

## Introduction

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We are happy to announce the publication of the second issue of *Balcania et Slavia* in 2023. This issue features five contributions in different fields of Slavic and Balkan linguistics within different theoretical frameworks: semantics, morphology, historical linguistics, syntax and pragmatics in several Slavic languages. What follows is a brief synopsis of the papers.

In the paper *Motivating a Morphome. Albanian Case Syncretism as a Case Study*, Gjorgje Bozhoviq from the University of Belgrade discusses case syncretism patterns in Albanian, proposing an underlyingly syntactic (i.e. functional) motivation for seemingly 'morphomic' (i.e. purely formal) metasyncretism patterns in its nominal inflection. It is argued that the distribution of syncretized and non-syncretized forms in the Albanian nominal paradigm is motivated by language economy in such a way that syncretism is used to produce an 'optimal' distribution of formally distinct case forms, ensuring that syncretized forms are always in complementary distribution with respect to their syntactic functions, and that the paradigm contains only the minimal necessary number of morphologically different forms.

In his paper *Sulle costruzioni relative non-restrittive del romeno (a confronto con l'italiano)*, Guglielmo Cinque from the Ca' Foscari University of Venice argues that non-restrictive (or appositive) relative clauses can either belong to sentence grammar (integrated non-restrictive relatives) or to the grammar of discourse (non-integrated non-restrictive relatives). Italian exhibits both constructions using different relative pronouns (*che* and *cui* as opposed to *il quale*). The evidence presented leads to an analysis of non-restrictive relatives in Standard Romanian as part of the grammar of discourse.

The paper *The prepositional constructions with adverbial particles ta-/tu-/to- in the Resian microlanguage* by Liudmila Fedorova from the Russian State University for the Humanities focuses on prepositional constructions expressing spatial relations in the Resian microlanguage. Compound prepositions typically consist of two or three components based on simple prepositions (-w, -na, etc.), with an adverbial particle ta-/tu-/to- as the first component. The author attempts to clarify the choice of the particles, using data from Baudouin de Courtenay's works on the Resian dialect, historical and modern Resian texts, as well as evidence native speaker judgements. The analysis shows that the choice of particles can be determined by phonetic and semantic factors.

Snezha Tsoneva-Mathewson from Plovdiv University presents a semantic analysis of the polysemy in Bulgarian *na* in her paper *A Glimpse of the Semantic Structure of the Bulgarian Preposition na*. Applying the methodology of cognitive semantics to the classification, the author builds a comprehensive model for the semantics of this preposition, accounting for both core spatial meanings and secondary non-spatial ones. More specifically, the data presented in the article exemplify the meanings of [support] and [active state] and the possible trajectories of their formation.

In his paper *The diachrony of subjunctive-infinitive competition in Balkan Slavic: Typological vs sprachbund phenomena*, Tomislav Sočanac from the Ca' Foscari University of Venice approaches from a diachronic perspective the infinitive loss in various Slavic languages. The author distinguishes between broader typological processes and specific innovations in the Balkan language area and proposes a formal analysis for the diachronic development of subjunctive-infinitive competition in Balkan Slavic languages, involving the change in the syntactic status of the subjunctive marker *da* and leading to broader Inf>Subj replacement. A formal analysis is suggested for the diachronic development of subjunctive-infinitive competition in Balkan Slavic languages, involving the change in syntactic status of the subjunctive marker *da* and eventually leading to broader Inf>Subj replacement.

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