Slavic Literary Microlanguages Amid Internationalisation Trends (Based on Examples from the Codified Language of the Banat Bulgarians)

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ABSTRACT
The aim of the paper is to present some problems related to the present situation of the Banat Bulgarian Language spoken in Romania. After 1943 the literary tradition of the Banat Bulgarians was interrupted. Printed media stopped functioning, the language was not taught in schools and its function was limited to liturgy and everyday oral communication. The revival of this micro language started in 1989 with the introduction of changes in the social, political and cultural life of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. This paper analyses the dynamics of the language and studies the extent to which processes of globalisation and internationalisation reflect its lexics. The main source used for observation and conclusions are the periodical “Naša glás” and “Literaturna miselj”, published after 1989.

Keywords: Banat Bulgarian Language, sociolinguistic situation, internationalisms, neologisms, loan words.

1. Introduction

Over the last few decades, the questions relating to the internationalisation of the Slavic languages have been repeatedly discussed at a number of fora, and the number of publications analysing them has seen a constant increase (e.g. Bosák, 1999, 2003, Rangelova, Tichá 2003, among others). Most authors define internationalisation as a universal trend stamping its mark on all languages to one degree or another; it has also been observed that since the 1990s it “has become global while shaking the Slavic languages out of their status quo with unusual intensity, or even aggression” (Bosák, 2003: 5). Slavic microlanguages have not been passed over by this current, either. For nearly 40 years, a great deal of systematic research in this field has been carried out by and markedly associated with Aleksandr D. Dulichenko (Dulichenko, 1981, 2003-2004, 2006). Dulichenko used the term literary microlanguage to designate “such a form of an existing language (or dialect), which has been used in written texts and is characterised by normalising trends emerging as a result of the functioning of the literary writing form within the framework of a more or less organised literary and linguistic process” (Dulichenko, 2006: 27). According to Balowska, among the key criteria for distinguishing micro- from macrolanguages are the number of users, the degree of normalisation achieved by the language code, as well as the extent of its polyvalence (Balowska, 1999: 43).

Against the backdrop of multiple studies into the issues around the internationalisation of Slavic languages, the number of those concerning literary microlanguages is insignificant (Dulichenko, 1997: 213-229). There are plenty of reasons for this, but several are worth pointing out: the historic transience of some of these languages, their unstable sociolinguistic position, their ambiguous linguistic norm, as well as the fact that they still lie in the margins of researchers’ interest.

This paper will focus on the processes of internalisation seen in Slavic literary microlanguages by presenting a few observations in this field. As each one of these
languages has existed in its own unique situation, which makes for the poor credibility of
generalisations, we shall focus on the language of the Banat Bulgarian Catholics currently
living in Romanian territory. Dulichenko’s geographically-based classification of the Slavic
microlanguages describes this one as an ‘island’ form, i.e. existing in an alien linguistic
environment, isolated from its “root-language”; in genetic terms Dulichenko defined it as
Bulgarian (Dulichenko, 2006:31, 34). The Banat Bulgarians are carriers of archaic Bulgarian
(Paulician) dialects from the late 17th century. Bulgarian linguistics has seen their language
as the second codified form of Bulgarian, existing as a regional norm (Stoykov, 1967: 6).

2. Who are the Banat Bulgarians?

They are the descendants of Bulgarian Catholics from the western and central parts of
northern Bulgaria. The quashing of the 1688 uprising against the Ottoman Empire1 set off
the process of their emigration in several waves between 1688 and 1730 to the Habsburg
monarchy. After a succession of resettlements they finally took up residence in the multiethnic
region of Banat where they started a life either in separate communities or interspersed
among Hungarians, Croats, Germans, Serbs, Romanians, Slovenians, etc. Banat stayed
within the Austro-Hungarian Empire until 1919, and thereafter was split, with its northern
part apportioned to Romania, and the southern one – to Serbia2. The more compact living
descendants of these Bulgarians in Romania are currently concentrated in several villages:
Star Bišnov (Dudeştii Vechi in Romanian), Vinga, Denta, Deta and a few others. According
to various sources, their number varies between 17500 and 14368 while official data from the
1992 census quoted the number of 7735 (Romania si minoritatile 1997). Between 1738 and
1866 the official language in Banat was German; in the period 1867-1920 it was Hungarian
as the area became part of Hungary; shortly after World War I (in 1920) Banat’s northern part
was handed over to Romania, and Romanian has been the official language for the Bulgarians
living in those lands ever since. Each of these languages has left its mark on the lexical
system of the Banat dialect either through loanwords or calques; international vocabulary has
also penetrated its vocabulary through their mediation (Stoykov, 1968: 9-17).

3. The Banat literary microlanguage

The written tradition of the Banat Bulgarians emerged in 1851 with the translation
of the Small Catechism by Imre Berecz (Berecz, 1851), but it was only recognised as a
literary language with the 1866 publication of the normative grammar by Jozu Rill (Rill,
1866). Unlike the national language of Bulgaria, its Banat version was codified in the Latin
alphabet. Over the period 1851-1943, Banat Bulgarian saw 77 editions of 54 books as well
as the publication of 31 calendars, four newspapers, 435 fiction and non-fiction works (as
supplements to periodicals or calendars rather than as separate books), liturgical literature,
history brochures, etc., “with none of the authors having visited Bulgaria or been in command
of the literary Bulgarian language” (Telbizov, 1984: 131). Nearly 150 years of written

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1 Known in history as the Chiprovo Uprising named after Chiprovtsi, the town where it first flared.
2 The sociolinguistic situation of the Banat Bulgarians in Serbia remains outside the focus of this study.
tradition were broken between 1943 and 1990 when publishing books or periodicals in Banat Bulgarian was proscribed, and the language was only used in the church as well as in day-to-day spoken communication among its carriers.

Its brisk revival started after the fall of the Ceausescu regime in Romania on 22 December 1989 and all the democratic changes in Central and South-Eastern Europe. The first issue of Náša glás, the so far longest published newspaper of the Banat Bulgarians, was born on 11th January, 1990. Today the language is being used in poetry, fiction, historical and religious literature, memoirs, folklore collections, literature anthologies, almanacs, calendars, prayer books, etc. Apart from printed publications, Banat Bulgarian has penetrated virtual communication as well. The first Internet blog in this language is already a fact, with part of the literature heritage of the Banat Bulgarians already loaded in the website’s virtual library. The site currently boasts 81 books, split into several topics or genres: religion, history, calendars, essays, poetry, fiction, manuscripts, photographs, etc. Stár Bišnov (Dudeştii Vechi), the biggest Bulgarian settlement in the Banat area, has its own website. The Banat Bulgarians have their own shows on the Romanian national channels TVR 3 and TV Arad (in both since 2009) as well as on Radio Timişoara (since 1990).

Periodicals play an especially important role in the life of Banat Bulgarians, represented by three papers – Náša glás, Isusvata svetlus and Bišnovska nuvina – and the a literary magazine Literaturna miselj (Mladenova, 2012: 195-204)

The restoration of the Banat literary microlanguage has taken place amidst political, social and cultural dynamics that have given a strong push towards the adoption of new words and expressions and the ensuing internationalisation of its vocabulary.

We shall comment on several aspects of this process:

- Linguistic policies and principles regulating the adoption of new vocabulary;
- Thematic groups with a higher penetration of loanwords or calques;
- Ways of acquiring new words and adaptation models.

Our analysis and conclusions are based on material gathered from the Náša glás (Our Voice) paper (started in 1990, 520 issues were out by the time of writing this paper) and Literaturna miselj (Literary Thought) magazine (started 1992, 152 issues so far). This choice is based on the fact that these are the longest running publications of the Banat Bulgarians, which allows a more systematic tracing of lexical mutations over a period of two decades. These two periodicals can be regarded as continuations of the tradition laid down back in 1881 with the first Banat Bulgarian newspaper Vinganska Narodna Nuvala (Monev 1976:33) and discontinued on 20 September 1943 when Banátsči balfarsči glášnic put out its last issue (Telbizov 1984:137). Our observations below are just a preliminary probe into trends which deserve a more thorough investigation.

