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International academic forum Bulgarian Studies Abroad, Philology at Home

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International Academic Forum *Bulgarian Studies Abroad, Philology at Home*

South-West University *Neofit Rilski* hosted a prestigious academic forum called *Bulgarian Studies Abroad, Philology at Home* on 26th and 27th October 2018. Scholars, lecturers and members of academic institutions from ten countries participated in the event, which was organized by the Faculty of Philology and *Az Buki* National Publishing House.

The conference was opened by the Dean of the faculty Prof. Magdalena Kostova-Panayotova, after which the Vice Rector of SWU Prof. Antoni Stoilov and the Vice Director of *Az Buki* Nikolay Kanchev officially welcomed the audience. Public addresses were given on behalf of numerous foreign and Bulgarian academic institutions—Comenius University in Bratislava, Masaryk University, Sofia University, Veliko Tarnovo University, the University of Ruse, the Institute for Bulgarian Language at Bulgarian Academy of Science, etc.

Prof. Maria Dobrikova (Comenius University in Bratislava) devoted the first plenary talk to the 100th anniversary of Bulgarian studies in the Slovak capital. The following keynote speaker Prof. Madlen Danova (Sofia University *St. Kliment Ohridski*) focused on the present problems of philology and Prof. Raymond Detrez (the University of Ghent) closed the plenary session with a talk about the contribution of the Dutch Slavist Nicolaas van Wijk.

Many specialists with experience of teaching Bulgarian studies in different countries took the floor in the panel “Teaching the Bulgarian Language and Culture Abroad”. Marinaela Mladenova (SWU *Neofit Rilski*) presented an overview of the current state of Bulgarian studies in Central Europe. Elena Krejčová and Pavel Krejčí talked about the long history and tradition of teaching Bulgarian at Masaryk University, Brno, focusing on the program structure and some pressing problems. Kamen Rikey (Marie Curie-Skłodowska University) discussed the different aspects of Bulgarian-related topics in the framework of the academic study of Balkan literatures in Lublin, Poland. Tanya Stoyanova, a lecturer at the University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, outlined the problems of contemporary Bulgarian studies in Greece. Diana Ivanova (SU *St. Kliment Ohridski*) focused on the contribution of the two First Ladies of the Slovak Bulgarian studies—Maria Dobrikova and Maria Koshkova. Bulgarian literature created outside the country was the subject of Nikolay Aretov’s (IL-BAS) talk.

Basing on his practice in three Ukrainian universities, Stliyan Stoyanov (SWU *Neofit Rilski*) formulated the most essential problems of teaching Bulgarian literature in a non-Bulgarian environment. Simeonka Veleva (the University of Warsaw) paid

attention to the importance of the cultural mission of the Bulgarian lecturer abroad. Grigor Grigorov (SWU *Neofit Rilski*) shared his experience as a lecturer in Belarus, Moldova and Romania, accentuating the recurrent difficulties and providing ideas about their overcoming. Kristiyana Simeonova (IBL-BAS) reviewed the contemporary state of Bulgarian studies in various Russian universities.

In the early afternoon of 26th October, a round table called “The Bulgarian Lecturers Abroad: Problems and Perspectives” was held. The Deputy Minister of Education and Science, Ms Denitsa Sacheva, participated actively in the discussion in an attempt at providing answers to various questions posed by the academics and teachers abroad. Ms Sacheva revealed the Ministry’s ambitions about a more active policy regarding the teaching of Bulgarian language, literature, and culture abroad. She introduced the central aspects of a project that plans to provide lecturers in Bulgarian language and literature in foreign higher education institutions.

The panel “Philology at Home: Recent Challenges” presented the newest studies of the Bulgarian philologists. It consisted of two separate sessions—literary and linguistic. The session “Literary Studies” included papers of different literary fields. Magdalena Kostova—Panayotova (SWU *Neofit Rilski*) focused on the topical issue of the crisis in the humanities, both on a local and global scale. Silvia Georgieva (SWU *Neofit Rilski*) traced the history of classical philology in Bulgaria highlighting the names of some significant figures. Pavel Filipov and Dmitro Gerginov (SWU *Neofit Rilski*) paid attention to the complicated and contradictory Russian 19th century.

The session “Linguistics” consisted of various linguistic presentations. Yovka Tisheva (SU *St. Kliment Ohridski*) concentrated on the transformation of prepositional phrases. Svetla Koeva (IBL-BAS) delved into the problem of the typology of subordinate clauses related to adjectives in Bulgarian, Dimitar Veselinov and Milena Yordanova (SU *St. Kliment Ohridski*) presented a paper about the ethnophraseologisms in Bulgarian using the root *turk-*. Antoni Stoilov (SWU *Neofit Rilski*) talked about the parallel spelling reforms in Bulgaria and Macedonia from 1945. Krasimira Alekssova (SU *St. Kliment Ohridski*) represented a survey about the indirect evidentials and the degrees of reliability.

