

SLIEKKAS  
*Senosios LI*etuvių *Kalbos KorpusAS*

KALT  
*Korpus AltLi*Tausch

# Aim of SLIEKKAS

- to create a qualitative multilevel electronic retrieval engine for multilateral linguistic research of Old Lithuanian,
- to allow for reliable results of diachronic Lithuanian language studies,
- to enable the implementation of the two biggest desiderata of Baltic linguistics, the **Old Lithuanian grammar** and the **historic dictionary of Lithuanian**.

## What is SLIEKKAS doing?

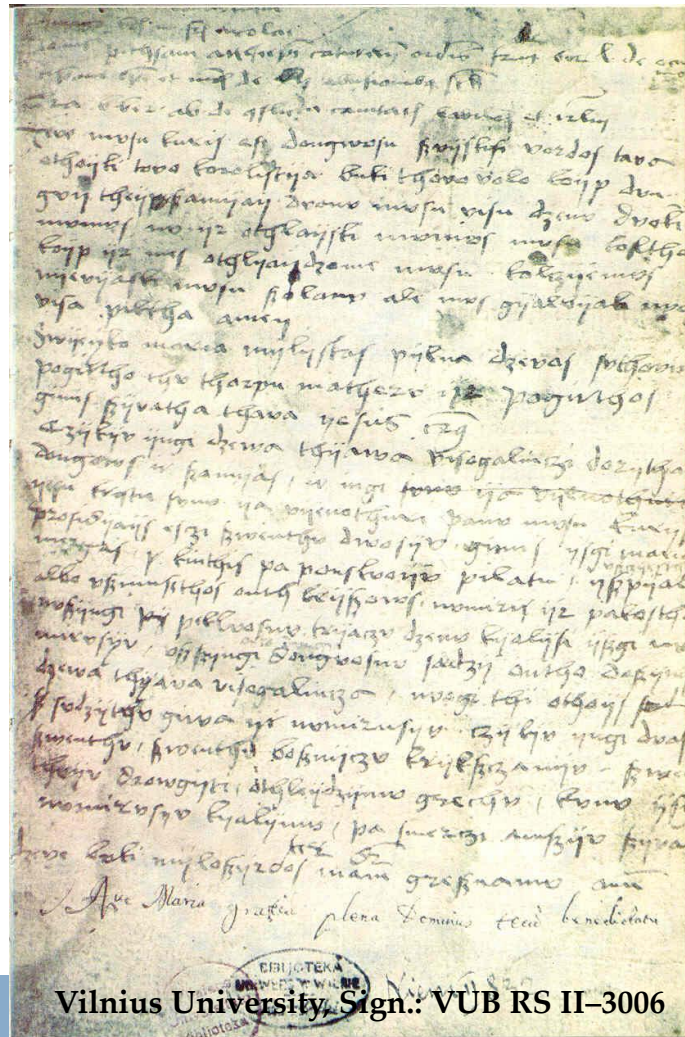
- ✓ Joining the current process of contemporary historical corpora, and not copying them or reinventing the wheel.
- ✓ Consolidating already existing databases of Old Lithuanian and using already existing resources optimally.
- ✓ Developing a concept of the Old Lithuanian reference corpus as well as its scientific and technical base.

