

YOUNG LINGUISTS IN THE JOURNAL *BALGARSKI EZIK*

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In 2026, *Balgarski ezik* marks its seventy-fifth anniversary. The journal enters its jubilee year with its first issue, which features articles by young linguists, doctoral students, and postdoctoral researchers.

In her study *The Concept of the Individual in Bulgarian Phraseological Units and Paremiias*, Tsvetelina Angelova examines idioms, proverbs, and sayings related to the concept of ‘the individual’. The author explores different representations of this concept in semantic and pragmatic terms. The selected paremiological units are grouped according to the conceptual features underlying their formation and collectively reflect the Bulgarian linguistic picture of the world.

Robertino Stoilov presents his research titled *Dew as Sacralised Natural Moisture: Nomination and Cultural Semantics in Bulgarian Tradition*. The article draws on a wide range of ethnographic, folkloric, mythological, and lexicographic sources and adopts an ethnolinguistic approach to reveal stable semantic models structuring folk conceptions of dew within the Bulgarian traditional worldview. The phenomenon is interpreted as a culturally and linguistically conceptualised element of Bulgarian traditional culture. The analysis focuses on its linguistic nomination, lexical field, and the processes of secondary cultural semantisation through which natural moisture is transformed into a stable cultural sign.

Teodora Krasteva’s article *The Concept of Motivation in the Minds of Contemporary Bulgarians (Based on Survey Data)* draws on data obtained from both closed and open (associative) surveys to explore contemporary perceptions of the concept of motivation among Bulgarian speakers. The author identifies both shared characteristics and gender-based differences in the understanding of motivation. The findings reveal a strong association between *motivation* and key concepts such as *desire*, *goals*, and *success*.

Zhaneta Zlateva’s article *Cases of Variation in the Capitalisation of Foreign Compound Proper Names and Names Based on Foreign-language Models in Bulgarian* addresses the highly relevant issue of the capitalisation of foreign compound proper names in a linguistic landscape characterised by their rapid influx and widespread use. The study identifies and describes problematic cases in

which capitalisation norms for compound proper names of foreign origin in Bulgarian have become inconsistent and analyses the linguistic and extralinguistic factors contributing to variation and usage errors.

Deyan Draganov's article traces the *Historical Development of Criminal Law Terminology in Bulgarian*. The author identifies five main periods: medieval, Ottoman, early Bulgarian, socialist, and modern. The analysis draws on old legal texts from which the relevant criminal law terms are extracted.

Anna St. Lazarova presents the results of her study titled *The Particles mòpe, mopu and mapu between Everyday Informal Communication and the Poetics of Folklore Texts: A Greek–Bulgarian Comparison*. The article examines the pragmatic and cultural functions of three vocative particles, emblematic of Bulgarian folklore texts yet also characteristic of spontaneous everyday discourse. A comparative analysis of their use in Modern Greek and Bulgarian is conducted, encompassing both spontaneous spoken language and folklore texts. The study is situated within the field of ethnopragmatics, and the analysis is based on examples drawn from dictionaries, internet sources, corpora, fiction, and folk song collections.

The studies by young linguists published in the first issue of *Balgarski ezik* demonstrate the productive interaction between traditional and innovative approaches in the analysis of ethnolinguistic, pragmatic, historical, and contemporary aspects of the Bulgarian language.

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