The Eighth Forum on Bulgarian Grammar was held on 21 and 22 October 2021. The Forum was organised by the Institute for Bulgarian Language Prof. Lyubomir Andreychin at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and the Department of Bulgarian Language of the Faculty of Slavic Studies at Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski.

The forum was dedicated to the 90th anniversary of one of the most renowned Bulgarian linguists of our time – Prof. DSc Yordan Penchev Penchev.

The Forum’s topic encompassed a broad range of theoretical and applied issues related to the lexical peculiarities, the semantic description and the classification of (selected classes of) predicates and predicatives, the description of grammatical categories involved in the realisation of predication, the study of the syntactic patterns of argument expression and the identification of relevant semantic and grammatical features.

The main focus of the discussion was centred around (though not limited to) the following issues:

- Lexical and semantic characterisation of various classes of predicates and predicatives
- Approaches to the description of valency and argument selection
- The expression of predication at the morphological level
- Semantic and syntactic structure of sentences with predicates and predicatives
- Description of semantic and grammatical constraints on subject, complement and adjunct realisation.

Following the established tradition, the papers presented at the Forum are published in Balgarski ezik’s Supplement.
In the 2022 issue readers will find 26 papers based on talks presented at the Eight Forum on Bulgarian Grammar. The plenary talk by Mila Vulchanova and Valentin Vulchanov from the Language Acquisition and Language Processing Lab of the Norwegian University of Science and Technology – *Arguments for Good or Bad: Sensitivity to Argument Structure and Idiom Processing across Populations* – addresses the question of whether lexical information is inherently linked to the workings of grammar or the two are dissociated and function independently. The authors take as a point of departure the idea that the information about the number and nature of arguments a verb encodes reflects native speakers’ language competence and can be used in experimental studies as a proxy for language skills since fast and efficient retrieval of a word relies on the quality of all the features which form part of its representation. The authors adduce experimental evidence that the sensitivity to verb argument structure is a central component of language competence in both native and second language and indicates the quality of lexical storage and lexical integration of the verb in the lexical network of the mental lexicon.

Two of the papers featured in this issue discuss predicativeness in light of the philosophy of language and language typology. In her paper *On Stative Predicates – the Syntax of Binominative Structures and the Philosophy of Language* Petya Barkalova of the Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv comments on the main syntactic properties of the verb *съм* (*to be*), its senses and the specific characteristics of stative predicates formed on the model of the binominative syntactic structure *N cop N*. Applying the typological indices proposed by Georgi Gerdzhikov to the analysis of verb paradigms in Bulgarian, Krasimira Aleksova (Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski) delves into the intricacies of the *Typological Indices of Dubitative Predicates in Modern Bulgarian* and presents her conclusions regarding the degree of analyticity, syntheticity, composition and paradigm member markedness with respect to four dubitative microparadigms along with a comparison with the indices of the other three evidentials (the indicative, the conclusive, and the renarrative). The next two papers included in this issue present studies based on corpus linguistics methods. In their joint work *Bulgarian Desiderative Verbs and Their Ukrainian Counterparts in a Parallel Corpus* Ivan Derzhanski and Olena Siruk from the Institute of Mathematics and Informatics at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences demonstrate that along with the similarities in their meaning and usage, the constructions of the type *verb + mi se* in the two closely related languages show considerable semantic differences. The paper titled *The Covid-19 Pandemic in the Valency of its Predicates: Observations on a Contemporary Corpus of Parliamentary Debates* by Petya Osenova of Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski deals with the metaphorical uses of the various names for COVID-19 and their realisation in the valency frames of verb and nominalised predicates.

