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# Macedonian language tendencies in Balkan context

- **Macedonian language** occupies central part of the Balkan Peninsula and it is a official language of the Republic of Macedonia (Република Македонија). Macedonian language is spoken by some 2.000.000 speakers. Macedonian belongs to the south group of the Slavic languages. Standard Macedonian was codified and implemented as the official language in 1945, and became one of the official languages in the former SFRJ (Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia).

- Macedonian language is a genetically Slavic language with an inherited grammar and lexicon, transferred to an environment with genetically unrelated languages. Macedonians belong to the descendants of those Slavic tribes which in the 6th century A.D. arrived in the Balkan Peninsula and got in touch with other present-day members of the Balkan linguistic league (Balkansprachbund) in the administrative frame of the Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman Empire. Especially the Ottoman period (almost 500 years) is a period of intensive linguistic convergence, a period which results with the shaping of the so called Balkan linguistic league. During common contact, and with the goal of achieving clearer communication between the speakers of different languages (Macedonian, Albanian, Aromanian, Megleno-Romanian, Romanian, Bulgarian, Romani, etc), the languages of the Balkans changed their structure. Their structures adapt and above all, come closer to one another.

- From today's perspective, Macedonian language is an incredibly interesting complex adaptive system, a fascinating phenomenon. It has in its arsenal the inherited Slavic characteristics and the acquired Balkan characteristics. In its ongoing "independent" development, Macedonian language uses all these means to articulate the conceptualisation of the contemporary world as exactly as possible and to provide clearer communication between the speakers.

# Macedonian language territory



Serbia

Bulgaria

Kriva Palanka

Kumanovo

Kratovo

Zletovo

Delchevo

Blagoevgrad
(G.Dzhumaja)

Razlog

Bansko

Tetovo

⊙ **Skopje**

Sv.Nikole

Kochani

Pchiwa

Kriva r.

Treska

Gostivar

Veles

[tip

Pehchevo

Berovo

Goce Delchev
(Nevrokop)

Mesta

Bregalnica

Radovish

Sandanski
(Sv.Vrach)

Melnik

Radika

Debar

Negotino

Strumica

Petrich

Kichevo

Brod

Kavadarci

Strumica

Vardar

Cn Drim

Prilep

Crna Reka

Dojran

Valovishte

Drama

Gevgelija

Struma

Struga

Ohrid

Resen

Bitola

Kukush

Gumendzhe

Goilik

Suho

Lagadina

Ostrovo

Voden

Enidzhe-Vardar

Solun ⊙

Albania

Lerin

Negush

Korcha

Ber

Kostur

Kajlar

Greece

Bistrica

Bistrica

| | |
|---|---|
| •––•⊂––•⊃•–––• | STATE BORDER |
| – – – – | LANGUAGE BOUNDARY |

# Dialects of Macedonian Language



Serbia

Bulgaria

NORTHERN SPEECHES

Kriva Palanka

Kumanovo

Kratovo

Zletovo

Blagoevgrad
(G.Dzhumaja)

Delchevo

Razlog

Tetovo

Kochani

Bansko

⊙ Skopje

Sv.Nikole

Treska

Pchiwa

Kriva r.

Pehchevo

Goce Delchev
(Nevrokop)

Gostivar

Vele

[tip

Berovo

Mesta

Radika

Bregalnica

Radovish

Sandanski
(Sv.Vrach)

WESTERN DIALECTS

Macedonia

Melnik

Debar

Kichevo

Brod

Negotino

Vardar

Strumica

Petrich

Kavadarci

Strumica

Crna Reka

Prilep

SOUTH-EASTERN DIALECTS

Valovishte

Dojran

Drama

Govgelija

Serez

Struga

Ohrid

Kukush

Resen

Bitola

Gumendzhe

Goiik

Struma

Suho

Ostrovo

Voden

Enidzhe-Vardar

Solun ⊙

Albania

Lerin

Lagadina

Negush

Korcha

Ber

Kostur

Kajlar

Bistrica

Greece

Bistrica

●─◄─●─◄─● STATE BORDER

─ ─ ─ LANGUAGE BORDER

# Dialect differentiation of Macedonian language territory

Србија

Бугарија

Крива Паланка

**3.**

Куманово

Кратово

Благоевград
(Г.Џумаја)

Злетово

Делчево

Разлог

Тетово

**3.**

⊙ **Скопје**

Кочани

Банско

Св.Никол

**2.3.**

1.2.1.