On the following day, the session continued with the presentation of Mirena Patseva, Elena Runevska and Stanka Panova (SU *St. Kliment Ohridski*) about their experiment to integrate literary texts in teaching Bulgarian as a foreign language. Borislava Stefanova (SWU *Neofit Rilski*) outlined the difficulties in teaching literature to elderly people and Svetoslav Arseniev (UNWE) accentuated the contribution of Kira Pehlivanova to Russian studies in Bulgaria. Andrei Bobev (CMRC-BAS) presented some notes and additions to the list of Slavic sources of the Seven Saints, and Ana Tobieva (PU *Paisii Hilendarski*) talked about the literary reflections of the Bulgarian political reality from 1897.

The participle subordinate forms with an auxiliary verb *biva* (*бива*) in Bulgarian were investigated by Marina Dzhonova (SU *St. Kliment Ohridski*), and Elena Nikolova (PU *Paisii Hilendarski*, Branch-Smolyan) posed the question of the types of predicate in Bulgarian. Krasimira Hadzhieva (SWU *Neofit Rilski*) focused on the Bulgarian dative proper name clitics in their role of external possessors.

The panel “Philology in the European Cultural Exchange” spanned the two conference days and was dedicated to the supranational aspects and interactions in the philological field. Yana Chankova (SWU *Neofit Rilski*) investigated the idea of the bridge as an epitome of transition and connection in Icelandic and English literature. Maxim Stamenov (IBL-BAS) introduced the written accounts of three foreigners about Bulgaria and the Bulgarians—Machiel Kiel, Jovan Cvijić and Fernand Braudel. The paper of Boyka Ilieva and Petrana Stoykova (SWU *Neofit Rilski*) dealt with the philology students’ reception of Bulgarian and foreign literature.

Iliyana Garavalova (IBL-BAS) presented the contribution of the distinguished linguist Georgi Gerdzhikov to the theory of the grammatical oppositions. Sonya Hristova (SWU *Neofit Rilski*) discussed the Russian-English gender peculiarities in the conversation etiquette of the 19th century aristocracy, and Lachezar Perchekliiski (SWU *Neofit Rilski*) focused on the role of Chernorizets Hrabar’s *On the Letters* in the Russian incunable primers.

Boyko Lambovski (SWU *Neofit Rilski*) talked about Joseph Brodsky’s lyric inspired by his fatal muse Marina Basmanova. The works of Sergei Dovlatov and the topic of the ‘little person’ were the focus of the paper of Milena Dimova (SWU *Neofit Rilski*). Tsvetan Rakyovski (SWU *Neofit Rilski*) shared his views on the use of alcohol in Bulgarian literature. Tatyana Fed (NBU) presented her work on the project “Bulgarian Studies in Moscow State Linguistic University”.

The session “Philology in the Digital Epoch” discussed the contemporary perspectives of philology. Velichko Panayotov (SU *St. Kliment Ohridski*) presented various applied in his practice online forms for teaching Slovak. Margaret Dimitrova (SU *St. Kliment Ohridski*) introduced three Internet platforms that consist of various documents about the language and literacy of the 18th–19th century Bulgarians.

The session “The Bulgarian Language in a Multicultural Environment—Policies, Paradigms and Methodology” started with Ana Kocheva’s (IBL-BAS) presentation about the language of the Austrian Bulgarians and continued with the paper of Katya Issa (UACEG) on the linguistic processes connected with the Bulgarian emigrants in Austria and Australia. Luchia Antonova-Vasileva analyzed the perspectives of preserving the Bulgarian dialects in Kosovo.

Maya Padeshka (SU *St. Kliment Ohridski*) posed the question of first and second language acquisition within the European Framework of Key Competences. Nadezhda Stalyanova (SU *St. Kliment Ohridski*) and Elena Kreychova (Masaryk University)

discussed the possible approaches to teaching Bulgarian to advanced learners while Bilyana Todorova and Sofia Mitsova (SWU *Neofit Rilski*) focused on the challenges of studying Bulgarian faced by the Polish students in Lyublin University.

In the session “The History of Philology”, Petko Petkov (SU *St. Kliment Ohridski*) talked about the texts of Saint Basil the Great in the Slavic tradition. Velislava Stoykova (IBL-BAS) presented commerce-related lexis from the period of the Revival according to H. Pavlovich’s *Pismenik* and Lyubka Nenova (SWU *Neofit Rilski*) devoted her paper to one edition of the Aerial Toll Houses from the same period of the Revival. The following participants concentrated on the contribution of two essential figures to the Bulgarian culture the Catholic priest Petar Kovachev Tsarski (Magdalena Abadzhieva—IBL-BAS) and the man of letters from Pirin Macedonia Hristo Popstoilov (Nadelina Ivova, SWU *Neofit Rilski*). Petar Dinekov’s contribution to the development of the philological folklore studies in Bulgaria was emphasized by Milena Benovska (SWU *Neofit Rilski*). Dimitrina Lesnevska (UNWE) discussed the work at Slavic international symposia in Veliko Tarnovo under the aegis of IATRLL.

Within the framework of the conference, the Faculty of Philology presented its publications: the latest thematic issue of the academic journal *Orbis Linguarum*, which contains some of the presented conference papers and the two latest issues of the academic journal *Balkanistic Forum*. The two journals are indexed in some of the most prestigious global databases.

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