

Prof. Hilmar Walter



Prof. Hilmar Walter is a long-time lecturer in Bulgarian language at Leipzig University as well as a translator and researcher working in various fields of linguistics. He was born in 1933 in Leipzig. He began his university education in Slavic Studies at Leipzig University (1951 – 1952) and went on to study at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, which he graduated in 1957 with a major in Bulgarian Philology. From 1957 to 1961 he was a post-graduate student at the Institute of Slavonic Studies at Leipzig University. In 1961 he became Doctor of Philology (Dr. Phil.) after defending his dissertation on reflexive verbs in Bulgarian. In 1965 – 1966 he perfected his qualifications (Studienaufenthalt) at the University of Belgrade and went on to teach Bulgarian as an Assistant Professor. In 1969 he was elected Associate Professor of Bulgarian and Serbo-Croatian Studies. His habilitation work, *Temporale, aspectische und modale Semantik des Verbum finitum in modernen Bulgarischen* (*Temporal, Aspectual and Modal Semantics of Verbum Finitum in Modern Bulgarian*), 1974, also deals with the Bulgarian verb system. From 1975 to 1992 he worked as a Professor of Bulgarian Studies at the Department of Theoretical and Applied Linguistics at Leipzig University. From 1983 to 1986 he was a visiting professor at the University of Veliko Tarnovo. After his retirement in 1992, Prof. Walter continued lecturing at the University of Veliko Tarnovo, at New Bulgarian University, at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” and at Burgas Free University.

Prof. Hilmar Walter has a vast and varied scientific bibliography spanning from research in Bulgarian grammar and the history of Bulgarian linguistics to works in Bulgarian-German cultural relations. He has authored a number of dictionaries and textbooks, including a Bulgarian grammar (with V. Radeva, Y. Penchev and S. Comati), the first one to be published in German since Weigand’s grammar (1907). In 1974 Prof. Walter was awarded the Order of Saints Cyril and Methodius – First Class, and in 2013 he was elected a foreign member of

the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences in recognition for his services to the furthering of Bulgarian studies. Prof. Walter is a full member of the Leibniz-Sozietät der Wissenschaften zu Berlin e.V. (the Leibniz Society of Sciences in Berlin e.V.), a scientific organisation that succeeded the GDR Academy of Sciences.

Invited talk

The Role of Leipzig University for the Furthering of Bulgarian Linguistics in the Late 19th Century

The talk discusses the birth of the Neogrammarian approach to the scientific description of language developed by Leskien, Brugmann, Windisch and their followers, as well as Wundt's view of languages from a psychological perspective.