# Arrangement of the Corpus

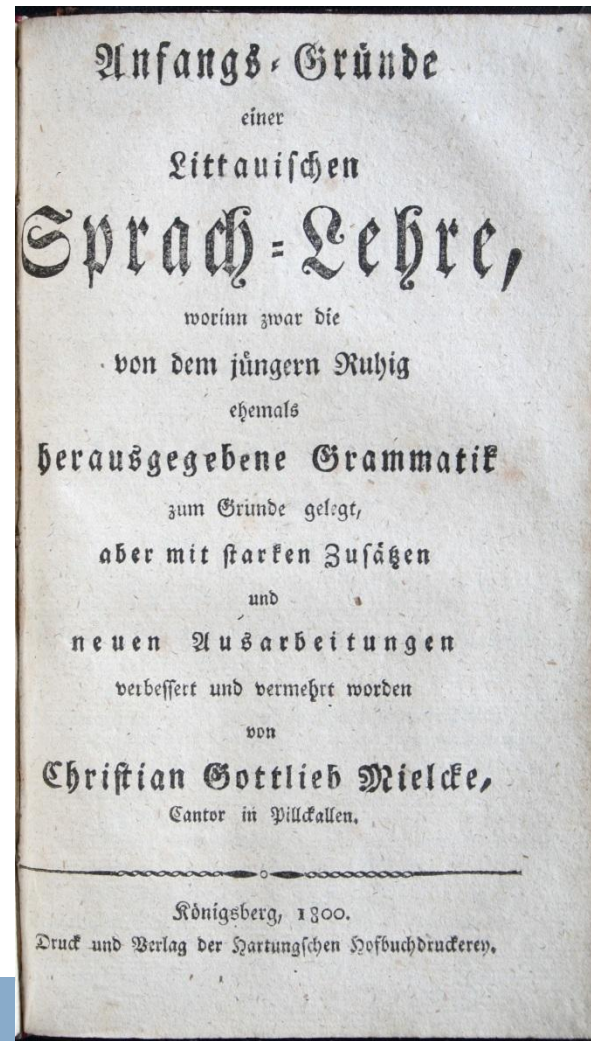
- Digitisation according to the principles of the diplomatic literal transcription and conversion to the XML format;
- Multi-layer-stand-off annotation:
  - Header-Informations,
  - Structural, palaeographic, and textological annotations,
  - Lemmatising of word forms (according to the language period), glossing in Standard Lithuanian, and translating into Modern Lithuanian,
  - POS-Tagging. Parts of speech and grammatical forms (morphology and in certain cases syntactic morphology);
- Alignment of the Lithuanian texts with the digital facsimiles (autograph, print) and with such parallel corpora as with the annotated Latin, German, Polish etc. source texts.

# Old Lithuanian (1500–1800), ca. 10 million words

The oldest known Lithuanian text:  
*Pater noster, Ave Maria* and *Credo*  
in the *Tractatus sacerdotalis* (Straßburg: Martin Flach,  
1503) by Nicolaus de Blony



Lithuanian Grammar by  
Christian Gottlieb Mielcke (1732–1807)  
*Anfangs=Gründe einer Littauischen Sprach=Lehre*  
(Königsberg, 1800)





# Referenzkorpus Altdeutsch

Scientifically as well as technologically SLIEKKAS leans onto the Old German Reference Corpus *DDD – Referenzkorpus Altdeutsch (750–1050)*



The screenshot shows the homepage of the DDD Referenzkorpus Altdeutsch website. The header is dark blue with navigation links: Home, Aktuelles, Dokumentation, Mitarbeiter, Links, Kontakt, and English. Below the header is a large blue banner with the text 'DDD Referenzkorpus Altdeutsch'. To the right of the banner is a snippet of a medieval manuscript. On the left side, there is a sidebar with a menu containing 'Datenbank', 'Texte', and 'Manual'. Below the menu, there are three arrows pointing to the logos of the participating institutions: Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main, and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. The main content area on the right has the title 'Referenzkorpus Altdeutsch' followed by a detailed description of the corpus and its annotation process. It mentions that the corpus covers the period from 750 to 1050 and contains approximately 650,000 words. It also describes the multi-level annotation structure, including header information, structural and linguistic annotations, and syntactic information. A second paragraph explains that Latin passages are also included and aligned with the German text. A third paragraph lists the project partners: Prof. Dr. Karin Donhauser (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin), Prof. Dr. Jost Gippert (Universität Frankfurt am Main), and Prof. Dr. Rosemarie Lühr (Universität Jena).

