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**THE LANGUAGE ATTITUDE OF THE BULGARIANS
AND THE CODIFICATION OF THE LANGUAGE NORMS**

In the Supplement of Bulgarian Language Journal for 2017 we publish a study related to the first stage of *The Public Attitude and Value Orientation towards the Contemporary Bulgarian Literary Language as a Factor in the Codification of its Norms* project. The project is managed by the Bulgarian Language Institute at the BAS and is financed by the Scientific Research Fund (DN10/5 from 15.12.2016). The publications include the theoretical framework of the study and the results from researching the history and the status of the codification of basic Bulgarian language norms.

The representative survey of the language attitude represents a key for the language policy in the country and more specifically for its norms' standardisation and codification, which is defined as a process of placing it in grammar books and dictionaries of the objectively set language norms based on scientific criteria. This research will provide a feedback between the subjects of the language policy and the language community itself and will shed light on the correlation between the attitude and the real language practice of the Bulgarians.

In her article Ruska Stancheva presents the theoretical framework of the study of the public attitude and value orientation towards the contemporary Bulgarian language. It lays out the following problem issues: 1) codification of communication carried out via internet; 2) the status of the language norms studies until now; 3) the language attitude in the framework of the literary languages theory; 4) identification of the norms to be researched; 5) research tools; 6) research hypothesis. She used contemporary technology to reveal the essence of the language attitude and its connection with the functions of the literary language and the codification principles. The thesis that the language attitude study is of great importance for the codification efficiency is proven as it can influence the language policy.

It is well laid out that in order to verify some of the research hypothesis it is necessary to study the history and the status of the codification of fundamental points of the norms complex. An important part of the work in the first stage is the identification of nine codification norms of the literary language, seven of which are grammatical and there is an observation of

doubt in the spoken language, and the other two are valid only for the written text and are not used in the spoken language. The research included in the Supplement addresses the codification of the following norms: the rule for the “full” and “short” article (Ruska Stancheva); the use of capital and small letters in compound proper names (Milen Tomov), the first person plural ending of the first and second conjugation present verb forms (Krasimira Alexova), the use of capital letters in the pronouns and the sequence of the polite form (Iliana Kuneva), the usage of the countable form in plural (Lora Mikova), the rule for the changing *я* (Zhaneta Zlateva). To achieve this goal a thorough review was conducted and the codification of these norms was compared from ten Bulgarian language dictionaries published in the period of 1945–2016 and from the Academic Grammar of the Contemporary Bulgarian Literary Language (1982–1983). The study is needed so the public attitude can be traced for either change or keeping the rules, and not in isolation but in relation to the value orientation towards the literary language regarding its symbolic functions.

All publications’ authors review in detail the history and the current status of the codification of the relevant rule, its principles, the similarities and the differences between the different dictionaries and also between the dictionaries and the in the Academic Grammar. The authors often analyse data from other sources as well, like older grammar books and contemporary research, so they can draw a bigger picture of the codification processes historically, which will then explain the status of the current codification. They trace continuity between the separate dictionaries and make assumptions for the weaknesses and strengths of the codification of the specific rules.

The research on codification can answer the following questions: what are its principles, is it necessary to change the meta-language, how the range of the rules change in time, how the terms change and whether this influences the application of the rules in the practice, how much the codification itself provides prerequisites for raising doubt in the spoken language.

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