1. Linguistic policies and principles regulating the adoption of new vocabulary.

Unlike national literary languages, where linguistic policies are planned and supervised by officially authorised institutions, microlanguages are managed mostly by individual members of the local community’s intelligentsia. Longer lasting periodicals create chances for a more sustainable linguistic policy, synergising the work of writers, reporters or editors, and affecting the direction that a literary microlanguage might take. Both periodicals have exhibited a more or less sustainable policy as regards the language they use, and it manifests itself at two levels – educational and practical.
The educational one has been based on the assumption that the overall linguistic competency of the readership must be elevated for the sake of mustering a proper debate about the language and its development under the new circumstances. A number of publications in both the paper and the magazine focus on the quality of Banat Bulgarian as well as the competence of its speakers. For instance, Náša glas has published: Hurtuvan i pismen jazič (spoken and written language), Na kasu za jazika, pismenustta i verata (briefly about language, writing and faith), Zašto ij dubre da pišimi na náša májčin jazič (why is it good to write in our mother tongue). A separate section titled Jazič i kultura (language and culture) in Náša glas informs its leadership what kind of discipline linguistics is and what branches it has (e.g. the article Lingvistikata, Leksikologijata). Náša glas also discusses spelling-related issues in special features like Gá i zašto piším s krájin „t” (why and when we write ‘t’ at the end of the word). The paper’s series titled Za proizhoga (etimologijata) na hurtite (on the origin /etymology/of words) alphabetically presents the origin of some words from the language’s active or passive vocabulary. Literaturna miselj has a special Lingvistika i grámatika section designed to enlighten its readership on grammar and spelling matters.

The practical aspect of linguistic policy is the unification of efforts among editors and writers while borrowing and adapting new words into the language.

It his 1866 normative grammar, Jozu Rill advised that while designating new concepts or objects words should be used “from Bulgarian lexical material, and only if that proves impossible, a borrowing should be made from the Croat language” (Stoykov 1967: 461).

Our own observations of the language used in Náša glás and Literaturna miselj have shown that both publications have largely followed the principle ‘to first borrow from Bulgarian lexical material’.

An editorial in Náša glás (2003, No. 5), entitled Lingvistika i grámatika discussing the new words coming into the language pointed out: „Ni škodi aku u banatsčija balgarsči-palčensči jazič ima vlijánija, uzájemevanjéta ud drugijije jazici, problemata ij či novite hurti, kujatu se uzájamevat, ni treba da udaramevait hurti, kujatu gji ima udkole u tozi jazič.... nija računim, či gá némata u banatsčija balgarsči jazič idha hurta, po-priličnu ij da se uzájemi ud balgarsčija jazič i da se „pupalčenstvuva”, ud kačetu da se dupusni da nafelez hurta ud drugji jazič... (There is nothing wrong if the Banat Bulgarian Paulician language sees influences and borrowings from other languages; yet the heart of the matter is that loanwords should not crowd out long existing words in this language .... We believe that every time Banat Bulgarian finds itself short of a word the more reasonable thing to do is to borrow it from Bulgarian and then ‘paulisize’ it rather than let in a word from another language...)

An article published in Náša glás under the title Za Kiril i Metodij .... pu banátsći (about Cyril and Methodius ... the Banat way) adopted the same attitude:

Ud drugji vazgled ima takvizi novi hurti, kujatu gji némati u náša banátsći balgarsći jazič. Gá imami nužda ud nekuja takvazi hurta, ij normálna da ja zémimi ud knižovnija balgarsći jazič, ud kačetu ud drugijije jazici, zašotou nija smi balgare.....ij jáku nužnu da imami briga da ni si udaramevami mlogu náša banátsći balgarsći jazič ud knižovin jazič. Či to knižovnija jazič na seku nácija ima glávnata cél da uđinva sate stávve na nácijata. (On the other hand, there are words, which are absent in our Banat Bulgarian language. Every time we need a word like that, we are well-advised to borrow it from the literary Bulgarian language rather than from any other language as we are Bulgarian. (...) It should be our great
concern to avoid our Banat Bulgarian language drifting away from our literary language. This is what a literary language is mostly about: it unites all members of the nation.) (Náša glás, 10/2011: 6-7).

The geographic distance hampers direct contacts between Bulgarian and Banat Bulgarian speakers yet the World Wide Web enables the latter to have online access to Bulgarian newspapers, magazines, books, radio and TV shows as well as websites. Children in settlements with more compact minority population study literary Bulgarian at school; even though most of them do not use it on a day-to-day basis, they are passively familiar with the core vocabulary. Articles and notices in literary Bulgarian are often published in the two periodicals we present here. This enables the use of Bulgarian lexical or syntactic models while borrowing international words, adopting loanwords or loan translations, or creating new words.

2. Thematic groups with higher penetration of loanwords or calques.

Náša glás and Literaturna miselj maintain with a high degree of consistency several columns dedicated to the following topic areas: current events (meetings, festivals, culture, religion, folklore, sports); fiction, poetry or other arts; news about computer or mobile technologies; culture and civilisation; schools and teaching; famous persons; Christian anthropology; history; archaeology; education; linguistics; psychology, etc.