Home Aktuelles Dokumentation Mitarbeiter Links Kontakt English

## DDD Referenzkorpus Altdeutsch

Datenbank  
Texte  
Manual

### Referenzkorpus Altdeutsch

Das Referenzkorpus Altdeutsch erfasst und annotiert die ältesten Sprachdenkmäler des Deutschen vom Beginn der kontinuierlichen schriftlichen Überlieferung um 750 bis etwa 1050 mit einem Umfang von ca. 650 000 Textwörtern. Aufgenommen werden alle in dieser Zeit überlieferten Texte des Althochdeutschen und des Altsächsischen in einer möglichst genauen Wiedergabestufe. Dabei werden die handschriftengetreuesten gedruckten Texteditionen zugrundegelegt. Die Annotation erfasst Header-Informationen, strukturelle (Wort, Satz, Zeile, Absatz etc.) und linguistische Annotationen (Part of Speech-Tagging, Flexionsmorphologie) sowie syntaktische Satzinformationen und erfolgt mit Unterstützung einer semi-automatischen Vorannotation, die mit Hilfe der digitalisierten Sprachstufen- und Textwörterbücher und Glossare zum Althochdeutschen und zum Altsächsischen erzeugt wurde. Die verschiedenen Stufen der Annotation werden in Form einer Mehrebenenarchitektur aufeinander bezogen.

Bei den lateinbasierten Texten werden die lateinischen Textpassagen und Texte miterfasst und in gleicher Weise wie die altdeutschen Texte und Textabschnitte strukturell und positioniell annotiert. Sofern es sich um Paralleltex te handelt, werden die altdeutsche und die lateinische Textfassung mit einander aligniert, so dass Beeinflussungen des deutschen Textes durch die lateinische Vorlage identifizierbar und damit kontrollierbar werden.

Die Projektarbeit erfolgt in Berlin, Frankfurt und Jena unter der Leitung von Prof. Dr. Karin Donhauser (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin), Prof. Dr. Jost Gippert (Universität Frankfurt am Main) und Prof. Dr. Rosemarie Lühr (Universität Jena).

Institute of Lithuanian Language, Vilnius. The most comprehensive and constantly increasing database of Old Lithuanian Writings. The digital versions of the texts are prepared according to the principles of the diplomatic literal transcription. Out of 72 texts (1573–1816, over 3 m. text words) 40 texts along with their KWIC concordances are currently accessible to external users online and for downloading (*Word-doc* format).

Deficiencies:

- no special search engine,
- no clear solution for the lemmatising and the grammatical tagging.

WP 1r,6 Ir kad prišsiartinaija meštāp <←meštep> Je=  
WP 1r,7 rušalemJr <←Je=rušalenn> atteija kiemap Beth= φ.

**A**

WP 1r,8 Schas dienas Eglai malanaufiei <←malanaufe> krikša=  
WP 1r,9 nis ir krikšankas bralei ir šeleris ing Čhun Je=  
WP 1r,10 šu turrefime tris wetas <←wetos>.

**ak** (1) interj.: *Ak* 1614

**akis** (1) sf.: gen. pl. *Akiu* 144

**akmenėlis** (2) sm. demin.: acc. sg. *Akmeneli* 510 \* gen. pl. *Akmenelū* 923

**akmuo** (1) sm.: gen. sg. *akmens* 216

**ale** 'bet' (2) conj.: *ale* 516 1116

**anas** (1) pron. demonstr.: nom. pl. *anie* 1214

The Lithuanian material consists of ca. 200.000 words.

Every character (resp. every word) is aligned with the index databank. This makes it possible to register all parallel positions of the words in the corpus as well as with the facsimile of the autograph (folio to folio so far).

Single corpora as well as the reference corpus can be searched by using special database query forms.

The texts are annotated merely with regard to the lemmatisation.

