1. Introduction

Over the years, the work of Roman Jakobson has been published and put into bibliographical record with exemplary care and diligence. It comes, therefore, as a pleasant surprise that several short Czech texts by Jakobson have been identified that are, as yet, not part of any existing edition or bibliography of Jakobson's work, even though they appeared in easily accessible sources. The texts are entries in *Ottův slovník naučný nové doby* (‘Otto Encyclopaedia of the New Age’, *henceforth referred to as the Encyclopaedia*) from the 1930s and their existence is all the more surprising in that Jakobson scholars had previously examined the Encyclopaedia and managed to find there several other entries by Jakobson.

2. *Ottův slovník naučný nové doby* (‘Otto Encyclopaedia of the New Age’)

‘Otto Encyclopaedia of the New Age’ first appeared in 1930. It was prepared at the request of the owners of the *Ottův slovník naučný* (‘Otto Encyclopaedia’), the Encyclopaedia’s original series, and continued to be published until 1943 as its supplementary, updated continuation (its original title was indeed ‘Supplements to Otto Encyclopaedia’) in six volumes of two parts each, i.e. twelve parts altogether. The publisher of the original three volumes was J. Otto Publishing, the latter three volumes were published by Novina Publishers. The Encyclopaedia, supervised by Professor Bohumil Němec of Charles University, Prague, edited by Jaroslav Kolafík and laid out by the leading Czech artist Karel Svolinský, contained 58,000 entries and 5,000 images. Although the new series has always been considered to be a continuation of the original encyclopaedia, the majority of its entries – those marked with an asterisk – appeared for the first time.

Between 1996–2003, Paseka and Argo produced a photoset second edition of both the original and new Encyclopaedia series. A digital version of both series was published by AION CS in 1997–1998 (only to be superseded by a radically revised version five years later).
3. Jakobson’s share in the Encyclopaedia

Roman Jakobson (1896–1982) started contributing to the Encyclopaedia in 1932. In this year, he first appeared in the *List of new co-operators on Part II, Volume 1* as "Dr Jakobson Roman, professor in Brno (R.J.)". The co-operation logically ended with Jakobson’s emigration but it is not clear whether he finished any entries prior to leaving, and if so, whether, under the circumstances, they would have been used in subsequent publications. Jakobson himself is referenced in the Encyclopaedia under the entry "Jakobson Roman Osipovič", written by Josef Bečka.

3.1 The known entries by Roman Jakobson

Today, Roman Jakobson is generally acknowledged as having been one of the world’s leading linguists and philologists. As a prominent member of the Prague Linguistic Circle, he also helped to promote, in a significant way, the reputation of this learned society. It may come as a surprise, therefore, that Czech linguists have, so far, been aware of only a portion of the entries written by Jakobson for the Encyclopaedia. This may in part be due to the fact that the system of initials and abbreviations, with which individual contributors signed their entries, was fairly complex and not unequivocal. Some authors opted to use their initials in multiple formats, while others refrained from signing their entries altogether. It is, therefore, relatively difficult to establish authorship in each and every case, including entries written by Roman Jakobson himself.

So far, the following entries have been recognized as those written by Jakobson (our data are based on the bibliography by Stephen Rudy, which has not, to our knowledge, been amended or superseded).

- **Phoneme** (‘Fonéma’). Encyclopaedia, Part II, p. 608; No. 1932a in Rudy’s bibliography.
- **Phonology** (‘Fonologie’). Encyclopaedia, Part II, p. 611; No. 1932a in Rudy’s bibliography.
- **Linguistics** (‘Linguistika’). Encyclopaedia, Part III, p. 1214; No. 1935m in Rudy’s bibliography.
- **Metrics** (‘Metrika’). Encyclopaedia, Part IV, p. 213; No. 1936c in Rudy’s bibliography.
- **Mathesius, Vilém**. Encyclopaedia, Part IV, p. 132; No. 1936m in Rudy’s bibliography.

All these entries are signed with the initials R.J. (excluding the 'Metrics' entry, cf. below).
3.2 The hitherto unidentified entries by Roman Jakobson

Despite the fact that, to our knowledge, none of the Jakobson bibliographies contain entries other than those listed above, it is evident that Jakobson wrote another two entries for the Encyclopaedia, both signed with the initials R.J.:

**Morpheme** ('Morféma'). Encyclopaedia, Part IV, p. 341; this entry, from 1936, is **not** included in Rudy's bibliography.

Prague Linguistic Circle ('Pražský lingvistický kroužek'); Encyclopaedia, Part V, p. 92; this entry, from 1938, is **not** included in Rudy's bibliography, either.

3.3 An entry of uncertain authorship

Jakobson's authorship of the entry on Bohuslav Havránek (cf. below) remains uncertain.

