ACTIVE PROCESSES IN BULGARIAN AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 21ST CENTURY

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This issue of *Balgarski ezik* features results of the latest research on some active processes in the Bulgarian language at the beginning of the 21st century related to the radical changes in the socio-political, economic and cultural life. New information and communication technologies and the processes of globalisation have inevitably brought about great changes in the ways and means of communication in the Digital Age. This in turn has led to profound changes at all linguistic levels, including the lexis, word-formation processes, grammar and graphical representation.

Language innovations in the context of foreign influences and globalisation which have developed against the backdrop of sustainable trends in the Bulgarian language, are a real challenge to the traditional values of Bulgarians. Therefore, the changes within the language subsystems and the dynamics of the norms pose a number of questions and require an objective scientific assessment from the perspective of the normative and communicative functions of the language. Such an assessment is of key importance both for the linguistic science as a whole and for the lexicographic description and the codification practice as specialised activities of representing objectively established standard norms in grammars and dictionaries.

Since the most sensitive changes are those in the lexis, the most dynamic, flexible and liberal subsystem of a language, some of the papers are dedicated to lexical issues.

The paper titled *Synonymy Relations in the New Lexis in Bulgarian and Czech* authored by Sia Kolkovska, Diana Blagoeva and Bozhana Nisheva deals with one of the results of the innovation processes taking place in the lexis of the Slavic languages – the emergence and functioning of new synonymous words. The observations carried out show a powerful activation of this process as a result of the employment of different ways of naming a particular new concept. The authors highlight a number of peculiarities of the synonymy relations in the new lexis and establish parallels in the two studied languages.

In her article *Active Processes in Occasional Word Creation*, Valentina Bondzholova presents results of a study on a number of new phenomena in occasional word creation and argues that they are an important indicator of the evolving trends in the lexical system. Drawing on material from media and advertising texts, the author analyses some typical features of occasional word creation, such as the high word-formation capacity of proper nouns and abbreviations as motivating bases, the productivity of foreign words and morphemes and other morphological units in word-formation, graphic changes in the structure of the lexical units, etc.

Ruska Stancheva's paper *Doublets in the Standard Language – Necessary and Unavoidable* focuses on doublets as one of the language universals. The nature of doublets is studied within the framework of the Prague Theory of Standard Languages and is analysed in relation to phenomena such as language variation, dynamics, standard language, codification. The author emphasises that doublets are unavoidable and necessary as they reflect the dynamic nature of the standard norm on the one hand, and serve as one of the main sources for the intellectualisation of the standard language, on the other. The author makes a point of the necessity of doublets in the codification practice as a mechanism of maintaining the standard language in a state of flexible stability.

In her article *New Transitive Uses of Intransitive Verbs in Bulgarian* Nadezhda Kostova tackles one particular type of innovation in the verb system – the change in the category of transitivity/intransitivity of some verbs. The uses analysed by the author have emerged by way of a language game and a means of making the speech more expressive but have gradually become a trend. The author argues that the process of transitivity and dextrification of intransitive *se*-verbs has led to formal changes in the verbal system and to the emergence of new verbs. These verbs, however, express already existing meanings and have not brought about semantic changes.

Vanina Sumrova's article *New Phenomena Concerning Nouns Designating Female Persons* analyses a characteristic phenomenon in contemporary Bulgarian – the formation of a large number of names for female persons. The study examines the peculiarities of these newly coined nouns that distinguish them from the remaining nouns in this lexico-semantic group. The changes affect both word formation and the linguistic naming tradition. The author reveals the word-formation innovations that have taken place in the derivational bases and in the suffixes.

Three of the papers are not directly related to the main topic of the issue, but they are nonetheless relevant to it. Against the backdrop of the active processes and changes in the Bulgarian language that have emerged at the beginning of the 21st century, some researchers have turned their attention to traditional language forms that have preserved the national linguistic cultural and historical heritage, as well as to issues related to sustainable trends and patterns in Bulgarian, particularly ones related to the adaptation and assimilation of borrowings from other languages into Bulgarian and the role of Bulgarian as a mediator in the acquisition of foreign words by other languages.

Svetlana Georgieva's study *The (Un)Known Language: Christmas in Bessarabian Bulgarians* deals with traditional culture and its linguistic dimensions.

The author studies the Christmas customs and rituals of the Bulgarians in Bessarabia in an ethnolinguistic perspective, while analysing the Christmas blessing, which represents a verbal part of the Christmas rites and rituals, and describing the linguistic and stylistic features of the ritual text. The linguistic features of the cultural dialect related to Christmas rituals are studied and systematised.

In their article titled *Nomina Actionis with an Identical Greek Root in Bulgarian and Romanian* Vladislav Marinov and Natalia Sotirova discuss a group of deverbal abstract nouns in Bulgarian and Romanian with an identical root of Greek origin. The authors trace the adaptation and assimilation of some Greek borrowings in Bulgarian which have been adopted in Romanian through the mediation of Bulgarian. The integration of these words into the word-formation systems of both languages is an indication of the full degree of assimilation. Newly coined derivatives of such words are also studied in two aspects: synchronically – as part of the contemporary lexical system of the two Balkan languages, and diachronically – in revealing the common Greek root.

The issue ends with a paper dedicated to the influence of one of the greatest linguists of our time, Ferdinand de Saussure, on postmodern philosophy. Svetlana Pitkevich's article *Structure and Language* aims at revealing how Saussure's ideas of language as a structure that segments the amorphous fields of reality and meaning have been reflected in certain motifs in Derrida's and Foucault's works.

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