ON THE BULGARIAN LANGUAGE IN MACEDONIA

Opinion of the Institute for Historical Studies - BAS
on the occasion of the

„CHARTER OF MACEDONIAN LANGUAGE“

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Before we say anything about the so-called Macedonian language, that is, for the standard official language used in present-day Republic of North Macedonia, it must be indicated that its norm was forged quickly (1944-1945), for several months, on the basis of local dialects that were considered sufficiently (geographically) distant from Bulgaria and, accordingly, far enough from the Bulgarian standard language.

It is completely wrong to speak about a Macedonian dialect because there are many dialects in the geographical area of ​​Macedonia. These dialects refer to both Western and Eastern Bulgarian speech patterns and form a dialect continuum with them, share common features and have a common historical development from the Middle Ages to the present day. That is why the writers and public figures of the Bulgarian National Revival in Macedonia called their language "simplest (i.e. folk, understandable) language Bulgarian" - as Yoakim Karchovski, "simplest and non-standard language Bulgarian from Dolna (Lower) Mizia" - as Kiril Peychinovich. Not another language but precisely the Bulgarian language in Macedonian "dialect, more understandable to Macedonian Bulgarians" - as Kuzman Shapkarev.

The main characteristic feature of our common language is its analyticity; among all other Slavic languages, only Bulgarian is analytical. As a Slavic language only Bulgarian, incl. dialects in Macedonia, possesses a definite article (with a post-noun position), only it has lost its once developed case system; only it forms a comparative and superlative degree of adjectives, of some nouns and verbs with the particles „по”(+ word) and „най” (+ word) , only it has a double personal pronoun, etc.

The only thing (which is by no means small) that distinguishes the so-called Macedonian language (not the dialects of the Republic of North Macedonia but only and namely the official language norm of the Republic of North Macedonia!) is its broad and purposeful Serbianisation. This Serbianisation, though quite advanced "at first hearing", is still superficial - vocabulary and word formation are imposed through borrowing from Serbian. A mirror image of this process is the writing system, framed up by decree, for which an Austrian linguist once expressed himself with the words: "Bulgarian, printed on a Serbian typewriter". Or, to make it clearer: Bulgarian language, imperfectly transmitted through the inappropriate Serbian Cyrillic. The code, the nature of the so-called Macedonian norm, however, remains intact, making it no more or less than a regional standard Bulgarian language. The fact that someone once codified and classified it as Macedonian has no (scientific) significance beyond politics. The people on both sides of the borders may be mentally burdened or feeling uncomfortable with the clash between the two standard, supra-dialectal norms but otherwise understand themselves perfectly well in their everyday, "simplest" speech.HГ