Summary

This is the second volume of the project *The Place of the Macedonian Language in the Slavic and Balkan linguistic world* (previously named *Functional and Geographic Characteristics of Morpho-syntactic Balkanisms*). The project is conceived as contrastive analysis of grammaticalized kernels of semantic categories in Slavic and Balkan languages. This concept is based on the premise that grammaticalization (understood as regularization of the exponents of the information coded by a cluster of morphosyntactic constructions) is a signal that this information is ranked high in the process of verbal communication.

We started with the analysis of the so called verbal categories: tense, mood and aspect, exactly in that order. These categories carry basic characteristics of the event, in contrast to nominal categories, which characterize the participants of the narrated event. While the temporal and modal specifications determine the narrated event with respect to the speech event and its participants, aspect is an immanent characteristic of the narrated event itself.

Tense occupies a privileged position in our hierarchy, since it represents a category that enables identification of events with respect to their temporal parameters, while the modal characterization hinges on the subjective evaluation of the event.

Our first volume\(^1\) was dedicated to the analysis of the notion of *present* and the grammatical means for conveying the appropriate information in the Slavic and Balkan languages. The second volume consists of texts dealing with temporal and modal characteristics of the narrated event from the point of view of the speaker located in the temporal zone of the ‘past’. Apart from the temporal characteristic, the basic partially grammaticalized categorial features accompanying the past events are: ‘factivity’ as an inherent characteristic of the event and the evaluation of the truth value as a subjective view of the speaker.

We believe that one of the most important processes that influenced the formation of the verbal systems and their divergence in the separate Slavic and/or Balkan diasystems was the spread of the periphrastic ‘perfect’ paradigms

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\(^1\) ‘Present’ as a linguistic notion: grammatical means for expressing ‘present’ in Slavic and Balkan languages, ICAL at MANU, Morphosyntactic Studies 1, MANU, Skopje 2010.
with esse and habere and their penetration in the network of grammaticalized functional distinctions within the categories of TIME, MOOD, ASPECT, etc. In this sphere the category of EVIDENTIALITY proved one of the key problems. It belongs to the partially grammaticalized semantic categories in the Balkan linguistic area.

Preparing the volume on the ‘present’ we set a number of principles regarding the problems that need to be discussed and in which order they should be presented in the papers on particular languages and thus managed to unify the methodological approach and the basic metalanguage. In this volume, considering the complex nature of the topics discussed, we do not impose such restrictions on the authors. Rather than planning on some kind of synchronization we envisage a possibility and the need for further publication of detailed analyses. Our goal was to present in the volume as many of our problems as possible.

Some explanations are in order regarding the title of this volume. What we refer to as a periphrastic construction is a serial, derivationally open structure consisting of two or several components (more rarely) and which grammaticalizes [categorial semantic information OR information coded by a member of a semantic category]. Both components of the construction – the synsemantic verb and a conjugated verb – contribute equally to the semantic structure of the construction which functions as a marker of a complex predicate. In the “classical” source model (a), the auxiliary verb [appears in a full paradigm with categorial markers OR is inflected] for person, number and, sometimes, gender, while the conjugated verb, a bearer of the lexical meaning, is non-finite, e.g., imam/imash/ima odeno, sum/si/(e) odel(a). However, the dynamics of the language causes the evolution of the periphrasic patterns, so besides the “classical” pattern there exist several others: (b) a pattern with a conjugated verb in the subjunctive, e.g., imam da odam, imash da odish, etc; (c) a pattern that eliminates the redundancy in type (b) via reduction of the auxiliary verb to the modal particle that usually has the form of the maximally unmarked form of 3 p. sing. as in ima da odam, ima da odish, etc.; (d) a pattern in which the petrified categorial marker / a modal particle directly controls the paradigm of the conjugated verb, as in ke odam, ke odish… bi odel(a), bi odele, etc; and lastly, (d) a pattern in which both components get fused as in Polish preterite which is a continuation of the old esse-perfect, e.g., chodziem/-am, chodzilem/-aś, etc. All these variants, often difficult to discern, are the subject of analysis in our volume.

Macedonian topics remain the centre of attention, not only as a starting point of the project, but also because of the fact that the Macedonian language covers the area of most intensive Slavic – nonSlavic language interference.

E. Jacheva analyzes the features in Old Slavonic texts written on the Macedonian linguistic territory. She searches for the sources of future periphrastic
constructions (series) and their functional load. What is striking is that the -n/-t participial series have not been found in the texts. However, the paucity of the material does not allow the author to make some definite generalizations about the length and the stability of a given series and the scope of its semantic variation.

U. Gajdova studies the use of esse-perfect on dialectal level: in the language of the Macedonian folk tales. She shows interesting differences in frequency and contextual variation of this construction in various dialect complexes.

E. Petroska's paper supplements Gajdova's analysis in an interesting way in that it points out strategies for elimination of the so called 'past indefinite tense' from the standardized, adapted texts of folk stories intended for children. Besides, Petroska gives an extensive survey of "evidential strategies" in Macedonian.

S. Tofoska deals with verba dicendi as evidential markers and their relation to predicative categories in dependent complement clauses. She shows different strategies for expressing evidentiality used by a speaker – the author of the message – and a 'metaspeaker', the one who reports the message.

L. Mitkovska and E. Buzharovska have previously undertaken comprehensive research into the conditions that influence the use of habere-perfect in contemporary administrative and journalistic functional styles in the Macedonian standard language; this research was supplemented by a survey carried out among speakers residing in Skopje, with an aim to discover the event types for which they tend to employ habere-perfect. The results attained confirm the hypothesis that the use of habere-perfect has expanded lately, especially among younger population of Skopje and successively takes over esse-perfect’s "classical" perfect functions, thus clearing the way for its takeover of secondary functions – non-confirmative, admirative – acquired as a result of the Balkan influence.

The second part of the volume contains papers devoted to analyses of the situation in other Slavic and Balkan languages.

V. Labroska presents the inventory of periphrastic constructions with esse and habere in Serbian and examines their functional distribution, focusing in particular on the differences in relation to the corresponding Macedonian constructions.

S. Wölke’s paper offers a comprehensive overview and interpretation of the situation in the Upper Sorbian language. This sheds light on the parallels and differences between the processes of language interference operating in the
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Balkan linguistic area, on one hand, and those along the Slavic-German borderline on the other.

S. Milenkovska and A. Panchevska present an overview of the Polish periphrastic verb series with the verbs *esse* and *habere*. Their paper offers much more detailed information than that which is available in Polish grammar books, because (a) apart from the “open” series with regular derivation it also presents the more limited ones and offers explanation of the reasons for semantic blocks, and (b) the paper draws on the latest data from internet language corpora and internet blogs, which allows an insight into the dynamics, frequency and stylistic registers characteristic for each of the series.

M. Markovič presents the periphrastic verb series with the verbs *esse* and *habere* in the speech of Farsheroti Arumanians. The section on their functional distribution offers a deep analysis of the categories shedding light on the scope and the inventory of mechanisms in Arumanian-Macedonian language contact.

The volume finishes with a paper by E. Ivanova, which represents an interesting counterpoint compared to the other papers. The author thoroughly analyzes the primary functions (rather than the secondary ones as in periphrastic verb forms) of the verbs *esse* and *habere* in expressing existentiality in Russian and Macedonian. She focuses particularly on one of the typologically most important problems, namely, the conditions for presence or absence of the verb *esse* in the appropriate Russian constructions, thus presenting the line of development largely responsible for the absence of periphrastic verb series with *esse* and *habere* in standard Russian.