

Bulgarian

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1. The identity

1.1. The name

Български ‘Bulgarian’ owes its name to the people of Bulgarians, whose land of origin was Middle Asia (Eastern Kazakhstan). In 7th century part of Bulgarians, led by Khan Asparuh², came to the Balkan Peninsula and merged with Slavic tribes, who already had settled there. The proto-Bulgarians were gradually assimilated, i.e. slavified. The new forming proto-nationality also had as its substrate the Thracian people. In 681 Bulgarians and Slavs founded together the Bulgarian state. The people of this state recognized their ethnic name as *българи* ‘Bulgarians’ and, respectively, their language as *български* ‘Bulgarian’.

1.2. The family affiliation

Bulgarian is an Indo-European language. It belongs to the Slavic language group. It goes to South Slavic languages and more precisely to its Eastern part. Most of the vocabulary is of Slavic origin. Due to historic reasons, there are also words borrowed from Turkish and Greek.

Bulgarian is also called a “classic and exotic” language (Ivanchev : 1998). It is classic, because it is the inheritor of the first written language of the Slavs: the Old Bulgarian (other terms: Church Slavic, Old Slavic) and it is exotic, because it differs in some aspects from the Slavic language family due to the influence of its close or neighbouring languages (Turkish, Greek, Albanian, Romanian).

1.3. The distinctive features

1.3.1. Phonology

One of the main properties of Bulgarian vocalism is the dependence of the pronunciation of the sound on the stress position. Bulgarian has a 6-vowel system |a, y, o, u, e, i| (a, ъ, o, e, и). There is no distinction by length or quantity, i.e. there are no long and short vowels, or wide and narrow vowel nuances. The stressed vowels are clear and distinctive, while the non-stressed ones are not. Thus the non-

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² The Bulgarian names within the text have been transliterated in accordance with Bulgarian *Закон за транслитерацията* ‘The Law of Transliteration’ from 13 March 2009.

stressed vowels undergo the process of “reduction”. The further the stress from the vowel, the more reduced is this vowel. The consonants are 39 |b, b^j, v, v^j, g, g^j, d, d^j, dʒ, dʒ^j, ʒ, z, z^j, j, k, k^j, l, l^j, m, m^j, n, n^j, p, p^j, r, r^j, s, s^j, t, t^j, f, f^j, x, x^j, ts, ts^j, tʃ, ʃ| (б, б', в, в', г, г', д, д', дж, дж', ж, з, з', й, к, к', л, л', м, м', н, н', п, п', р, р', с, с', т, т', ф, ф', х, х', ц, ц', ч, ш). The most important oppositions in their system are: *palatal-nonpalatal* and *voiced-devoiced* pairs. In the former opposition there are some exceptions, which do not have palatal counterparts: the glide |j| (й), the fricatives |ʒ, ʃ| (ж, ш) and the affricates |tʃ, dʒ| (ч, дж). In the latter opposition the exceptions, for which this opposition is irrelevant, are the sonors |r, r^j, l, l^j, m, m^j, n, n^j, j| (р, р', л, л', м, м', н, н', й) and the fricatives |x, x^j| (х, х').

The accent in Bulgarian is free and non-fixed.

Note that all the above-mentioned characteristics are relevant for the Standard Bulgarian language only. Bulgarian dialects show richer system of vowels and consonants. Thus, many of the restrictions, described in this section, do not apply to them.

1.3.2. Morphology

Bulgarian is a mainly analytic language in contrast to the other Slavic languages. Historically, its development (mainly lexicon and grammar) has been influenced by Greek and Turkish languages. Thus, the distinctive morphological features seem to make Bulgarian more similar to the Balkan languages and to contrast it to the Slavic family as a whole.

Concerning the nominal system, Bulgarian has lost its case declension system. The weakening of the synthetism (including cases) dates back to 12–14 centuries AD. Only the vocative form still exists, but it is not marked for all the nouns. More systematically, a reduced set of case forms are preserved in some types of pronouns. The personal pronouns have a nominative, an accusative and a dative case. The dative is preserved only in the short pronoun forms. The interrogative, indefinite, collective, negative and relative pronouns keep accusative forms for the masculine referents of persons, but in the colloquial speech mostly the nominative forms are in use. Bulgarian has a definite article, which is realized as a postposition morpheme within the word (мъжЪТ ‘man-the’ the man; женаТА ‘woman-the’ the woman; детеТО ‘child-the’ the child). Nominals distinguish between masculine, feminine and neuter gender, and between singular and plural number. Gender is mainly grammatical. The plural has a variant, which is called ‘count form’ and is a remnant of the old Slavic dual form. This form is required after masculine nouns for non-humans. There is a rich group of pronoun types (10), which is a Slavic feature. For a systematic description of Bulgarian pronouns see (Nitsolova : 1986).

Concerning the verbal system, Bulgarian lacks infinitive. It was substituted by the analytical construction with the form *да* |da| and the finite form of the verb in 1 person, singular, present tense. The temporal system of Bulgarian is very rich

in contrast to the other Slavic languages. It has 9 tenses in the indicative. It has 3 moods (indicative, imperative and conditional), 2 voices (active and passive). Similarly to other Slavic languages, Bulgarian has the category of aspect. Most of the verbs form imperfective / perfective pairs. Another specific feature of the verbal system is the grammaticalization of the “evidential” (this term goes to (Jakobson : 1957)). Thus Bulgarian expresses morphologically three types of evidentials: renarrative, conclusive and dubitative forms. For more details see (Nitsolova : 2003). Also, it has forms for admirative (Aleksova : 2003).

1.3.3. Syntax

Bulgarian has a relatively free word order. It is a SVO (Subject-Verb-Object) language. Bulgarian is also a null subject language (pro-drop). This means that the explication of the pronoun subject is not obligatory (*Идвам* ‘Come-I: I am coming’). There is grammatical agreement in number and / or gender between the subject and the predicate as well as within the nominal group (*Тя е разбрала*, ‘She-(fem, sg) is-(sg) understood-(fem, sg): She has understood’; *непослушно дете*, ‘naughty-(neut, sg) child-(neut, sg): a naughty child’). Another specific feature, which has Balkan origin, is the doubling of the personal pronouns. The long accusative and dative personal pronouns can be reduplicated by their short counterparts (*Него го видяха*, ‘Him-(long form, acc) him-(short form, acc) saw-they: They saw him’). The usage of this reduplication depends on the information structure of the sentence (topic-focus), among other factors. Also, the definite article morpheme plays the role of a phrasal affix, i.e. it can be realized only once within the nominal group, usually at the most left element (*високият дървен стол*, ‘tall-the wooden chair: the tall wooden chair’).

1.3.4. Alphabet and spelling system

Bulgarian uses the Cyrillic alphabet, which was made on the basis of the Greek alphabet and named after Constantin-Cyril. It has 30 letters, which correspond to 45 sounds. The letters are as follows: а, б, в, г, д, е, ж, з, и, й, к, л, м, н, о, п, р, с, т, у, ф, х, ц, ч, ш, щ, ъ, ъ, ю, я. In initial position and after a vowel the graphemes *ю* and *я* represent the two-phoneme groups |ju| and |ja|. After a consonant they indicate the palatalness of this consonant. The grapheme *щ* represents two phonemes |ʃt|. The complex graphemes *дж* |dʒ| and *дз* |dz| as a rule represent one phoneme. The grapheme *ь* has no phonetic value. It only represents the palatalness of the preceding consonant.

The contemporary Bulgarian spelling reflects mainly two underlying principles: phonetic and morphological.