Гостивар

Пехчево

Гоце Делчев
(Неврокоп)

1.2.5.

Велес

**2.**

Берово

Штип

Сандански
(Св.Врач)

1.2.1.

1.2.4.

Радовиш

Дебар

Кичево

Брод

Мелник

1.2.

Неготино

**2.1.**

Струмица

Петрич

**1.1.**

Кавадарци

**2.2.**

Струмица

1.2.2.

Прилеп

Валовиште

**2.4.2.**

Драма

Дојран

Гевгелија

Струга

Серез

1.2.3.

Охрид

**2.4.**

Гуменџе

Кукуш

Ресен

Битола

1.2.1.

**2.4.2.**

Сухо

Острово

Лагадина

Воден

Ениџе-Вардар

Лерин

Негуш

Солун

**2.4.1.**

Бер

Албанија

Корча

**2.5.**

Кајлар

**2.5.1.**

Костур

**2.5.2**

Грција

**2.5.3.**

ДРЖАВНА ГРАНИЦА

## phonological features

| Western dialect complex | South-eastern dialect complex |
|---|---|
| - *ě > e  in all positions and in front of **ц**,: цена, цедило, цепи, цевка; | - group *cě > ца : цаде, цало, цапе, цалина; |
| - mixing of *jǫ with *ję : јазик, јатрва, јачмен, зајак, јозик, јǎзик, јäзик итн.; | -   mixing of *jǫ with *ję did not occur: език, ечмен, ичимен,  етрва, заек; |
| - protetic j before the reflex of initial *ǫ : јаже, јаток, јаглен, јоже, јǎже; | - protetic в before the reflex of initial *ǫ: ваглен, ваток, ватор, вǎток, вǎтор, ... |
| - fixed stress on antepenultima: вод'еница, воден'ицата, воден'ицава; | - accentual system with free stress, paradigmatic and restricted free stress |
| - sintagmatic character : н'е-дојде, не-с'е-гледа, не-г'о-сака, не-му-с'е-гледа и сл.; | - stress has no sintagmatic character |
| - clear pronunciation of the non-stressed vowels; | - the stress influences articulation of the vowels - reduction, elision |
| - loss of intervocalic в: Јоан, оснoа, јаор, биол, столој; | - preserving of intervocalic в: говедар, јавор, глава, јазовец; |
| - loss of x and its substitute with ф(в) before consonant and on the absolute word ending: јавна, бефте, чевли, нивно - нифно, пифтија, офка(т), врф, праф; | - x exists on large area: бех, кожух, бехме; |

# morphological - morphosyntactic features

| ☞Western dialect complex☜ | ☞South-eastern dialect complex☜ |
|---|---|
| - plural ending (monosyllabic nouns masc.) is -*ови* > *ој̌* > *ој̌: волој* (*волови*), *долој, столој, клучој* (*клучеви*); | - plural ending (monosyllabic nouns masc.) is -*ове*: *волове, столове, вирове, кл'учове*; |
| - three forms of definite article: *човекот, човеков, човекон; жената, женава, женана; детето, детево, детено; луѓето, жените, децата*; | - only one article form; there are no forms with -*ов and -он*; |
| - personal pronoun for 3 pers. sg. is - *тој (таа, тоа, тие*); | - personal pronoun for 3 pers. sg. is - *он (она, оно, они);* |
| - use of synthetic dative forms in pronouns: : *мене ми, тебе ти, нему му, нејзе- нејзи и (је), нам ни, вам ви, ним - ними им, кому, некому, никому,* dem. *овему, онему;* | - use of **на** as a dative marker in pronouns system: *на мене ми, на тебе ти, на него му, на нас ни, на кого му рече;* |
| - use of synthetic dative forms for kinship and personal nouns: *Стојану, Марко(в)е* or *Маркоту, Петре(в)е* or *Петрету, Илију, Мари* or *Маре, татко(в)е, тетки - тетке,* etc. | - use of **на** as a dative marker for kinship and personal nouns: *рече му на Стојан, на Марко, на Мара*; на брат му |
| - existence of casus generalis which differs from nominative form: *Стојан – со Стојана, Марко – на Марка, татко – на татка му, Крсте – на Крстета, бате – од батета*; | - generalization of the nominative form for all cases (casus absolutus): *Јован – на Јован, сос Јован, Марко – на Марко, Миле – на Миле*; |

