

LINGUISTIC CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL HERITAGE

TSVETANA DIMITROVA (BULGARIA)

INSTITUTE FOR BULGARIAN LANGUAGE, BULGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
cvetana@dcl.bas.bg

The second issue of the journal *Balgarski ezik* for 2026 features articles in the field of the history of Bulgarian, covering a wide range of topics and spanning an extensive period in the development of Bulgarian.

This issue is dedicated to the 70th anniversaries of Prof. Dr. Elka Mircheva and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vanya Micheva, long-standing researchers at the Institute for Bulgarian Language and members of the journal's Editorial Board, who have made significant contributions to its development. Prof. Dr. Elka Mircheva is one of the leading specialists in Old Bulgarian, the history of Bulgarian, historical lexicology, lexicography, and textology, while Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vanya Micheva is a distinguished specialist in historical syntax, the history of the standard Bulgarian language, historical lexicology, and linguoculturology.

The issue contains six articles presenting various aspects of linguistic research from a diachronic perspective, including theoretical and linguocultural approaches.

Mariyana Tsibranska-Kostova's study, *Legal Latinisms in Medieval South Slavic Manuscripts: The Example of Matthew Blastares's Syntagma*, examines several groups of Latin-derived terms reflecting the reception of Roman and Byzantine law in the Slavic and Old Bulgarian literary traditions. These terms occur in Matthew Blastares's *Syntagma*, which was translated among the South Slavs shortly after the appearance of the Greek original in 1335. The author emphasises the need for a comprehensive database of Latinisms to facilitate the study of synonymy among different translation equivalents over time and to trace the historical development of legal terminology.

Georgi Mitrinov's article, *The Damaskin Sermon on the Dormition of the Holy Mother of God in Central Rhodope Revival Literary Monuments: The*

Ustovo Collection and the Raykovo Damaskin, explores the use of Greek loanwords in the damaskin sermon on the Dormition of the Holy Mother of God preserved in two Central Rhodope literary monuments from the Bulgarian National Revival period: the Ustovo Collection and the Raykovo Damaskin. Particular attention is given to terminology related to church rites and practices, where Greek loanwords are especially abundant. A comparison of the examples found in the two manuscripts attests to the creative approach adopted by Central Rhodope scribes in translating damaskin texts from Greek written sources.

Kalina Micheva-Peycheva's study titled *The Opposition of Vision and Blindness (видѣние – слѣпота) in the Works of Patriarch Euthymius* analyses the semantic and linguistic manifestations of the concepts of vision and blindness in the original works of Patriarch Euthymius. This opposition is examined in relation to the literal and metaphorical meanings of the terms *видѣние* and *слѣпота* ('vision' and 'blindness') as established in Old Bulgarian and in the Cyrillo-Methodian translation tradition. The author offers an axiological interpretation of vision as an expression of fidelity to the Christian doctrine and of the theological principles of Hesychasm, contrasted with blindness as its negative counterpart, signifying ignorance, delusion, and heresy.

Tatyana Braga's paper, *The Classification of Modern Bulgarian Damaskins Revisited*, provides a critical overview of existing classifications and the criteria on which they are based. It also considers the need for additional classification criteria in light of evidence from recently discovered manuscripts that have entered scholarly circulation in recent years.

Neda Pavlova's article, *On the Vocative: Diachronic Development and Decline in Bulgarian*, offers a comprehensive diachronic and synchronic analysis of vocative forms in Bulgarian. The author examines the systemic factors underlying their replacement by nominative forms, a general tendency observed in neutral forms of address used to establish or maintain contact. The study also identifies and discusses some of the conditions that have contributed to the pragmatization of vocative forms.

Robertino Stoilov's article, *Dew as a Female Bodily Code in Bulgarian Traditional Culture*, continues the author's research on this phenomenon. The study focuses on beliefs and practices in which natural moisture is conceptualised as a mediator of purity, beauty, fertility, illness, and female supernatural power. Drawing on a wide range of sources, it explores the ways in which dew contributes to the cultural construction of female corporeality, both in its positive and negative dimensions.

✉ Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tsvetana Dimitrova

Department of General and Comparative Linguistics
Institute for Bulgarian Language, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
52 Shipchenski prohod, Bl. 17, 1113 Sofia, Bulgaria