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***Evgenii Polivanov: Towards a Sociological Paradigm
in the Study of Language***

The present paper discusses Polivanov's contribution to the development of a sociological approach to the study of language in the late 1920s which must be seen as part of the general bolshevisation of sciences in the Soviet Union. Polivanov insisted that the development of a Marxist approach to the study of language must be based on 'the indisputable facts and positions which have been given by linguistics as a natural-historical discipline' (Polivanov 1968: 185). Thus, linguistics provides objective facts which must then be given a Marxist interpretation. In this, he differed from Marrists who opposed their 'new' linguistics to the earlier 'bourgeois' tradition and denied the scientific value of Indo-European linguistics