

Phonetics and phonology of The Standard Macedonian

The aim of the project is to examine and describe the phonetics of the contemporary literary Macedonian language. The reason for taking up this topic is a lack of any descriptions which would reflect the current situation of the Macedonian phonetics. Recent descriptions are incomplete, some issues have never been examined using modern methods, some have not been described appropriately in comparison to the actual situation. These are almost exclusively articulatory descriptions, only approximate ones. The team of researchers consists of Polish linguists and a Macedonian acoustic engineer. The main research tool will be the analysis of an acoustic signal conducted with the support of a few specialist programs for electro-acoustic analysis. On this basis it will also be possible to determine more precisely articulatory features of segments and groups of segments. The ambition of the team is that the final description could serve as a new normative description of the standard Macedonian phonetics. In addition, the emphasis will be placed on a dynamic aspect – behaviour of units in the text, restrictions on occurrence, changes caused by a context. The final result will be a typescript (digital) of two volumes of "Phonetics and phonology of the Macedonian language". The volume concerning segmental phonetics will include analyses of sounds (acoustic and articulatory images, a detailed description of articulation, acoustics and distribution of sounds). Tested material will be interpreted phonologically. The volume concerning suprasegmental analysis will include analyses and a description of linear units: syllable, phonetic word, stress, distribution of stress, distribution of short forms of personal pronouns and verb enclitics/proclitics, phrasal intonation of completed utterances (affirmative, imperative), and uncompleted ones (broken, questions with interrogative pronoun and yes-or-no questions). Both volumes will be published in Macedonian by the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts.