

ABSTRACTS OF PUBLICATIONS

of PhD Maya Vlahova-Angelova,

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Monographies:

1. **Habilitation work:** Vlahova-Angelova, M. 2018. *Onomastics and Ethnobotany: A Study of Fruit Names Based on Toponymic Data from Western Bulgaria*. Sofia: Prof. Marin Drinov Publishing House of Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. ISBN 978-954-322-956-7. 2018.
<http://www.baspress.com/book.php?!=b&id=1368>

Scientific reviewers: Prof. d-r Maria Kitanova, Ass. Prof. d-r Ana Kocheva

Summary:

The work examines toponymy from an atypical standpoint, and studies the fruit names preserved in several local names, as a reflection of traditional bio-systematization. The departure point of the research is the understanding that toponymy can be a source of data on the ethnobiological knowledge of Bulgarians. The main focus of the study is an investigation of the manner in which toponymy reveals the folk biosystematics of fruit. Exploring the link between toponymy and the world of plants uncovers the principles, by which plants were traditionally classified in the minds of Bulgarians.

The research surveys the microtoponymy of Western Bulgaria, and also includes territories outside of today's borders, such as the Tsaribrod, Bosilegrad and Tran regions. The names of plants that Bulgarians considered fruit in their day to day lives, as opposed to any botanical classification, are the subject of this research. Twenty fruit names have been rigorously examined: боровинка (blueberry), вишня (sour cherry), глог (hawthorn), диня (watermelon), дюля (quince), дрян (cornel), кайсия (apricot), круша (pear), къпина (blackberries), малина (raspberry), пъпеш (melon), слива (plum), смокиня (fig), скоруша (sorb), тиква (pumpkin), череша (cherry), черница (mulberry), ябълка (apple), and ягода (strawberry).

The view that the systematization of knowledge about the surrounding world did not originate from people's purely practical needs, but instead was mainly an answer to their

intellectual pursuits (Levi-Strauss 1966), and as a consequence, these ethnoscientific classifications preserve many universal and nationally specific mechanisms of thinking, is integral to this work. The principles of folk taxonomy as an organizational system of primitive knowledge, as proposed by Brent Berlin (see Berlin et al. 1973, Berlin 1992, D'Andrade 1995), have been adopted as the principal method in this research. The main goal of the study is to classify the gathered linguistic data according to a thesaurus principle of grouping related concepts, where the terms are accentuated first, and the lexical variations on a word formation and semantic level, as well as geographic distribution, are postliminary. This allows for the construction of a toponymy-based model of traditional fruit taxonomy.

The developed taxonomic models of individual concepts clearly reveal that there was a high degree of categorization and classification of plants in the traditional mentality of Bulgarians. The categorization of plant varieties occurred most discernibly on the species level. This created classification challenges in some cases of closely related species, as in *скоруша* (sorb), which, because of its close resemblance to *круша* (pear) and *мушмула* (medlar), is often referred to as a kind of pear or medlar, and not a separate, individual species. In respect to the denomination of subspecies, toponymic data suggests that a precise differentiation is present with some species, whereas it lacks altogether in others.

This study also contributes to the fields of dialect lexicography and linguistic geography. A number of hyperonymous and hyponymous terms have been referenced, most of which are archaic and of limited local usage – as for example *брекина* (chequers), *скоруша* (sorb), *сланопаджа* (a natural pear hybrid), *стамболка* (heirloom pear variety), *хруповица* (cherry) – and some of which were previously unrecorded. For instance, the concept of pear is present in over fifty hyponymous names. The data suggests that the most frequently encountered fruit names in the toponymy of western Bulgaria are *круша* (pear) and *дрян* (cornel). Special attention is paid to the territorial distribution of phytonyms (hyperonyms as well as hyponyms), the synonymy of fruit names, and the semantic discrepancies between the terms in different regions.

The main conclusion of the research is that toponymy is a reliable source of data (maybe even the most reliable) for the study of the naive and unscientific understanding of plant biodiversity, which in itself reflects and repeats some of the traditional taxonomy. Toponymy is a peculiar type of photograph of reality, since the ethnobotanic information that is preserved in it is, although large in volume, transferred solely on a mechanical basis. The analysis has revealed unequivocally that place names very successfully reproduce the complex system through which Bulgarians classified plants, and that fruit-bearing plants formed a separate, very significant category in the cognitive understanding of our people.