2. The history

2.1. The emergence³

Bulgarian traces back to the Indo-European language family. It emerged from Proto-Slavic, which dates back to the period from 2nd century BC to 1st century. Proto-Slavic showed some similarities to Indo-Iranian languages, and more tightly to Germanic family. However, it was much closer to the Baltic languages. For that reason, the researchers presuppose the existence of the so-called Balto-Slavic language unity (3rd century BC). The differentiation among the languages within the Slavic group was carried out in 5th-7th century. The Bulgarian written language has its roots in 9th century. The language of the period from 9th to 11th century was called Old Bulgarian. The 9th century language preserved many features of Proto-Slavic. However, there also appeared some own specific phonetic features. In contrast to the other Slavic languages, the Old Bulgarian had the reflections of Proto-Slavic combinations $|\ast t j|$, $|\ast k t j|$ and $|\ast d j|$ into $u j$ $|\ast t|$ and жсѡ $|\ast d|$.

The written sources from that time are extremely valuable for the researchers of the history of all Slavic languages.

2.2. The periodization

The language history of Bulgarian has been viewed in various ways by historical linguists. Here we present the periodization as stated in *История на новобългарския книжовен език* 'History of the New Bulgarian literary language' (1989). It suggests two main divisions: pre-national and national language development.

The pre-national one consists of the following three sub-periods:

The first one was the *period before the emergence of the written language form*. It included the time when the Slavic and Bulgarian tribes settled in the Balkan Peninsula up to the second half of 9th century. The gradual formation of the Bulgarian language from the dialects continued from 7th to 9th century. This process was supported by the establishing of the first Bulgarian state in 681 by Khan Asparuh. The language distinctive features of Bulgarian-Slavic tribes were initiated within the larger Slavic group. These tribes were as follows: Northern or Moesian group (settled between the Danube river and the Old mountains), Middle group (settled in old Macedonia) and Southern group (settled in Greece). At the same time, the settlers were under the influence of their neighbours — the Greeks — within the Byzantine Empire. During this period all the written sources represent the Bulgarian language in the Greek alphabet. Reminiscence from the language of that period is to be found in the toponyms. Thus, it is assumed that the oldest Bulgarian phonetics included *open o*, which was kept in the early Old Bulgarian period; *open e*, which is partly kept nowadays; *nasal vowels* and the *open syllable rule*, both of which were also kept during the Old Bulgarian stage.

³ This section is based mainly on (Mirchev : 1978) and (Dobrev et al. : 1987).

The *Old Bulgarian period* lasted from 9th to 11th century. This was the period of the first Bulgarian state. Bulgarian of this period was a synthetic language.

At that time the Bulgarian people started to use the Thessaloniki dialect of the brothers Cyril (around 826-869) and Methodius (around 816-885), who played a crucial role for the further development of the Slavic language. They were the first to create an alphabet that reflected the specific phonetic features of the Slavic language. They translated all Greek liturgical books into Bulgarian, among which *Изборно евангелие* ‘Gospel with selected texts’ (863). For their significant role in the language development they were proclaimed saints-patrons of Europe in 1981 by the Pope John-Paul II.

The first invented alphabet, which is assumed to be Cyril’s work, is the so-called *глаголица* ‘Glagolic alphabet’. The etymology of the word leads to the Old Bulgarian verb *глаголати* ‘to speak’. This is the alphabet that the two brothers used in their mission in Moravia and Pannonia. The Moravian Knyaz Rostislav (846-870) wanted to reduce the influence of the Latin-German clergy. For that reason, in year 862 he asked the Emperor of Byzantium for teachers who were able to preach the Christianity in Slavic language. Thus the two brothers were sent there as missionaries of the Eastern Christian influence. After a while, the knyaz was changed by a pro-Latin one and the missionaries’ students were expelled from these lands. After that they went to Northern Dalmatia. The contemporary researchers recognize the Moravian-Pannonian and Croatian Glagolic tradition. The Glagolic literature expanded into South-Western Bulgaria. However, the scientists recognized also the Eastern influence of the Glagolic tradition – in the town of Preslav, which was the capital of Bulgaria in 10th century. The glagolic tradition lasted for a short time in Bulgaria, because it was displaced by the *кирилица* ‘Cyrillic alphabet’. The Cyrillic alphabet, named after one of the brothers (Cyril), was developed on the base of the Greek alphabet. Its creator is assumed to be one of the Cyril and Methodius’ students: Kliment Ohridski. Cyrillic represents the adjusted Greek alphabet with the addition of graphemes for the specific Slavic sounds. Both Slavic graphemic systems were influenced by the Greek alphabet, but the glagolic system possibly considered also other systems, such as Ethiopic, Latin, Coptic, Hebrew, etc. The glagolic alphabet was more original and distinctive in every aspect: the relation between graphics and sounds, the visual representation, etc.

There were two main centers of Bulgarian literature in 9th century: the Eastern (Preslav) and the Western (Ohrid). Ohrid was more conservative and tried to keep the language of Cyril and Methodius. Thus they used mostly the glagolic alphabet. On the other hand, the Preslav literature was influenced by the Greek language.

Some of the language specific features of this period were the following: the systematic open syllable principle; the vowels were 15; there were nasal vowels (approximately corresponding to the pronunciation of ‘oⁿ’ and ‘eⁿ’); there was a

quantitative opposition, namely the two ‘ers’ (ѣ and ъ) were supershort and opposed the other vowels; there was a grapheme for the *open e* |e|, which today is inherited as the alternation between |e| and |ja|, and is the most distinctive feature for the dialect division; there were palatalization processes, which are now present in the language, in spite of not being active any more. The verbal system had infinitive and supin. The nominal system had 7 cases. The category of number had dual form additionally to singular and plural. The adjectives had two forms: short and long. In contemporary Bulgarian there exist only short ones. The long ones appear only under special circumstances.

The written sources from these centuries are few. They are not originals, but copies. With respect to the alphabet, they are divided into two groups: Glagolic and Cyrillic. The Glagolic sources are *Мариинско евангелие* ‘Maria’s gospel’, *Зографско евангелие* ‘Icon-painter’s gospel’, *Асеманиево евангелие* ‘Asemaniy’s gospel’, etc. Some Cyrillic sources are *Супрасълски сборник* ‘Suprasals’s collection’, *Савина книга* ‘Sava’s book’, etc.

The *Middle Bulgarian period* included 12th, 13th and 14th centuries. This was the period of the second Bulgarian state. Bulgarian started to lose its synthetism in the nominal system. This period was the transition between the old synthetic nature of the language and its new, mostly analytic characterization. For example, the cases of the nouns were disappearing, the postpositional definite article was being formed, gerunds appeared, the dual in nominal and verbal systems was lost, etc.

One very distinctive phonetic feature was the confusion of the two nasal sounds. This period is divided into two subperiods: early middle period (12th century) and late middle period (13th and 14th century). The written sources are many. They are mainly with church content. Some examples are *Добромирово евангелие* ‘Dobromir’s gospel’, *Болонски псалтир* ‘Psalm book of Bolonia’ (12th century); *Добрейшово евангелие* ‘Dobreysho’s gospel’, *Боянско евангелие* ‘Gospel of Boyana’ (13th century) and *Троянска повест* ‘Troya’s short novel’, *Царборилов синодик* ‘Synodikon of Tsar Boril’ (14th century).

The *Third period* was from 15th century to the middle of the 18th century. Bulgarian language lost completely the nasal vowels. The period was represented by the Church Slavic language, which was a Russian-like variant of the Bulgarian language from 9th to 14th century, and by Damaskin literature.

