

Summary

It was owing to the scholarly and teaching excellence of Professor Milan Grošelj (1902–1979), member of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts and long-term head of the Classics Department at the Ljubljana Faculty of Arts, that the initially modest classical studies as pursued and taught at the University of Ljubljana rose to a high level. His school produced such Slovenian classicists as Kajetan Gantar and Primož Simoniti (both Academy members) and Erika Mihevc-Gabrovec, as well as linguist and Academy member Bojan Čop, among others. Professor Grošelj co-founded and edited the scholarly journals *Linguistica* (Ljubljana) and *Živa antika/Antiquité vivante* (Skopje), co-edited two volumes of the *Proceedings of the Faculty of Arts* (1950, 1955), and co-organised the still thriving Linguistic Circle at the Faculty. Internationally active to boot, he was a founding member and later an extended board member of the renewed Society for Indo-European studies (Indogermanische Gesellschaft), an eminent international organisation for linguistics founded in 1953 in Munich, Germany.

The volume provides a selection of Professor Grošelj's most ingenious contributions, which have been dispersed until now among a number of publications. The selection spans all fields of his research, exemplifying them with treatises which scholarship has foregrounded on account of their quality and significance. The first, introductory part of the volume presents Professor Grošelj's biography, a survey of his scholarly work, and his personal bibliography.

The second part reproduces his papers published in scholarly and professional journals as well as monograph chapters, arranged under the following headings: 'Textbook and Popular Science Texts', 'Translation Criticism', 'Grammar Studies', 'Studies in Style', 'Ethnological Research into Literary Sources and Themes', and 'Etymological and Lexical Studies'. This sequence reflects the chronological order in which Professor Grošelj focused on the relevant fields of research. The bulk of his textbook and more popular writings belongs to the first fifteen years of his career, when he taught at Yugoslav and Slovenian gymnasiums. Of his (rare) translation reviews, the selection includes his detailed analysis of the first and then still fragmentary version of the *Iliad* composed by the renowned Slovenian translator Anton Sovrè. Professor Grošelj's studies of grammar, particularly of Latin grammar, are most comprehensively represented in his doctoral dissertation *On the Syntax of the Latin Genitive and Dative Cases*. Notably, his studies in case systems tend to extend across the boundaries of Latin into various Indo-European languages. His examinations of the developments in languages, as well as into the history of literary sources and themes, such as the Amor and Psyche fairy-tale type, are often informed by the perspectives of ethnology, anthropology, and sociology.

The same interest in socio- and psycholinguistic issues informs his less known but singularly subtle and penetrating studies in the stylistics of ancient prose and poetry. His most outstanding publications in this field are his interpretations of the *Odes (Carmina)* written by Horace, a major lyric poet of Ancient Rome. Here Professor Grošelj sets out to examine the language devices employed by Horace to evoke the desired 'affect' or mood. The devices are perceived to range from phonological and morphological to syntactic means, such as word order or the length and structure of clause constituents. Professor Grošelj's surprisingly modern studies are based on the recognition that the emotional charge of Horace's poetry stems from self-reflection and communication with the addressee rather than from direct expression. It is a peculiar quality of these interpretations that they renounce biographical and historical speculation, concentrating instead on the means of formal expression. Thus they yield a number of lucid and sensitive observations on the elements of style which endow Horace's poetry (denigrated as cold and formalist by the Romantic movement and mentality) with great expressive power.

The last twenty years of Professor Grošelj's research display an intense focus on etymological studies, mainly in Ancient Greek, and to a lesser extent in Latin and in the Slavic languages. It was for his etymological work that he was most widely recognised among linguists at home and abroad. He published c. 460 etymologies, many of which found their way into major national and international dictionaries. They are cited, for example, in 110 entries in the *Griechisches Etymologisches Wörterbuch* by Hjalmar Frisk (Heidelberg, 1954–1972; <http://ieed.ullet.net/friskL.html>), where they are often accepted, occasionally contested and sometimes noted for their boldness. Professor Grošelj's etymologies have clarified, or helped to clarify, certain key terms from literature and related areas, such as the Dionysos cult, which is associated with drama – examples include δῖθύραμβος (*dithyrambos*), σάτυρος (*satyros*), Διόνυσος (*Dionysos*). Etymology plays a role in his commentaries on Homeric *loci* as well. Considering the significance of Professor Grošelj's oeuvre for the development of linguistics and classical philology at Slovenia's oldest university, it is meet and proper that the University's hundredth anniversary should be accompanied by a revival of his work.