2. Vlahova-Angelova, M. 2013. *The Streets of Sofia: Mapping Urban Identity*. Sofia: IBL, ISBN: 978-954-92489-4-4

Summary:

This book presents the results and the basic contents of a dissertation entitled “Urbanonyms in the City of Sofia (A Sociometric Study and Cognitive Model of the City Based on Street Names)”, which was defended in 2010 at the Institute for Bulgarian Language at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. Urban space is filled with various objects – roads, squares, residential neighborhoods, parks and buildings that have their own names. This investigation aims to replicate the classical structure of an empirical sociometric study. However, the sociometric method is not traditionally used in onomastics, which is in principle a descriptive science, whose general conclusions are reduced to classifications or to analytical observations tied to the origin or semantics of the proper names. Thus, the challenge in this work arises from the development of a different sociolinguistic model that combines descriptive procedures, sociometric statistical methods, and certain cognitive approaches in contemporary lexicology. Indeed, its main point of interest can be reduced to the contrast and juxtaposition of results that are representative of two types of thinking – the scientific worldview vs. everyday consciousness, made up of the collective emotional memories of ordinary citizens. Street names and urbanonyms as a whole are key words with symbolic capital which reveal cultural sociodynamics in their entirety – intergenerational continuity or else social conflicts of the most various forms. For this reason, the study of urban toponymy in an official city such as a capital is not only a fragment of the whole picture of the world, grounded in the language of a given people. Moreover, names show that the most important part of the local picture of the world exists transformed into a picture of the city, in which there are both national as well as global symbols. Thus, the streets in Sofia, organized into lists and classified by topic or by formal characteristics, are not only an index to some geographical map. The true place of such an index is not on paper or in digital format, but in the consciousness of ordinary citizens, because the language users live with those street names, not only in order to orient themselves in space, but also in time, and thus also in their hierarchy of values.

The book’s introductory chapter surveys literature on the anthropology of the city and urbanology. The first chapter of the book is dedicated to methodological questions, describing the specific steps taken, the preparatory experiments, the measuring procedures that turn the linguistic facts into quantitative data, and the possibilities for statistical analysis. It also introduces the two main experiments making up the empirical side of the study itself. It begins by discussing a series of questions tied to polysemy in street names. This third chapter of the study presents the experiments themselves, which were limited to two: (1) measuring the emotional-affective meanings of street names and (2) a sociometrics of language users’ abstract thinking, studied by means of the method of free classification. To better examine the contrast between the scientific and everyday models of the street names as parallel semiotic systems, the same experiment also included an additional task (formulated as a third experiment), in which the informants had to arrange their

preferences for the eight thematic categories given to them by the scientific classification along a vertical scale of value. The design of the second experiment follows the well-known method of free classification, which was used successfully by E. Gerganov (1987) working with students from fourth and sixth grades, who classified birds, plants and animals. In planning an experiment of this type, the respondents are given precise instructions on how to carry out the operational procedure which will supply quantitative data for a cluster analysis, according to J. Miller's algorithm. The fine points of this method are described in detail several places in E. Gerganov's work (1987: 146 and 175). Here we should note most generally that the respondents were required to freely order cards with street names. The dendograms resulting from this cluster analysis show very precisely the state and organization of concepts in the semantic memory of the users of this information from a given social group (dendograms 1-7). Unlike other similarity matrices, which study conceptual structures and the processes of categorization in the form of mental models, street names do not show direct conceptual hierarchies, but rather emotional evaluations, and how the collective memory groups linguistic information thematically. The reason for this is the onomastic material itself – streets' meanings possess a secondary semantic level and constitute an indirect reference, i.e. the name of the street, square or boulevard is the second of the meanings of the name of a given individual. In this way, what is being classified are not the concepts themselves, but evaluations of people. The last chapter of the book discusses diachronic aspects of the onomastic material. As far as the historical side of the model is concerned, this chapter also defines the four periods over the past 100 years when ideological turning points occurred, which were important for the renaming of streets.

Articles:

3. Vlahova-Angelova, M. 2014. Colour Terms in the Bulgarian Toponymy (Based on Material of Western Bulgaria). – Bulletin of the Institute for Bulgarian Language, 2014, v. XXVII, pp. 130-160.

Abstract: Colour terms in toponymy reflect physical features of objects and thus help to identify places. Colours in toponymy often express abstract naïve thinking of language users, since they manifest conceptual notions such as good, evil, fear, prosperity etc. In this study both cognitive and semiotic approaches have been applied in order to reveal semantics of colour terms in Bulgarian microtoponymy. Analyses show that three colour terms – black, white and red are most frequently used in toponyms. What is more, their meanings vary (both literal and figurative). Finally, Bulgarian toponymy reveals many archaic features regarding colour terminology, which cannot be found in contemporary Bulgarian language.