In 15th century Bulgarian had already lost its declension nominal system. In 1396 Bulgaria fell under Ottoman rule until 19th century. This fact inevitably influenced the development of Bulgarian language. There are very few written sources from 15th century, since the literary life was retarded. In 15th and 16th century the Bulgarian Slavic literature prospered in various versions abroad (Serbia, Romania and Russia). The literature had the specific features of Serbian and Russian. At the same time, from 17th to 19th century the so-called *дамаскини* ‘damaskini’ appeared. Named after the Greek preacher Damaskin Studit, they

were religious literature pieces, which reflected the Bulgarian vernacular types at that time.

The period of the national Bulgarian language has the following six sub-periods.

The first one was the *period of initial indications of the New Bulgarian national literary language*. It started from the second half of 18th century and was due to the first quarter of 19th century. The starting time point was marked by the significant book, called *История славеноболгарская* ‘Slavic-Bulgarian history’⁴, written by Paisiy Hilendarski in 1762. The closing time point was connected to another emblematic book *Буквар с различни поучения* ‘ABC book with different morals’⁵, written by Petar Beron in 1824⁶.

Paisiy Hilendarski’s book is considered a conception on the language rather than its exemplification. The dialect base is Western Bulgarian. The language of the book is vernacular, because the aim of the author was to address the wider circles of Bulgarian people. Thus, the language is connected with the language of damaskini literature, and also introduces the speech of the Bulgarian population. Not surprisingly, the number of the Church Slavic elements, which would have been comprehensive for a smaller part of the people, has been reduced (although inconsistently).

Another important figure of this period was Sofroniy Vrachanski, who acted as a direct follower of Paisiy Hilendarski. He introduced the Eastern Bulgarian dialect base, but he also used some specific features of the Western dialects. Additionally to the wider dialect base, he contributed to the stylistic differentiation within the language.

Petar Beron’s book was a result from the existing cultural and publishing center in town of Brashov, Romania. The author was more consistent in using vernacular forms instead of Church Slavic ones. In contrast to his predecessors he thought that the national language could not be defined by mixing vernacular characteristics with Church Slavic ones, but it should be based on the vernacular types only. Thus, he did not use neither the genitive, accusative and locative cases as well as the infinitive, nor the Church Slavic present active participles. On the other hand, he used analytical forms with few exceptions and a definite article, etc.

4 There have been discussions by Bulgarian historical linguists when exactly the New Bulgarian literary language period started. Some of them stated earlier period (‘damaskini’) and some of them later period as its beginning. However, the most common view is the work of Paisiy Hilendarski. One important reason for this disagreement is the complex relation between the message of the book and its language in the beginning of the Bulgarian Renaissance (for details see also (Rusinov : 1980) and *История на новобългарския книжовен език* ‘History of the New Bulgarian literary language’ (1989).

5 It became popular under the title *Рибен буквар* ‘Fish ABC book’, because there was a picture of a fish on the cover.

6 One indication of the significant role of this book at the time is that until 1862 it was republished 5 times.

The present codification system preserved the following suggestions from this book: the use of the personal pronouns in third person, singular with the forms *мой, тя, мо* ‘he, she, it’⁷, the particle *ще* ‘will’ for constructing the future tense of the verb, the full definite article for masculine, singular *-ът* ‘the’, etc.

To conclude, this period is said to introduce the national base of the official Bulgarian language. As a whole, the authors consciously wrote not only in their own dialect, but also in other dialects.

The second period was the period of initial attempts to codify the New Bulgarian literary language. The time range was between Petar Beron’s book (1824) and the Crimea war (1853-1856). The literature extended its genre topics to school books, periodical editions, poems, etc. There existed three literary language schools: *New Bulgarian*, *Slavic Bulgarian* and *Church Slavic*. Each of them proposed different approaches to the principles of codification. The variances in their views concerned mainly the degree to which the participation of the Church Slavic language was to be accepted in the Bulgarian national language.

At the end of 19th century the New Bulgarian School gained theoretical prevalence, supported by the Slavic Bulgarian one. For clarity, we give below a short description of the ideas of each school.

The *Church Slavic school* defended the connection with the tradition, i.e. they viewed Church Slavic as inheritor of Old Bulgarian language and fought for Church Slavic base of Bulgarian in phonetics, morphology and vocabulary. One of the most prominent representatives of this school was Hristaki Pavlovich. He discussed his ideas in the second edition of *Граматика славеноболгарска* ‘Grammar Slavic-Bulgarian’ in 1845.

The *New Bulgarian school*, on the contrary, defended the vernacular base of the literary language. In their view, only the missing words should be borrowed from Church Slavic. The school was tightly connected to the activities of Vasil Aprilov. He initiated the secular education in Bulgaria with the opening of the School in town of Gabrovo in 1835. Also, this school followed consistently the ideas of Petar Beron. The first grammar, which incorporated these principles was *Първичка българска граматика* ‘First Bulgarian grammar’ (1844) by Ivan Bogorov. The ideology of this school won, but it faced the problem of the dialect diversity. It lacked a clear idea what dialect(s) to choose as a vernacular base.

The *Slavic Bulgarian school* is considered an “in-between” school, whose followers accepted ideas from both other schools. It was headed by Neofit Rilski, who presented his conception in *Българска граматика* ‘Bulgarian grammar’ in 1835. This school supported the *New Bulgarian* one in relying on vernacular base of Bulgarian. However, it suggested concrete ways for achieving the

⁷ Before that the literary people used the Western dialectal and Church Slavic forms [on] *он*, [она] *она*, [ono] *оно*.

democratization of the language. Namely, its members proposed to rely on the similarities among dialects as a base.

The third period marked the process of the extensive development and codification of the New Bulgarian literary language. It spanned from the Crimea war (1853-1856) to the Liberation of Bulgaria from Turkish occupation (1878). During this period the dialect base of the literary language was determined. At that time there was no unified codifying language center. Hence, several schools co-existed and competed. They were as follows: *Пловдивска школа* 'Plovdiv school', *Търновска школа* 'Tarnovo school', *Каравелова школа* 'Karavelov's school' and *Дринова школа* 'Drinov's school'. The Plovdiv school tried to incorporate a set of dialects. It preserved partly the phonetics and the graphics of Old Bulgarian. Its representatives were Nayden Gerov and Yoakim Gruev. The Tarnovo school resembled the Plovdiv one in the conception of the alphabet. However, it relied on a unified vernacular type. Some of its codification decisions are present in contemporary Bulgarian. Its main representatives are Nikola Mihaylovski and Ivan Momchilov. Karavelov's school was established by Lyuben Karavelov (more details about him in section 4.3). The basic dialect was the dialect of his native town Koprivshitsa. He supported the democratization of the phonetic representation. Drinov's school was initiated by Marin Drinov. He became a chair of the Bulgarian literary society in 1869. There was no specific underlying dialect in his conception. However, he influenced the first common spelling system in 1899.

The fourth period finalized the creation of New Bulgarian literary language. It started after the Liberation (1878) and finished at the end of 19th century. Thus, it lasted two decades. After the Consolidation of Northern and Southern parts of Bulgaria in 1885 there appeared good conditions for the integration and codification of the Bulgarian literary language (i.e. unified spelling and grammatical norms). In 1899 the first common spelling system was accepted. It was called *Дриновско-Иванчевски правопис* 'the spelling codification of Drinov and Ivanchev'⁸. Its underlying principle was the etymological one. During these decades also the lexical system was enriched, some terminological systems were created and the style discourses were differentiated.

The fifth period was from the beginning of 20th century to the beginning of the Socialist ruling in 1944. The time between the two World Wars was characterized not only with further development of codification norms, but also with a special stress on the oral language form. There was a revival of the purist movement, represented by Stefan Mladenov and especially Aleksandar Teodorov-Balan. Some grammatical categories were in the process of development as well (participles, the word order of the clitics, the genitive-accusative usage of nouns,

⁸ This spelling codification survived until 1921. Then it was annulated until 1923. From 1923 to 1945 it continued to be in function with small changes only.

etc.). Between 1921 and 1923 the spelling system was reformed by the minister Omarchevski. In this codification, for example, the ‘ers’ in word-end position were removed; the full and short forms of the definite article were set on phonetic grounds, i.e. having a full definite article when the next word starts with a vowel, and a short one, when the next word starts with a consonant.

The sixth period is the contemporary development of the language normative system. Generally, it has spanned since 1944 up to now, but two subperiods can be differentiated with respect to the political and social situation. The first one was from 1944 up to the fall of the Socialist ruling in 1989, and the second is from 1989 to nowadays.

Within the first subperiod the language was influenced extensively by Russian. Also, the codification reform from year 1945 has to be mentioned. It tried to set the graphemes to phonetic grounds, i.e. closer to the rule “write what you hear”. This reform removed some of the graphemes, such as the letter called *yat* (ѣ). Instead, it was substituted by two graphemes *я* |ja| and *е* |e| under special phonetic conditions. The ‘ers’ (ѣ and ѥ) were removed at word final position; the big nasal (ѧ) was substituted by the big ‘er’ - ѧ. Also the punctuation system was established. The phonetic principle had a priority. Doubletic forms were allowed. One of the most dramatic questions that remained from this reform was the decision to distinguish between a full and short definite article in masculine, singular nouns. The full definite article is used when the noun is in subject position or is predicated, while in all other positions it is short. Now it is the most difficult grammatical rule for Bulgarians, because, as some Bulgarian linguists state, it is artificial. For example, such distinction is made neither in feminine and neuter nouns, singular, nor in plural.

After 1989 Bulgarian has been influenced by English primarily. Not only the lexical vocabulary and terminology is under this impact, but also new grammatical constructions have been activated. For example, the so-called “izafet” constructions of two nouns, in which one noun modifies the other one (*бизнес среща* ‘business meeting’)⁹, proliferation of present passive participles (*неустоим* ‘irresistible’)¹⁰, contracted constructions with acronyms (*МВР шеф* ‘Ministry of Internal Affairs boss’ instead of prepositional phrases in attributive use - *шеф на МВР* ‘boss of the Ministry of Internal Affairs’).

3. The geography

3.1. The expansion

⁹ These constructions have been present in Bulgarian under the influence of Persian through Turkish, but they became more frequent after 1989.

¹⁰ In Bulgarian grammar this category was proclaimed nonexistent, and these forms were classified as adjectives. However, after 1989 there have been attempts for them to be re-classified again as present passive participles.

Bulgarian is now the official language of Republic of Bulgaria, which is situated in the Eastern part of the Balkan Peninsula. The North border is the Danube River. The Eastern one is the Black Sea. On the West the country borders with Serbia and Macedonia, while on the South with Greece and Turkey. Bulgarian covers only partly the lands of its substrate state population dating back to 7th century. Historically, the boundaries of the Bulgarian state have undergone dynamically expansion and contraction. For example, during the ruling of Tsar Simeon I (10th century), Bulgarian state had its largest territory, expanding almost over the whole Balkan Peninsula. After the two national catastrophes — the Balkan and Inter alliance wars (1912-1913) and the First World War (1915-1918) — Bulgaria lost some of its ethnic territories (South Dobrudzha, Western parts, around river Struma and around Aegean sea). As a result, there are also Bulgarian minorities in the neighbouring countries (Macedonia, Serbia, Greece, Turkey and Romania). There is also Bulgarian population in the areas of Banat and Moldova.

3.2. Bulgarian in contact

Bulgarian has been historically influenced by Greek and Turkish. Hence, it took a number of loan words and calques as well as grammatical patterns from these languages. During the Renaissance Bulgarian was also influenced by Church Slavic from Russia. Church Slavic had maintained the Slavic language tradition until Bulgaria freed from the Turkish occupation. Later on, during the communist regime Bulgarian again was intensively in close contact with the Russian language.

Bulgarian is assumed to be included in the so-called “Balkan Sprachbund”. In areal linguistics the term “Sprachbund” refers to languages, which are geographically close to each other. There is no complete agreement on the number and languages constituting the “Balkan language unity”. Some linguists include broader area like Bulgarian, Macedonian, Serbian, Croatian, Albanian and Greek languages. However, the original suggestion dates back to (Trubetzkoy : 1928, p 18)¹¹. The author reduces the number of languages to the following ones: Bulgarian, Greek, Romanian and Albanian. This view is shared also by Asenova (1989). In spite of the different views, the Balkan languages show some similar features. For example, they have a similar articulation base. Also, they share: identical vocal systems with dynamic stress, and similar consonant systems. There exists the so-called “common Balkan lexica”, which have been inherited from the various Balkan substrates, such as Greek, Turkish, Latin, Slavic, etc. There are also some common phraseological units and derivation models. However, the most similarities are found within the area of morphosyntax. Here we list only some of them within the general framework of the tendency to analytical grammar system: reduplication of the direct and indirect object, postpositional definite article (Bulgarian, Romanian, and Albanian), similar development of the verbal infinitive to analytical construction, etc.

11 This author is cited here through (Asenova : 1989, p. 12).

In late 19th and early 20th centuries there was a strong purist movement against the ‘foreign’ words, especially Greek and Turkish¹².

After the fall of the communist regime (1989) Bulgarian has been strongly influenced by English, especially in terminology. Also, there was a revival of the lexica of Turkish origin in the newspapers and mass media.

3.2.1. The languages of the insiders

Bulgarian literary language is generally (but not only!) based on the North-Eastern dialects, because of the important role that the Central Balkan dialects played in the economical and cultural life of the country.

The dialect division of Bulgarian shows a big variety.

There are several ideas about the geographical distribution of Bulgarian dialects, see (Stoykov : 2002) and (Boyadzhiev : 1997, pp. 142-172). Most of them rely on phonetic criteria. The oldest division follows the pronunciation of the old Bulgarian letter ‘yat’ (ѣ). It divides the Bulgarian dialects into Western, where ‘yat’ has only the reflection |e|, for example |*bel*| ‘white-masculine, singular’ — |*beli*| ‘white-plural’ and Eastern, where ‘yat’ has both reflections, |e| and |ja| (for example |*bjal*| ‘white-masculine, singular’ — |*beli*| ‘white-plural’. This characteristic is not sufficient for consistent generalizations, but the distinction remains one of the most important features for the division of the dialects.

Another phonetics-based classification of Bulgarian dialects reflects the realizations of the Old Bulgarian “big nosovka” (ѣ), which was a nasal vowel. It divides Bulgarian dialects into five groups: |ə|-dialects (Northeastern and Northwestern Bulgaria and the Eastern part of Southeastern Bulgaria); |a|-dialects (Western Bulgaria and the Eastern dialect of Pirdop); |o|-dialects (the Rodopi mountain); |æ|-dialects (the Teteven region and two villages in Eastern Bulgaria, Kozichino and Golitsa) and |u|-dialects (Western Bulgarian areas near the Bulgarian-Serbian border).

