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Ki, kateri, kdor. Relativising the otherness of Slovene

Brozović (1988, 183) attests Slovene an ‘idiosyncratic way of being South Slavic’. This seems to be corroborated also by its relativisation strategies, which are assumed to be peculiar not only from a South Slavic, but also from a general Slavic point of view (Topolińska 2003), in particular with respect to the markers listed in (1):

- (1) a. *ki*: uninflected marker
b. *kateri*: relative adjective
c. *kdor*: relative pronoun

As concerns their functional differentiation, the criteria given in Table 1 can be found in the literature (Cazinkić 2001, Chidambaram 2007, Gołąb & Friedman 1972, Topolińska 2003):

marker	type of RC	case	ordering
<i>ki</i>	non-restrictive	nom	MC > RC
<i>ki</i> + resumption	non-restrictive	acc, dat, gen	MC > RC
<i>kateri</i>	restrictive	prepositional	MC > RC
<i>kdor</i>	free, correlative	all	RC > MC

Table 1

The examples in (2) seem to fit the picture presented in table 1 (all examples retrieved from www.gigafida.net):

- (2) a. *ki*: non-restrictive, nom, MC > RC
Čimprej se morajo sprijazniti, da je debelost kronična bolezen, *ki* te lahko spremlja vse življenje.
‘They have to accept as soon as possible that obesity is a chronic illness, *which* may accompany them their whole life.’
- b. *ki*: non-restrictive, acc, MC > RC
Komisija za prodajo SIB, *ki* jo vodi A.K., bo 24. marca izbrala [...].
‘The commission concerned with selling of SIB, *which* is lead by A.K. [lit.: *which it* leads A.K.], will select on March 24 [...].’
- c. *kateri*: restrictive, prepositional, MC > RC
pištole, *s katero* je streljal na policiste, pa ni prinesel s seboj
‘but he did not bring along the pistol, *with which* he shot at the police’
- d. *kdor*: free, RC > MC
Kdor ima dostop do podatkov, je v prednosti pred konkurenco.
‘*Who* has access to the data, has the edge over the competitors.’

However, the picture is not as clear-cut as suggested in the literature: *ki* and *kateri* overlap in particular positions and functions, with the conditions underlying their choice still being unclear (e.g. Sonnenhauser 2013), *kateri* and *kdor* may both be used for correlative and free relative clauses (which distinguishes them from *ki*), albeit with different preferences.

The present paper aims at tracing the diachronic development of the functional system of *ki*, *kateri*, *kdor*, focusing on the relations between (i) *ki* and *kateri*, and (ii) *kateri* and *kdor*, for which Křížková (1970, 40) assumes a (i) symmetrical vs. (ii) asymmetrical relationship.

The preliminary observations given in (3) serve as a starting point:

- (3) a. *ki(r)*: attested since earliest times, unclear etymology & origin
 – restrictive, non-restrictive
 – postposed
 b. *kateri*: attested since 16th century, prevails in religious texts and translations
 – restrictive, non-restrictive, correlative
 – preposed, postposed
 c. *kdor*: attested since late 18th / early 19th century
 – correlative, free
 – preposed, postposed

Tracing their diachronic development may also reveal the (dis)similarities of the Slovene markers to their West Slavic cognates, (4), and thereby contribute to assessing the position of Slovene between South and West Slavic:

- (4) a. *ki*: Upper Sorbian *kiž*, Czech *jenž*
 b. *kateri*: Upper Sorbian *kotryž*, Czech *ktěry*
 c. *kdor*: Upper Sorbian *stóž*, Czech *kdo*

Regarding the ‘otherness’ of Slovene and the question in how far differentiating functions contribute(s) to individualising languages, the role of grammar writing will be considered as well.

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