4. Vlahova-Angelova, M. 2013. Colors in Bulgarian Toponymy. In: *Balkan Color 3. Proceedings from the Third International Scientific Conference on Color Terms* (Veliko Tarnovo, June 2013). Sofia: Group "Color", pp. 76-85. ISSN: 1313-4884

Abstract: Bulgarian toponymy contains an abundance of names that include terms for color. Colors are a salient and recognizable feature and have become a customary mechanism for naming places, settlements and water bodies. Toponymy is part of our cultural heritage and as such it preserves multiple archaic elements. The study of the function of colors will reveal many interesting aspects of our language and culture. The present article is the initial phase of a comprehensive work, which will aim to establish, describe and analyze the semantics of all the terms for color found in Bulgarian toponymy. The research focused on western Bulgarian regions and the names were approached synchronously. The Electronic Database of Western Bulgarian Microtoponymy of the Applied Onomastics Department at the Institute for Bulgarian Language and several published studies of western Bulgarian toponymy were used as reference. The toponymy of western Bulgaria was chosen by virtue of its antiquity. It has retained multiple ancient names, which reflect a number of archaic characteristics of the language and way of thinking, and likely some inherent naming mechanisms as well. It is important to note that another factor that contributed to this choice is the predominance of local names in the region.

5. Vlahova-Angelova, M. 2013. Public Opinion and the street names in the city of Sofia. In: Choleva-Dimitrova (ed.). *Horizons of Bulgarian linguistics: Proceedings of the National Conference Dedicated to Prof. Yordan Zaimov's 90th Anniversary*. Sofia: Institut za Balgarski Ezik, pp. 78-86. ISBN: 978-954-92489-5-1

Abstract: An empirical socio-onomastic research on contemporary street names in the city of Sofia was conducted in 2006-2009. It aimed at investigating how citizens evaluate street names. Six groups of people (10 p. each) rated their liking of street names. The sample comprised 80 names of streets of 8 different classes (personal names, names of geographical sites, names of historical dates and events, ideological names, poetic names, abstract names, descriptive names and names of subjects). Ratings of different names varied among every single group of respondents – ranging from very positive to extremely negative. These results showed that all the six groups of people evaluated different classes of street names in similar way. Respondents strongly rejected ideological names, while, on the contrary, they highly approved personal names. The rest of the names were rated in the middle.

6. Vlahova-Angelova, M. 2014. The Street Names of Sofia – The Memory of the City. – *Diversity in the Unity*, 1/2014, pp. 101-109. ISSN: 1314-0825 <http://www.tksi.org/SUB/papers/2014/12-Vlahova-Angelova-red-2-PDF-G1.pdf>

Abstract: Contemporary street names are signposts of culture. They play important role in collective memory and thus they are significant element of urban identity. This study examines how the street names in the city of Sofia reflect local history and how they keep the memory of the past.

7. Vlahova-Angelova, M. 2014. Fruit Folk Taxonomy according Bulgarian Toponymy. – *Bulgarian Language*, 61 (2014), 4, pp. 55-69. ISSN: 0005-4283

Abstract: This article investigates Bulgarian folk plant names in an ethnolinguistic perspective. A hypothesis that toponymy, being a source of linguistic information, can help developing a model of fruit taxonomy has been stated. Since place names preserve many phytonyms, most of which archaic, they supposedly represent mechanism of conceptualization of natural environment and folk biosystematics in a reliable way. In order to prove this toponymic material has been analyzed and the names of 5 widely distributed fruit varieties (apple, plum, pear, cherry and sour cherry) and their subclasses have been excerpted and a correspondent folk taxonomy model for each fruit variety has been proposed. The main inferences from this investigation can be summarized to the following two statements: 1) people precisely organize different fruit types and classify them accordingly in two-level taxonomies; 2) fruit categorization and folk plant nomenclature reveal human perception of surrounding physical world and people's ability to analyze and structure obtained information and to input gathered experience in different place names.

8. Vlahova-Angelova, M. 2015. Colours in microtoponymy of Western Bulgaria (with special attention to metaphorical uses of colour terms). In: Artur Gałkowski, Renata Gliwa (red.). *Proceedings from the 18th International onomastic conference Macrotoponymy and microtoponymy (27-29, 10, 2012, Łódź)*. Łódź: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego, 2015, 271-278. ISBN: 978-83-7969-626-0

Abstract: Colours in microtoponymy play significant role in patterning the local model of the Universe. They refer to some places because of various associations. Colour terms via their figurative uses are linguistic expression of abstract naïve thinking. This study investigates if figurative meanings of colour terms are inherent in Bulgarian microtoponymy and what they stand for. In other words, it tries to prove that in microtoponymy the notion of cleanness could be expressed by the term white or the idea of danger/risk could be manifested by the term black.