According to most morphological and lexical differences Bulgaria is divided into a central part (Northeastern and Central Bulgaria) and a peripheral part (Northwestern, Southwestern and Southeastern Bulgaria). However, the differences in the grammar are not so distinctive in Bulgarian dialects. The morphological ones concern the ending for plural, the definite marking of the nouns, the use of the old case forms, etc. The syntactic ones concern mainly the word order, the subordinators, etc.

Because of the instability and unclear contribution of the various linguistic criteria, (Stoykov : 2002) suggests a classification of Bulgarian dialects based on geographical criteria. He concludes that:

12 Some of the most famous Bulgarian “language purists” were Ivan Bogorov, Neofit Rilski and Aleksandar Teodorov-Balan. For a more detailed discussion on this topic see (Videnov : 1986, pp. 61-67).

(a) Bulgarian dialects are not separated distinctly, but they rather form a continuum.

(b) Within Bulgarian dialects there is a central (typical) area and a peripheral (transition) area.

The most striking distinction of Bulgarian dialects is the distinction between Eastern and Western ones.

The traditional distribution of the dialects presents five main groups: *Moesian dialects* (situated in the Danube valley), *Balkan dialects* (situated around the Old mountains east to “yat border”, the Thrace area to Rodopi), the Southwestern dialects (situated at both sides of Old mountain: Botevgrad, Sofia, Samokov, etc.), Northwestern dialects (situated at the Western part of the Danube valley to Bulgarian-Serbian border), transitional zones (situated on both sides of Bulgarian-Serbian border), and the Rupsian dialects (situated at the Southern part of Thrace).

Minority languages reflect the historical development of Bulgaria. The predominant minority are the Turkish (9,4%), the second biggest are the Gypsies (4,7%). Other minorities which together make 2% are Armenians, Russians, Romanians, Ukrainians, Greeks and Jews. One interesting community in Bulgaria are the so-called Pomaks. They live predominantly in the Rodopi Mountain. The most general view is that they are descendants of originally Orthodox Bulgarians who were turned into Muslims during the Turkish occupation. Generally, these people define themselves as Bulgarians with Muslim religion.

3.3. The speakers

Bulgarian is the official language of Republic of Bulgaria. It is spoken by more than 7,000,000 people within the country. The Bulgarian population which lives abroad can be divided into two groups: (a) people on territories which are now political parts of other countries, but historically used to be part of Bulgaria and (b) people that have emigrated to another country.

Concerning the first type, we can mention the Bulgarian dialects in Vardar and Aegean Macedonia (Kumanovo, Ovche pole, Kratovo, Kriva Palanka). These dialects are a natural continuation of the dialects in Belogradchik, Godech, Breznik. As the relation between Bulgaria and today’s Republic of Macedonia is historically burdened, it is difficult to give numbers of Bulgarians in Macedonia. Another linguistic continuation goes down to Serbia and Bulgarian-Greek border (Thessaloniki). In Serbia Bulgarians are believed to be around 20,000.

Concerning the second type, there is a diachronic difference. Historically, emigrants of Bulgarian origin are settled mainly in the Republics of Ex-Soviet Union, and in Romania. In Ex-Soviet Union compact groups live in Bessarabia (part of today’s Republic of Moldova) and Ukraine. In Moldova the present Bulgarian population is reported to be around 60,000 people and in Ukraine more than 140,000 people. In Romania Bulgarians live in Banat and around Bucharest.

Since the historical area Banat is situated in Romania, Serbia and Hungary, the number of Bulgarians living there is altogether 15,000¹³. These people are descendants of the Bulgarians who left their country after the Rebellion of Chiprovtsi in 1688. They represented two Christian groups: Catholics and Orthodox. The Banat dialect resulted from the mixture of two Bulgarian dialects: Chiprovtsi dialect (Western) and Eastern Pavlikyanian¹⁴ (Rodopian). Also, in 13th century part of Bulgarian population was placed in Transylvania (Sedmigrad). These people were called Bulgarians of Sedmigrad. They used a variant of the Moesian dialect and were assimilated by 18th century.

Nowadays, about 700,000 Bulgarian emigrants live in 70 other countries all over the world. The countries with largest Bulgarian communities are: the USA (mostly Chicago, Washington, California): around 200,000 people; Greece: around 150,000 people; Spain: around 100,000 people. Other countries are Germany, Italy, Great Britain, Austria, etc.

4. The auxiliaries of Bulgarian

4.1. Institutions and language planning

The main organization that takes care of Bulgarian language planning is the Institute for Bulgarian Language at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. Its preceding philological institution, called *Българско книжовно дружество* ‘Bulgarian literary society’ was set in 1869 in Braila, Romania, because of the need to determine a united literary language. After the Liberation from the Turkish occupation in 1878 the society moved to Bulgaria and in 1911 became the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. In 1949 the Institute for Bulgarian language was established. The responsibilities of the Institute are to describe the language: in its literary invariant and its dialect diversity; in its contemporary as well as historical development; in its relations to other languages. The Institute has been authorized to codify the spelling, punctuation, pronunciation, etc. norms in Bulgarian. It has long-lasting projects for different types of lexicographical resources (normative, explanatory, etymological, dialect dictionaries, etc.) and grammars. It provides professional linguistic consultation and expertise to physical and juridical persons.

4.2. Linguistic resources

4.2.1. Conventional resources

(a) Dictionaries

The first bilingual dictionaries were compiled by Ivan Bogorov. In 1869 he published *Френско-български речник* ‘French-Bulgarian dictionary’ in Vienna. In

¹³ Note that the official numbers are twice less than the unofficial numbers reported here.

¹⁴ The ‘pavlikyani’ people are followers of a religious movement from 7th century. In Bulgaria, later on, some of them turned to Catholicism.

1871 he published there *Българско-френски речник* ‘Bulgarian-French dictionary’. As a milestone in Bulgarian lexicography, the five volume dictionary of Nayden Gerov has to be mentioned. It is called *Речник на българския език* ‘Dictionary of Bulgarian’ and was published within the period 1895-1904. It included 67,358 entries. The illustrative material was very rich (folk songs, speech, idioms, proverbs, etc.). The impact of this dictionary was significant, because it became a collection of spoken dialects and thus enriched the literary language. During the period between the two World Wars various dictionaries were prepared and / or published. In 1927 started the publishing of *Български тълковен речник* ‘Bulgarian explanatory dictionary’. The authors were the distinguished Bulgarian linguists Stefan Mladenov and Aleksandar Teodorov-Balan. In 1951 only the first volume of this work was published (letters A—K). The dictionary presented new words, coined by Bulgarian derivational principles, and some Old Bulgarian words. Here another dictionary is worth mentioning: *Речник на чуждите думи в българския език* ‘Dictionary of foreign words in Bulgarian’ (1932)¹⁵ by Stefan Mladenov. The author increased the use of the newly created Bulgarian words (usually by means of calques) in order to explain the foreign words. Also, the first dictionaries of Bulgarian synonyms appeared. For example, *Български синонимен речник* ‘Dictionary of Bulgarian synonyms’ (1938) by Lyuben Nanov.

