

# 1. СИСТЕМА ЯЗЫКА

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## TURKISH, BULGARIAN AND MACEDONIAN – MORPHOSYNTACTIC SIMILARITIES IN THE NOMINAL SYSTEMS

The peculiarities of Balkan languages nominal inflections are closely connected with the use of definite articles, as there are postpositive articles in Bulgarian. Macedonian, Albanian and Rumanian, prepositive articles in Modern Greek and copulative articles in Albanian, Rumanian and Modern Greek connecting nouns with adjectives. The tendency towards analytism of the nominal system is not specific only for Balkan languages, but it can also be found in many other European languages. So this is not only a question of Balkan linguistics but also of Eurolinguistics. Characteristic of the Balkan languages, however, are a number of phenomena that accompany these analytic tendencies, especially the use of articles, postpositive, prepositive and copulative, as well as the doubling of clitics connected with direct and indirect objects, and above all the abundance of the verbal systems in all these languages. No articles are used in the Northern Southeastern European languages (Serbian, Croatian, and Slovene), and in other West and East Slavic languages, e.g. Polish, Czech, Russian, Ukrainian, and Belarusian. Prepositive articles like in Modern Greek are found in most of the European languages, but postpositive articles can be found in Scandinavian languages and in some northern Russian dialects. We have to raise a question, if the Balkan area is special regarding the use of articles (except Serbian, Croatian, and Slovene). The term “area” is used in dialectology for any geographical region isolated on the basis of its linguistic characteristics. An “areal classification” would establish “areal types” or groups, such as Scandinavian or

Balkan languages, where it is possible to show certain common linguistic features as a result of the proximity of speech communication. But there is no geographical proximity between Balkan and Scandinavian languages, the identities must be typological. It is often possible to identify a local area — the region from which these linguistic characteristics have spread to the area as a whole, and several other significant parts of an area have been terminologically distinguished, e.g. the transitional areas which occur between adjacent areas, the relic areas which preserve linguistic features of an earlier stage of development, as it was pointed out by the leading Bulgarian linguist Stefan Mladenov, when he writes in his history of the Bulgarian language about the origin of articles in Bulgarian:

Der postpositive Artikel ist das bekannteste Charakteristikum des Bulgarischen. Von fremdem Ursprung dieser Spracheigentümlichkeit sollte heutzutage kein Sprachforscher mehr sprechen: den nordgroßrussischen Mundarten ist der postponierte Artikel ebenso gut bekannt, und in der russischen Literatur sind bei älteren und neueren die Volkssprache verwendenden Schriftstellern ... eine Menge von interessanten Beispielen für den Artikel nachgewiesen. Die Postposition der Pronomina war eine urslawische, ja vorslawische Erscheinung, die Anfänge des postpositiven Artikels sind also für altbulgarische zu halten.

(Mladenov 1929: 215)

In Ancient Greek we find an Indo-European case system with eight cases, reduced in Old and Middle Greek. On Albanian and its peculiarities concerning articles Ernst Levy wrote:

Das Albanische scheint, dem Typus nach, die entscheidende Sprache des ganzen balkanischen Gebietes zu sein. In ihr sind die anreihenden den deutenden Züge, die mehrfachen rein demonstrativen Artikel, die Vorausnahme des Objektes, der eigenartige Bau des Relativums am deutlichsten entwickelt und lassen sich am ehesten systematisch aufeinander beziehen, hier sind auch Genitiv und Adjektiv, als eine Kategorie zusammengeordnet... Die balkanischen Züge, die oft genug aufgezählt sind und eben im Albanischen am vollkommensten vereint sind, eben gemeinsam die Demonstrativität (postponierter und Verbindungs-Artikel, Aufnahme des Objekts, Struktur des Relativums = relativem Element, Demonstrativum und die Verbalität), die man in der Beseitigung des Infinitivs (des alten Futurs), dem Anschluss des Nebensatzes durch „und“, wohl spüren darf, wozu das Fehlen des Gerundiums und die Erhaltung des Aorists sich wohl fügen.

(Levy, 1942, 142)

Looking at the Hungarian and Turkish languages, not belonging to the Indo-European group of languages, but geographically quite near to the Balkan languages, we find in Hungarian an indefinite and definite article, namely *egy*, e.g. *egy leány* = “a girl”, *egy lámpa* = “a lamp”, but *a lámpa* = “the lamp”, *a könyv* = “the book”. There is a differentiation with *ez* “something or somebody quite near to the speaker” and *az* = “something or somebody far from the speaker”. Turkish nouns do not have a grammatical gender nor a definite article. The noun *ev* means “house”. Only the indefinite article is used by the numeral *bir* = “one”, *bir ev* = “any house”. *Bir* is also used together with adjectives and substantives, e.g. *büyük ev* = “the large house”, *büyük bir ev* or *bir büyük ev* = “a large house”.