9. Vlahova-Angelova, M. 2016. *Galata* - Origin and Meaning of a Place Name in the Bulgarian Toponymy. In: Blagoeva, D., Kolkovska, S. (Eds.): *On Language – New Pursuits and Approaches. Festschrift dedicated to Corresponding Member of BAS Prof. DSc. Emilia Pernishka*. Sofia: "Prof. M. Drinov" Publishing House of BAS, pp. 332-342.

Abstract: This paper deals with an old and unclear toponym *Galata* available in different parts of the Bulgarian language territory. Although various researchers have proposed different hypotheses regarding its origin and meaning so far, they remain uncertain. The paper offers a different explanation of the origin of the Bulgarian toponyms. Based on reliable historical sources it is concluded that *Galata* appeared in the Bulgarian toponymy by analogy with famous toponym *Galata* in Istanbul.

10. Vlahova-Angelova, M. & A. G. Angelov. 2016. Revitalization of Dialect Lexis Based on Toponymic Data. – In: Kocheva, A. (Ed.): *Festschrift "Professor Ivan Kochev – a Life Dedicated to Linguistics"*. 2016. Sofia: "Prof. M. Drinov" Publishing House of BAS, pp. 298-303. ISBN: 978-954-322-852-2.

Abstract: The article endeavors to apply practically the idea of linguistic revitalization at the dialect level. The widespread urbanization and depopulation of towns and villages has led to a catastrophic loss of dialects and entire concept layers of the subsystems of languages. Accordingly, if there are endangered aspects of Bulgarian culture, which can hardly be disputed, then territorial dialects are among the most imperiled. Ecolinguistics self-defines as a viable mainstay for the resurrection and revival of the dying and endangered substrata from the cultural and linguistic patrimony of humanity. Toponymy in itself offers an abundant throve of archaic linguistic material and it reminds of and supplements a series of widely varied thematic classifications and term hierarchies, so it could practically reinstate hundreds of forgotten words. The present article attempts to reconstruct the thematic classification Fruit trees and fruits by utilizing toponymic data. The object of this linguistic revitalization are the popular names for pear and its varieties (a total of 32 terms), excerpted from microtoponymy. To conclude we have made some observations on linguistic variation and diversity.

11. Vlahova-Angelova, M. 2016. Proper Nouns in Linguistic Dictionaries – Trends in Contemporary Lexicography. In: Blagoeva, D., Kolkovska, S. (Eds.): *Lexicography at the Beginning of 21th Century*. Proceedings of the Seventh International Conference on Lexicography and Lexicology (Sofia, Oct. 15-16, 2015). Sofia, 2016: "Prof. M. Drinov" Publishing House of BAS, pp. 167-177.

Abstract: Proper nouns treatment in linguistic dictionaries is considered as one of controvertial issues of present-day lexicography. Empyirical analyses regarding the representation of different kind of names in monolingual dictionaries demonstrate diversity of practices and lack of consensus among lexicographers on whether propria should be included in dictionaries and if so, how they should be explicated. Two opposite views confront in todays' metalexigraphy – the traditional belief that proper nouns should be separately expounded in onomastic lexicons and the conviction that names are an essential part of vocabulary and they should be present in monolingual dictionaries. The study aims at investigation of current theories in metalexigraphy dealing with this issue. It will outline latest tendencies in lexicographic practice in order to propose mechanisms for better description of proper nouns in Bulgarian linguistic dictionaries in the future.

12. Choleva-Dimitrova, A., Yanev, B., Vlahova-Angelova, M., Dancheva, N. 2017. Contemporary Bulgarian Anthroponimic System (Personal Names in the Big City and the Small Settlements). In:

Tatyana Aleksandrova, Diana Blagoeva (Eds.). *Proceedings of the International Jubilee Conference of the Institute for Bulgarian Language 2017*, Vol. 1, pp. 254-264. Sofia: IBL. ISBN: 978-954-92489-9-9

Abstract: Female personal names in Sofia and the small settlements of Sofia region in 2010 are discussed and compared. The similarities and differences in anthroponyms in the megapolis and its periphery are outlined. Conclusions about fashion in personal names are drawn out and the main trends, in this respect, are identified.

