Review of "The Turkish Morphological-Lexical Elements in the Macedonian Toponymy" by Zoran Spasovski

Zoran Spasovski'nin "Makedon Yer Adlarında Bulunan Türkçe Biçimsel ile Sözcüksel Unsurlar" Adlı Eserinin Değerlendirilmesi

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Vasil DRVOSHANOV[1]

[1]**Corresponding author/Sorumlu yazar:**
Vasil Drvoshanov (Prof. Dr.), İnstitute of Macedonian Language "Krste Misirkov" Department of Dialectology, Skopje, R. Macedonia
E-mail: vasildrvoshanov@yahoo.com, ORCID: 0009-0004-0857-1323

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In some regions the Macedonian linguistic landscape resembles a leopard fur. Within that Macedonian linguistic landscape, substrate, adstrate and superstrate linguistic elements are found. While the toponymy in Macedonia is predominantly built from linguistic devices inherited from the Macedonian language, it also contains foreign elements reflecting the linguistic intertwining on the Balkan Peninsula which have left their own trace and have adjusted to the Macedonian dialectal system. The Turkish language elements have left such visible traces in the Macedonian toponymy particularly in morphology and lexis. Dr. Zoran Spasovski's work *The Turkish Morphological and Lexical Elements in the Macedonian Toponymy* confirms this.

This review analyzes the study referred to in the subtitle, which is the first study that comprehensively analyzes the Turkish place names in the Macedonian territory only, and,
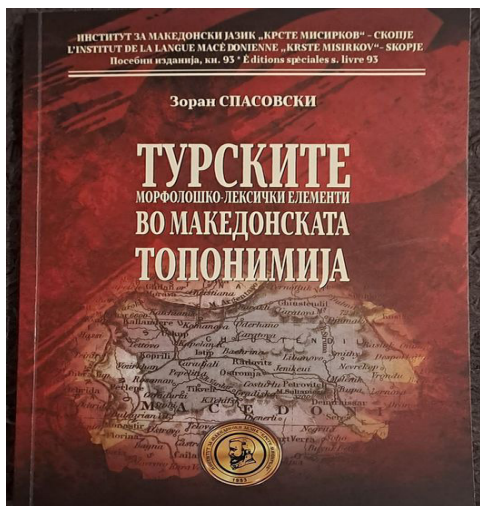
more specifically, one of the few in the world at all that especially analyses the Turkish place names outside the borders of Turkey following the Macedonian methodology and the methodology and findings of the Slavic onomastics.

The monography is composed of two parts: Part I: The Turkish Morphological and Lexical Elements in the Macedonian Toponymy (1-177) and Part II: Dictionary – Register of the Analyzed Toponyms Containing Turkish Elements (179-270). There is also a Foreword (I-IV), and Abbreviations/ of linguistic terms/ (271), References/ of the literature used/ (273-278), Bibliography /in several sections/:

Primary sources, Turkish Grammars, Onomastic Studies, Historical Documents, Dictionaries, Electronic Publications and Other resources (279-284).

At the beginning of the monography, the author introduces the motivation behind investigating this topic. Namely, in view of the fact that toponomastic studies have been carried out for several regions and for various toponomastic models, Spasovski has come up with the idea of analyzing all the Turkish place names in the Macedonian dialectal territory. The idea to produce such a work was further encouraged by the author's mastery of the Turkish language.

Dr. Spasovski's observations offer some very interesting insights into the differences between the Turkish and the Macedonian language, which are also reflected in the Macedonian toponymy. Namely, he notes that "the languages in question are completely different from a structural point of view and from the point of view of the worldview and the perception of things around us in general. While Macedonian is more specific and, it can be said, structurally more organized than Turkish, "Turkish is much more metaphoric and picturesque in the derivation of the toponomastic meanings than Macedonian". He illustrates this with numerous examples, emphasizing that "in Macedonian, generally, each distinct meaning has its own suffix", cf. *-јани (-jani)* for 'settlers from other places', *-овци (-ovtsi)* for 'families, clans', *-иште (-ishte)* for 'places characterized by an object/objects found in them or serve for a certain activity performed in them', *-јак (-jak)* for 'places where something is found in abundance', etc. The author notes that in Turkish, on the other hand, the meanings are often conveyed metaphorically, in a picturesque way, and by means of nominal or verbal constructions, cf. *Деве Бојун (Deve Boyun)* 'Camel's Neck', which metaphorically means 'a mountain pass or a passage winding in a shape similar to a camel's neck', *Памук Баба (Pamuk Baba)* 'Cotton Father' – 'a hillock so white as to resemble a cotton', *Akpınar* literally meaning 'a

