

Variability, Meaning and Content of Verbal Grammatical Categories in Contemporary Standard Bulgarian

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Recently, Bulgarian linguistics has seen a revival of the discussion of the system and content of verbal grammatical categories and their structure in contemporary Bulgarian. Research interest in this area dates back to as early as the late National Revival period, but, as it seems, a satisfactory and generally accepted solution has not been found. The talk offers a non-native speaker's perspective, bringing into focus two possible reasons for the existing situation. The first reason arises from the need for appropriate interpretation of the variability of the paradigmatic forms that are being described (which is related to the process of grammaticalisation), while the second one is determined by the necessity for a consistent distinction between the semantic content (grammatical meaning) and the pragmatic meaning (i.e. contextual dependence) of the grammatical categories under discussion, on the one hand, and the interpretation of the semantic content of the grammatical categories, on the other.