13. Vlahova-Angelova, M. & Choleva-Dimitrova, A. 2017. Archaic Toponymy of Western Bulgaria: Place Names as a Source for Folk Geographic Concepts. In: Tatyana Aleksandrova, Diana Blagoeva (Eds.). *Proceedings of the International Jubilee Conference of the Institute for Bulgarian Language 2017*, Vol. 1, pp. 265-278. Sofia: IBL. ISBN: 978-954-92489-9-9

Abstract: Toponymy as an important element of the traditional culture of each community preserves many of the primitive ideas and notions of the natural world. That is why studying folk systems of categorization based on toponymy is a reliable method to give answers to a number of questions about primitive ideas about nature as a whole and about geography in particular. This study analyzes new microtoponimic data from the most western Bulgarian language territory in view of ethnogeographic terminology. A model of the folk taxonomy of geographic concepts referring to natural physico-geographic objects and phenomena is presented. The results of the study support the conclusion that the toponymic nomination is an expression of the imaginary folk thinking and the ways of perception of geographical space.

14. Vlahova-Angelova, M. 2017. Current Trends in Name Giving among Bulgarians: A Study of the Names of Newborns in the Sofia Region. – *Voprosy onomastiki*, 2017, Vol. 14, 3, pp. 52–71. DOI: 10.15826/vopr_onom.2017.14.3.022

Abstract: The article showcases a large-scale study of the modern Bulgarian anthroponymic system conducted by the Applied Onomastics section of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences Institute for the Bulgarian Language (IBL) with the aim of revealing the current trends in the choice of personal names by the Bulgarians at the beginning of the 21st century. The study focuses on personal names of Bulgarians born in 2010 in the Sofia region, as extracted from the Unified System of Civil Registration and Administrative Services of the Population of the Republic of Bulgaria. The total number of births this year was 1,005, of which 51.5% were boys, 48.5% were girls. Statistical and linguistic analysis of names allowed to measure the popularity of both individual personal names and different name types. It shows the quantitative ratio between most commonly chosen names and those of a singular use in relation to the total number of anthroponyms in the corpus, and proves that the male names are more sustainable in terms of usage than female. The derivational and

etymological analysis of personal names helped to identify the productive word-formation types of names and the so-called “unisex names,” to distinguish between the native Bulgarian and the borrowed foreign names, as well as to classify graphic and phonetic variants of the same anthroponym. A number of quantitative comparisons were made between certain categories of names, for example, between compound (two-stem) personal names (such as Miroslav) and simple names (such as Biser), showing the ratio of the twocomponent personal names (such as Anna-Maria) to the rest of the anthroponyms. It was found that the Bulgarian anthroponymic system in the beginning of the 21st century is more open to the non-adapted foreign names (like Mishel, Nancy), shows wider usage of diminutive “unisex names” (Moni, Stephy, Toni), as well as the growing popularity of shortened forms used as official names (Alex, Boni, Pepi), and the increasing number of double personal names (Violet Avril, Alexander Ahmet) and more complex name sets, which indicates the general trend towards globalization.

15. Vlahova-Angelova, M. 2017. Trends in Name Giving – a Contrastive Study of the Names of Newborns in the City Of Varna and The Sofia Region in 2010. – *Journal of BAS*, 2017 (4), pp. 35-43. ISSN: 0007-3989

Abstract: This study aims at investigating/tries to investigate how residence (the size of the settlement in particular) affects baby name choice. We suggest that the smaller the settlement is the more conservative name giving patterns are. Two corpora comprising official baby name registration data have been compered (from the city of Varna and the towns and villages in the Sofia region) in order to reveal resemblances and dissimilaties in name giving in two different social groups. Our results, however, did not show cardinal contrast in preferences. Although some more explicit conservatism has been registered in smaller towns, main tendencies in contemporary name giving are corresponding in both samples under investigation.

16. Choleva-Dimitrova, A., Vlahova-Angelova, M., Koilov, Kr. 2017. Thracian Language Traces in the Bulgarian Onomastics. In: Nikolov, V. (Ed.): *Trakiyskata drevnost: tehnologichni i genetichni izsledvaniya, istoriya i nematerialno nasledstvo*, Sofia: Izd. na BAN „Prof. M. Drinov”, 2017, 191-200.

Abstract: The article presents the results of research on the remnants left by the Thracian language in Bulgarian microtoponymy, which was conducted within the framework of BAS’s interdisciplinary project The Thracians. Its principal aim is to answer the particularly pertinent at present question of whether a continuum exists between Thracian anthroponymy and the contemporary Bulgarian onomastic system. The research focuses on the study of microtoponymy, as it has not been systematically analyzed previously, even though it undoubtedly preserves many ancient onomastic elements. In the study of the traces of Thracian substrata in our language thus far, the efforts of scientists were exclusively focused on the names of large geographic objects (macrotoponymy) – cities,

villages, rivers. The article offers analysis on different types of microtoponyms – settlement, local and water names, as well as a number of kin names (also excerpted from microtoponyms), which we hypothesize retain remnants of the Thracian anthroponymic system and contain Thracian personal names. The majority of the names cited have already been etymologized earlier, but have now been newly interpreted in view of the most recently published data on the Thracian anthroponymic system. It was determined the Thracian remnants in Bulgarian microtoponymy are to be found predominantly in anthroponym-based toponyms and the largest percentage of names have roots derived from a personal name that was part of the Thracian anthroponymic system. This is especially valid for the microtoponymy of western Bulgaria.

17. Vlahova-Angelova, M. 2017. Toponymy as a Source of Traditional Ecological Knowledge: Some Fruit Names Preserved in Old Place Names from Western Bulgaria. – *Bulgarian Language*, 4 (2017), pp. 62-70. ISSN: 0005-4283

Abstract: Science has been increasingly focusing on the traditional environmental knowledge (TEK) not only of the so-called primitive cultures, but also of developed societies. Present-day environmental problems and search for sustainable development provoke the interest of scientists and other specialists to the already forgotten traditional practices and knowledge concerning plant biodiversity. Ethnobotany as an independent sub-discipline already has a great deal of contributions in the field of studying plant biodiversity, traditional agricultural practices and folk medicine. This article aims at investigating folk plant biosystematics (fruit names in particular) based on data from Bulgarian toponymy. Representing language material of archaic origin that is transmitted orally from generation to generation, place names are a particularly rich source of traditional ecological knowledge since they preserve primitive thinking and naïve concepts of living nature. Data for several fruit species that have not been analyzed yet are presented in this study: fig, mulberry, quince, apricot, raspberry, blackberry, blueberry and strawberry, based on which a more detailed and precise model of the folk taxonomy of fruits is developed. The linguistic analysis of the names reveals that toponymy reflects variations in the biosystems of different communities, i.e. different means of naming the same species. What is more, it becomes clear that place names are the only evidence for the existence of certain fruit names that have already disappeared from the language.

18. Vlahova-Angelova, M. 2017. Current Trends in Urban Toponymy in the City of Sofia. – *Linguistique balkanique*, LVI (2017), 2, pp. 259-267. ISSN 0324-1653.

Abstract: Globalisation processes are also giving their reflection in the toponymy of the city. New names of city locations in Sofia are entirely following the current trends, which are to be seen not only in Bulgaria, but also in the whole world, and which, by and large, are expressed in the commercialisation of toponymy and the transformation of local names into goods for sale. The analysis of the names of new housing estates in Sofia reveals that foreign

naming models are being adopted without any hindrance whatsoever, while English is becoming the dominant language. As a result of this, the urban space of Sofia is getting filled with the so-called marketable monikers, bringing about a hefty economic potential. The observations over the structure and the meaning of these new toponyms reveal an apparent trend for abandoning the local and the unique. What is more, through the use of universal lexical bases, the toponymy of Sofia is gradually becoming a part of this *global geography*.

19. Koilov, Kr. & Vlahova-Angelova, M. 2017. Toponymic Density in Plovdiv District as a Consequence of Demographic Processes in the Region. In: Ekaterina Tarpomanova, Krasimira Aleksova (Eds.): *Domination and Adaptation*. Proceedings of the International Conference of the Faculty of Slavic Studies 24 – 25 April. 2017. Volume II. Linguistics. Sofia: Faculty of Slavic Studies, University of Sofia St. Kliment Ohridski, pp. 451-458. ISBN 978-619-7433-08-1.

Abstract: This study investigates how present demographic processes affect the toponymy in the Plovdiv region by analyzing the current toponymic situation in two settlements – the village of Benkovski and the village of Tsalapitsa. An empirical study was conducted in 2016 in the two villages. The results are surprising and show that the dynamic socio-economic development, the expansion of the territory and the increase of the population of the village of Benkovski lead to a decrease in the number of toponyms in the region while in the depopulated village of Tsalapitsa their number does not change.

20. Vlahova-Angelova, M. 2018. Toponymy as a source of folk biosystematics (on some forgotten fruit names in toponymy of Western Bulgaria). In: *Bulgarian Language – Ancient, Modern, United – a Collection of Papers on the Occasion of the 80th Anniversary of Prof. Blagoy Shklifov, Dsc*. Institute for Bulgarian Language “Prof. Lyubomir Andreychin” at BAS. Macedonian Scientific Institute. Sofia, 2018, 167-182. ISBN: 978-954-2977-46-9.