The screenshot displays the TITUS digital library interface. At the top, a list of 14 lines of text is shown, corresponding to the facsimile below. The text is in a historical script, likely Lithuanian, and is presented in a digital transcription format. The interface includes a search bar, a navigation menu, and a footer with the date 02.11.2011.

Line: 1 ISCHGVLDIMAS  
 Line: 2 EVANGELIV PER WISVS MET=  
 Line: 3 TVS, SVRINKTAS DALIMIS ISCH  
 Line: 4 DAVGIA PASTILLY, TAI EST  
 Line: 5 ISCH PASTILLAS NICVLAI HE=  
 Line: 6 MINGY, ANTONY CORVINI, IO=  
 Line: 7 ANNIS SPANGENBERGI, MAR=  
 Line: 8 TINI LVTHERI, PHILIPPI  
 Line: 9 MELANTHONIS, IOANNIS  
 Line: 10 BRENTY, ARSATY, SCHO=  
 Line: 11 PER, LEONARDI KVLMA=  
 Line: 12 NI IODOCY WILICHI  
 Line: 13 IR ISCH KIT=  
 Line: 14 TV. ♀

WDB Permalink: <http://diglib.hab.de/mss/11-2-aug-2f/start.htm> Deutsch

select display type--- Digital library Bibliographic description How to quote? Citations Download | Order CD Copyright

00001

ISCHGVLDIMAS  
 EVANGELIV PER WISVS MET  
 TVS, SVRINKTAS DALIMIS ISCH  
 DAVGIA PASTILLY, TAI EST  
 ISCH PASTILLAS NICVLAI HE  
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 IR ISCH KIT  
 TV. ♀

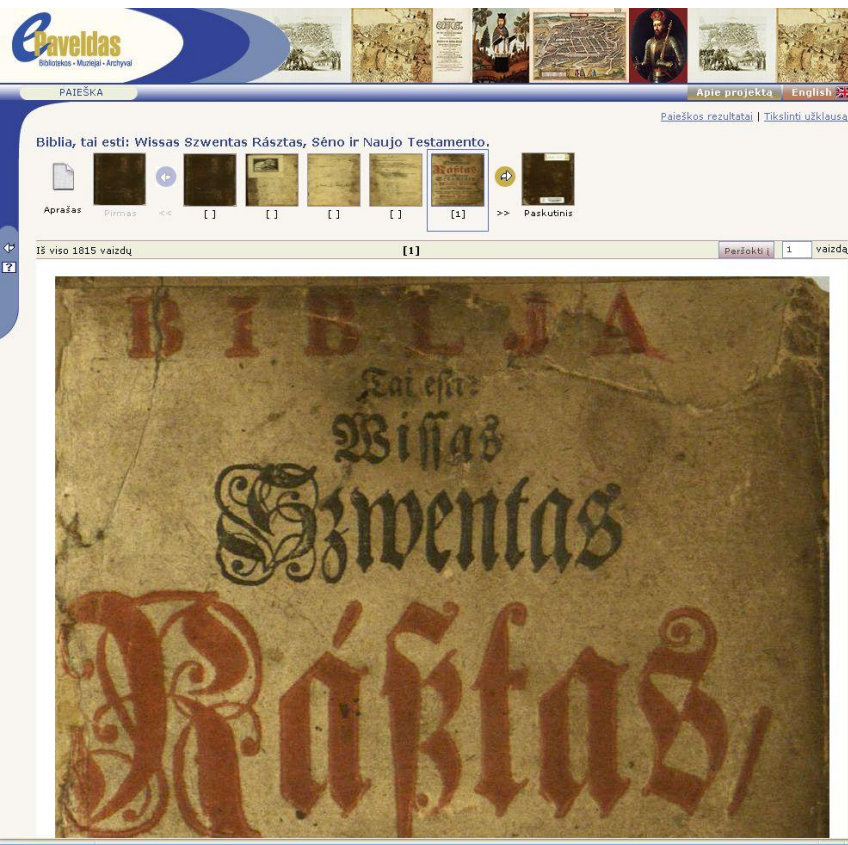
Deficiency:

- no grammatical annotations.