**Havránek, Bohuslav**. Encyclopaedia, Part II, p. 1054; this entry, from 1933, is **not** included in Rudy's bibliography.

The authorship is uncertain because the entry is signed with only the single initial "R.-" and there are no known cases of Jakobson signing his entries in this fashion. However, our detailed analysis has shown that there are another five entries in the Encyclopaedia signed in a similar fashion, namely "R." These other entries signed with "R." can be distanced from Jakobson based on the following:

– The initial "R" is not included in the list of abbreviations, therefore the author's identity remains unknown;

– entries signed with this initial bear no thematic link whatsoever to the "Havránek, Bohuslav" entry and none concern linguistics or the Prague Linguistic Circle;

– all other entries signed with this single initial are contained in the last two volumes of the Encyclopaedia, i.e. VI/1 (1940) and VI/2 (1943), whereas the "Havránek, Bohuslav" entry is part of volume II/2 (1933).

These considerations, as well as the fact that the date of the "Bohuslav Havránek" entry does not exclude the possibility of Jakobson's authorship, lead us to believe that the use of the initial "R.-" was a typographical error for "R.J.", the initials used by Roman Jakobson.

Inconsistencies in identification and editing of initials in the Encyclopaedia can also be illustrated with an analysis of the "Metrics/Metrika" entry.

This entry consists of four sub-entries: (i) "General Metrics/Obecná metrika"; (ii) "Comparative Slavic Metrics/Srovnávací metrika slovanská"; (iii) "Historical
Czechoslovak Metrics/Historická metrika československá"; and (iv) "Metrics in Music/Metrika v hudbě". The "General Metrics/Obecná metrika" and "Comparative Slavic Metrics/Srovnávací metrika slovanská" entries are unsigned but the latter can be, on the basis of comparative evidence, safely ascribed to Roman Jakobson:

– Rudy’s Bibliography describes the "Metrics" entry of the Encyclopaedia as a revised and extended version of the "Metrica slava" entry in the Enciclopedia Italiana (Vol. 23, 1934, pp. 112–113);

– the Italian entry is signed with the initials "R.J.";

– the Czech and Italian texts contain nearly identical sentences as well as bibliography.

The "Historical Czechoslovak Metrics/Historická metrika československá" entry is signed with the initials "R.J-n."; which may have been intended to apply to the preceding sub-entries as well, but these initials were not included in any of the Encyclopaedia's lists of contributors. The entry "Metrics in Music/Metrika v hudbě" is signed with the initials of Václav Štěpán – "V. Št."

At least one of Jakobson’s initials ("R. J-n.") was not, at the time, included in any of the Encyclopaedia’s lists of contributors. Further inconsistencies are seen where some contributors on the lists used as many as three sets of initials, while other contributors, who used three or four different sets of initials, appear on the lists of contributors with their names associated with only a single set of initials.

To give but one such example: Bohuslav Havránek had been included in the List of new co-operators on Part II, Volume V as "Havrânek Bohuslav PhDr., profesor Masarykovy university v Brně. (B. Havránek.)."

This abbreviated form of the name, "(B. Havránek.)", is attached to the following entries: "Slavic Languages – Czech/Slovanské jazyky – český", "Slavic Languages – praslavanský/Slovanské jazyky – Proto-Slavic", "Literary Language/Spisovný jazyk", "Structuralism/Strukturalismus", "Structural linguistics/Strukturální lingvistika", "Stylistika/Stylistics", "Syntax/Syntax", "Synthetic Languages/Synthetické jazyky", "System in Linguistics/Systém v jazykovědě", "Toponomastics/Toponomastika", and "Terminology/Terminologie". However, the entry of "Slavic philology – linguistics/Slovanská filologie – lingvistika" is signed with the abbreviation "Boh. Havránek", which was probably intended to cover all sub-entries. In addition, there are two other sets of initials for Bohumil Havránek, namely "BHk" and "B.Hk.". The former is found with the entry of "Šorová, R.O.", the latter with the following entries: "Palato-alveolar Fricatives/Šeplavé", "Škaric Djuro", "Šrámek".

Such lack of consistency in the identification of individual entries by the contributor’s initials or abbreviations provides another reason to believe that the author of entry on Bohuslav Havránek was indeed Roman Jakobson.

4. The full text of the hitherto unidentified entries

Let us quote now, in full, the text of the two undisputable entries and the one highly probable entry, written by Roman Jakobson for the Encyclopaedia.