Abstract: The study of toponymy as a source of folk biosystematics can be very fruitful, since place names preserve numerous different plant names. Moreover, as most part of the non-scientific phytonyms has long been forgotten toponymy is the only discourse where those lexemes still occur. This research aims at excerpting as many as possible folk phytonyms (with special attention to fruit varieties) from toponyms in order to be collected a detailed list of terms for wild and cultivated fruit species and subspecies.

21. Vlahova-Angelova, M. 2018. Names of Three Plant Species in the Toponymy of Western Bulgaria. In: Koeva, Sv., Angelov, A. G. (Eds.): *Society, Words, Conciousness. Festschrift in Honour of Angel Pachev, Ivan Kasabov and Maxim Stamenov*. Sofia: “Prof. M. Drinov” Publishing House of BAS, 2018, pp. 187-197. ISBN: 978-954-322-923-9.

Abstract: The present survey is aimed at the study of three sorts of wild fruit species to be often found in Western Bulgaria – hawthorn, dogwood and hips. Based on toponymy data for the 3 plant species are excerpted. Three detailed taxonomic patterns of the concepts in focus are presented here to illustrate the process of conceptualization and categorization characteristic for the folk consciousness.

22. Vlahova-Angelova, M. 2018. Reconstruction of Nomina Loci Derived from Fruit Names Based on Toponymic Data. – *Proglas*, 27 (2018), Issue 1, 83-90. ISSN: 2367-8585 (Online), ISSN: 0861-7902 (Print) <http://journals.uni-vt.bg/proglas/bul/vol27/iss1/10>

Abstract: The naming of places according to local vegetation is a universal way of creating toponyms, a considerable part of which is derived from common names of localities, denoting ‘a place where a particular plant (fruit) grows’. Studying such toponyms can enrich the current locality-labelling data with new, hitherto unknown ones, as well as complete the pattern of the folk taxonomy of fruit. Nomina loci, as a separate word formation category, is well studied in both literary Bulgarian and its dialects. The present study aims to reconstruct the common names of localities, motivated by names of fruit, which have been preserved in Northern Bulgaria toponymy. There is a list of locality names derived from different kinds of toponyms. Some of these names expand the currently known ‘nomina loci’ word formation categories by providing new names. The analyses also show that the toponymy has preserved a fair number of archaic lexemes, formed through rare and antiquated suffixes with a locative function, which have not been registered in earlier research of locality names.

23. Koilov, Kr. & Vlahova-Angelova, M. 2018. Socio-Demographic Processes in the Plovdiv Region and their Influence on Toponymy. In: Aleksova Kr. (Ed.). *Problems of sociolinguistics*, 13 (2018), INSOLISO, 59-64. ISBN: 978-954-8305-52-5.

Abstract: Dynamics of demographic processes in Bulgaria in the last 25 years influences the development of settlements. Studying toponymy in respect to its relation to socio-demographic processes is an innovative method. One that enables to reveal the current state of toponymic system and to analyze present day means of space orientation and toponymic nomination used by local communities. This study aims at gathering of current toponymic data in the Plovdiv region, which to help us to draw conclusions on the way demographic processes affect place names in settlements under consideration. Four groups of villages are investigated: 1) villages near an industrial zone or important road; 2) villages near well-known cultural and tourist sites; 3) villages where population confesses a different denomination of the Christian faith; 4) depopulated villages. Results clearly show that all, used by the local communities on a daily basis, place names are old, already fixed in documents. No new names are registered. Regardless the constantly changing life style and production, toponymic system remains more or less the same. Surprisingly, rapid social and economic development, as well as growing territory and increasing population do not lead

to growing of the number of topomyns and the appearance of new names. On the contrary, the better the social and demographic situation in a settlement is, the worse the toponymic competence of its inhabitants.

24. Choleva-Dimitrova, A. & Vlahova-Angelova, M. (forthcoming). Problems and Current State of the Bulgarian Anthroponymic System. – *Bulgarian Language and Literature*, 2019. ISSN 1314–8516 (Online), ISSN 0323–9519 (Print), <https://azbuki.bg/editions/journals/bulgarian>