white well', but metaphorically meaning 'an upper well', etc. In addition, Spasovski notes that the use of suffixes in Turkish is significantly narrower than the one in Macedonian, cf. *Pinarlar* 'well*s*/spring*s*', but: *Ahmetler* means: 'The Ahmets', 'The Ahmet family' (in Macedonian it would be 'bunar*i*', but 'Ahmet*ovci*'). What is even more interesting, as the author notes, is that some suffixes seem to have acquired a specialized toponomastic meaning in this territory under the influence of the Macedonian language. Therefore, for example, the suffix **-cik** has a diminutive meaning in common Turkish, cf. *çocucuk* 'a sweet little child'. However, it doesn't seem to have a diminutive meaning in toponymy, where it means some kind of 'nomen loci', 'a place named after an object present in it'. Cf. *Бунарџик* (Bunarcik), Tur. *Pınarcık* does not mean 'a small well', but 'a place named after the fact that there is a well in it'. Thus, the diminutive meaning might have been kept in the sense of the size of the place, but when it comes to personal names, it seems that the hypocoristic meaning is more important, cf. *Османџик* (Osmancik), 'the place in Bursa where the mausoleum of the founder of the Ottoman dynasty is located'. The author notes that in comparison with the Macedonian language, the Turkish language makes much more use of colors in the naming of geographical features, especially in the names of water features, most often rivers, and elevations, mountains, etc., cf. *Aksu* 'white', but more specifically 'a transparent, clear river', *Karasu* 'dark water', *Bozcaada* 'grayish island', 'an island with the color of soil', *Alacadağ* 'a colorful mountain', comp. Macedonian 'Шар Планина (Shar Planina)' (the same meaning), etc. Moreover, the Turkish language makes symbolic use of certain colors with a spatial meaning. Namely, the color *ak*, 'white' in geography marks the South, the color *kara* 'black' marks the North, thus the compounds *Akdeniz* and *Karadeniz* do not mean 'White Sea' and 'Black Sea', but mean 'South Sea' and 'North Sea'. These observations of Dr. Spasovski point to the problems he confronted, gripping with "a toponymy completely different than ours, which required the use of an approach appropriate for a material completely unlike ours, which in the first place we needed to understand at all".

Further in his monography, Spasovski introduces us to the fact that this study analyses all the places in the Macedonian territory that "contain a Turkish element in their structure, regardless of the fact whether they keep their original, completely Turkish form or they just contain a Turkish element, a base or a suffix". He analyzes a total of 160 names of cities and villages and 5311 names of other geographical features. He emphasizes that the material analyzed has been excerpted from the Archive of the Institute of Macedonian Language "Krste Misirkov" – Skopje and from historical sources (historical studies, geographical and military maps, etc.). He also explains the structure of the monography and the scope of the toponomastic material represented in it.

Regarding the prevalence of the Turkish settlements, mainly villages, in the Macedonian territory, the author notes that they actually form 'oases' in certain regions, more specifically, between *Sveti Nikole* and *Shtip*, in the *Radovish Yurukluk*, in the area of *Dojran*, *Strumica,* etc., i.e. along the river *Vardar* and between the more important city centers: between *Skopje* and

