Introduction

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The two issues of 2022 are dedicated to Ukrainian linguistics and consist of contributions written (with one exception) by Ukrainian scholars. The eleven articles included in them range from areas as diverse as Ukrainian phonology, morphology, semantics, syntax, sociolinguistics, history of the language. It is our intention to present a panoramic overview of some more recent studies representative of each of these linguistic fields. Apart from contributing to the dissemination of research on the Ukrainian language, we as editors have decided to include Ukranian-only contributions in the 2022 volume of BeS as a sign of our support and closeness to Ukrainian intellectuals and scholars in such a dramatic moment in history. We side with all colleagues and academics around the world in condemning the war and we express our firm conviction that use of military force cannot and should not be used for resolving political issues.

The first issue of *Balcania et Sla*via 2022 contains five articles.

Anastasiia Kryzhanivska's article "The Beginnings: Russian-Ukrainian conflict in European, Ukrainian, and Russian media in 2014-2015" presents the findings of a corpus-based analysis of the first stage of the Russian war on Ukraine and discusses the political style of its representation in the Russian, Ukrainian and European media of the time. This study identifies the key actors in the conflict by collecting the most frequent collocations and connotations reflecting attitudes towards these actors and differing as to mediatic source and coverage.

In his article "Le minoranze nazionali e i gruppi etnici in Ucraina come parte della questione linguistico-identitaria" (National Mi-

norities and Ethnic Groups in Ukraine as Part of the Linguistic Identity Question) Oleg Rumyantsev aims at illustrating the linguistic situation of national minorities and ethnic groups in independent Ukraine. It describes the historical context in which minority groups in Ukraine were formed, as well as the main language identity issues that Ukraine had to face before and after 1991. The socio-political dynamics in which minorities lived in the first decades after 1991 are described. The main part outlines the situation of major minorities, provides data concerning the variation of specific groups and underlines how these numerical fluctuations have affected the linguistic situation of the country. The article takes into consideration statistical data, scientific articles and monographs on the subject, as well as publications in the mass media.

The article by Svitlana Sokolova "Білінгвізм в Україні і проблеми національної ідентичності" (Bilingualism in Ukraine and the Problems of National Identity) is also dedicated to an important identity conflict from the perspective of bilingualism. The article clarifies the terminological basis of the study of bilingualism in Ukraine and discusses the theoretical ramifications of concepts like mono-, bi- and polylingualism, dominant language, etc. Based on the results of the 2001 census and a statistically significant mass survey in 2017, the author analyses the features of ethnic and linguistic self-identification of Ukrainian citizens in the early twentieth century also in terms of regional specificity. The author also reports the first results of an online survey of Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) and offers a discussion of the considerable shift in language consciousness on the part of Russian-speaking citizens of Ukraine as a result of the war.

Maksym O. Vakulenko offers a contribution regarding romanization of non-Latin alphabets, including that of Ukrainian, which is supposed to ensure full equivalence of source and transliterated texts. The title of the article is "Ізоморфна латинізація староукраїнських і новоукраїнських текстів: від історичної писемної спадщини до сучасних лінгвістичних технологій" (Isomorphic Transliteration into the Latin Script of Old Ukrainian and Modern Ukrainian Texts: From the Historical Written Heritage to the Present Linguistic Technologies).

The author analyses the Old Ukrainian and New Ukrainian alphabets and proposes a system of their isomorphic (simple-correspondent) transliteration into the Latin script, which is necessary for the effective inclusion of Ukraine in international cooperation in the field of information and linguistic technologies, preservation of historical written monuments, development of multilingual corpus linguistics and computational lexicography. Particular attention is paid to the letters that, during the historical development of the Ukrainian language, have had different readings, particularly г, є, и, ъ, ь. Tables of transliteration and re-transliteration cover the Ukrainian alphabets from the middle of the fourteenth century to the present.

The article by Olena Ponomareva "Early Latin Loanwords in Modern Ukrainian and the Question of Toponymic Replications" is dedicated to the issue of the dating of the Latin borrowings into Ukrainian. The author shows that ancient Latinisms are most frequent in Ukrainian vocabulary as compared to the rest of Slavic languages and uses historical and toponymic data to argue that some early loanwords from Latin in Slavic can be traced back to the period of Late Antiquity and attest to a linguistic continuity in the area possibly through the mediation of Romance languages and Polish.

We would like to thank all contributors who did their best to respect the deadlines in spite of the difficult circumstances in which they had to prepare their papers for publication. We also wish to thank our peer-reviewers who helped us with generosity and dedication, and in particular, Laura Orazi from the University of Macerata for her invaluable help in ensuring our contacts with the authors in Ukraine.