Abstract: The article describes the challenges currently relevant to the Bulgarian anthroponymic system. It successively examines the three components of the contemporary anthroponymic system – personal, patronymic, and family names. First, we focus on the problems associated with personal names, by analyzing the latest choosing trends for newborn children’s names. We compare data from four cities: the capital Sofia, Blagoevgrad, Vidin, and Stara Zagora. We based our observations for Sofia on data from 2014, and used research from 2015 for the other cities. Special attention is given to the so-called “unique names”, e.g. names with single use, as they are indicative of the short-term development of the name system. The results show that there are similar tendencies in naming across the data from all four cities. Subsequently, we examine the present state of patronymic names. The latter are a characteristic of Bulgarian cultural tradition, as well as a significant element of our national identity. The observation of modern naming practices reveals surprising results. Presently, more and more people abandon traditional forms of father names, ending in *-ov/-ev* – the share of such instances in Sofia is almost 10%. Finally, we discuss problems related to the family names of contemporary Bulgarians. Special emphasis is given to the relationship of family names with the traditional kin names, typical of Bulgarians prior to the establishment of the three-component personal name system. The results of the analysis also show that there is a strong tendency to abandon tradition. Inherited names are replaced with new, rather impersonal and unified family names, usually derived from the grandfather's personal name.

25. Vlahova-Angelova, M. (forthcoming). Bulgarian Onomastics in the 21st century. – *Studia Linguistica Universitatis Iagellonicae Cracoviensis*. Special issue dedicated to onomastic studies. 2020. – forthcoming. <http://www.ejournals.eu/Studia-Linguistica/menu/56/>

Abstract: The article presents a brief overview of the achievements of Bulgarian onomastics in the contemporary age, from the turn of the century until the present day. It reviews the most significant works in toponymy and anthroponymy, the field’s two main branches, as well as disciplines that are less developed in the country, such as astrononymy. Particular focus has been placed on the new research uncovering the traces left by the Thracian language in modern Bulgarian onomastics. The work presents some conclusions concerning the contributions of onomastic science in Bulgaria in the past few years.

Review Articles:

26. Vlahova-Angelova, M. 2015. Horizons of Bulgarian Onomastics Review of the book: Choleva-Dimitrova, A. (Ed.) (2014). *Izledovateliski khorizonti na balgarskata lingvistika: Materiali ot Natsionalna nauchna konferentsiia, posvetena na 90-godishninata ot rozhdenieto na prof. dfn Iordan Zaimov* [Horizons of Bulgarian Linguistics: Proceedings of the National Conference Dedicated to Prof. Yordan Zaimov's 90th Anniversary]. Sofia: Institut za balgarski ezik. – *Problems of Onomastics*, 18 (2015), 1, pp. 216-222. http://onomastics.ru/sites/default/files/doi/10.15826/vopr_onom.2015.1.012.pdf

Abstract: The author reviews the works on onomastics published in the proceedings of the conference “*Horizons of Bulgarian Linguistics*” dedicated to the 90th anniversary of the noted Bulgarian linguist Prof. Yordan Zaimov. The reviewed articles focus on the study of toponymy (including microtoponymy and urbanonymy) and anthroponymy and present the main directions of contemporary Bulgarian onomastics: “traditional” toponymic research based on the collection, classification and etymologization of names of a specific linguistic area; creation of electronic data bases and corpora and description of their applicability to onomastic research; comparative onomastics; socio-onomastics, etc. A number of papers presented in the reviewed collection of articles is based on Prof. Zaimov's works or continue his research.

27. Vlahova-Angelova, M. 2015. Review: Anna Choleva-Dimitrova, Boryan Yanev. 2015. *Contemporary Bulgarian Anthroponymy (New Trends in Personal Name Giving)*. Sofia. ISBN: 978-619-7187-07-6. – *Bulgarian Language*, (2015), 4, pp. 142-144. ISSN: 0005-4283.

Abstract: The text reviews the works on onomastics “*Contemporary Bulgarian Anthroponymy (New Trends in Personal Name Giving)*” of A. Choleva-Dimitrova and B. Yanev. The book in focus summarizes results of a scientific project on current processes in contemporary Bulgarian first names.

Notes:

28. Vlahova-Angelova, M. 2015. *Sofia, Sofiya or Sofija – Do We Know how to Transliterate Bulgarian Names*. – *Pedagogy*, 7 (2016), p. 998.

Abstract: This text refers to principles of transliteration of the Bulgarian proper names (geographical and personal ones) and comments some frequent mistakes and specifically Romanized forms of names.

Chronicles:

29. Vlahova-Angelova, M. 2013. XVIII International Onomastic Conference “Macrotoponymy and Microtoponymy” (27–29.10.2012, Lodz, Poland). – *Bulgarian Language*, 1, 2013, pp. 130-133. ISSN: 0005-4283.
30. Vlahova-Angelova, M. 2015. Bestowal of the 2014 Academician Vladimir Georgiev Award for Achievements in Linguistics. – *Bulgarian Language*, 1, 2015, pp. 138-140. ISSN: 0005-4283.