The databank of the virtual cultural heritage system contains 314 digitised facsimiles of handwritten and printed Lithuanian texts from the period 1547–1863.

VUL digital collections comprise among others unique copies of Old Lithuanian grammars, dictionaries, and catechisms.





Digital facsimiles in the databases of such single libraries as the Duke August Library in Wolfenbüttel. This library both preserves the original and places at the disposal a digital facsimile of the oldest Lithuanian Codex from 1573.



HERZOG AUGUST BIBLIOTHEK  
WOLFENBÜTTEL

diglib.hab.de/mss/11-2-aug-2f/start.htm

Die Bibliothek > Wolfenbütteler Digitale Bibliothek > Handschriften, Sonder

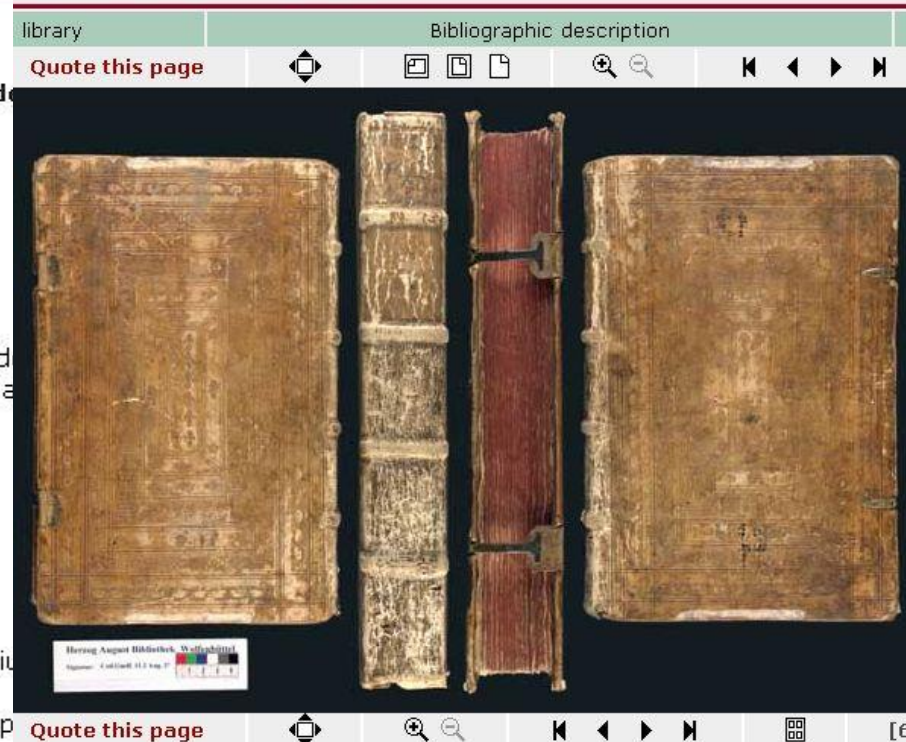
## Digitalisierte Handschriften, Sondersammlungen

- [Digitalisierte Handschriften der Herzog August Bibliothek](#)
- [Digitalisierte Handschriften anderer Institutionen](#)
- [Digitalisierte Blockbücher](#)
- [Digitalisierte Archivalien](#)

Vollständig digitalisierte Handschriften und Materialien aus den Sonderabteilungen sind vorläufig hier aufgelistet nach der Signatur. Eine selbstständige Datenbank