After 1944 the important lexicographic works are many. Some of them are thesauri-like. For example, a three-volumed dictionary *Речник на съвременния български книжовен език* ‘Dictionary of the Modern literary Bulgarian’ (1955-1959). A one volume *Български тълковен речник* ‘Bulgarian explanatory dictionary’ with first edition in 1955 created by seven outstanding linguists. This dictionary had several editions. In 1994 (and re-print in 2001) it was re-published again, but with additions and changes made by another excellent linguist and lexicographer: Dimitar Popov. One significant project of the Institute for Bulgarian language is the creation of a multi-volumed dictionary *Речник на българския език* ‘Dictionary of Bulgarian’. It is still an ongoing work and not all letters were covered. However, after 1989, when the political situation changed, there started a republishing of the initial letter entries with changes in the illustrative material, and additions of new meanings and lexical items.

Another direction in lexicography is the creation of normative rules on written and spoken language. There were several spelling and orthoepic dictionaries, which marked the development of Bulgarian codification work. The dictionary *Правоговорен речник на българския език* ‘Orthoepic dictionary of Bulgarian’ (1975, 21979) by Petar Pashov and Hristo Parvev gives directions on correct pronunciation and even on orthography. Later on, it served as a base for the next dictionaries with focus on orthoepy. The last academic edition was in 2012:

15 Later on, there were more editions of this dictionary: in 1942 and in 1947.

Официален правописен речник на българския език ‘Official spelling dictionary of Bulgarian’¹⁶. The changes concerned mainly the reducing of doublet forms and addition of new words. The most problematic issue still remains the rule for either composite or separate spelling of some compound phrases with borrowed foreign element like *Интернет страница* ‘Internet page’. Other dictionaries on the same topic are as follows: *Правоговорен и правописен речник на българския език* ‘Orthoepic and orthographic dictionary of Bulgarian’ (2002, 2010) by Petar Pashov and Hristo Parvev; *Речник за правопис, правоговор и пунктуация* ‘Dictionary for Orthography, Orthoepy and Punctuation’ (1998) by Dimitar Popov et al. For the first time, in tables, it introduced a generalization over the wordforms of the lexemes.

Other types of dictionaries represent the more specialized formats, such as synonyms, foreign words, abbreviations, etymology, etc. Some of the academic editions come in order: *Синонимен речник на българския език* ‘Dictionary of synonyms in Bulgarian’ (1980), *Речник на антонимите в българския език* (1997) ‘Dictionary of antonyms in Bulgarian’, *Речник на чуждите думи в българския език* ‘Dictionary of the foreign words in Bulgarian’ (1982), *Български етимологичен речник* ‘Bulgarian etymological dictionary’ (1971—ongoing), *Речник на съкращенията в българския език* ‘Dictionary of the abbreviations in Bulgarian’ (Choroleeva et al.: 1983), *Словообразователен речник на съвременния български книжовен език* ‘Derivational dictionary of Bulgarian’ (Penchev et al.: 1999). There is also a big variety of bilingual dictionaries.

(b) Grammars.

The first evidence on New Bulgarian language was presented in the book *Додатак към сравнителните речници на Екатерина Велика* ‘Addition to the comparative dictionaries of Ekaterina the Great’ (1822) by the Serbian linguist Vuk Karadzich. This grammar played only the role of making Bulgarian more known in the world, but it did not contribute to its development. The famous *Буквар с различни поучения* ‘ABC book with different morals’ (1824) was the first grammar-like book, but it lacked deep theoretical generalizations. The first real New Bulgarian grammar was *Българска граматика* ‘Bulgarian Grammar’ (1835) by Neofit Rilski. Some other grammars followed. They were written by Neofit Bozveli (1835), Hristaki Pavlovich (¹1836, ²1845), Ivan Bogorov (1844), Ivan Momchilov (1847). From all these, however, a significant role for the further development of the language played the grammars of Neofit Rilski and Ivan Bogorov.

During the third quarter of 19th century a great number of grammars were published. They aimed at determining the norms of the literary language. Note that the rules of the Plovdiv school were presented in the grammar of Yoakim Gruev,

¹⁶ The previous academic normative dictionary was published in 2002.

while the ideas of the Tarnovo school were described in the grammar of Ivan Momchilov. The grammars that followed the Liberation of Bulgaria in 1878 had more popular way of presentation, because their main domain of function was the school. For example, *Граматика на новобългарския език* 'Grammar of New Bulgarian' by Ivan Momchilov was republished twice after the first publication in 1868: in 1879 and in 1881. Another widely used grammar was *Ръководство по български език в три курса* 'Manual on Bulgarian in three courses' (1887) by Dimitar Mishev. This grammar influenced the acceptance of the soft endings in the verbal paradigm.

In 30s-40s of 20th century the grammars became more scientifically oriented. The first grammar with theoretical significance was *Българска граматика. Дял I. За думите* 'Bulgarian grammar. Part I. On words' (1930) by Aleksandar Teodorov-Balan. The author focused mainly on Bulgarian phonetics, but he also discussed some questions of Bulgarian grammar. In 1938 the second edition of *Българска граматика* 'Bulgarian grammar' by P. Kalkandzhiev was published. The author provided diachronic explanations of the current state of the language development. He added also some orthographical rules. In 1939 *Граматика на българския език* 'Grammar of Bulgarian' by Stefan Mladenov and St. P. Vasilev was published. The New Bulgarian language was viewed in the comparative context of Old Bulgarian and other Slavic as well as non-Slavic languages. The approach of N. Kostov in his *Българска граматика* 'Bulgarian grammar' (1939) was data-driven. He focused on the problematic aspects of the codification. The next grammar work in the row was *Нова българска граматика* 'New Bulgarian grammar' (1940) by Aleksandar Teodorov-Balan. The author provided profound grammatical analyses and models of the Bulgarian language data. He also defended the idea to keep the Bulgarian language closer to its historically native patterns and expressions. The most influential grammar of that period was *Основна българска граматика* 'Fundamental Bulgarian grammar' (1944) by Lyubomir Andreychin. It presented the rules of Bulgarian orthoepy and the codification principles in a systematic way.

Nowadays, the most elaborate and exhaustive Bulgarian grammar remains the three-volume grammar *Граматика на съвременния български книжовен език* 'Grammar of contemporary literary Bulgarian' of the Institute of Bulgarian language (Bulgarian Academy of Sciences). The first volume *Фонетика* 'Phonetics' was published in 1982. The second volume *Морфология* 'Morphology' and the last volume *Синтаксис* 'Syntax' came out in 1983. Another important grammar is *Съвременен български език* 'Contemporary Bulgarian' (Boyadziev et. al. : 1998). In the last 5 years new modern grammars have been published – 3 on Bulgarian morphology and one on Bulgarian syntax. The morphological ones are as follows: *Компютърна морфология* 'Computational morphology' (Paskaleva : 2007), *Теоретична граматика на българския език* 'Theoretical Grammar of Bulgarian' (Kutsarov : 2008),

Българска граматика. Морфология ‘Bulgarian Grammar. Morphology’ (Nitsolova : 2009). The syntactic one is: *Формална граматика на българския език* ‘Formal Grammar of Bulgarian’ (Osenova and Simov : 2007).

(c) Other

Another valuable resource of Bulgarian is *Български диалектен атлас* ‘Bulgarian Dialect Atlas’. It has been compiled for more than 40 years. It comprises four volumes which cover the nowadays territory of Bulgaria. The Atlas includes phonetics, accentology and lexis. The first volume (1964) presented South-Eastern Bulgaria. The second one (1966) described North-Eastern Bulgaria. The third volume (1975) was dedicated to South-Western Bulgaria. The fourth one (1981) outlined North-Eastern Bulgaria. A generalized volume was published in 2001.

