

Filozofická fakulta Univerzity Palackého

**Case typology:
Classification of the Bulgarian Language
According to its Pronominal Case System**

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Case Typology: Classification of the Bulgarian Language according to its Case System

(Bakalářská práce)

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Prohlašuji, že jsem tuto bakalářskou práci vypracovala samostatně a uvedla jsem všechny použité podklady a literaturu.

V Olomouci dne:

Podpis:

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I would like to thank and dedicate this work to my parents, who supported me morally and emotionally through the whole creative process. I would also like to thank Jeffrey Keith Parrott, Ph.D. for his educational advice and support.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Thesis topic

Categorizing languages according to case typology has been a widely researched topic. However not many works have chosen to define, categorize and compare the Bulgarian language. Most existing sources are in Bulgarian and are not officially translated, thus limiting further international research. This thesis will try to widen the number sources for international research and define the place of Bulgarian in the case typology system.

To accomplish the said goal, this work will start by describing the case typology system, where there are two categories: rich case languages and pronominal case languages (Parrott 2017). Examples from both will be shown. The main focus however, will fall on the latter. It divides further into two sub-groups. Depending on what they use as their default pronominal form, subject or object., these are created by dividing West and North Germanic languages into the English/Danish group (where object form is default) and the Swedish/Dutch group (where subject case is default). More specific information and examples will be presented about the English/Danish group and its comparison to Bulgarian.

To understand where Bulgarian stands, one must also take into consideration the structure of the language itself. Historical development will be included in the second part of this thesis. Firstly, it will concentrate on social events that have helped shape modern linguistic knowledge. Customarily Bulgarian is divided into four periods of development: The Prehistoric period, Old Bulgarian, Middle Bulgarian and Modern Bulgarian (Comrie and Corbett 2002). Since these time periods are too extensive to analyse in this thesis alone, the main concern is going to be with Modern Bulgarian (roughly from the beginning of the 18th century to present times). Secondly, the most influential linguists and their work will be mentioned. This process will be needed for the reader to understand why some pronominal forms are still used while others are not.

Recent development of the language will also be an important part of this work. Most notably, a few recent sources discussing the topic of pronominal case will be mentioned – Theoretical Grammar of the Bulgarian Language by Kucarov and Bulgarian Grammar by Pašov. These sources will provide the description of pronouns and their usage and preferred form alongside examples. Some of the sources used also mention the usage of the old case system of the language that has left quite a few exceptions in the use of pronouns and how they shaped new modern versions.

Having presented all the needed information, this thesis will proceed to compare English and Bulgarian into further detail. This will be partially useful for determining into which sub-group Bulgarian belongs to.

To be able to fully classify the language, a practical research will be needed. The main method for this was a non-exclusive survey (meaning more than one possibility to mark as an answer), distributed online. To guarantee that research results are more precise, the link to it was distributed in online groups which are created by native Bulgarian speakers. The survey was created in Bulgarian and is translated for the purposes of this thesis. Based on the gathered data from these survey answers, a final possible classification of the language into one of the pronominal case language sub-groups is presented in the last chapter (see 5. Practical Research).

1.2 Methodology of practical research

Conducted practical research was based on a short questionnaire. The chosen participants were native speakers of Bulgarian in order to avoid ungrammatical errors made by non-native speakers. The questionnaire required participants to answer which form they feel most comfortable with using and thus showing which default form (subject or object) they consider correct.

Questionnaires have been distributed in electronic form, via Google Forms to current Bulgarian residents and also to native speakers, currently residing in the Czech Republic.

Results of this field work are divided into groups based on whether respondents used subject or object form of the pronoun as their default. These results are presented graphically, which shows that the object form (OF) is preferred in non-formal speech.

1.2.1 Note on translated titles and contents

All Bulgarian research sources mentioned have not been officially translated into English (except the title in English of Vălčev 2008), Bulgarian citations, quotations and titles have been translated by the author of this thesis. The original, translated and transcribed results of the survey are presented in 5. Practical Research and the Appendix of this work below.

There are at least five official methods (Ivanov, Skordev, and Dobrev 2010) of transcribing the Cyrillic alphabet (called *azbuka*), especially the Bulgarian one. Due to this great diversity, the transcription method chosen was the one mentioned in Comrie and Corbett (2002: XIII). All the examples in Bulgarian are by the author of this thesis, unless mentioned otherwise.

2 Case typology

2.1 Categorization

To distinguish different languages and language groups researchers use many different typologies that analyse different criteria (e.g. language typology, morphological typology etc). The case typology deals with dividing languages according to their active morphological case systems.

Case systems are most commonly associated with nouns and their forms. However other morphological categories can also display case marking, namely pronouns. Taking into consideration both, case typology (CT) divides languages into two main categories.

2.1.1 Rich case languages

Languages belonging to this category commonly have several case forms, which are represented by inflectional affixes (mostly suffixes) distributed through the whole determiner phrase (DP). Their usage changes the word form or its semantic function to depict relations between clause, phrase or sentence members. Morphological case here is distinguished on “variety of elements in nominal phrases: e.g. determiners, adjectives, wh-words, quantifiers, nouns, pronouns, etc.” (Parrott 2017)

It is important to note that this first category takes into consideration mainly noun case systems. Examples of languages that are truly rich in case are Czech, Polish, Slovak and many more. For a language to be considered rich in case, it has to exhibit case markings throughout the whole DP, not just in a single word (e.g. as it is in Finnish). Example (1) (from a Google search) shows just a small part of how case works in Finnish, a language that uses fifteen case forms. Those forms however emerge only in one sentence member.

- (1) a. Adessive case (Locative) *Nähdään talolla!*
See you at the house!
- b. Essive case (Marginal) *Käytätkö tätä hökkeliä talona?*
Are you using this as a house?

One would not have to look far for a good example of a truly rich-case language, such is Czech. Using seven forms of case and different model nouns, it uses suffixes to distinguish roles in the sentence, as shown in (2). Case-marked sentence members are placed throughout the whole DP – case

marking is not concentrated solely on one sentence element (as it is shown in Finnish).

- (2) a. Lokál (Locative) *Uvidíme se v tom velkém divadle!*
- b. Akuzativ (Accusative) *Včera jsem viděla starého Honzu.*
- c. Instrumentál (Instrumental) *Jela domu malým zeleným autem.*

Rich case languages are large in diversity. This thesis will however focus mainly on the second category of CT division.

2.1.2 Pronominal case languages

As the name suggests here, the included languages differ in the used default forms of their pronouns.

“Pro(nominal)-case: morphophonologically distinct case forms are limited to a subset of personal pronouns:

=Eng(lish), Dan(ish), Swe(dish), Nor(wegian), Dut(ch), Fri(sian), Afr(ikaans)” (Parrott 2017: 2)

Change in the form of the pronoun depends on its position in the sentence – whether it represents a subject or a direct/indirect object. This leads to further division of languages. First, there is the Swedish/Dutch group (SWE/DUT) where pronouns are used primarily in the subject position of a sentence (SF).¹ Swedish displays “patterns of intra-individual pro-case variation” (Parrott 2017). Personal pronouns in Swedish that are used in SF is one focus of this thesis. To have a better understanding of personal pronouns of Swedish, table (3) from Parrott (2017) lists SF and OF. Example (4) shows sentences in Swedish used in The Swedish Case Survey, SwCS: May 2016 (Sigurðsson 2017). The survey strongly favours the SF for Swedish pronouns based on the 452,000 answers that the survey had gathered.

¹ Sigurðsson presents results of his survey, that support a possible switch in default case. However, he notes that there is an increase of speakers that used OF, mainly in predicative roles. That does not necessarily mean that there has been a general switch.

(3)

	Subject Form	Object Form
1 st person Sg.	jag	mig
2 nd person Sg.	du	dig
3 rd person Sg.	hon (m)/han(f)	henne(m)/honom(f)
1 st person Pl.	vi	oss
2 nd person Pl.	ni	er
3 rd person Pl.	de/dem [dom]	Dem [dom]

- (4) a. *Det är bara jag* _{SF}/**mig*.
It is only I/**me*.
b. *Jaså, det är bara du* _{SF}/**dig*.
Oh , it is only you _{SF}/**you_{OF}*
c. *Den där bebisen på bilden är jag* _{SF}.
This baby in the picture is I.

Pronominal forms in Dutch are almost identical to the Swedish ones. To illustrate, examples from Parrott (2017) have been used, where he notes that “the minimal difference between the two languages (3rd person plural) can be somewhat problematic, similar to the form of 2nd person in English”. Example (5) is from Parrott (2017: 11) and it shows usage patterns in both Swedish and Dutch:

- (5) a. Swedish: *Det är bara jag/du/hon/han.* (**mig/dig/henne/honom*)
It is just I/you _{SF}/he/she. (**me/you_{OF}/him/her*)
b. Dutch: *Dat zijn wij* (**ons*).
It is I/you _{SF}/he/she [...] (**me/you_{OF}/him/[...]us*)

The second sub-group includes languages that prefer personal pronouns in the roles of direct or indirect objects (oblique forms or OF) in sentences. English and Danish (ENG/DAN) have been used as model languages since they are formed from similar Germanic language groups as SWE/DUT (Parrott 2012).

When using personal pronouns, English tends to use them as direct objects in a sentence, i.e. they are corresponding to a Case Phrase.

- (6) a. *It is only me*/**I*.
b. *That baby in the picture is me*/**I*.
c. *She is always asking me*/**I* for advice.
d. *Ms Jones is going to promote him*/**he*.

Expressions in Danish are then similar to the ones in English, favouring the OF as default. Table (7) shows what Danish pronominal case SF and OF look like.

