The “Index of concepts” (173-280) follows the chapter entitled “Some remarks on the concept index” (171-172). The material presented in the concept index is arranged alphabetically in five columns. The first column contains the concept number and the primary form, the second column, the headwords of this primary form, if any. The third column displays the headwords of the secondary forms, the fourth column lists all derivatives in alphabetical order and the fifth column, the general meanings of derivatives which as a group derive from a specific root. In this manner, all synonymous derivatives of onomatopoeia can easily be found, making this index a useful research tool.

The concept index employs a simple transcription system which differs from the official Turkish alphabet only in the use of the symbol ı (for i̇). The verb stems are noted without the infinitive affix and followed by a hyphen, e.g. baş et- ‘to kiss’, hükmet- ‘to sob’, ıkla- ‘to knock’, etc.

A simple transcription system is likewise used in the dictionary (291-695). As the author states, onomatopoeia compiled from historical texts and dictionaries are written in transcription at the beginning of each entry and in Arabic characters in the explanations. For some onomatopoeia an exemplary sentence is given to clarify the meaning. The verb stems are recorded in the dictionary with the respective infinitive affix, e.g. bardamak ‘to blaze’, kangoğmak ‘to twist’, vijłamak ‘to hum’, etc.

The dictionary contains approximately 8,000 entries. Parts of onomatopoeia which are themselves not onomatopoeic are italicized, e.g. “güp güp ammak” ‘to beat’, “tis buran” ‘ouchy’, “if dimek” ‘to blow’, etc. The definitions of the onomatopoeia are followed by the sources (in abbreviation) where they were found.

In summary, it can be said that Zülfikar has delivered a comprehensive work which will prove useful to Turcologists and which certainly fills a gap in a field that has scarcely been studied in Turkey.


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The influence of Turkish on the Balkan Sprachbund is one of the oldest and most fruitful pursuits of Balkan linguistics. As early as 1884 Miklosich published a series of articles on the influence of Turkish on the lexicons of languages of Eastern and Southeastern Europe (Greek, Albanian, Romanian, Bulgarian, Serbian, Ukrainian, Russian, and Polish) that is both seminal and classic. Since that time, numerous works have appeared on this topic, including whole dictionaries such as Škalija’s exemplary work on Serbo-Croatian and Boretzky’s on Albanian. (We can also mention here Jašar-Nasteva’s dissertation on Macedonian, which unfortunately has not yet seen publication.) The politics of Turkish in the Balkans has not been without its effect on the course of scholarship, particularly in Bulgaria, where at times attempts have been made to obscure the significance of Turkish influence, and thus it is all the more useful to have Grannes’ collection available. Grannes is one of the world’s foremost specialists on Turco-Bulgarian contact. The present volume collects in one place some of his most important works on the subject spanning over a quarter of a century (1969-1996). In so doing it makes available to a broader reading public a valuable body of work that deserves to be collected in one place. At the same time, Grannes was able to update his work where called for, rendering it even more useful.

The collection consists of twelve articles (1-286), a list of abbreviations (287-91), a rich bibliography of over 300 items (292-310), and an index of about 2,000 Turkish words (311-320). There is also a useful introduction (vii-xi) describing the state of Turkish etymological studies in Bulgaria, which makes clear to the uninformed reader the necessity and usefulness of the work under review. The bibliography is organized in such a way that all the relevant entries for the entire series of articles are at the end of the book. A weakness in the organization, however, is the fact that while the bibliography consists of two parts, in the Cyrillic and Latin alphabets, respectively, in the actual articles citations of works in Cyrillic are sometimes in Cyrillic and sometimes in Latin transcription, which makes checking the references a bit awkward. A knowledge of Bulgarian (or at least a reading knowledge of a closely related language such as Macedonian or Serbian) is essential for gaining the full benefit of this highly useful collection, for while lexical citations are always translated into English or French, example sentences in several of the lexicons are left un-glossed.

The largest part of the work is concerned with Turkish lexical and productive morphological elements in Bulgarian. Of the twelve articles, seven contain lexicons totaling approximately 140 pages, i.e. about half of the main body of the work. Of these lexicons, one is based on the works of Bulgaria’s first dramatist, Dobri Vojnikov, two are based on the works of Ivan Vazov, the most important Bulgarian novelist of the nineteenth century, three focus on the highly productive Turkish derivational affix -ı̇v (realized in Turkish as -ı̇k, -ılık, -ılık, -ılık and in Bulgarian as -lak, -lik, -lik, -lik, respectively, depending on the laws of vowel harmony in
standard Turkish plus other factors in the dialects and in Bulgarian), and one based on a series of articles published in 1924-1926 by a medical doctor from Sumen, in Eastern Bulgaria. Taken together, these lexicons constitute an invaluable summary of the Turkish lexicon in Bulgarian, thus comprising virtually a dictionary of the Turkish lexical element in Bulgarian, albeit not one using as many possible sources as in works such as Skajlje’s and Boretsky’s.