| verbal system and syntactic features | |
| --- | --- |
| ☞Western dialect complex☜ | ☞South-eastern dialect complex☜ |
| - verbal ending -т in 3 pers. singular of present tense: *имат, носит, јадет (јадит)*; | - verbal ending -т in 3 pers. singular of present tense does not exist : *вика, сече, носе - носи*, |
| - third person plural of verb 'сум' is: *се* | - third person plural of verb 'сум' is: *са* |
| - in 3 person plural in compound past tenses the auxiliary "сум" is omitted regularly: *тој дошол, тие дошле, ќе дошол, ќе дојдел*, | - in 3 person plural in compound past tenses the auxiliary "сум" is preserved sporadically: *он е донел, они са донеле (донели)*, or: *ќе е донел, работил е бил, ќе е играл бил*, |
| - broad use of periphrastic constructions with auxiliaries 'има / нема' and н/т-participle (verbal adjective): *има работено, имаше работено, имал работено, ќе има работено, ќе имаше работено, ќе имал работено*, | - periphrastic constructions with auxiliaries 'има / нема' and н/т-participle (verbal adjective) are rare or does not exist |
| - frequent use of periphrastic constructions with auxiliary 'сум' and н/т-participle (verbal adjective): *е дојден, беше дојден*, е јаден, е јавен, е биден; | - periphrastic constructions with auxiliaries 'сум' and н/т-participle (verbal adjective) does not exist |
| - position of the clitics is preverbal, also at the beginning of the sentence: *го викнав него, му реков Марко(в)е;* | - position of the clitics is postverbal, and they cannot be at the beginning of the sentence: *караа се, рече му на Марка, расипа се работата*; |
| - reduplication of the object is regular feature | - reduplication of the object is possible and it is not regularized |
| - preposition 'од' can be used for expressing possessivity: *детето от сестра ми, куќата од мајка ми;* | - preposition 'од' can not be used for expressing possessivity; possessivity can be only expressed with preposition 'на': *детето на сестра ми, куќата на мајка ми;* |

# Western peripheral dialects - Balkan features
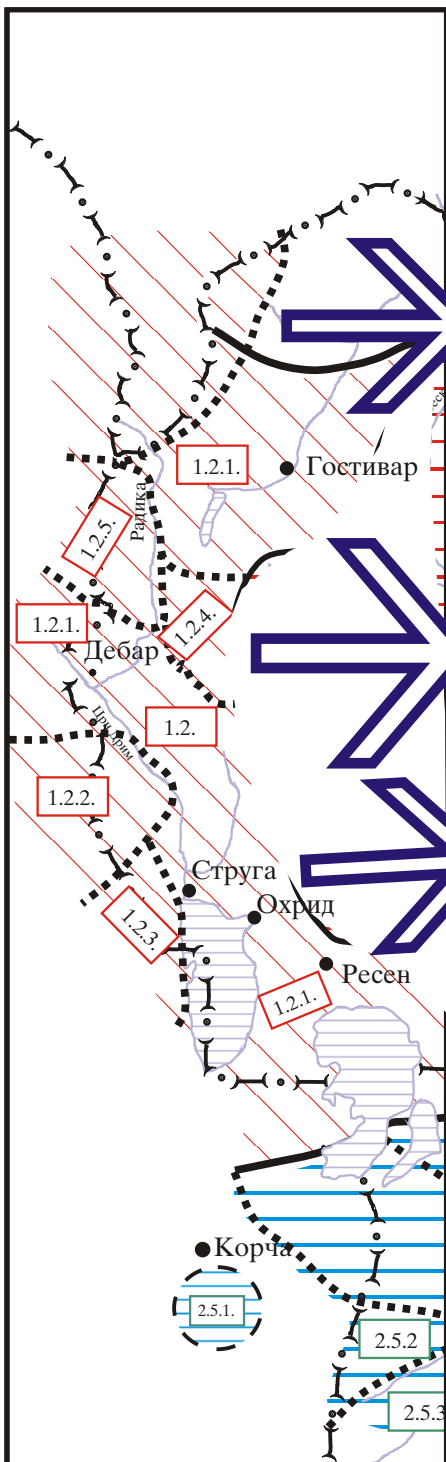
- **three forms of definite article**: човекот, човеков, човекон; жената, женава, женана; детето, детево, детено; луѓето, жените, децата;

- three forms for demonstrative pronouns: - тој, овој, оној;

- use of synthetic dative forms in pronouns: : мене ми, тебе ти, нему му, нејзе- нејзи и (је), нам ни, вам ви, ним - ними им, кому, некому, никому, dem. овему, онему;

- use of synthetic dative forms for kinship and personal nouns: Стојану, Марко(в)е or Маркоту, Петре(в)е or Петрету, Илију, Мари or Маре, татко(в)е, тетки - тетке, etc.

- existence of casus generalis which differs from nominative form: Стојан – со Стојана, Марко – на Марка, татко – на татка му, Крсте – на Крстета, бате – од батета;

- broad use of periphrastic constructions with auxiliaries 'има / нема' and н/т-participle (verbal adjective): има работено, имаше работено, имал работено, ќе има работено, ќе имаше работено, ќе имал работено;

- frequent use of periphrastic constructions with auxiliary 'сум' and н/т-participle (verbal adjective): е дојден, беше дојден , е јаден, е јавен, е биден;

- position of the clitics is preverbal, also at the beginning of the sentence: го викнав него, му реков Марко(в)е;

- reduplication of the object is regular feature

- preposition 'од' can be used for expressing possessivity: детето от сестра ми, куќата од мајка ми;

Гостивар

Дебар

Струга

Охрид

Ресен

Корча

1.2.1.
1.2.5.
1.2.1.
1.2.4.
1.2.
1.2.2.
1.2.3.
1.2.1.
2.5.1.
2.5.2
2.5.3

# Modern Macedonian

## morphological features

- plural ending (monosyllabic nouns masc.) is *-ови(-еви): волови*, лебови, столови, клучеви;

- three forms of definite article: *човекот, човеков, човекон; жената, женава, женана; детето, детево, детено; луѓето, жените, децата*;

- personal pronoun for 3 pers. sg. is - *тоj (таа, тоа, тие*); *- (он can ocure - more coloquial)*

- three forms for demonstrative pronouns: - *тоj, овоj, оноj*;

- verbal ending *-т* in 3 pers. singular of present tense does not exist : *вика, сече, носе - носи*,

- third person plural of verb 'сум' is: *се*

- in 3 person plural in compound past tenses the auxiliary "сум" is omitted regularly: *тоj дошол, тие дошле, ќе дошол, ќе доjдел*,

- preposition *vъ is used only in forms *в, во* : *во Скопjе, в грат, в село (ф село*); form у (у град) is colloquial

- there is no doubling of preposition *со*: *со сила, со мака*;

# Modern Macedonian - morphosyntactic features
# CASE SYSTEM

There is tendency of loss of morphological case markers (endings) and replacing them with prepositive markers (prepositions). The Southeastern dialect complex is more close to the standard Macedonian regarding the 'analytical' expressing of cases.

## Nouns

- loss of casus generalis which differs from nominative form: *Стојан – со Стојана, Марко – на Марка, татко – на татка му, Крсте – на Крстета, бате – од батета*;

- generalization of the nominative form for all cases (casus absolutus): *Јован – на Јован, со Јован, Марко – на Марко, Миле – на Миле*;

- use of **на** as a dative marker for kinship and personal nouns: *му рече на Стојан, на Марко, на Мара*; на брат му

## Pronouns

The norm proscribes use of synthetic dative forms in pronouns:

*мене ми, тебе ти, нему му, нејзе и, нам ни, вам ви, ним им*

As Modern Macedonian goes towards full analytism, there is tendency of loss of dative pronoun forms which are replaced by accusative pronoun forms and dative marker (preposition) на:

*на мене ми, на тебе ти, на него му на нејзе и, на нас ни, на вас ви, на нив им*

*Examples:*

**На мене ми** се падна лесно прашање.

А јас **на тебе ти** подарувам бакнеж за добра ноќ ангелу мој.

**...** му ја подаде раката која **на него му** изгледаше мека како кадифе,

**На неа и** се случуваат и физички и психички последици, непријатности и опасности.

Дали и **на вас ви** се случува истото ?!

**На вас ви** е потребен одмор, фитнес, лесни прошетки и здрава храна.

## Prepositions (spatial cases)

In Macedonian language, which transited from synthetism towards analytism, prepositions (prepositional constructions) became the main conveyors of the case relations and "prepositive" grammatical markers. Aside for being burdened with case functions, i.e. the relations between the predicate and its arguments, with time, the prepositions also become burdened with another type of function. In this manner, several relationships with metaphorical meaning are established from the basic spatial (and temporal) relationships.

Therefore the prepositional phrase is becoming a localization (на работа, на пазар, пред зграда, под маса) and can be ruled by another preposition which determines spatial relation (static or dynamic) so the whole prepositional phrase takes role of a localiser.

Regarding the three types of dynamic relations (adlative, perlative and ablative), we can say that in modern Macedonian there is process of 'reorganization' of spatial relations in which the first preposition shows dynamic spatial relation and prepositional phrase is in the role of the localizer.

This feature is known in some western peripheral dialects (Ohrid-Sruga-Kichevo region) and also is common for Aromanian:

Го истадов шпоретот **од под_скали.**
U skosh shporetu **di sum** skăr.

Се враќам **од на_работа**.
Mi tor **di la lukur.**

Овие риби ми требет **за на_лекар.**
Aist peshch njă l'ăps`eshti **ti la jatur**.

*Balkan Context/Aromanian – Macedonian Parallels*

Arom.: U skosh shporetu *di sum* skăr.

Mac.: Го истадов шпоретот *од под* скали.

'I took the stove *out from below* the stairs.'

Arom.: Tărku văr shă njă li l'o lemăli *di daninte* ali kasi.

Mac.: Помина некој и ми ги зеде дрвата *од пред* куќи.

'Somebody came and took my wood *from in front of* the house.'

— — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —

Arom.: Mi tor *di la jatur*. Mi tor *di la peshch*.

Mac.: Се враќам *од ná лекар*. Се враќам *од ná риби*.

'I am coming *from the doctor's* (literally '*from at the doctor's*').

\*I am coming *from at fishing*.'

Arom.: Njă esti multu klori shă ljă skosh stranjali *di pi mini*.

Mac.: Многу ми е ладно и ги истадов алиштата *од ná мене*.

'It is very cold and I took the clothes off *from on me*.'

*Adlative relation:*

1.   При откривањето на црквата ја откриеме стратиграфијата,
     и во едниот дел стигнавме *до под* темелите.
     'During the uncovering of the church, we discovered its
     stratigraphy, and in one part we reached *to below* the foundations.'

2.   Од земјата *до над* вратата беа наделкани херуви и палми,
     а така и по ѕидот на Храмот.
     'From the ground *up to above* the door there were carved
     cherubim and palms, and more of the same along the wall of
     the temple.'

3.   Секоја година купува петунии *за на тераса*.
     'Every year (s)he buys petunias *for on the balcony*.'

4    Тој често се успива *за на работа*.
     'He often oversleeps *for at work*.'

*Ablative Relation:*

1.    Маршот ќе има симболичен почеток во 5 до 12 *од пред* музејот.
   'The march will have a symbolic beginning from 5 to 12 *from in front of* the museum.'

2.    Поаѓање *од пред* Сава центар во 22.00 часот
   'Arrival *from in front* of the Sava Centre will be at 12:00 pm.'

3.    Професионалните војници се повлекоа *од пред* Владата.
   'The professional soldiers retreated *from the front of* the government building.'

4. Чилеанските рудари молат што побрзо да бидат извлечени *од под* земја.
   'The Chilean miners are begging to be pulled *from out of* the ground as quickly as possible

The constructions exemplified above have become a fixture in modern Macedonian, and we might draw analogies between the basic spatial sequences in Macedonian (*од пред врата, од под скали* 'from in front of the door; from behind the stairs') and the Romanian sequences of prepositions (*di pi masa, di sum skar* 'from on the table, from below the stairs') (Солецка 1979). Sequences such as *од на пазар, од на лекар, од на работа, од на школо* and *од на мене* have neither been recorded nor analyzed in linguistic works. They document for us an analogy that can be drawn between this unique Romanian – and Aromanian – phenomenon and western Macedonian dialects. Modern Macedonian has also embedded this feature in its spatial-case system.

The Macedonian language often uses Slavic and Balkan means to facilitate communication. The system of spatial cases, especially dynamic relations, is undergoing reorganization using prepositions governing prepositional phrases to show in a more transparent way two of the most important dynamic relations – adlative and ablative (goal and source).

As a conclusion we might say that there is no single process conceived as the "doubling of prepositions." We are speaking instead about two innovative, semanticly-motivated processes that are reorganizing the grammatical means that convey spatial information: (a) upgrading the strictly spatial-locative function of the preposition *na* to a universal, abstract locative function (which is a specific Macedonian innovation); and (b) superimposing the dynamic adlative and ablative prepositions over the static prepositional NPs. As a result of this process, adlative and ablative prepositions became dominant exponents of the dynamic spatial relations, while the whole static prepositional NP becomes a localizer.