### Codices Augustei

- [Cod. Guelf. 1.3.2 Aug. 2°](#) (Vierzehn Festungsrisse, 16. Jh.)  
urn:nbn:de:gbv:23-mss/3-1-aug-2f7
- [Cod. Guelf. 3.1 Aug. 2°](#) (Sachsenspiegel, 14. Jh.)  
urn:nbn:de:gbv:23-mss/11-2-aug-2f5
- [Cod. Guelf. 11.2 Aug. 2°](#) (Postilla Lithuanica, 16. Jh.)  
urn:nbn:de:gbv:23-mss/11-2-aug-2f1
- [Cod. Guelf. 11.14 Aug. 2°, f. 261r-279r](#) (Religionsgespräch in Vilnius, 16. Jh.)  
urn:nbn:de:gbv:23-mss/11-14-aug-2f3
- [Cod. Guelf. 15.2 Aug. 2°](#) (Kaiserchronik, Reimchronik, Schwabenspiegel, 15. Jh.)  
urn:nbn:de:gbv:23-mss/15-2-aug-2f1



# Selected texts for the beginning (ca. 200 000 words)

1. 3 prayers (*Pater noster, Ave Maria, Credo*), ca. 1520, 168 text words.
2. Martynas Mažvydas, *Catechismusa prasty žadei* (MžK 1547), 7 000 text words.
3. Martynas Mažvydas, *Giesme S. Ambrasziejaus* (MžGA 1549), 2 418 text words.
4. Wolfenbüttel Postilla (WP 1573), 130 559 text words.
5. Baltramiejus Vilentas, *Enchiridion* (VE 1579), 10 199 text words.
6. Mikalojus Daukša, *Kathechismas* (DK 1595), 13 702 text words.
7. Heinrich Johann Lysius, *Mažas Katgismas* (LyK 1719), 6 136 text words.
8. Gabrielis Engelis, *Mažas Katgismas* (EnK 1722), ca. 10 000 text words.
9. Kristijonas Donelaitis, *Metai* (ca. 1765–1775), 17 291 text words.

# Grammatical annotation

- *communis opinio* – any grammatical tagging of a text is a “perilous activity, because the text thereby loses [its] integrity” and becomes contaminated through various views of different linguistic schools (John M. Sinclair, *Current Issues in Corpus Linguistics*, 2004);
- no in any way grammatically annotated contemporary Lithuanian text-corpus;
- no standards for tagging of the Lithuanian texts;
- Lithuanian corpora as merely raw text accumulations;
- The Contemporary Lithuanian Corpus (donelaitis.vdu.lt), over 100 million words.





# Grammatical annotation of SLIEKKAS

- predominantly restricted to morphology,
  - POS-Tagging and the morphological description of single word forms,
  - hierarchical: starting with the grammatical class of the lemma and going to individual unchangeable, and changeable morphological categories of the lemma as well as of the individual word form attested.
- The difficulties begin in the establishing of the parts of speech already (“There are ten parts of speech, and they are all troublesome”, Mark Twain, *The Awful German language* ). The Lithuanian grammar traditionally distinguishes 11 parts of speech, since the beginning of the 20th century setting apart interjections and onomatopoeica. The POS of the SLIEKKAS consists although of 10 more or less “troublesome” grammatical classes:

# Parts of speech

1. **ADJ** – adjective,
2. **ADV** – adverb,
3. **AP** – adposition,
4. **CARD** – cardinal number, **ADJO** ordinal number,
5. **ITJ** – interjection + onomatopoeic,
6. **KO** – conjunction,
7. **N** –noun: **NA** common noun, **NT** proper noun,
8. **P** – pronoun: **PD** demonstrative, **PI** indefinite, **PK** interrogative, **PPER** personal,
9. **PTK** – particle,
10. **V** – verb: **VA** auxiliary, **VV** main.