The next seven papers address various peculiarities of verbs as a language means of expressing predicativeness. In his paper *Speech Acts, Verbs and the*
Paradigmatic vs. Syntagmatic Meaning Revisited Angel Angelov (Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski) offers a paradigmatic and a syntagmatic perspective at the functioning of action-denoting words at the levels of text structure and pragmatics. In her study titled Which Verbs can Function as Linking Verbs in the Nominal Predicate Petya Nestorova of the University of Food Technologies at Plovdiv presents an overview of the existing views on verbs functioning as copulas in nominal predicates. Silvia Koeva (St. Cyril and St. Methodius University of Veliko Tarnovo) reports On the Predication in One-word Sentences in Bulgarian and discusses peculiarities of the realisation of predicativeness in such sentences. The paper titled Old Bulgarian Predicatives and Their Representation in Historical Dictionaries authored by Tatyana Ilieva of the Cyrillic-Methodian Research Centre at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences comments on the formation, the semantic classification and the paradigmatic relations of predicatives as part of the lexical system of the Old Bulgarian language. The study Sentences with Inferential Forms in Bulgarian: Deductive, Inductive or Abductive Statements by Laska Laskova (Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski) discusses conclusive (inferential), indicative and presumptive propositions and their morphological expression. In her article The Use of Conclusive Forms in Conditional Sentences Mihaela Moskova (Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski) analyses the use of conclusive forms and their combinations with other verb forms in complex conditional sentences. The temporal and aspectual properties of verbs in nominal predicates are discussed in a paper titled The Subordinate Conjunctions ДА and ЧЕ after МОГА and ВЗЕМА by Elena Kanevska-Nikolova from the Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv’s Branch at Smolyan.

Two talks by researchers from the Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv tackle the relationship between syntactic structure and sentence prosody. Hristiana Krasteva’s paper A Case Study: Rhythm and Intonation of Simple Sentences with a Copulative Verb presents her observations on the number and type of the prosodic units and the prosodic grouping in the verb phrase of the copulative verb to be. The analysis of the relationship between the realisation of predicativeness in complex-compound sentences and their intonational contours is addressed in Krasilina Koleva-Kostova’s Rhythmic-intonational Patterns of Subordinate Clauses Attached to Copular Main Clauses. The functions of prepositions in the realisation of predicativeness is tackled in two manuscripts included in this issue. In his paper Number and Definiteness of the Quantifier and the Quantified in Partitive Constructions with the Preposition ОТ Christo Stamenov (Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski) reconsiders the use of един (one) in noun phrases such as X е един от авторите, който… (‘X is one of the authors who…’) and analyses them as constructions with fused heads uniting the functions of the quantifier and the quantified. The paper Multi-prepositional Constructions in a Predicative Position authored by Atanas Atanasov (Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski) studies the use of phrases with two or more prepositions in a predicative position.
The word-formation characteristics of adjectives that may be realised in a predicative position and the number and types of arguments they select for are discussed in a paper titled *On Adjectives as Predicates* by Bilyana Radeva-Gezenchova from Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski. Galina Petrova (Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov University, Burgas) reports on the relationship between the semantic structure of predicates expressed by impersonal copular constructions and their argument selection in an article titled *Impersonal Predicative Constructions in Bulgarian: Structural Minimum and Semantic Determination*. In his study *Converse Antonymy as a Test for the Semantic Selection of Dative Predicates in Bulgarian, Swedish and Danish* Konstantin Radoev (Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski) comments on the derivation of prototypical basic sentences with dative predicates and the assignment of theta-roles to their arguments.

This issue of *Balgarski ezik* features five papers based on talks delivered in the Special Session on State Predication. In his *Contribution to the Semantic Characterisation of Dative Predicative Constructions Denoting Mental Experiences* Maxim Stamatenov (Institute for Bulgarian Language Prof. Lyubomir Andreychin) summarises his findings on the properties of predicative constructions denoting perceptions, emotions and evaluation made on a cognitive and emotional-affective basis in which the person experiencing the state is expressed by a dative argument. After providing a summary of existing classifications of state predicates, Svetla Koeva (Institute for Bulgarian Language Prof. Lyubomir Andreychin) proposes *A Semantic Classification of State Predicates in Bulgarian*. The paper titled *Argument Structure of Some Pairs of Psychological Predicates and Predicatives*, co-authored by Marina Dzhonova and Yovka Tisheva from Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski, deals with the argument realisation of verb predicates and constructions with predicatives denoting positive emotional states. Two papers featured in the Special Session address the properties of classes of predicates and predicatives in Russian. The first one, *Zero Subject and Zero Object in Russian – an Ellipsis, a Zero Pronoun or a PRO* by Alexander Letuchiy (Institute for Russian Language of Russian Academy of Sciences and Higher School of Economics National Research University, Moscow) analyses the characteristic features of ellipsis as compared with implicit arguments. The mechanisms of emergence of emotive meanings in transitive constructions, constructions with passive participles and constructions with reflexive verbs as a result of metaphorical transfer and the expression of the causer/stimulus of emotion are studied by Maria Ovsyannikova (Institute for Linguistic Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences) in her paper *Instrumental Encoding of the Stimulus and the Diachronic Development of Verbs of Emotion in Russian*. The Special Session on State Predication held during the Eighth Forum on Bulgarian Grammar was organised within the project *An Ontology of Stative Situations in the Models of Language: Contrastive Analysis of*
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A Brief Chronology of the Previous Instalments of the Forum on Bulgarian Grammar

**First Forum** *Meaning and Structure in Language: Means of Representation* organised by the Institute for Bulgarian Language Prof. Lyubomir Andreychin at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, 27 November 2014.

**Second Forum** *Grammar and Pragmatics* organised by St. Cyril and St. Methodius University of Veliko Tarnovo and the Institute for Bulgarian Language Prof. Lyubomir Andreychin at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, 19 November 2015.

**Third Forum** *Functional Grammar – Achievements and Prospects* organised by Paisii Hilendarsky University of Plovdiv and the Institute for Bulgarian Language Prof. Lyubomir Andreychin at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, 20 October 2016.

**Fourth Forum** *Interdisciplinary Studies in Bulgarian* organised by Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski and the Institute for Bulgarian Language Prof. Lyubomir Andreychin at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, 26 October 2017.

**Fifth Forum** *Dynamics of Syntactic Ideas at the Turn of the 21st Century* organised by Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen and the Institute for Bulgarian Language Prof. Lyubomir Andreychin at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, 18 October 2018.

**Sixth Forum** *Grammatical Systems in Synchrony and Diachrony* organised by the South-West University Neofit Rilski and the Institute for Bulgarian Language Prof. Lyubomir Andreychin at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, 17 October 2019.

**Seventh Forum** *Innovation Processes in the Grammar of Contemporary Bulgarian* organised by St. Cyril and St. Methodius University of Veliko Tarnovo and the Institute for Bulgarian Language Prof. Lyubomir Andreychin at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, 22 October 2020.

The Eighth instalment of the Forum titled *Predication, Predicates, Predicatives* gathered scholars from Bulgaria, Italy, Norway, Russia, Ukraine and France (some of them – as participants in the scientific discussions). Bulgarian
academia was represented by linguists from the Institute for Bulgarian Language Prof. Lyubomir Andreychin, the Institute of Mathematics and Informatics and the Cyril-Methonid Research Centre of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski, Paisii Hilendarzky University of Plovdiv, St. Cyril and St. Methodius University of Veliko Tarnovo, the University of Food Technologies, Plovdiv, Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov University, Burgas.

The Special Session dedicated to the 90th anniversary of Prof. Yordan Penchev Penchev was also received with great interest. The Session featured two talks dealing with Prof. Penchev’s work and influence on linguistic research: *When and How Yordan Penchev Embarked on the Path of Transformation-Generative Grammar* by Tzvetomira Venkova (Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski) and *The Generative School at the Paisii Hilendarzky University of Plovdiv. The Traces Remain* by Petya Barkalova (Paisii Hilendarzky University of Plovdiv).

The talks delivered at the Forum are posted in the YouTube’s channel of the Institute for Bulgarian Language. By publishing these papers, we share a large part of the scientific achievements presented at this event and the spirit of pursuit of scientific truth that dominates the Forum on Bulgarian Grammar.

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