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## Evidence for the interrelation of genre and register features in Jonas Bretkūnas's Old Lithuanian sermons

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The sermons contained in the Old Lithuanian Postilla (1591) by pioneering Lutheran pastor and Bible translator Jonas Bretkūnas (1536–1602) are a promising test case for the comparative quantitative investigation of register features because each unfolds in a stereotypical pattern of pericope summary – introduction – enumeration of topics – body – conclusion, each with typical features, but the sermons differ in genre. This intentional structure is made explicit at the beginning of each sermon. In the body of the sermon the enumerated sections may be split into further numbered sub-topics and headings. The Postilla is the core of a corpus of Bretkūnas's texts (RegiB, in preparation) annotated for the research of subproject B04 on Luther and Bretkūnas, within CRC 1412 "Register".<sup>1</sup>

We group Bretkūnas's sermons into broad sub-genres based on topic and pastoral function: *dogma*, *parable*, *comprehension*, *interpretation* and *topical*. Within selected typical examples of each sub-genre, we quantify the distribution of register features, both holistically (each text as a unit) and lineally (their occurrence over the course of each text). Our pre-selected sub-genre groups are tested against these distributions. Do the sermons cluster as expected, and how can the clustering be explained? How do atypical examples cluster? How do the patterns identified compare to the other sub-genres and to less prototypical sermons in the corpus?

**References:** • Feulner, A. H., Goymann, F., Hock, W. & O. Vanhala (2023). Register im älteren Baltischen: Die Postillen des Altlitauischen und Altlettischen. *Archivum Lithuanicum* 25, 41–88. • *POSTILLA* || *Tatai estī* || *Trumpas ir* || *Praštas Iščguldimas* || *Euangelīu / sakamīu Bašniczoie* || *Krikščezjionischkoie/ nūg Aduento* || *ik Wæltku*. || *Per* || *Jana Bretkuna Lietuwos Plebona* || *Karaliauczīuie Prūfūfu*. || *Išpaude Karaliauczīuie* || *Jurgis Osterbergeras*. || *Mæta Pono 1591*. • Lüdeling, A. et al. (2024): Register: Language users' knowledge of situational-functional variation – frame text of the Second Phase Proposal for the CRC 1412. *Register Aspects of Language in Situation (REALIS)* 3, 1–53. <https://doi.org/10.18452/29131> • Schnelle, G. (in print). Register als variationsgrammatische Kategorie. Korpusbasierte Registermodellierung in den Werken Otrfrids von Weißenburg und Martin Luthers. In: L. Schnee, H. Huber & S. Hartmann (eds.) *Historische Grammatik(en)*, Berlin: De Gruyter.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://sfb1412.hu-berlin.de>