Les modes de narration en macédonien.

By JORDANKA FOULON-Hristova.


The Balkan languages are characterized, among other things, by verbal systems that are considerably more complex than their nominal systems. The concomitant full of synthetic de
cision and rise of analytic verbal categories that occurred in all the Balkan languages pro
duced a variety of grammatical oppositions that are rich sources of study for tense-aspect-mood
relations, discourse phenomena, and the interaction of grammar and text. Of the two Balkan
Slavic literary languages—Macedonian and Bulgarian—it is Macedonian that has engaged in
the more dramatic restructuring of its verbal

system both in its grammaticalization of resul
tive paradigms through the auxiliary ima ‘have'
plus an invariant verbal adjective descended
from an older past passive participle and in its
elimination of the imperfective aorist. While
the study of Bulgarian linguistics in France has been well
and stimulatingly represented by scholars
such as Jack Feuillet and Zlaha Kunstcheva,
French studies dedicated specifically to Mac
donian have lagged behind. As a result, F-H’s
work is doubly welcome, contributing to the
francophone literature on Macedonian and at the
same time providing a rich source of data
and insights.

The fact that French is the language of trans

lation for F-H’s data means that the work serves
not only as an analysis of Macedonians but also
as a source of comparisons with a West Euro
pean language whose tense-aspect system dif
fers significantly from both English and Slavic.
Moreover, as Jean Perrot points out in his pre
face to this work, F-H makes a point of distin
guishing between French and English usage of
terms such as testimonial. F-H is sensitive to
the Balkan context in which Macedonian has
developed and makes frequent reference to the
absurd literature on Bulgarian as well as occa
sional comparisons with Turkish. Albanian, Ar
menian, Greek, and Serbo-Croatian (in the
former Yugoslav sense of the term) also figure in
relevant comparisons of verbal categories, while
Serbo-Croatian is added in the sections that de
scribe Macedonian in its South Slavic context.

The work consists of two principal parts (5–83
and 85–229) in addition to the introduction (1–3)
and appendices (230–235). The introduction
includes a brief bibliographical survey (247–49) of
work on 500 items and two texts (271–96) given in
Cluj, in Latin transliteration, and in French trans
lation, with notes on tense/mood usage. The first part begins with a consideration of Macedonian in its Bal
kan context and an outline of the definite article,
the analytic expression of grammatical rela
tions through the proliferous use of clitic pronouns
(also known as object reduplication) in Mac
donian with comparisons to other Balkan and
Slavic languages. This is followed by a discussion of
spatial and temporal determination and an outline of F-H’s approach to what
she calls ‘narrative structures’ in Macedonian.
This last serves as the essential introduction to
the second part of the work, which is dedi
cated to a review of the relevant literature
and an analysis of the Macedonian verbal system.
F-H divides the Macedonian verbal system

into two classes of paradigmatic sets: direct
and indirect. In each class there are fifteen sets:
present, imperfect, aorist, future, past, compound
past (i.e. compound past or perfect), past perfect
future, imperfect, perfect, perfect past, past perfect,
and future imperfect. Missing from F-H’s system
is the anterior future I of the type ke be
(dol), which, while marginal in Modern Mac
donian, is attested by Blaise Koneki in his
Gramatika na makedonskiot literaturnoj jazik
(Skopje: Kultura, 1967). Class I also contains a
sixteenth set, the conditional I. F-H writes that
each temporal form is ‘reducible to a con
cept based on the nature of the exchange be

tween the facts of reality and the one

communicating them’ (70). She argues that a pe

ularity of narrative structures in Macedonian
is that ‘they integrate the discursive element
into the morphemes of tense,’ comparing Mac
donian temporal oppositions to the definitiv/in
definite opposition in the article (71). F-H dis


tinguishes three ‘modes of narration’: direct,
neutral, and indirect—and within the di

rect mode two submodes: testimonial, and
dubitative or dubitative-deductive. F-H’s
modes of narration are more discourse or prag
matic than grammatical categories, however,
since a given paradigmatic set can belong to
more than one mode or submode: the compound
past I (tzem doblelagal ‘came’ I SG) is de
scribed as belonging to the dubitative, the neu
tral, and the indirect (73–75).

F-H provides a rich series of categorizations of
types of truth values expressed by verb forms
in Macedonian narratives. While her examples
do not illustrate all of the paradigmatic sets that
she adds in her presentation of the Macedon
ian morphological inventory, nonetheless the
absurdity of truly interesting data combined with
F-H’s thorough review of the relevant litera
ture and her interesting and cogent analysis of
the intersection of grammatical and discourse
pragmatic oppositions in Macedonian make this
work an important not only to the Slavist and
the Balkanist but also to the general linguist. [Vic
tor A. Friedman, University of Chicago.]

Translating by factors. By CHRISTOPH
GUTKNECHT and LUTZ J. ROLLE.
(SUNY series in linguistics.) Al
bany, NY: State University of New
$23.95.

When substituting source-language items with target-language items, the translator
follows certain standards. However, no universal prior translation standard has been found
in this. Why is this history repeatedly shown that there are conflicting views as to which
standard to follow.

This book cuts the Gordian knot by arguing that it is not the translationist’s task to find out and
then prescribe the ‘legally right’ stan
dard; rather it is up to the translator’s client to
determine the guidelines for a particular transla
tion relative to his needs in a given case. These
guidelines are shown to be a set of factors that
the client demands be taken into account in the
act of translating. Since translation invariably
demands specification of such a set, translating
by factors can be taken to be simply inevitable.
The authors rightly claim that translating by
factors may even be said to be the principle accord
ing to which all translators have, in fact,
performed their work throughout the ages.

Here, for the first time, the factor approach
is systematically delineated to be the core meth
odology of translating. By way of elaborating
on this fundamental insight, the authors draw
upon one of the most complex linguistic ar
eas—English and German modalities. They sys

tematically present scores of translation factors
affecting renditions. The translator has to know
all of these factors to do justice to his client’s
wishes. The factors dealt with are organized ac

cording to the classical division into syntax, se
mantics, and pragmatics and include reference
to various translation units and the essential fac

tors of any translation situation. Factors from
all of these dimensions come to constitute the fac
tor set which the client demands be taken into
account. By highlighting these factors one by one,
this book makes the complex translation situation
transparent and more manageable to the
student, the translator, and the theorist. The book
is definitely also relevant to the fields of comp

derativistics, linguistics and foreign language

teaching.

The authors discuss the interplay of the fac
tors presented by practically demonstrating

that and the same source-language sentence will

give rise to different target-language renditions
when translated with reference to different sets of
translation factors.

Because two-dimensional interlingual light on the all

above area of monastic, the general value of the
book lies in inspiring the reader what
might be called ‘factor thinking’, preparing him
