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BOOK REVIEW: 70 YEARS OF BULGARIAN STUDIES IN BUDAPEST

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ABSTRACT

The present study is a book review of a recent volume published in honor of Bulgarian Studies at Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest. At 159 pages, the book brings together papers from Hungary, Bulgaria and the Czech Republic. This publication reinforces the academic ties between Hungary and Bulgaria, and it gives new insights into Bulgarian studies.

Keywords: *Bulgarian Studies, Budapest, Book Review.*

Mária Dudás (szerk./ред.). 70 години българска филология в Будапеща. Юбилеен сборник по повод 70 години от основаването на специалността „Българска филология“ в Университета „Лоранд Йотвъш“ в Будапеща. Opera Slavica Budapestinensia. Symposia Slavica. Budapest: ELTE BTK, 2024. 159 pp. ISBN: 978-963-489-767-5

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Budapest’s Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) has long been a major hub for Bulgarian studies outside of Bulgaria. For over 70 years, the discipline has been an important pillar of Hungarian Slavic Studies, which traditionally has a strong South Slavic orientation. This can of course be explained by Hungary’s geographical proximity to the South Slavs

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and the country's diverse ethnic composition, while the university's institutional structures provide a solid basis for academic work on South Slavic and Bulgarian topics.

The reviewed volume commemorates the 70th anniversary of Bulgarian Studies at the ELTE with ten studies by authors from various countries, demonstrating the university's strong international profile. Cross-border cooperation is vital for small disciplines like Bulgarian studies, and the contents of the volume bear witness to these efforts.

In her short foreword, the editor Mária Dudás contextualizes and discusses the publication's significance, recalling how Bulgarian Studies were first established in Budapest in the academic year of 1952/53. Important conferences have since marked such occasions as the program's 35th and 60th anniversaries. Now, this volume seeks to further elevate Bulgarian Studies in Hungary both locally and on the international stage (pp. 7–8).

The collection of studies is arranged alphabetically by author and written in Bulgarian, with each text accompanied by an English abstract. Thematically, the contributions cover a very broad spectrum, addressing various linguistic and literary issues. Krasimira Aleksova's study focuses on the evidential verb category, which she analyzes based on electronic corpora (pp. 9–25). Mária Dudás then traces the development of Bulgarian studies in Budapest (pp. 27–36), presenting the subject's history and primary representatives in a revealing manner. Notably, in the 1970s and 1980s, interest in Bulgarian philology was so high that students had to be divided into several groups (p. 29). The institute's publishing activities are also outlined (p. 35), providing insight into its academic focus and evolving research priorities. The next paper by Elena Krejčová and Nadežda Staljanova examines political communication in times of crisis in Bulgaria and the Czech Republic (pp. 37–49), after which Krisztina Menyhárt draws connections between Hungarian and Bulgarian folkloric texts (pp. 51–64).

A current topic that finds reflection also in lexicology is the difficult situation in Ukraine, which has led to the emergence of expressive lexis and neologisms in the Bulgarian language. Marinela Mladenova examines these linguistic innovations (pp. 65–79) while pointing out that some examples remain mere occasionalisms (p. 78). The subsequent study by Božana Niševa, Mihaela Kuzmova and Štefan Pilát continues in the field of lexicology, presenting their work on the retro-digitization of a Bulgarian-Czech dictionary originally published in 1959 (pp. 81–105).

Shifting the focus, Natalia Nyagolova examines the question of literary geography through a novel by Vasil Popov that was initially criticized under Socialism but has recently been rehabilitated (pp. 107–119). Gergana Padareva-Ilieva then evaluates students' motivation for enrolling in Bulgarian studies at the universities in Sofia and Blagoevgrad (pp. 121–129), after which Yofka Tisheva discusses several striking features of the spoken Bulgarian language (pp. 131–142). Finally, the volume concludes with an insightful study by Veneta Yankova on the "Collection of At. Iliev" from 1889, a

document housed at the university library in Budapest that provides important evidence of academic exchange between Hungary and Bulgaria (pp. 143–158).

The volume thus brings together authors from Hungary, Bulgaria and the Czech Republic to show how topics relevant in current Bulgarian studies are being received in the Hungarian context. The editor's effort in preparing this volume is commendable, as it reflects the international significance of the 70th anniversary of Bulgarian studies at the ELTE. The publication also reinforces the academic ties between Hungary and Bulgaria, and will help to increase interest in the Bulgarian language and its body of literature both inside Hungary and beyond its borders.

