

**CODIFICATION OF THE NORM FOR THE USE OF CAPITAL AND LOWER CASE
LETTERS IN THE COMPOUND PROPER NAMES IN THE SPELLING
DICTIONARIES FROM THE SECOND HALF OF THE 20TH CENTURY
TO THE PRESENT DAY**

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The article reviews the process of codification of the norm for the use of capital and lower case letters in the compound proper names in the dictionaries that came out after the Bulgarian Orthographic Reform of 1945. This norm is a permanent object of codification in all spelling dictionaries and reference books, including the *Academic Grammar of the Modern Standard Bulgarian* (1982–1983). As a result, the study concluded that the effect of the rule stays unchanged since the Orthographic Reform of 1945: the basic principles of morphological use of capital letters are maintained through the division *proper nouns/common nouns* within the compound proper name and for the words as its first or second and subsequent components. On the other hand, the codification of this norm undergoes quite frequent changes in meta-language of the spelling dictionaries. Finally, the article reveals the possible reasons for the deviations from this norm.

Keywords: capital and lower case letters, compound proper names, orthography, codification

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