4.2.2. Electronic resources

In spite of being a less-spoken language, Bulgarian is well presented in the electronic space. There are initiatives for digitizing the valuable Bulgarian books. We will mention the initiative of the National Library in Sofia, among others. The digitization has started in 2006 and is an ongoing process (<http://www.nationallibrary.bg/cgi-bin/e-cms/vis/vis.pl?s=001&p=0038&g=>).

There exist a number of monolingual corpora of Bulgarian, or parallel ones, which include Bulgarian. Some of them were developed in Linguistic Modeling Laboratory at the Institute of Information and Communication Technologies, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. There are various corpora of written Bulgarian at the BulTreeBank Group site (<http://www.bultreebank.org> and www.webclark.org), annotated at various levels as follows: *National Reference corpus* (over 400,000,000 tokens). The texts are structurally segmented. The genres include 53% fiction, 37% newspapers and 10% legal texts, government bulletins and others. *Morphosyntactic Corpus* (1,000,000 tokens, which were manually checked). *CLEF Corpus* (a structurally segmented corpus of 2002 editions of newspapers *Standart*, *Sega* and *Novinar* (18,000,000 tokens). *Syntactically annotated corpus* (BulTreeBank): it includes the illustrative sentences from the most popular Bulgarian syntax grammars from 1980s up to now. It also consists of newspaper articles and prose. It amounts to 215,000 tokens, i.e. 15,000 sentences. It is available in constituency and dependency format. Gazeteers of the most frequent names and abbreviations in the corpora were compiled. Additionally, some automatic processing tools were developed, such as partial grammars and taggers.

Bulgarian is part of several parallel corpora as well. They were developed also in the Linguistic Modelling Laboratory with the active participation of Elena Paskaleva. For example, *French-Bulgarian bilingual aligned corpus* with 180,000 tokens per each language; *English-Bulgarian INTERA corpus* with 1,000,000

tokens per language; *Balkan-English corpus* with Bulgarian and Greek (3,000,000 tokens per language).

There are also several morphological dictionaries of Bulgarian, developed at different institutions in Sofia and Plovdiv.

The specificity of the Bulgarian spoken language is registered in an electronic form. Various spontaneous dialogues were taped and then transcribed at the Department of Bulgarian Language, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” (<http://bgspeech.net/>).

Another important resource for Bulgarian is the Bulgarian WordNet¹⁷, which was developed within the project Balkanet at the Department for Computational Linguistics, Institute for Bulgarian Language. It is distributed via ELRA.

There exist a few spell- and grammar checkers for Bulgarian, produced by software companies with the help of academic researchers. There are also attempts for machine translation modules, mostly from Bulgarian to English and vice versa.

4.3. Culture

4.3.1. Books, series and periodicals¹⁸

The Old Bulgarian literature of 9-11th century was one of the richest in Middle ages Europe. Some of the original works of that time, which survived to nowadays are: *Проглас към евангелието* ‘A proclaim to the gospel’ by Konstantin Philosopher, *Пространни жития на Кирил и Методий* ‘Extended passionals of Cyril and Methodius’ and *За буквите* ‘On letters’ by Chernorizets Hrabar, *Азбучна молитва* ‘Alphabetical prayer’ by Konstantin Preslavski.

One very significant person at the temporal boundary between the second Bulgarian state and the fall under Turkish occupation was Patriarch Evtimiy (1320 or 1330-1402 or 1404). He established the Tarnovo literary school and introduced the first spelling rules.

After the fall of Bulgaria under Turkish occupation in 14th century the creation of any kind of literature became a very difficult and risky initiative. In 16th and 17th centuries, when the Bulgarian literature was exiled in Russia and Romania, the Bulgarian liturgical books were “normalized” with respect to the specific features of Russian. Afterwards, these books came back to Bulgaria and were respected very much, because they were viewed as ‘saviors’ of the Old Bulgarian tradition. This consideration, however, was only partly true. In 17th century the ‘damaskini’ appeared, which were also influenced by the Church Slavic language (see Section 2.2).

¹⁷ More information can be found at <http://dcl.bas.bg/BulNet/>.

¹⁸ More information on Bulgarian literature in electronic format can be found at: <http://www.slovo.bg>.

Bulgarian Renaissance began in the middle of 18th century and ended in 1878 (the Liberation of Bulgaria from the Turkish occupation). The emblematic book that marked the beginning of this period was *История славеноболгарская* ‘Slavic-Bulgarian history’ (1762) by Paisiy Hilendarski. It appeared and existed in the form of a manuscript. The author addressed the national awareness of the Bulgarians by presenting their heroic history. He aimed at persuading his Bulgarian readers that they should not be ashamed of their origin and nationality. The first printed book in Bulgaria appeared in 1806. It was called *Неделник* ‘Nedelnik’. Its author was another significant figure of that time, namely Sofroniy Vrachanski. The book influenced the development of the vocabulary and phraseology. The first Bulgarian grammar was published in 1835. It was the above mentioned *Българска граматика* ‘Bulgarian grammar’ by Neofit Rilski. The first Bulgarian journal was *Любословие* ‘Lyuboslovie’ (1844-1846), issued by Konstantin Fotinov. The first newspaper was *Български орел* ‘Bulgarian eagle’ (1846-1847), edited by Ivan Bogorov¹⁹. During the Renaissance there appeared a lot of distinguished Bulgarian writers. One of them was Lyuben Karavelov (1834-1879): a famous encyclopedic person (publicist, writer, and linguist). He edited the newspapers *Свобода* ‘Freedom’, *Независимост* ‘Independence’ and *Знание* ‘Knowledge’. Another symbolic figure was Hristo Botev (1848-1876): a revolutionist, publicist and poet. He edited the newspaper *Дума на българските емигранти* ‘Bulgarian emigrants’ word’. His poems are the most emblematic in the Bulgarian literature and national discourse. A representative of a more “romantic” approach towards the restoration of the historic past of Bulgaria was Georgi Sava Rakovski. He also was a writer and a revolutionist. He was influenced by the New Greek poetry, and hence by the Greek language. In 1861 the book *Български народни песни* ‘Bulgarian folk songs’ by Miladinovi brothers was published.

The literary and poetic style developed mainly after the Crimea war (1853-1856). The contribution was made not only by Hristo Botev, but also by P. R. Slaveykov. Both of them relied on the Bulgarian folk tradition. In 1873 P. R. Slaveykov wrote his masterpiece *Изворът на белоногата* ‘The well of the whitelegged woman’. This author had broader literature activities. He published in Tsarigrad several newspapers, such as *Гайда* ‘Bagpipe’ (1863-1867), *Македония* ‘Macedonia’ (1866-1872), etc. The fiction also was in its process of rapid development. The novelettes started with the works of Vasil Drumev: *Нещастна фамилия* ‘Unhappy family’ (1860) and *Ученик и благодетели* ‘Disciple and benefactors’ (1864). The author used dialectisms and rusisms. The third novelette was *Изгубена Станка* ‘Lost Stanka’ by Iliya Blaskov. This writer was influenced by the previous one. The prose developed further with the works of Lyuben

19 Note that during the Renaissance the number of the periodicals amounted to nearly 100, but most of them came out for a very short time.

Karavelov (see also above). He wrote *Българи от старо време* 'Old time Bulgarians' (1867) and *Маминото дете* 'Mom's boy' (1875).

