Volume No 4/2018 is the last issue of the 65th anniversary of Balgarski ezik Journal, published by the Bulgarian Language Institute “Prof. Lyubomir Andreychin” at the BAS. Started in 1951 by Prof. Lyubomir Andreychin, it is one of the most respected periodical journals on Bulgarian linguistic studies. It contains a number of Slavonic, Balkan and European research on Bulgarian language which continue to be quoted by generations of linguists in the country and abroad. A journal with traditions and vast history, Balgarski Ezik steadily adheres to the high academic standards and presents the results of the most contemporary theoretical and applicable research, based on modern linguistic methodology and is being distinguished with high academic value and public importance.

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The first couple of papers in this issue present the application of new research perspectives to the category of quantity and its expression in Bulgarian. Iliyana Krapova’s contribution On the Issue of the Status of the So-called Classifiers in Bulgarian deals with one poorly studied category of words, the so-called quantity-denoting classifiers, which include the words chovek (‘person’), dushi (‘people’), glava (‘head’), as well as suffixes such as the count morpheme on masculine inanimates and the morpheme -ma marking male humans. The paper analyses the morphological and syntactic properties of these elements and is the first to propose a comparison with typologically similar systems in other languages that have numeral classifiers. The paper Theoretical and Psycholinguistic Aspects of the Count Form in Bulgarian authored by Petya Barkalova, Penka Stateva and Arthur Stepanov presents an analytical overview of the origin and usage of the count form of masculine nouns and summarises the results of an experimental study of the role of the structural distance between agreeing categories within a nominal constituent containing a numeral. This work continues the line of research undertaken by Stateva and Stepanov (Stateva, Stepanov 2016) who argue that it is structural distance rather than linear distance that affects the error ratio in the use of the count form. The psycholinguistic experiment described herein, however, did not replicate those previous results. The authors offer an explanation of this peculiarity that takes into account
computational complexity, working memory loads and the educational status of
the participants.

The second thematically-related group of papers present results obtained as
part of the project Linguistic and Ethnocultural Dynamics of Traditional and
Non-traditional Values in the Slavic World ERA.Net.RUS Call 2018 (project
#472–LED-SW), No. ДО 02/5 of 24.07.2018.

Two of them, The Axiosphere of Parent-Child Relations in One Medieval
Juridical Source by Mariyana Tsibranska-Kostova, and Valuable Information
about Bulgarian History in the Vita of a Little-known Saint and Old Bulgarian
Literature by Elka Mircheva describe results of the study of the spiritual values
of Bulgarians according to works of Bulgarian Medieval literature. The adopted
approach of combining the analysis of the sources with linguistic and tex-
tological analysis has proved to be extremely fruitful. Mariyana Tsibranska ex-
plores thematically related excerpts from the so-called Pseudo-Zonaras Nomo-
canon concerning the relationship between parents and children and concludes
that the axiosphere under analysis shows stability in terms of the Christian
values. The study comes to profound conclusions with respect to the cultural
semiotics of the selected juridical source, as well as the mechanisms of preserving
Orthodox identity and ensuring the reproducibility of fundamental spiritual
values. Elka Mircheva deals with the linguistic characteristics of the Old Bulga-
rian translation of the Vita of St. Blaise of Amorium in the context of the dis-
cussion regarding the first translation of Old Bulgarian collections that include
texts for each day of the month. The author produces evidence that helps in spe-
cifying the time of creation and the nature of the translation, as well as its ori-
ginal.

The remaining three papers in the second thematic section present interdis-
ciplinary analysis of fundamental values of traditional Bulgarian culture and
summarisation of some of the key concepts of the spiritual paradigm of Bulga-
rians, and in addition feature highlights of the issues in ethnolinguistics studied
in Slovakia in the context of international scientific cooperation. In her paper
titled Selected Aspects of the Development of Slovakian Ethnolinguistics in the
Background of Russian-Slovakian-Bulgarian Cooperation, Katarína Žehuchová
makes an analytical overview of the current state of ethnolinguistic research in
Slovakia and the results of the cooperation in this field and outlines the pros-
pects for further project-funded scientific cooperation with academic institutions
in Bulgaria and Russia.

Maria Kitanova’s paper titled The Family in the Bulgarian Traditional Cul-
ture (Axiological Aspects) addresses the lexical units which represent the con-
cept of family as a fragment of the Bulgarian linguistic picture of the world and
bring out the axiological characteristics typical for the Bulgarian language and
culture. Yoanna Kirilova’s Ontological Metaphors Conceptualising Soul as a
Value in Bulgarian Proverbs (in Comparison with the Concepts of Mind and
Heart) discusses cognitive metaphors and patterns through which the concept of
soul is expressed in the naïve consciousness of Bulgarians. The metaphorisation
of the cognitive structure lexicalised through the word ‘soul’ is compared with
the imaginative component of the concepts of mind and heart.
Outside the two main topics covered in this issue but related to problems discussed in the journal remains Diana Ivanova’s paper *Mieczysław Malecki and his Contribution to Slavonic Dialectology* dedicated to the 115th anniversary of the renowned Polish Slavicist and dialectologist. The author discusses Prof. Malecki’s contribution to the study of the outlying Southwestern Bulgarian dialects whose archaic features are considered by him to be irrefutable proof of the Bulgarian nature of the Cyrillo-Methodian language.

The issue closes with a paper dealing with issues in general linguistics – Vladimir Perikliev’s *On the Distinctive Features of Linguistic Discovery*. Through analysing four well-known linguistic discoveries – Saussure’s notion of a ‘language system’, the discovery of the Indo-European language family by Sir William Jones, Greenberg’s implicational universals and Verner’s Law – the author comes to the conclusion that besides the feature of *truthfulness* these discoveries also share the features of *novelty, unexpectedness* and *significance* which are logically independent from each other, but must all be present in a given piece of work for it to be considered a discovery.

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