

BULGARIAN GRAMMAR THROUGH THE FILTER OF STANDARD LANGUAGE AND THE EUROPEAN LINGUISTIC UNION (SAE)

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Abstract: The adequacy and heuristic possibilities of studying Bulgarian grammar through three linguistic hypotheses are discussed: 1. the hypothesis of the Balkan Sprachbund, 2. the hypothesis of the Eurasian Sprachbund, 3. the hypothesis of the European Sprachbund. It is concluded that the theories of linguistic Sprachbunds have arisen in connection with certain cultural attitudes and political views and are not purely linguistic. The belonging/non-belonging of a language to a particular Sprachbund is gradual – there are always features that distinguish one language from the hypothetical model of a “typical” Sprachbund representative and they vary in different language variations and even in different descriptions of the language. Therefore, belonging of a language to some Sprachbund cannot be considered to be its essential characteristic, such as genetic affiliation of the language.

Keywords: Bulgarian language, Balkan Sprachbund, Eurasian Sprachbund, European Sprachbund, adequacy of linguistic hypotheses

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