

**Palmira Legurska**  
Institute for Bulgarian Language  
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences  
Sofia, Bulgaria

## ETHNOLINGUISTICS AND LINGUISTIC CULTUROLOGY

The first issue of the Journal in 2017 continues the tradition of presenting research in ethnolinguistics carried out at the Institute for Bulgarian Language of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

Following the general spreading of the *notion of globalisation*, the late 20th century has seen the rise of the opposite notion – *the notion of the national and the culture-specific* as a common key of knowledge and communication within the anthropological approach in science. In linguistics, these notions are related to the study of language as one of the means through which one can perceive the mentality and stereotypes of a people or a nation, while bringing to life the views and beliefs of the ancient people with regard to the world. Ethnolinguistics has emerged as a field of research focusing on the relationships between language and culture, folk customs and the structure of society, among others.

In the past 30 years, Russian ethnolinguistics has branched into four general strands of research. The first one deals with the reconstruction of *ethnic territory* according to linguistic territory (S. B. Bernstein et al.); the second one carries out *reconstruction of material and spiritual culture* of a given ethnic group based on language data (V. V. Ivanov and V. N. Toporov; T. V. Tsivyan; N. I. Tolstoy and S.M. Tolstaya and their school known as Moscow Ethnolinguistics). The third branch studies *Indo-European Proto-culture* and the corresponding language material in reconstruction (T. V. Gamkrelidze, V. V. Ivanov), while the fourth one delves into the *interaction of language and culture in synchrony* (V. N. Telia and the Moscow School of Linguocultural Studies). These four branches shape Russian *ethnolinguistics, linguocultural and linguistic area studies* and determine a number of independent aspects of the study of language and culture both in a diachronic and a synchronic perspective.

Within the scope of European science, there also exist well-established and theoretically grounded French, Polish, Serbian and other traditions. Research on linguistic relativity and the linguistic picture of the world in the American, Australian and other scholarly traditions has taken an independent path of development.

These considerations predetermine the approaches adopted in Bulgarian ethnolinguistics research. It is characterised by broader scope of analysis and methods defined by the joint efforts of scholars exploring different research territories – *dialectology, ethnology, ethnography, folklore, the history of language, contrastive language study, cultural studies* and *history*, as well as other sciences and fields directly or indirectly related to the study of linguistic means.

The papers included in this issue belong to several areas of research: *Study of Folk Spiritual Culture Terms; Lexical Semantics and Historical Anthropology; Ethnic Culture and National Communicative Style; Ethnolinguistics and Linguocultural Studies.*

The authors of the featured articles are scholars from the Department of Ethnolinguistics at the Institute for Bulgarian Language of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, which M. Kitanova has aptly named the **Sofia Centre for Studies in Ethnolinguistics**, as well as researchers from the Department of History of the Bulgarian Language.

✉ Palmira Legurska  
*balgarskiezik@mail.bg*