**Reconstructing and visualizing relative chronology in linguistics**

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One of the main tasks of historical linguistics consists in determining the order or chronology according to which the changes of a given language occurred. Establishing such a chronology is not only important from the perspective of individual languages but contributes to our understanding of language change and language evolution in general. The more we know about the overall situation in a language at the time when a certain change took place, the better we can compare it to the situation in other languages and the more reliably we can thus draw general conclusions. Furthermore, the order according to which the changes of related languages occurred is decisive for establishing the phylogeny of language families.

The chronology of language changes can be established on the basis of documentary evidence or by logical inference. Provided that the relevant documentary evidence can be assigned to a certain date, in the former case we speak of absolute dating. Dating language change by applying this method results in an absolute chronology. In the latter case, chronological relationships between specific changes are determined, which means that changes are dated relatively to each. Hence, we speak of a relative chronology.

In my talk, I focus on the latter type of chronology. Largely based on a study on Proto-Slavic and Russian sound changes, I first of all discuss the different relationships which can be determined between individual changes (*feeding*, *bleeding*, *counterfeeding*, *counterbleeding*). I then go on to show how a model of the relative chronology can be reconstructed based on these relationships. Following that, I discuss some limitations of representing complex models of relative chronology in traditional formats and present some preliminary results about how they can be represented digitally.