

## THE CONCEPT OF THE *PENITENT HARLOTS* IN THE HISTORY OF THE BULGARIAN LITERARY LANGUAGE

VANYA MICHEVA

INSTITUTE FOR BULGARIAN LANGUAGE, BULGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES  
v.micheva@gmail.com

The paper explores the linguistic and semantic realisations of the cultural concept of the *penitent harlot*. The author offers an analysis of linguistic data excerpted from classical Old Bulgarian manuscripts and other original works from the 9<sup>th</sup>–11<sup>th</sup> century, as well as from the lives of women saints in the Bdin Collection from the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The phrases and sentences that represent the concept of the *penitent harlot* and their distribution in different cultural contexts are studied in relation to the Christian idea that, as God is merciful, every sinner can be saved through repentance.

*Keywords:* women saints penitent harlots, Christian ideas, history of the Bulgarian literary language

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✉ *Assoc. Prof. Vanya Micheva, PhD*  
Department of History of Bulgarian Language  
Institute for Bulgarian Language, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences  
52 Shipchenski prohod, Bl. 17, 1113 Sofia, Bulgaria