**Morpheme**: * Morpheme, a linguistic term used to denote the part of a word that is endowed with a grammatical function and cannot be further divided into smaller units which would each have its own grammatical function. The part of grammar dealing with [morphemes] and the ways they combine in words is called **morphology**. The kinds of morphemes include: base or root (poslucháč, překrásný, povařiť), prefix (poslucháč, překrásný, povařiť, neřád), stem-formative suffix (poslucháč, krásný), inflecting suffix or ending (krásný, povařiť, poslucháč, poslucháči; it is against such forms that the lack of ending in the nominative form poslucháč is treated as a zero ending), and linking [morpheme] povařiť, Ženám, mužům, horolezec). Prefixes and suffixes are formal [morphemes], in contrast to the word base, which is a lexical [morpheme]. A specific formation is the word-[morpheme], namely such a [morpheme] that comprises the whole of the word and cannot combine with other [morphemes] (such as e.g. conjunctions in Czech). Languages differ in terms of (i) kinds of [morphemes] present in them (Chinese, for example, has no inflecting suffixes), (ii) in their respective functional load and the distribution of specific functions (for example, Slavic languages differ from Turkic ones in having inflecting suffixes that accumulate functions: -ý in Czech dobrý is a complex marker of the adjective, masculine gender, singular and nominative) and (iii) in the extent to which the boundaries between [morphemes] or **morphemic junctures** are clear-cut (e.g. in Slavic languages, the prefix-base junctures are much more clear-cut than others). Morphological typology or classification of languages by the structure of [morphemes] and the rules of their combinability represents a topical issue in structural linguistics. The speaker identifies individual [morphemes] in a word because the same [morphemes] occur in other combinations (e.g. the verb spletu can be divided into s-plet-u because there exist parallel patterns of such forms, such as 1. spojím, srazím, etc.,
2. *pletume, pletu, popletu, spletitý, pletivo, etc., and 3. *vedu, nesu, etc.*). Synchronic grammar only takes into account such division of words into smaller units that are in keeping with the linguistic awareness of the day. Such a division does not necessarily overlap with the historical division of the words' scope, as well as the boundaries between them. [Morphemes] change with time (e.g. the historical division of *uzl-y* would be *uz-l-y*, but today the original prefix *l* has merged with the original root *uz-* into an indivisible [morpheme] *uzl-*; *b* in Old Czech *ob-adati* was part of the prefix but by association with such formations as *o-živiti* a new division, *o-badati*, arose, which in turn gave rise, through decomposition, to *badati*).

– Morphological phonology or morphonology, a discipline marking the transition from phonology to morphology, deals with the phonological make-up of [morphemes] and morphemic junctures and with phonemic alternations in individual [morphemes] while paying respect to the specific structural features of the various kinds of [morphemes]. *R.J.*

**Prague Linguistic Circle**: *Prague Linguistic Circle, an academic association of researchers in linguistics, poetics and *semiology, founded by Vilém Mathesius in 1926. It is comprised of Czechoslovak experts of Slavonic (i.e. Czechoslovak and Russian) and German origin, as well as foreign researchers (Trubetzkoj, Brøndal and others) who co-operate towards common goals. The collective enterprise of the Prague Linguistic Circle focuses on the analyses of linguistic facts with relation to their functions within the language as an undivided regular structure. The issue of function of linguistic units becomes crucial not only for the description of individual synchronic states but also for the analysis of language development. A typology of language systems and changes is being worked out. The pressing problem of the parallel development of Areal languages is being addressed. Atomistic approaches and mechanistic denial of language antinomies (resulting, for example, in artificial isolation of language statics and dynamics) are rejected. At international linguistic congresses, the [Prague Linguistic Circle] strives to develop and defend its structural framework of language, referred to, in linguistic literature abroad, as the theory of the Prague School of Linguistics (Ecole linguistique de Prague). On this basis, the following themes are being developed: functional analysis of the sound of language (phonology), analysis of corresponding grammatical forms seen as a system of semantic oppositions, the interrelationships and specific features of individual language functions, study of literary and poetic language within this framework, and specific issues in culture of language, as based on the principle of their adequateness to a specific purpose. Systematic attention is being
paid to the phonology of the languages spoken in the Czech Republic, to Czech orthoepy, to the structural grammar of contemporary literary and popular Czech, as well as of other Slavic languages, and to Czech historical poetics. In the first decade of its existence the Circle organized 159 lectures and debates (cf. the Activity Report, 1926–1936). The most significant publications include, beside the series *Travaux du Cercle linguistique de Prague* (from 1929) and the journal *Slovo a slovesnost* (from 1935), the collections of essays *Charisteria Guil. Mathesio* ... (1932) and *Spisovná čeština a jazyková kultura* (1932). The activities of the Prague Linguistic Circle have received much critical acclaim in the international linguistic community (from such leading scholars in the field as van Ginneken, Jespersen, Kretschmer, Meillet, Vendryes, van Wijk) and stimulated the rise of similar scholarly societies in Copenhagen, Tokio, Sofia. R.J.

**Havránek, Bohuslav**, b. 30 Jan 1893, Prague; Czech linguist, associate professor of Slavic linguistics at Charles University (1928); professor of Masaryk University Brno (from 1929). A founder and an active member of the [Prague Linguistic Circle]. Most of his works appeared in the publications of the Circle and in the journals *Slavia*, *Listy filologické*, *Časopis pro moderní filologii*, *Naše řeč*, *Česká věda* and others. His extensive monograph *Genera verbi v slov. jazycích I.* ('Genera Verbi in Slavic Languages I.') appeared separately in 1928. He was concerned mostly with Slavonic phonology and morphology, history of Czech linguistics, and Czech dialectology. R.–

5. About the newly identified entries

In assessing the newly found texts it is of course necessary to bear in mind that they were designed for the Encyclopaedia, i.e. they were not meant to be scholarly contributions but provide basic information to readers. However, a few remarks concerning these entries are in order.

If we compare the most interesting aspect of the entries, namely Jakobson's definition of the morpheme, with the understanding of this linguistic unit by other representatives of the Prague School, we are intrigued by the fact that Jakobson does not, as yet, address the problem of meaning. This may be in keeping with the date of the entry. The other salient features of the morpheme as presented by Jakobson correspond, in a modified form, to its treatment by Trubetzkoj, Trnka and others (cf. Vachek, 2005, 109–110).

Interestingly, Vachek's *Dictionary* may serve as another source of evidence to support the contention that these entries had been forgotten in a way that defies
understanding. The Dictionary does not quote Jakobson's definition of the morpheme – unlike that of the phoneme, which also happens to be an integral part of the Jakobsonian bibliographies.

In the entry on the Prague Linguistic Circle, it is noteworthy to observe the relatively large amount of information Jakobson squeezed into the entry. Though in describing the aims and activities of the Circle he could not but proceed by the method of enumeration, which precluded him from giving a more detailed account of the topics, it is exactly some of the nuances that confirm Jakobson's authorship: some of the emphasized issues (such as the interrelationships and specific features of individual language functions or the parallel development of areal languages) were to become his personal themes.

Though the 'morpheme' entry appeared later than Skalíčka's Zur ungarischen Grammatik (Skalíčka, 1935) Jakobson does not mention Skalíčka's seme, which may be due to his critical stance towards this concept. It is not clear whether the sentence "Morphological typology or classification of languages by the structure of [morphemes] and the rules of their combinability represents a topical issue in structural linguistics" may be read as a partial reference to the work of Vladimír Skalíčka and his typology outlined in Zur ungarischen Grammatik. It is not clear whether Jakobson means to say that the work on this topical issue had been taken up already, or whether this is just another instance where he simply disregards – just as he did concerning the seme – Skalíčka's theory. After all, such an attitude, by some members of the Prague School and in some periods in particular, was not at all exceptional.

6. Conclusion

Our analysis of the entries of Ottův slovník naučný nové doby ('Otto Encyclopaedia of the New Age') has shown that the bibliography of Roman Jakobson needs to be supplemented with two new entries, namely the entries 'Morpheme' and 'Prague Linguistic Circle'. Additionally, it is highly probable that Jakobson wrote the entry 'Havránek Bohuslav' for the Encyclopaedia as well.

Notes

* English translation of the title and the discussed dictionary entries by Jan Čermák.
1 To sum up the well-known facts of Jakobson's life in this period: in October 1937, he was granted Czech citizenship, a necessary condition for him to receive the degree of pro-
fessor extraordinare. On 1 March, 1939, however, he was, as a Jew, removed from the office and sometime after 15 March he had to defect to Scandinavia, only to settle, in 1941, in the U.S.


3 Rudy invariably quotes the Encyclopaedia as "Ottův slovník naučný, Dodatky" (i.e. "Encyclopaedia, Supplements"); he gives only the part (and not the volume) number, which is probably due to the fact that there is running pagination in all the volumes of every part of the Encyclopaedia.

4 "Havránek Bohuslav PhDr., professor of Masaryk University, Brno. (B. Havránek.)"

References


Petr Čermák: ROMAN JAKOBSON'S UNKNOWN CONTRIBUTIONS TO OTTŮV SLOVNÍK NAUČNÝ NOVÉ DOBY (Otto Encyclopaedia of the New Age)

The article discusses hitherto unidentified contributions of Roman Jakobson (1896–1982) to Ottův slovník naučný nové doby (‘Otto Encyclopaedia of the New Age’), a prestigious encyclopaedia published in Prague between 1930–1943. To complement the five entries by the great linguist for the Encyclopaedia that are listed in the existing bibliographies of his work (Phoneme, Phonology, Linguistics, Metrics, and Mathesius, Vilém), the article identifies the following entries as also written by Jakobson: Morpheme, Prague Linguistic Circle and Havránek, Bohuslav. Whereas the authorship of the latter can only be considered highly probable, the remaining two are identified as indisputable products of Roman Jakobson. The article contains an English translation of, and a brief commentary on, all the hitherto unidentified entries.