HerCoRe – Hermeneutic and Computer based Analysis of Reliability, Consistency and Vagueness in Historical Texts – illustrated through two main historical works of Dimitrie Cantemir

Dimitrie Cantemir

- Ruler (Prince) of Moldavia (1710 -1711)
- Historian, Musician, Geograph and universal scientist of the 18. century, representative of Illuminism in Eastern Europe
- 1688-1710 lived in in Constantinopol and studied at the Greek Academy of the Orthodox Patriarchy the turkish language and the history of the Ottoman Empire
- Since 1711 lived at the Court of the Russian Tzar Peter the Great
- Since 1714 member of the der Royal Brandenburg Society of Sciences in Berlin

HerCoRe-Corpus

- Historia incrementorum atque decrementorum Aulæ Othomanicæ – „Die Geschichte der Entstehung und des Verfalls des Osmanischen Reichs“, Original supposed to be in Latin, translated (with many deviations and changes) in English, German, Russian, French and Romanian. Reference Work until the middle of 19. Jh.
- „Descripția Moldaviei“ - „Beschreibung der Moldau“, Original supposed to be in Latin, translated in German and Romanian

Hermeneutic Analysis of historical Sources -> content Vagueness

German Translation 1745

„Was seine Söhne betrifft, so wissen die christlichen Schriftsteller unter den vererbten Namen Erdogul, Issa, Kalezpin, Cyriacelebi und Cibelin, viele Dinge von denselben zu erzählen. Wenn man aber die Folge der verderbten Namen Erdogul, Issa, Kalezpin, Cyriacelebi und Cibelin, „Die Geschichte der Entstehung und des Verfalls des Osmanischen Reichs“, Othomanicae“ Türkisch-Osmanischen Quellen...“

It is for sure that Sultan Bajezid had 4 Sons and none of them had the name Erdogul (S. 79-80)

Turkish-Osmanic Sources

- HSE: Ertuğrul, Süleyman, Mehmed, İsa Çelebi, Musa Çelebi, Mustafa Çelebi. (S. 192)
- NES: Ertuğrul, Süleyman, Mehmed, İsa Çelebi, Musa Çelebi, Mustafa Çelebi. (S. 313)
- SOL: Ertuğrul, Süleyman, Mehmed, İsa Çelebi, Musa Çelebi, Mustafa Çelebi. (S. 70)

Goal

To investigate through specific Vagueness- Annotation three questions related to the research of Cantemir’s works:

- The first scientific comparison of the three translations and the Latin version, as it is generally accepted that these works differ consistently one from each other.
- The analysis of the reliability of Cantemir’s assertions. (especially ottoman sources will be used).
- The consistency with which Cantemir relates to persons, events, within the same work and across the 2 books.

Architecture

Linguistic/Indicators for Vagueness

At lexical level:
- Non-intersectives, • ”supposed”, ”so called”
- Inexact adjectives • ”square”, ”round”, ”hostile”, ”near”
- Hedges • ”almost”, ”approximately”, ”some”
- Inexact measures • ”4 day travel”, ”10 feet”
- Modals (attitudes) • ”presumably”, ”hopefully”
- Comparatives • ”more”, ”bigger”, ”older”

At syntactic level:
- Subjective constructions

Knowledge base (Fuzzy OWL)

Collaborators

Prof. Dr. Yavuz Köse, University of Vienna, Ottoman Studies

Supported by

VolkswagenStiftung

Dr. Cristina Vertan, Project Leader, Digital Humanities
Prof. Dr. Yavuz Köse, Turkish Studies
Prof. Dr. Volker v. Hahn, Digital Humanities, German Linguistics

E-mail: cristina.vertan@uni-hamburg.de, critina.vertan@bbaw.de
http://nats-www.informatik.uni-hamburg.de/hercore