These are the areas where the microlanguage has seen the most intensive penetration of new words or collocations.

1. Examples of international words and neologisms in culture, social life and the humanities: apoteoz (apotheosis), fantázija (fantasy), identitet (identity), identičnust (identity), individuálmust (individuality, intelekt (intellect), redakcionna kolegija (editorial board), kinokámera (cine-camera), modernizácija (modernisation), inicijativa (initiative), poetesa (poetess), mass-media (mass-media), realiziran (fulfilled), socio-profesionalna gledna točka (social and professional perspective), redáktor (editor), rubrika (column), psevdonim (pseudonym), ekzempljár (copy), ese (essay), státija (article), definicija (definition), civilizovan (civilised), hronologičesći (chronological), etničesći (ethnic), esencija (essence), profesija (profession), etiketa (label), profesionalis (a professional), lokaliziranje (localisation), arheologičesći (archaeological), identificiran (identified), koncepcija (concept), keramični fragment (ceramic fragments), agresija (aggression), etnografsći (ethnographic), sociologičesći (sociological), psihologičesći (psychological), antropologičesći (anthropological), lokaliziran (localised), evoljucionna (evolutionary), etc.

2. International words and neologisms in the field of economics, law and politics:

administrativnu právu (administrative law), administrácia (administration), darzávni i právni nauki (government and legal studies), političesći, ikonomičesći i sociálni nauki (political, economic and social sciences), sponzor (sponsor), bránd/produkt (brand/product), firma (firm), fáza (phase), sfinéza na finánse (the area of finance)

Više učilište za ikonomičesći i sociálni nauk (Higher School of Economics and Social Sciences), lansirva (promote), korporácia (corporation), budžet (budget), industriálin (industrial), direktija (directorate), investicii (investments), industria (industry), ekonomičesći potencijal (economic potential), import (import), eksport (export),

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3 It is not insignificant either that after 1990 some Banat Bulgarians went through the Bulgarian University system and have a full command of the literary Bulgarian language.
administrácia (administration), fondácia (foundation), etc.

3. International words and neologisms in the fields of engineering, technology and ICT: električeska (electrical), tehniceska (technical), avtomatizacija (automation), baziran (based), instalirvati/installiranje (install/installation), hardware (hardware), software (software), program (programme), programator (programmer), programiranje (programming) online (online), web adres (web address), browser (browser), smartphone (smartphone), tvrd disk (hard disk), USB port (USB port), visoči tehnologiji (high technology), digitáln (digital), joystick (joystick), dizajn (design), interfejs (interface), operacionni sistemi (operating systems), procesor (processor), mouse or miška (mouse), konfiguriranje (configuration), mreža (network), mrežova plátka (network interface card), gateway-a i DNS-a (gateway and DNS), opcija (option), internet-kafeta (internet cafes), mrežovi igri (network games), multiplayer (multiplayer), modificiran projekt (modified design), interfejs (interface), administrator na mreža (network administrator), administrator na sistemi (systems administrator), info designerete (info designers), programatorete (programmers), zvučna karta (sound card), chat (chat), e-mail (email), chat-room (chat room), elektronen format (electronic format), baziran (based), operacionna sistema (operating system), open source (open source), browser (browser), digitalin dokument (digital document), versija (version), distribucija (distribution), multi-user (multi-user), internet provájdere (Internet service provider) , monitor (monitor), printer (printer), mikrofon (microphone), piksel (pixel), skaner (scanner), elektronna pisálka (stylus), digitalin signál (digital signal), analogov signál (analog signal), kompresiran (compressed), web-starna (website), kurs baziran na e-mail (web-based training course), chat ali diskusjonni grupi (chat or discussion groups), etc.

New words in the microlanguage – patterns of penetration

It is not easy to identify the language of mediation for quite a few international terms, which penetrated Banat Bulgarian during the last two decades, as studying the periodicals does not tell us whether a word had already been adopted by the spoken language during the spell without writing. Inasmuch as Banat Bulgarian was only used in its spoken form in day-to-day communication and for liturgical needs throughout the period 1943-1990, it can safely be assumed that its lexical system remained relatively conservative and isolated from international vocabulary. Analysing the origins of vocabulary in Banat speech, Stoykov pointed out (1967: 461):

The pattern of enrichment for the vocabulary of literary languages is so much different to the one for dialects. Words penetrate the latter in an elemental way, and this process is governed by fairly specific cultural or historic circumstances. On the other hand, in literary languages (…) a substantial part of new adoptions comes as a consequence of deliberate interference by certain individuals and through selecting the means of expression based on theoretical concepts striving towards linguistic purity, correctness, universal access, etc.

Our study of the two periodicals helped as outline a few approaches deployed by their editors in enriching and updating the Banat microlanguage.

1. Adaptation of texts from official Bulgarian

Through the adaptation of various texts from the bigger language, Banat Bulgarian
ESTUDIOS Mundo Eslavo, 13 (2014), 63-73

borrows hitherto unknown words – mostly in the areas of culture, social sciences and IT – as well as collocations, work-making patterns or even whole syntactic constructions.

Here are a few examples:

Nipridvidimata, paradoksalna logika na poeticheskata fantaziya (kačetu i nekuja ud publicističnite tvorčestva na Botev) ud novu predlāga māj nadrealističnī vidējnēta. (Nepredvidimata,парадоксальная логика на поэтического фантазия (как в нову предложение мой надреалистичный видение. (Hristo Botev-čeleka- revoljucioner, poeta publicista L.M., 2006, br.10, s. 6)

Na 1 juli t.g. ij počnala registracijata za XII-ta edicija na konkursa BG Sājt 2001, kujatu za trāji du 30 september. Sekuj, kojuž želi, moži da se zapiši sāj u kategorijite: Bāńci i finansi; Elektronin magazin i sājve za pazaruvanjiet; Korporativin sājt; Obrazovanie, nauka i kultura; Online uslugi; Publicna administracija; Obštnusti; Mediji; Ličin blog/sājt; Startup (za mladēža du 25 gudini). Za paruv pač moži da se učāstva i u konkursa BG Site MIXX Awards, kojuž uključva tri kategoriji: Posingirvanjiet i razpuznāvanjiet na brānd; Lansirvanjiet na nov brānd/produt; Eksperimentalna i inovativna kampānjata.(NG 2011, 13, s.11) (Основната регистрацията в конкурса БГ Сайт 2011 започна на 1 юли и ще приключи на 30 септември. Дванадесетото издание на надпреварата ще протече под мотото „Без граници”. Желаещите да се включат в надпреварата чрез основната регистрация могат да участват със сайтове в категориите: Банки и финанси; Електронен магазин и сайтове за групово пазаруване; Корпоративен сайт; Образование, наука и култура; Онлайн услуги; Публична администрация, Общности; Медии; Личен блог/сайт; Startup. За първи път конкурът съвместно с IAB пуска категория BG Site MIXX Awards, която включва три категории: Позициониране и разпознаваемост на бранда; Лансиране на нов бранд/продукт; Експериментална и иновативна кампания. (http://computerworld.bg/36438_zapochna_osnovnata_registracija_v_bg_sajt_2011&ref=also).

Pravitelstvotu na Južna Koreja ij zajavilu, či za investira više ud 2 miljārda dolara u razrabotvanjētē na digitālni knigji, kujatu treba izcelu da zamestat klasičesīte hartijen učebnici du 2015 gudina (Правительство на Южна Корея объяви, че ще инвестира над 2 млрд. долара в разработката на дигитални книги, които трябва изцяло да заместят класическите хартиени учебници до 2015-та година), etc.

Adaptation/intralanguage translation has been used to represent works of literature or biographies of writers and poets, reports about political or cultural events, personalities, IT news, etc.

2. In 1995 Nāša glās offered a special Glossary column where incoming international words were explained. Bulgarian terminology, which was unfamiliar to the Banat microlanguage speakers, was also covered. The column gave definitions to more than 300 words.

International words: antonim, konflikt, efikāsin, astigmatizam, katedrāla, oftamolog, dizident, konvencija, kapitulirvam, dinastija, migrena, filantropija, kompetentnust, žest, žurnalistika, muskul, sejš, perspektīva, potenciālā, kazino, kompānija, kontakt, ekipirān, narkotik, lider, potenciālā, relikva, kapitulirvam, kontākt, ekipirān, forsirvanj, forum, riskuvar, mentalīte, endogamīja, tendencija, etnologiā, ajsberg, jurisdikcija, apartament и др.

From the official Bulgarian language: različitelin, badeštu, čužd, nahluvanjiet, vapros,
prohod, obsáda, razvalnuvan, pristáníštu, krasota, blágudarja, slega, proizhod, megdán, tąrgaš, sdružénji, gostupriemin, vminátílin, teglílu, poslovica, govor и др.

3. Penetration of international words through online sources

Most of the neologisms and international borrowings, predominantly related to the ICT world, infiltrate Banat Bulgarian through online sources. In this area, the microlanguage seems to follow the borrowing patterns of mainstream Bulgarian. Here is what Kina Vachkova had to say about the latter: “Some loanwords are so fast in penetrating the receiving language that they retain their English spelling while being featured in Bulgarian texts, and users don’t even bother to transliterate them.” (Vachkova 1999: 60).

Some of this terminology has been borrowed straight from English, with its original spelling and meaning: online, web, server, browser, program, USB port, chat, e-mail, chatroom, multiplayer, procesor, smartphone, info design, joystick, multiplayer, etc.

Sometimes their meaning is translated or explained in brackets or in a separate sentence.

For instance: Fizičesčija materiál kojtu zapázva dátite se zvé storage medium (sređstvu za zapážvani na dátite), a ustromstvotu kujétu četé i zapisva dátite se zvé storage device (ustrojstvu za zapisvanji) (The physical material storing the data is called a storage medium whereas the device, which reads and records data, is called storage device) LM, 2004, 9, 11

Multitasking iž wazmožnustta da se rábuti sas po-više prográme na idnaš. (Multitasking is a pattern of working with more than one programme at the same time) LM, 2004, 12, 10.

Hostname /imetu na stácijata/. (Hostname/the name of the station.)

These loanwords typically undergo some sort of morphological adaptation by working out versions incorporating the Bulgarian definite article and plural forms.

For example: gateway-a, DNS-a, bootloade-a, desktop-a, with the article’s end-morpheme hyphenated, which is evidence of the still low degree of adaptation into the microlanguage system.

Most of the newly adopted international words exhibit a partial phonetic, graphic and morphological adaptation of the type: grafičijánete, programatorete, instalirvanjé, kompjuter, internet-kafeta, memorija, konfigurirvanjé, fajl /fajlete/, modificiran projekt, operacionni sistemi, dizájn, digitálin, grafična plátka, grafičin installer, operacionna sistéma, konfigurirvanjéto na desktop-a na mrežata, komándna linija, etc.

Loan translations are a frequently used model, where calques can be partial (with one component of the collocation being translated whereas the other is simply adapted to the lexical norms of the microlanguage), e.g. tvard disk, zvučna karta, mrežova plátka, zvuková plátka, visóci tehnologiji or full, e.g. mrežovi igri, miška, komándna linija, administrator na mreža, etc.

These observations have certainly not covered all the fascinating aspects in the dynamic evolution of the Banat Bulgarian vocabulary in early 21st century, but they provide sufficient grounds for several preliminary conclusions:

• The Slavic literary microlanguages have not been isolated from the global processes and mutations in the lexical systems of mainstream Slavic languages.
• The lack of official authorities tasked to regulate linguistic developments in microlanguages shifts this responsibility over to individual persons: hence, personality factors are much more important than it is for the evolution of national languages. The turbulence of the process as well as the substantial bulk of incoming new vocabulary puts to the test the
linguistic intuition and skill of micro language carriers to adapt new words in such a way as to prevent its identity and originality from slipping away.

* While analysing the process of internationalisation of literary Slavic microlanguages as expressed in the Yugoslav-Rusyn (or Ruthenian), Dulichenko pointed out that the key “source and model for the international vocabulary and collocations” in Ruthenian language is Serbo-Croatian, which takes over the role of the selfstyled ‘filter language’ (Dulichenko 1997:219). The complicated sociolinguistic situation amid which the Banat language has been developing since its separation from the Bulgarian language area, the variety of linguistic influences it underwent throughout its history as well as the fact that the official language of the land – where it finds itself in an enclave situation – is not Slavic (unlike the Ruthenian situation in Vojvodina) give no reason to single out a filter language for international vocabulary. The study of Náša glás and Literaturna miselj has revealed two major trends:
  1. The adoption of loanwords or loan translations from the international vocabulary tends to mostly utilise the phonetic, morphological and collocational resources of the microlanguage.
  2. There is a substantial quantity of examples in the two periodicals of such borrowings where the literary Bulgarian language has stepped in as the filter language: the international vocabulary has penetrated Banat Bulgarian through it, by means of adaptation and intralinguage translation.

These observations have also shown that the dynamic of the literary microlanguages’ lexical systems – influenced by linguistic globalisation and turbulent updates over the last few decades – deserves a more robust interest and consistent research, in terms of carrying out both individual microlanguage and comparative analyses, with the aim of outlining the patterns of development.

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