(7)

	Subject Form	Object form
1 st person Sg.	jeg	mig
2 nd person Sg.	du [formal De]	dig [formal Dem]
3 rd person Sg.	hun (f.)/han (m.)	hende (f.)/ham (m.)
1 st person Pl.	vi	os
2 nd person Pl.	I	jer
3 rd person Pl.	de	dem

- (8)
- a. *Det er bare mig.*
It is only me.
 - b. *Barnet i billedet er mig.*
The child in the picture is me.
 - c. *Hun ønsker at promovere ham.*
She wants to promote him.

Even though Germanic and Slavic languages were formed and evolved in different manners, they still bare resemblance in certain aspects.

Most Slavic languages occurring in the Balkan Peninsula developed from a form of language called Old Church Slavonic (OCS). It originated as a mixture of Balkan dialects and Moravianisms (first liturgical texts were translated in Moravia) (Comrie and Corbett 2002). These texts were written in Glagolitic – a script created by St Constantine and St Methodius, that was also used in the Bulgarian Kingdom before it was replaced by the Cyrillic script. The latter script was developed in the Balkan area by students of said now-saints, after they were banished from Moravia (around the year 885). However, the close geographical proximity of Moravia and regions using Germanic languages is undeniable. Perhaps this could be the link between the development processes of the two large language groups.

3 The structure of Bulgarian

3.1 Historical development

The development of OCS was based on Balkan dialects. That of course included Bulgarian. Both languages affected each other. Since some parts of

OCS were infused with Moravian grammar, some of it was embedded in Bulgarian. A good example of that could be the similar morphological case system, used in to modern Czech (which was eventually dropped out entirely during mid-Modern Bulgarian).

As it has already been mentioned, Bulgarian has four important stages of historical development – Prehistoric, Old Bulgarian, Middle Bulgarian and Modern Bulgarian. While each of these stages has brought something new to the language, perhaps the most influential were the changes that occurred during the Middle and early Modern stages. Written records of earlier stages are mostly in OCS, used for translations from Greek for missionary activities. Although rich in number of changes, sources from the beginning of the Modern Bulgarian period are somewhat limited. Bulgaria found itself under the rule of the Ottoman Empire which slowed down the previously rich literary and linguistic activity. That is until the period of Renaissance or *Văzraždane* which occurred around the year 1600 (Comrie and Corbett 2002).

3.1.1 Rich case system and the shift towards pronominal case system

One of the most important linguistic scholars of Bulgaria, Neofit Rilski, described the usage of a rich case system. It officially had seven case forms – *именителен* [imenitelen] (nominative), *родителен* [roditelen] (genitive), *дателен* [datelen](dative), *винителен* [vinitelen](accusative), *творителен* [tvoritelen] (instrumental), *сказателен* [skazatelen] (locative) and *звателен* [zvatelen] (vocative). However, eventually he noticed that rich case forms were obsolete. In his own codification, he admitted that there are essentially no more actual case forms, but rather simply different morphemes added. At that time Rilski felt somewhat obligated to prove that there were still traces of OCS left in Bulgarian. However, eventually he proved that that was simply not the case any longer. The example that he used was simple: forms of the word *воевода/voevoda*² (war lord/leader) (Vălčev 2008: 135).

² This is considered to be one form of the word. The more recent form is *войвода* [vojvoda] however both are still in use in certain historical literary sources.

(9)

Nominative	Воевода-та [voevoda-ta]
Genitive	На воевода-та [na voevoda-ta]
Dative	На воевода-та [na voevoda-ta]
Accusative	На воевода-та [na voevoda-ta]
Vocative	Воеводо! [voevodo!]

This example shows that the forms of pronouns named Genitive and Dative are identical, so are the Nominative and Accusative. They did not need different names for the same forms, so eventually it was decided that only the nominative ‘case’ exists. All other affixes to pronouns were merely morphemes and prepositions and not case markings. Example (10) shows their use:

- (10) a. *Воеводата се казва Димитър.* **Nominative**
[Voevoda-ta se kazva Dimităr.]³
Warlord-the is named Dimităr.
- b. *Това е за воеводата.* **Accusative**
[Tova e za voevodata.]
This is for warlord-the.
- c. *Дай на воеводата вода.* **Genitive**
[Daj na voevoda-ta voda.]
Give to warlord-the water.
- d. *Шапката е на воеводата.* **Dative**
[Šapkata e na voevoda-ta.]
Hat-the is to warlord-the.

In the mid-1800’s even foreign (mainly Russian) linguists like Ivanovich or Filaretov, started to notice that the previously used rich case system has started to ‘fade’. Russian linguists are the largest group of researchers of the Bulgarian language at the time of development of Modern Bulgarian. The two languages were very often compared since before the

³All transcriptions throughout this thesis are inserted into square brackets.

dropping of the rich case system, they were very similar. However, case forms were no longer in active use in Bulgarian. Thus, the rich case system was marked as obsolete and excluded from chapters in the educational system. Kucarov (2007: 494) defines this as a “natural and not forced upon development stage” that eventually happens to most rich case languages.

3.2 Pronominal case system

Modern Bulgarian divides into nine types of pronouns. Here are some of their forms:

1. