Slovak Jewry represented a multi-linguality typical for a Central Europe where living circumstances of the Jewish population underwent frequent changes. When Jews arrived in what was then Upper Hungary, they used to speak a derivative of Yiddish, “jidiş-dajč” or “Jiddisch-Deutsch”. Subsequently, Joseph II. forced them to adopt German. After the “Ausgleich” of 1867, Hungarian authorities insisted on them speaking Hungarian. Those Jews living in a rural environment traditionally spoke Slovak or Moravian dialects, but after the founding of the Czechoslovak Republic they switched to standard Slovak. Emigrés from Galicia spoke Galician Yiddish. Communities situated not far from the Hungarian border, but also people who had attended Hungarian schools in cities such as Bratislava and Košice, stuck to Hungarian. The Jewish population in the northern Slovak regions Zips (Spiš) and the “Hauerland” cultivated German. During their daily prayers, Jews used Hebrew, even though many did not understand it. When Zionism became popular, so did modern Hebrew. Thus, a typical young Slovak Jew spoke three to five languages.

SLOVAK DOCUMENT EDITIONS ON SLOVAK-GERMAN RELATIONS BETWEEN 1938 AND 1945

Detlef Brandes

Slovak historians have devoted great attention to both Slovakia as an autonomous region within Czechoslovakia in the period following the Munich treaty and the independent Slovak state during World War II. The latter is claimed by nationalists as a precursor of today’s Slovak Republic and, to a certain extent, defended, whereas liberal historians consider it a retrograde step, compared to the parliamentary democracy of the Czechoslovak Republic. In recent years, both sides have submitted an impressive array of document collections, justifying a very critical assessment of this state to be made. The present literature report gives a comprehensive synopsis of these editions.