In four of the twelve articles in this collection (totaling a third of the main body), Grannes discusses the productive Turkish suffix -IV.k, which is used to derive nouns from other nouns (usually resulting in an abstraction, but sometimes also in various forms of concretization). By concentrating on this suffix, Grannes is able to address a variety of general issues related to the penetration and extirpation of Turkisms with respect to Bulgarian. Article VII discusses 509 loans taken over from Turkish—‘the activity of a bašihozuk (Turkish army irregular)—and shows how most of them are quite close to standard Turkish. Article IX is a discussion with a partial list of those formations in which the productivity of -IV.k has spread both to Bulgarian lexical items and recent loanwords, which Grannes distinguishes in his lexicon. In article VIII, Grannes addresses the issue of the concrete shape of the suffix -IV.k with respect to the generalization of /-lkk/ in words where /-lik/ would be expected by the laws of vowel harmony. There are two possible explanations for this phenomenon. In the West Rumelian dialect of Turkish, whose range includes the western third of Bulgaria, the front / back opposition in high unrounded vowels is neutralized in favor of the back unrounded vowel in closed final (as well as all medial) syllables. As a result, the unrounded variant of -IV.k is always /lik/. The productivity of /lik/ in Bulgarian could thus be the result of the West Rumelian sources for the loanwords. On the basis of historical and textual evidence, however, Grannes argues in favor of the second explanation, according to which the suffix /-lkk/ was generalized within Bulgarian itself in the process of the development of the Bulgarian literary language. The final article in this quartet discusses the process of the replacement of -IV.k by native suffixes in Bulgarian.

Articles IX and XII, which deal with Turkish izafet (noun compounding) and reduplication in m- (e.g. Turkish kitap mitap, Bulgarian knigi migi ‘books and such’), Grannes monograph on the subject, in which he shows how some of the borrowed Turkish constructions helped reinforce productive patterns of noun compounding. The article on reduplicative m- is actually a survey of this phenomenon in the languages of Europe and Asia.

Of the remaining half of the collection, four articles (II, IV, V, VI) treat the Turkish lexicon in specific nineteenth and early twentieth century contexts, viz. the writings of Vojnikov, Vazov, and the dialect of Sumen. The remaining two articles (I and III) address more general issues. The first is an extremely useful general survey of Turkish linguistic influence on Bulgarian at all linguistic levels including a discussion of attitudes within Bulgarian toward that influence. The second treats a key issue in Bulgarian historical sociolinguistics, namely the ambivalent attitude toward the Turkish lexicon in Bulgarian during the nineteenth century as reflected in the writings of Ivan Vazov, one of that century’s most important writers.

Taken as a whole, this collection of Grannes’ articles demonstrates the importance and pervasiveness of Turkish influence in Bulgarian, while also illustrating the complexity of interactions and attitudes occasioned by this type of language contact. It will be of great use not only for the Slavist, Balkanist, and Turkologist, but also for contact linguistics in general.

For the sake of convenience, the titles of the articles with page numbers are given below.

I. Turkish influence on Bulgarian (I-30)
II. Les turcismes dans l’œuvre de Dobri Vojnikov (1833-78), le premier dramaturge bulgare (31-84)
III. The attitude of the great Bulgarian writer Ivan Vazov towards Turkish loanwords in his mother tongue: A balanced view of a delicate matter (85-98)
IV. Les turcismes dans le plus célèbre roman bulgare, Sous le joug d’Ivan Vazov (99-119)
V. Les éléments turcs dans la prose épistolaire d’Ivan Vazov (120-134)
VI. Les turcismes dans le parler bulgare de la ville de Sumen (Bulgaria de l’Est) dans les années 1920 (135-158)
VII. Bulgar bökük. Turcismes du type: base turque (ou passée par le turc en bulgare) + suffixe turc -lik, -lik, -lok, -luk (<-lek) en bulgare (159-209)
VIII. Bulgar de l’Est kahpešik, bulgare de l’Ouest kahpèsik? La réalisation de l’i turc dans le suffixe -lik dans les turcismes bulgares à l’harmonie vocale palatale en i ou e (210-230)
IX. Bulgar kivašik. Formationes hybrides: Base non-turque + suffixe turc, adapté et généralisé en bulgare sous la forme -lik (<-lek) (231-239)
X. Bulgar fyožušik / fyožušišča. Les suffixes bulgare -šikvo, -šiko comme substituts du suffixe turc -šik, -šik, -šik (=-šik) dans les emprunts turcs (240-249)
XI. Loan compounds in Bulgarian reflecting three types of Turkish izafet-constructions (250-258)
XII. Le redoublement de type turc à m-initial dans les langues des Balkans et du Caucase (259-286)
References