

Introduction

Ilijana Krapova

Svetlana Nistratova

Luisa Ruvoletto

Giuseppina Turano

Università Ca' Foscari Venezia, Italia

Balcania et Slavia is happy to announce the publication of the second issue of our inaugural volume. This issue features 5 contributions in different fields of Slavic and Balkan linguistics and within different theoretical frameworks: historical linguistics, morphology, word order and clitic systems, history of the writing systems of the Slavs.

Here is a brief synopsis of the papers. All contributions are original.

In his paper, “From Number Cycle to Split Plurality and Back in Albanian”, Gjorgje Bozhoviq from the Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade, investigates the plural morphology in Albanian. After providing a descriptive overview of the different formation strategies in modern day Albanian (affixation, stem syncretism, stem alternation, extended exponence, morphological alternances), Bozhoviq presents an analysis of Albanian plurality morphology within the Distributed Morphology Framework. The author argues that plurality in Modern Albanian can be analysed as a split number system resulting diachronically from a competition between various plural markers. Bozhoviq shows that, historically, a phonological process that reanalysed old plurals as singulars, has caused syncretism between the singular and the plural, giving rise to the creation of innovative morphological plural formations.

In his paper, “Theme Vowels *e* and *i* in Russian: Implementing the Cartographic Approach”, Vadim Dyachkov, from the Institute of Linguistics in Moscow, proposes a uniform explanation of the fact that in Russian the same thematic vowel can give rise to different structural types of verbs: the *-e* thematic vowel derives emission verbs or inchoative verbs; the *-i* thematic vowel derives causative predicates,

stative-like verbs denoting taste, stative causatives, unergative behavior-related verbs, and some others. The author proposes that, semantically, the best way to capture the differences between the two thematic vowels in Russian is to implement the Ramchand's model of predicate decomposition. He argues that it is the process sub-event that is encoded by the *-e* thematic vowel and the initial sub-event encoded by the *-i* thematic vowel. He also discusses some alternative approaches and shows the advantages of his proposal.

The paper "Latino o cirillico? Le proposte di un alfabeto misto nelle visioni di unità jugoslava del periodo interbellico" by Giustina Selvelli from the Department of Linguistic and Comparative Cultural Studies, University Ca' Foscari of Venice, discusses the context of script choice (Latin and Cyrillic) in the Kingdom of Yugoslavia in the late 1920s and early 1930s, focusing on bialphabetism and biliteracy as official policies of the country. The author places the topic in the framework of Latinization in the interwar period and examines three texts by Yugoslav authors that propose a 'hybrid' writing system containing the characters of both alphabets as a solution to digraphia. The contribution then explores some reactions to such proposals, including the one of Aleksander Belić. The article is based on the analysis of previously unknown sources found in the Matica Srpska Library in Novi Sad.

The article "On the Etymology of the Proto-Slavic Word for 'wound'" by Artem Trofimov from the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration presents a critical analysis of the traditional etymology of the Proto-Slavic word with the meaning 'wound' (Old Church Slavonic рана, Greek πληγή, μάστιξ; Bulgarian рана; Serbocroatian рана, Russian рана). Linguists usually compare it to Old Indian *vraṇā-* 'wound, ulcer' and Albanian *varrë* 'wound'. Artem Trofimov offers an alternative etymology for this word proposing to revive an old idea of Per Persson, who was the first to relate the etymology of 'wound' to the Proto-Indo-European root with cognates in Proto-Slavic. Accordingly, the author gives evidence for the view that the reconstructed form of 'wound' is the Proto-Slavic **ōrna*, related to the verb **oriti* 'destroy' and the noun **ōrtъ* 'war, battle'.

In his contribution, "Towards the Definition of the Bulgarian Word Order System", Anton Zimmerling from the Pushkin State Russian Language Institute and the Institute of Linguistics Russian Academy of Science discusses the special place that Bulgarian occupies within the world's clitic systems in that it instantiates what the author labels as a W+ system. The peculiarity of the Bulgarian clitic patterns consists in the fact that this Slavic language has developed what is standardly known as an innovation with respect to the common Slavic second position cliticization pattern, namely an adjacency of the clitic to the verb such that the clitic may show up either to the left or

to the right of the verb. The author challenges this received wisdom and re-examines both synchronic and diachronic evidence in support of his claim that the Bulgarian clitic system can best be characterized as of type W+, common to some Austronesian languages, whereby the adjacency between the clitic(s) and the verb does not exclude the co-presence of (a possibly inherited) second position cliticisation. The focus of the paper are 14th-16th century texts, the Wallachian letters, which reveal an interesting tendency towards combining the two types of patterns. The author argues that, even though this can hardly be taken as the model for Modern Bulgarian, a possible historical explanation for mixed clitic behaviour might be searched in the language contacts with non-Slavic (Romance) clitic systems.

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