# POS

The grammatical class is indicated according to the lemma and to the word form attested. This distinction enables us to indicate:

- changes in the grammatical classes (nominalisation of the adjectives, adjectivisation of the participles, adverbialisation of the nouns, adjectives or participles, and turning of some nouns into adpositions),
- ambivalent issues as adverbialisation of the oblique case forms:

atėjo	vidunakčiu
<i>come_Pret_3</i>	<i>midnight_Sg_Inst</i>
	lemma: NA
	attested form: NAA (common noun, adverbialised)
<i>(he, she, it, they) came in the midnight</i>	

- distinction of prepositions and postpositions within the class of the adposition,
- a clear definition of such non-finite forms of the verb as infinitives, participles, semiparticiples, gerunds, gerundives, supines, and adverbialised infinitives.



# Morphology and syntactic morphology (1)

- analytic (compound) tense forms, consisting of a copula and a participial (present or past, active or passive) predicative:
  - distinguishing between an auxiliary and a main verb already in the definition of the grammatical class of the lemma,
  - between predicative, attributive or adverbial usage of the participles in the characterisation of the word forms attested.
  
- compound nominal predicates, consisting of a copula and of a nominal predicative:

Jonas	buvo	pranašas	/	pranašu
<i>John_Sg_Nom</i>	<i>be_Pret_3</i>	<i>prophet_Sg_Nom</i>	/	<i>prophet_Sg_Inst</i>
		lemma: NA		
		attested form: NAP (common noun, predicative)		
<i>John was a prophet</i>				

## Morphology and syntactic morphology (2)

- secondary predicatives, expressed by nouns, adjectives, pronouns, numerals or participles:

gandras	parlèkè	linksmas
<i>stork_Sg_Nom</i>	<i>fly back home_Pret_3</i>	<i>cheerful_Masc_Sg_Nom</i>
		lemma: ADJ
		attested form: ADJP (adjective, predicative)
<i>The stork came back home being cheerful</i>		

- ✓ cf. the adverb *linksmái* in this position:

gandras	parlèkè	linksmái
<i>stork_Sg_Nom</i>	<i>fly back home_Pret_3</i>	<i>cheerfully</i>
<i>The stork came back home cheerfully</i>		

# Morphological annotation

The further morphological annotation is also hierarchical. It consists of 3 layers, which include the information about:

- 1) the unchangeable morphological categories of the lemma (like gender and flexional class),
- 2) the unchangeable morphological categories of the word form attested: they can differ from these of the lemma,
- 3) the flexional morphological categories of the word form attested.



# Data analysis tools (Toolbox)

There are no specialised diachronic dictionaries of Old Lithuanian, which we could apply for the (semi)automatisation of the annotation process. Therefore we have to either perform the morphological annotation manually or to choose such data analysis tools like the Toolbox, which enables semiautomatisations of interlinear annotations.

Through recognising and defining the problems we search for the best solutions. Going through the 'earthworm' limb by limb.

The screenshot displays the 'Toolbox - Dictionary.txt' application window. It features a menu bar (File, Edit, Database, Project, Tools, Checks, View, Window, Help) and a toolbar with various icons. The main area is divided into several panes:

- Texts.txt**: A large pane showing interlinear annotations for Old Lithuanian text. It includes columns for text, morphemes, glosses, and parts of speech. Examples include:
 

\tx Text	Kitta	graži	Wėlykos	giefme.	1. Gledokim	nu
\mb Morphemes	Kit	-a	graž	-i	Welyk	-os
\ge Gloss	kit	-a	graž	-i	vėlyk	-os
\ps Part of Speech	Pron	-NomSg	ADJ	-(Pron/ADJ)	NomSg	NA
- Dictionary.txt:1**: A smaller pane showing a list of words and their parts of speech, such as 'gin' (V), 'gint' (V), 'gir' (V), etc.
- Dictionary.txt:2**: A pane showing a list of words and their parts of speech, such as '-ėjo' (Pret3), 'Pret3', 'ėjo', etc.

The status bar at the bottom indicates the current file is '\tx -ėjo', the page number is 91/430, and the project is 'Toolbox Project.prj'.

**Thank you for your attention!**