Veles, *Skopje* and *Tetovo*, between *Prilep* and *Bitola* etc., where they are located strategically. However, microtoponymic material is distributed over the whole of the Macedonian territory. The author notes that in and around the Turkish settlements, an original and archaic Turkish toponymic material can be found, while in the other areas, where there is not a considerable Turkish population, even where there has never been, the Turkish influence is equally present, but not in that authentic Turkish form in which it can be found in the Turkish settlements. According to Spasovski, the reason is that there has been a direct influence of the Turkish language by the Turkish population creating original Turkish toponyms in the Turkish settlements and an indirect influence of the Turkish language by borrowing Turkish toponomastic appellatives in the spoken language, such as *tepe* 'peak', 'summit', *bayır* 'hill', *pınar* 'well, *dere* 'brook', *kaynak* 'wellhead', *çeşme* 'tap', *mahalle* 'settlement', 'neighborhood', etc., which were used to derive toponyms, i.e. place names. Namely, *Деве Баир* (*Deve Bair* – 'Deve Bayır' or 'Camel's Hill') was a toponym established by the original Turkish population in the area it inhabited, while the toponym *Кус Баир* (*Kus Bair* - 'Kısa Bayır' or 'Short Hill') was established by the Macedonian people after the lexeme 'bayır' had entered the Macedonian language as a loanword from Turkish and was subsequently used in the derivation of place names as well. Thus, there is a large number of borrowed toponomastic appellatives from Turkish. And it is quite interesting how this evenness was achieved in the whole of the Macedonian language territory, i.e. how did it come that all of this Turkish toponomastic bases so evenly distributed over the whole of the language territory (for comparison, some native, i.e. Slavic bases show dialectal distribution, but the Turkish bases are almost without exception evenly distributed in the whole of the dialects of the Macedonian).

The author notes that all the place names, including those of settlements, are classified from two aspects: lexical-semantic and grammatical-structural. The lexical-semantical classification gives a clear picture of the areas in which the Turkish language has made its greatest influence. Namely, regarding geographical features, that influence is evenly felt in oronymy, hidronymy and communications, cf. *tepe* 'peak', *bayır* 'hill', *çukur* 'hole', 'pit', depression', *dere* 'brook' or 'valley, *kaynak* 'wellhead', *azmak* 'puddle, bog; outlet', *gedik* 'mountain pass', *geçit* 'pass', *yol* 'road, path', etc. However, the influence of the Turkish language increases proportionately when it comes to flora and fauna, cf. *koru* 'grove', *orman* 'forest', *çam* 'pine', *çınar* 'plane'; sycamore', *deve* 'camel', *kurt* 'wolf', such as, for example: *Курт ДереÃ // Вăкоф Дол* (Kurt Dere/V'kof Dol - 'Wolf Valey'), etc. Spasovski points out that the influence of the Turkish language is the most visible in the area of man-made items, cf. *ağıl* 'pen', *çayır* 'meadow', *ambar* 'barn', *bahçe* 'garden', *bedesten* 'covered bazar', *tabakhane* 'tannery', *şadırvan* 'fountain', *köprü* 'bridge', *saray* 'palace', *hamam* 'public bath', *kale* 'fortress, *camı* 'mosque' etc., and in the area of materials, i.e. in the toponyms formed metaphorically from items used in everyday life, cf. *Барутницата (Barutnitsata 'The Powder Mill')*, *Бајрак Камен (Bayrak Kamen – 'Flagstone')*, *Криво Дајре (Krivo Daire – '*Crooked Tambourine') *Чалмачица*,

(Chalmachitsa – 'The Turban Seller's Field), *Бардак Чукар (Bardak Chukar - 'Jug Clif')*, *Казан Тепе* (Kazan Tepe – 'Cauldron Peak'), etc.

The grammatical-structural classification, Spasovski notes, shows the structure of the Turkish toponyms, i.e. which grammatical devices (suffixes, grammatical constructions and the like) were used in the formation of the place names and how they were adjusted in the Macedonian language. The author notes that the Turkish toponyms in the Macedonian territory were formed with the suffixes *-cik*, cf. *Јајлециик* ('Yaylacik'), *-lı* cf. *Дума:нли* ("Dumanli'), *-lık* cf. *Армутлук* ('Armutluk') etc., conveying the meanings that are conveyed by some of the Macedonian suffixes, cf. *-lik* that of the *nomen loci* 'a place with…'. On the other hand, the Turkish lexemes have been adapted with the Macedonian suffixes *-a*, *-(u)ja* (*-a*, *-ija*), cf. *Гара* (*Gara*) < *gar* - 'railway* station', *Авлиja* ('*Avliya'*) < *avlu* 'courtyard'. This explains the structure of the Turkish language and how it has influenced Macedonian and vice versa, and how the Turkish nouns have adjusted to the Macedonian system.

Based on these observations, the author concludes that both classifications together provide both the meanings and the structure of the Turkish toponomastic appellatives that have penetrated the Macedonian language and the way they have adjusted into the Macedonian system. In a nutshell, both classifications demonstrate the way the Turkish toponomastic appellatives and word-formation devices were adopted and adjusted in the Macedonian linguistic system and the type of bidirectional mutual influence between both languages.

In the end, Dr. Zoran Spasovski sums up the results of his scientific research of the "toponyms of Turkish origin or those containing Turkish elements in their structure found in the Macedonian language territory". Furthermore, he highlights the most important factors that have contributed to the appearance of the Turkish borrowings in the Macedonian toponymy, the most important one being the "colonization of the Turkish population in these regions". This has led to the appearance of Turkish names in the Macedonian toponymy, especially in the regions highly populated by the Turks or where the Turkish-speaking population was predominant.

Analyzing the models used to name the Yuruk settlements, Dr. Spasovski actually reveals how the names of the villages were formed. Those models are, he notes, **izafet constructions formed from an anthroponym** (most often a personal name, a nickname or a title) and **a general concept of a tribe, clan, nomadic group** (*oba*), of the type of: *Ali Obası (Ali's Society)*, *Şeyh Obası (Sheyh's Society)* etc.; an **anthroponym** (a personal name, a nickname or a title) + **the noun** *köy* 'village': *Aga Köy (Aga's Village)*, *Dana Köy* (Cowmen's Village) etc.; an **adjectival modifier + an anthroponym** or an **anthroponym** + a **nominal modifier, most often a title**: *Sarı Hamza*, *Hamza Bey* etc.; a **personal name** or a **nickname + the plural suffix -lar/-ler,** such as: *Köseler*, *Koçular*; an **anthroponym** + **the suffix -li** with a possessive meaning, in the sense of 'the village of … ': *Gökçeli*, *Ayranlı* etc. Oykonyms showing that the toponymic appellatives have started to penetrate the Macedonian language, to toponymise

themselves and to pass into the toponymic nomenclature of the language are the oykonyms such as *Сарај* (Saray 'Palace'), *Мајден* (Mayden 'Mine'), *Орманли* (Ormanli 'a village in a forest') etc. On the other hand, the oykonyms of the type of *Каврак* (Kavrak) show that both toponymic elements and toponymic patterns have started to penetrate the names of places.

At the same time, Spasovski notes that process of borrowing has always started by taking the entire Turkish expression as a base, regardless of whether it was an oyconym or a microtoponym, regardless of whether it was a single or a compound base (perhaps built from two or more components), and regardless of whether it was derived with inflectional or derivational suffixes in Turkish: *Идризово* (Idrizovo) (from the personal name *Idriz*), *Кетеново* (Keten**ovo**, from the appellative *keten* 'linen'), *Каратманово* (Karatman**ovo**, from the adjectival phrase Kara Otman/Utman, actually Kara Osman), *Кадрифаково* (Kadrifak**ovo**, from the nominal phrase built from a personal name and a title - *Hızır Fakih*), *Софилари* (Sofilar**i**, from a root + an inflectional suffix – Sofu + **-lar/-ler**), *Бекирлија* (Bekirli**ya** – from a root + a derivational suffix – Bekir + **-li**), etc.

In the author's opinion, the Turkish oykonyms have mainly been formed from anthroponomic bases, but the oykonyms whose base includes (toponomastic or non-toponomastic) appellative are not few in number either. The derivation, on the other hand, could be carried out both with a Macedonian or a Turkish suffix: *Бунарче* (Bunar**che**) or *Бунарџик* (Bunar**cik** – same meaning).

When analyzing the oykonyms, Spasovski classifies them in groups in order to show all of the distinct oyconym models so that the patterns of their adaptation in the Macedonian language could be more easily understood. At the same time, he notes that the oykonyms with *köy* 'village' as their second element and derived with the suffix *-li* are in the most cases adopted with the suffixes *-ово* and *-ино* (*Ağa Köy*, *Kara Osmanlı* – *Агино Село*, *Каратманово, i.e.* Ag**ino** Selo – 'Aga's Village', Karatman**ovo** – 'Kara Osman's'). To adjust in the Macedonian gender system the oykonyms that ended in the suffix *-lı,* the suffix – *иja* (*-iya*) was used (*Гечерлија – Gecherliya 'Migrants' Village'*, *Кепекчелија – Kepekcheli* – 'village of dog breeders'). The patronymic *-џи, -овци/-евци* (*-tsi*, *-ovtsi*, *-evtsi*) were the most often used as calques for the Turkish suffixes *-lar/-ler*, the element *oba(sı),* etc. (*Kanadlar –Канатларци i.e. Kanatlar**tsi** 'Ƙanats* (family), or 'comers from the village of Kanatlar', *Alı Obası – Алинци, i.e. Alin**tsi** 'Ali's Company',* but according to the Macedonian form 'Ali's (family)), from which it can be concluded that the appropriate forms in the Turkish language had a patronymic meaning. Still, some Turkish oykonyms formed with the Turkish plural suffix *-lar/-ler* have been adjusted in the Macedonian language system by directly adding the Macedonian plural suffix *-i* to the Turkish one (Sofu + *-lar* + *-i*). However, Spasovski notes that those models of adaptation were obviously not so strict because different Turkish oykonyms were differently adopted in the Macedonian language, for which he gives many examples stating their location as well.

Spasovski notes that the analysis of the microtoponyms shows how much of the Turkish lexis from all fields has actually passed into the Macedonian language and has been toponymized. It also shows to which degree they have been adopted in the Macedonian language system because

the Turkish bases have been derived with Macedonian derivational suffixes and modified with Macedonian inflectional suffixes (*Дервенчето* i.e. Derven+*che*+*to*), or the Turkish bases have been derived with compound Macedonian or mixed Macedonian and Turkish suffixes (*Ракиџи:ца* i.e. Rakid*zi:ca -cɪ + -itsa), Сармаџинец* i.e. Sarma*dzinets - -cɪ + -nets* etc.), etc.

The study concludes with 16 abbreviations for linguistic terms and with 75 references for the literature used. The rich bibliography containing several sections is impressive: one primary source, three Turkish language grammars, 26 onomastic studies, 13 historical documents, 31 dictionaries, five electronic publications and 23 other sources from Macedonian and foreign authors that fundamentally support Dr. Zoran Spasovski's scientific argumentation.

At the end of this review of the monography *The Turkish Morphological and Lexical Elements in the Macedonian Toponymy,* I would like to point out some important features of the author's, Dr. Zoran Spasovski's, scientific arguments presented in the course of his analysis of the toponomastic material.

Namely, Dr. Zoran Spasovski's research approach is characterized by consistency in the application of his scientific methodology. He always states the historical findings and his predecessors' theses, even when he does not agree with their explanations. At the same time, prior to offering his own interpretation of the issues considered, he performs checks and with scientific arguments suggests his own interpretations which are better founded in clarifying vague place names.

One of Spasovski's characteristics in the interpretation of the Turkish borrowings in the Macedonian toponymy is his cautiousness. He is never exclusive, but always leaves room for other, different observations regarding the bases of oykonyms.

Spasovski's linguistic education and his command of several languages, and especially his knowledge of the Turkish language and his scientific curiosity, make it possible for him to dive deeply in order to resolve the toponymic knots.

Dr. Spasovski provides comprehensive explanations about all the deviations of the Macedonian toponyms that originate from the influence of the Turkish language, using research findings from top Turkish language experts from all linguistic disciplines relevant to the questions that are subject of his research. It can be said that the interpretations of some of the oykonyms represent small studies into the matters in question in their own right. The author always supports his theses with scientific arguments, which gives an exceptional weight to this monography.

It is precisely these elements, inter alia, that make Dr. Zoran Spasovski's monography *The Turkish Morphological and Lexical Elements in the Macedonian Toponomy* significant and indispensable in the study of Macedonian, and particularly of Macedonian onomastics, enriching it with an original work, one of its kind in Macedonia and amongst the rare ones in the world, which specifically deals with the Turkish place names outside the Turkey's borders, analyzed following the Macedonian methodology and the methodology and findings of the Slavic onomastics.