise. We intend to investigate early printed books and manuscripts in order to gain a clearer picture about the interaction of the traditional literary language Church Slavonic and the respective emerging vernacular varieties of *Slavia Orthodoxa*. Our main objective is to get a clear picture of the linguistic situation in Orthodox Slavic at the threshold of Modernity.

Our analysis will lead to better understanding the linguistic historical processes of the various Slavic-speaking countries and peoples, including the identification of the most important periods of development of Slavic languages, and key moments in their history. Furthermore, we will also formulate specific suggestions for using the results of our research in other, non-linguistic disciplines: history, medieval studies, theology etc.