

NOUN DETERMINATION – MORPHOLOGICAL TRADITION AND CONTEMPORARY INTERPRETATIONS

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Abstract: This research deals with one of the most topical and discussed problems in Bulgarian linguistics – noun determination. The emergence of definite and indefinite forms of nouns is one of the most important structural changes in the Bulgarian language. The grammatical nucleus of determination is the morphological category definiteness/indefiniteness whose expression is connected with the use of the definite article. The present study makes a review of opinions on the determination from morphological and modern point of view. The paper discusses problems related to the typology of the category, its structure and semantic content, means of expression. Noun determination is presented as a category of noun phrase. Typologically determination is a semantic and pragmatic category based on the following oppositions: a semantic opposition singularity/non-singularity, a communicative opposition reference/non-reference, and a graded pragmatic opposition non-identifiedness/identifiability/identifiedness. On the basis of these semantic features four semantic areas with different content are proposed.

Keywords: definiteness, indefiniteness, noun determination, semantic structure, oppositions

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