All Scandinavian languages have not only an indefinite, but also a definite article, which is used as suffix behind the noun, e.g. Norwegian *hest* = “horse”//*hesten* = “the horse”, *hage* = “garden”//*hagen* = “the garden”, *bok* = “book”//*boka* = “the book”, *gate* = “street”//*gata* = “the street”. The indefinite article *en* is used as a separate word before the noun, e.g. *far* = “father”//*en far* = “a father”, *born* = “child”//*en born* = “a child”. The same grammatical conditions we find in Swedish, e.g. *en blomma* = “a flower” with genitive and dative *en blommas*//*blomman* = “the flower”.

Following Kristian Sandfeld with his description of definite articles in the Balkan languages (Sandfeld 1930: 165–170), Ernst Levy pointed out that the Balkan area seems to be a “demonstrative area” because of postposed articles (Levy 1942: 64). The German linguist Eduard Schwyzer discussed a borderline between European languages with definite articles and without such articles:

Artikelhaft sind heute im allgemeinen die indogermanischen Sprachen westlich einer Linie, die von Tomea am Nordende des Bottnischen Meerbusens über Königsberg nach Triest und weiter nach Brindisi führt, artikellos eher im allgemeinen, die östlich dieser Linie gesprochenen indogermanischen Sprachen... Ein genaueres Bild entsteht, wenn man die Linie Königsberg – Triest durch die deutsche und die anschließende italienische Sprachgrenze ersetzt. Aber auch dann bleibt außerhalb der allgemeinen Grenze ein sehr großes Artikelgebiet auf dem südlichen und östlichen Balkan, nämlich das albanische, griechische und rumänische Sprachgebiet. Und in Asien kommt zu den europäischen Artikelsprachen noch das Armenische hinzu.

(Schwyzer 1983: 154)

We find a considerable number of publications dealing with the question of Turkish influence in the Balkan languages, especially in Bulgarian and

Macedonian, but there are no monographs dealing with Turkish influence and its role in former and modern Bulgarian language either then Mosko Moskov's (Moskov 1958) and Maksim Stamenov's (Stamenov 2011) publications on these questions. It is evident that the Turkish rule, which lasted for many centuries on the Balkan peninsula including Bulgaria and Macedonia, must have left deep traces on the culture and languages of the peoples living there. But since the liberation from Turkish rule the number of Turkish words in the actual use in all non-Turkish languages in the Balkans decreased tremendously. Since the end of World War I, Turkish words were found in great number only in regions with Turkish minorities or in the neighborhood of a Turkish majority. But educated Bulgarians still use today a lot of Turkish loanwords. Turkish expressions have permeated the Slavic vernacular in all the towns from the Aegean Sea to the Danube, from the Black Sea to Belgrade and from there to the river Drina.

We have to deal here with two fields of the grammatical systems of Bulgarian and Macedonian compared with Turkish, that is, the nominal system with postposed articles and comparison.

The definite article is a determiner attached to a noun phrase to indicate that the noun phrase refers to an entity that the hearer can pick out in the context. Not all languages have definite articles, many languages signal definiteness by case affixes or by word order. Different languages with definite articles have different patterns. In Italian definite articles combine with proper names: *il Giorgio* = "the George", i.e. "George", in English they do not. Thus the article is a determiner which signals whether the speaker is treating the referent of the noun phrase as definite or indefinite. A definite noun phrase such as "I have left the book on the floor" signals that the book has been mentioned already and/or it is salient in the context. An indefinite noun phrase such as "I left a book on the floor" signals that the book has not been mentioned before. Let us remember that not all languages have articles, and their usage differs among that too.

Let us have at first a look on Bulgarian, where possession is normally indicated by the preposition *na* or by clitic dative pronouns, e.g. *knigata na lekarja* = "the book of the doctor", *knigata mu* = "book + the + to.him" = "his book". The preposition *na* and the dative clitics also serve to mark the indirect object, e.g. *Dadoch knigata na lekarja* = "I gave the book to the doctor", *Dadoch mu knigata* = "I gave him the book". Subject / direct object relations are expressed primarily through word order — normally subject-verb-object — and by concord in person, number and gender between the subject and

the verb. Object reduplication is another possibility through clitic dative and accusative pronouns in the verbal phrases to demonstrate definiteness, e.g. *Marija ja vidja včera* = “Mary + her.acc + (s/he) + saw + yesterday” = “S/he saw Mary yesterday”. Only Rhodopian dialects in Southern Bulgaria show a more synthetic case system.

In Literary Bulgarian we find only one category of postposed article: *čovekāt, knigata, knigite, mjasto, mjastata* etc. Other types of postposed articles are to be found in Bulgarian Rhodopian dialects, they have to be compared with the Macedonian postponed articles.

Every noun in Macedonian may take an article when the person or the thing which it denotes is known before or known in general, f.e. *Dojde profesor na angliški jazik//Dojde profesorot na angliški jazik*. In the first case we are hearing of the professor for the first time, while in the second case the professor has been known from before. This difference is expressed by the article. In Macedonian we find an article system, which is threefold graduated. Besides the indefinite article, e.g. *edna kniga* = “a book”, *knigata* = “the book”, *knigava* = “the book here (within the reach of the speaker)”, *knigana* = “the book far away (but visible for the speaker)”. In Macedonian we find a neutral use of articles, used for anaphoric reference, that also refer to objects proximate to the addressee, e.g. *Čovekot e visok* = “The man is tall”, *Knigata e dobra* “The book is good”, *Deteto e ubavo* = “The child is pretty”. In contrast, we find a set of articles relating to objects proximate to the speaker, e.g. *Zemi si ja knjigava* = “Take the book there”, and finally definite articles which refer to objects that are distant from both the speaker and the addressee, e.g. *Donesi mi ja knjigana* = “Bring me that book”.

In Literary Macedonian we find three categories of the postposed article:

1. *knigata*, the relation of the speaker to the book is a neutral one;
2. *knigava*, the relation of the speaker to the book which is nearby, cf. in German “das Buch dort” or “jenes Buch, das dort liegt”.
3. *knigana*, the relation of the speaker to the book, which is more distant, perhaps not to be seen.

In Turkish the word for “one” (*bir*) is also used as indefinite article: *bir ev* = a house, *bir göz* “an eye”. Demonstrative articles are used in Turkish with *bu* = “this, next to the speaker”, *su* = “this, that, just over there”, *o* = “that, right over there or out of sight”. The situation in Turkish can be compared with the Macedonian usages, but also with the usages in Bulgarian Rhodopian dialects.

Comparative is a construction, syntactic or morphological, allowing two or more entities to be compared e.g. “noisier than Naples”, “as noisy as Naples”, “more beautiful than Athens”, “more eloquently than Cicero”. The adjective and adverb forms that occur in the comparative construction, are either single words like “noisier” or two words like “more beautiful”, and “more slowly” are said to be comparatives or to be in the comparative. Certain adjectives denote properties, such as height, that can be graded. For example, a given person may have a greater grade of height in a particular group of people, e.g. “Susan is taller than Jane”, “Susan is the tallest in the class”. “Taller” is the synthetic comparative form of “tall” or in the comparative grade, “tallest” is the superlative form or in the superlative grade. The basic form “tall” is said to be positive or in the positive grade.

The superlatives are the forms of adjectives and adverbs used for presenting entities as having some property in the highest degree or grade. The term is also applied to constructions containing such words as “the loudest music I have ever heard”, “the biggest city in the world”, in French “Le plus grande ville du monde” or in English “The biggest city of the world”.

The analytic constructions of comparatives in Bulgarian and Macedonian are formed by *po-* and *naj-* and can be seen not only as Balkanisms but also as Europeanisms. Indo-European languages also use suppletive forms, e.g. Latin *bonus, melior, optimus*, German *gut, besser, am besten*, English *bad, worse, worst*, Russian *chorošij, lučšij, plochoj, chudšij, malyj, men'sij, mnogo, bol'se*. In Russian we find besides the regular comparatives irregular forms like *On molože menja, ljudi po-starše*; in German *er ist jünger als ich, ältere Leute*, English *elderly people*. But there are also weakened forms of comparatives, e.g. *On pomolože menja* = “He is a little bit younger than me”, *On budet poumnee nas vseh* = “He might be much wiser than all of us”.

The beginnings of analytic comparatives can be found in “Trojanska Priča” in the second half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, where we find constructions like *po bogate ot tebe, naj-lepa* up to the forms *dobār, po-dobār* and *naj-dobār* in Modern Bulgarian, which can be compared with corresponding forms in Rumanian and Modern Greek. But it seems possible that also the Turkish language has influenced the Bulgarian evolution with its forms *güzel, daha güzel, en güzel* with the meaning “beautiful”, “more beautiful”, “most beautiful”, *usun* “long”, *daha usun* “longer”, *en usun* with the meaning “longest”. But there an Indo-European background is also possible, since we find in Lithuanian comparable constructions like *didis, po didis*, with the meaning “big” and “bigger”.

Turkish influence on the nominal systems of Bulgarian and Macedonian seems to be probable. Even if we think of the verbal systems, we find possible influences from Turkish in the evidential systems, a verbal category that does not exist in other South Slavic languages. Besides the internal mutual influences of Balkan languages, Turkish seems to be an important factor for them, especially for Bulgarian and Macedonian.

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