The period coming immediately after the Liberation in 1878 is marked by the works of the "patriarch of the Bulgarian literature" Ivan Vazov (1850-1921). He was the most fruitful writer, poet, playwright, publicist and active participant in the political life of post-yoke Bulgaria. In 1881 he became an editor-in-chief of the first scientific literary Bulgarian journal *Наука* 'Science'. In 1885 together with his collaborator Konstantin Velichkov he established the first entirely literature journal *Зора* 'Dawn'. Among his famous pieces are the following ones: *Епопея на забравените* 'Epopée of the forgotten' (a thematic cycle of poems, which glorifies the figures of the Bulgarian Renaissance and the fighters against the Turkish occupation); the novel *Под игото* 'Under the yoke'. It describes the preparation, the burst and the suppressing of the April Rebellion (1876), which aimed at the Liberation of Bulgaria. This author's books were translated into more than 50 languages. There are also other writers worth mentioning here. This is Zahari Stoyanov (1850-1889) who worked mainly in the biographical genre. The most significant book of his is the memoirs *Записки по българските въстания* 'Notes on Bulgarian uprisings'. There he described the April Rebellion (1876), in which he actively participated. Another representative figure was Aleko Konstantinov (1863-1897). He wrote two emblematic books: the travel notes book *До Чикаго и назад* 'To Chicago and back' (1894) and the feuilleton book *Бай Ганьо* 'Bay Ganyo' (1894). The latter became a generalized personage of the negative social and national characteristics, which were typical for one part of the post-Liberation Bulgarian society.

In the beginning of 20th century the modernist epoch of poetry began. It was closely connected with another erudite figure of Bulgarian literary and social life: P. P. Slaveykov (1866-1912). His writings range from satire to folklore-flavored poems, and from philosophical poetic confessions to patriotic epic works. He was a central figure of the literary circle *Мисъл* 'Thought'. This circle criticized the stylistics and topics of the 'older' literary generation, whose main focus was the realism. P. P. Slaveykov was a director of the National library and the National theatre. The Swedish professor Al. Jensen proposed him for the Nobel literature prize nomination, but the Bulgarian writer died unexpectedly and his nomination was never considered.

After the introduction of modernism in Bulgarian literature, a number of valued authors appeared in Bulgarian cultural life. Their life and work were tightly connected to the political situation in Bulgaria, namely the separation of Macedonia from Bulgarian state, and later the First World War. One of the most distinctive writers was Peyo Yavorov (1878-1914). He participated actively in the movement for returning back Macedonia to Bulgaria as its ethnic part. He also joined the literary circle *Мисъл* 'Thought'. In different stages of his life he wrote patriotic and modern poems, plays, memoirs. However, his name became

emblematic for the development of the symbolism in the Bulgarian literature. Another poet of the post-realist generation was Dimcho Debelyanov (1887-1916). He became famous with his lyric poems. He was killed at the war.

The period between the two World wars was eventful, which inevitably influenced Bulgarian cultural life. On 9 June 1923 the Agrarian government was unseated and there came a fascist ruling party. In the same year the September rebellion burst, which was an anti-fascist movement. It was quickly suppressed. However, it gave rise to the so-called "September generation" of writers. One of them was Geo Milev (1895-1925). He edited the journal *Везни* 'Scales' (1919-1922), which popularized and supported the symbolism and expressionism in Bulgarian literature. However, his most well-known epic is *Септември* 'September' (1924), which was dedicated to the rebellion in September 1923. The stylistics was consciously "vulgarized". He was arrested and murdered together with a lot of outstanding intellectuals.

In the same period Hristo Smirnenski worked (1898-1923). Similarly to the other writers of that period, his writings covered various topics and styles. He wrote satiric pieces as well as urban poems. He described the Russian revolution (1918) by using the expressivity of the mythology and associations. His book of poems was called *Да бъде ден!* 'Let it be a Day!' (1922).

Another influential poet within this period was Nikola Vaptsarov (1909-1942). His book of poems was titled *Моторни песни* 'Motor songs' (1940). He described the life of the common worker and his dreams for a better destiny. His poems reflected the humanism and the sympathy of the writer. He was arrested, convicted for his communist views, and executed. His book of poems was translated into more than 30 languages.

Between both World wars also two "masters of the short story" worked: Elin Pelin (1877-1949) and Yordan Yovkov (1880-1937). Elin Pelin devoted most of his works to the Bulgarian village life at the time. His main personages were the peasants, the teachers, the clergymen. His famous novelette *Гераците* 'The family of Geratsi' (1911) described the decay of the patriarchal life in the village. The author also devoted some of his writings to the children. His most popular novel is *Ян Бибиан* 'Yan Bibiyan' (1933).

The other above-mentioned writer Yordan Yovkov participated in three wars: the Balkan, Inter-alliance and First World one. Hence, part of his works was devoted to the common people who participated in these wars. He has written not only short stories, but also novels and novelettes. He described the Bulgarian village as well. However, he concentrated on the legends, myths and the esthetic aspects of this life. Some of his emblematic literary miscellany are: *Последна радост* 'Last delight', *Старопланински легенди* 'Old mountain legends', *Вечери в Антимовския хан* 'Evenings in the inn of Antim'. The works of both writers were translated into many languages.

The talented writers after the World War II up to now are numerous. Hence, we will mention only some of the classics. There was a significant group of novelists, among which: Dimitar Talev (1898-1966), who focused on the history of Bulgaria, such as the Ilinden rebellion, the ruling of tsar Samuil etc; Dimitar Dimov (1909-1966), who became a representative of the modern Bulgarian novel. He concentrated on the inner feelings of his personages. He also considered the problems in a rather cosmopolite than national manner; Emilian Stanev (1907-1979), who combined both: historical and philosophical view on person and life; Nikolay Haytov (1919-2002), who concentrated on publicism and short stories. A very important figure of the Bulgarian narrative tradition became Yordan Radichkov (1929-2004) with his specific and original style of telling simple stories. Among the poets, the following are worth mentioning with respect to their impact on Bulgarian cultural life: Radoy Ralin (1923-2004), who remains the best writer of epigrams (his works combine lyrics with satire and he criticized actively the drawbacks of the communist regime); Damyan Damyanov (1935-1999) and Hristo Fotev (1934-2002) who were typical lyric poets; Valeri Petrov (1920-), who is a poet and very successful translator of Shakespeare's plays in Bulgarian; last but not least: Petya Dubarova (1962-1979), who died at the age of 17. However, she left a nice poetry devoted to the nature and love.

There are a number of contemporary journals, which are language and / or literature oriented. We will mention only few due to space limitation. Language oriented are the following: *Български език* 'Bulgarian language' (1951-), *Съпоставително езикозание* 'Contrastive Linguistics' (1976-), *Българска реч* 'Bulgarian speech' (1995-). Literature oriented are: *Съвременник* 'Contemporary' (1971-), *Пламяк* 'Flame' (1924-). Language and Literature oriented is: *Език и литература* 'Language and Literature' (1946-), *Български език и литература* 'Bulgarian Language and Literature' (1999-).

5. Present and future role of Bulgarian

The language of Cyril and Methodius from 9th century is the oldest Slavic literary language with evidences in a written form. Thus, it has played the role of the connection of Proto-Slavic to contemporary Slavic languages. For that reason, Bulgarian is viewed as "the classical language of the Slavs". It is also said to play a central role within the Balkan Sprachbund.

The machine processing of Bulgarian contributes to the description of natural language phenomena and hence, to the development of the linguistic theories and typology.

Last, but not least, Bulgaria is developing towards a desired touristic destination as well as a place to live permanently due to its unique combination of a beautiful seaside, wonderful mountains and ancient history. As part of Bulgarian culture, Bulgarian language is becoming very popular also among non-Bulgarians.

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6. Bibliographical orientation

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