Contents of Glottometrics 6, 2003 (including abstracts)

Abstract. This is a fragmentary attempt at seeking the modeling ideas of structures and their semantic validity on the basis of a certain linguistic experience; at seeking their connections with the approaches of several other sciences, for which brain functions are or may appear objects of analyses. Surpassing the boundary of linguistics is in favor of linguistics. The preliminary character of this reasoning is evident

Abstract. This paper presents a number of examples proving the fact that language change abides by the so-called Piotrowski Law, which takes, in simple cases, the shape of a sigmoid curve („S-curve“). This law of language change seems to go back to a hypothesis of Osgood & Sebeok (1954); Piotrovskaja & Piotrovskij (1974), Altmann (1983), Altmann, v. Buttlar, Rott & Strauss (1983) and others proposed mathematical models of this hypothesis and applied them to language changes successfully. The aim of this paper is to demonstrate how many different kinds of processes abide by the Piotrowski Law.

Abstract. This paper examines the distribution of word lengths in 12 prose texts written in modern Welsh (a P-Celtic language). The texts belong to the genres of new articles and Bible translation. For all texts, the observed frequencies can best be fitted by the 1-displaced Singh-Poisson distribution. This differs from published results on a Q-Celtic language (Scottish Gaelic) and suggests a P-celtic/Q-Celtic difference in word-length distribution. Further work is required to investigate other genres of Welsh as well as the other P- and Q-celtic languages.

Abstract. Different kinds of texts of three German authors taking into account sentence types and sentence lengths are compared. Using statistical tests different tendencies could be shown.

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