

DIACHRONIC STUDIES OF THE BULGARIAN LANGUAGE

TATYANA ALEKSANDROVA

INSTITUTE FOR BULGARIAN LANGUAGE, BULGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

t_alexandrova_@mail.bg

Issue 3/2023 of the journal presents results of several diachronic studies of the Bulgarian language. The articles featured in the issue discuss challenges related to the graphical representation and the lexical and anthroponymic systems of the Bulgarian language from both historical and cultural perspectives.

In her paper *On the Cyrillic Fonts in the Balkans in the 15th and 16th Centuries* Mariyana Tsibranska-Kostova explores the following issues: the differing graphical systems of the early print Cyrillic fonts and their role in establishing common identity through achieving *cultural unity in graphical diversity*. The paper provides conclusions about the types of orthographic systems (the Tarnovo two-nasal system and the Raška and Resava systems), the graphical inventory of individual editions according to selected differential features and the areal and cultural specifics of the studied editions. The author argues that early print Cyrillic fonts were a sign and information system and a cultural phenomenon that upheld tradition and reinforced its literary prestige.

Georgi Mitrinov's paper *A Recently Discovered Central Rhodope Manuscript in the Greek Alphabet from the National Revival Period* provides an analysis of data from the *Ustovski sbornik*, a collection of Damaskin sermons and gospel texts, among others, compiled by Kiryak Byalkovski. Written in the local Rhodope dialect using the Greek alphabet, the collection also contains features of South-western Bulgarian dialects and vocabulary distinctive of Church Slavonic. The article presents a set of guidelines for exploring the graphical, grammatical and lexical characteristics of this manuscript as part of the Central Rhodope literary tradition of the Bulgarian National Revival period.

In her paper *Diachronic Aspects of the Bulgarian Anthroponymic System in the 19th Century. Linguistic Features. Trends*, Tatyana Braga presents results obtained as part of her work on a postdoctoral project. The study is based on 19th-century archival materials that have been introduced into scientific circulation only recently and reveals the unique features of the anthroponymy characteristic of a Bulgarian community outside Bulgaria's ethnic territory. Using linguistic and statistical data on 19th-century Bulgarian personal names, the author brings into focus the changes in the personal name system of the settlers in Tabak (South Bessarabia) that took place under polylinguistic influence.

Vanina Sumrova offers a study of *Common Gender Nouns in Nayden Gerov's Dictionary*. The article explores the structure of the dictionary entry of common gender nouns and its characteristics, indicating the types of definitions employed. The analysis shows that the first multi-volume dictionary in Bulgarian lexicography offers a correct grammatical description and an accurate interpretation of the semantics of the common gender nouns.

✉ *Assoc. Prof. Tatyana Aleksandrova, PhD*
Department of Modern Bulgarian Language
Institute for Bulgarian Language, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
52 Shipchenski prohod, bl. 17, Sofia 1113, Bulgaria