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**DAS BALKANISCHE SCHWA, DER GAGAUSISCHE VOKALISMUS  
UND DIE FRAGE DES BULGARISCHEN EINFLUSSES**

**THE BALKAN SCHWA, THE GAGAUZ VOWEL SYSTEM AND THE QUESTION  
OF BULGARIAN IMPACT**

**Abstract:** Gagauz is a Turkic language which evolved from an Anatolian Turkish dialect transferred to Bulgaria probably in the 14th or 15th century, and from the end of the 18th century has been mostly used in Moldova. It is only natural that after about seven hundred years in close contact to two typical Balkan languages, Bulgarian and Romanian, also the Gagauz language may have developed or assimilated some of the so-called Balkan features. One of them is the existence of a schwa-type vowel. This author attempts to find an answer to the question whether Gagauz does or does not have schwa.

**Keywords:** Slavonic languages, Gagauz, Turkish, Balkan linguistics, vowel system, language contact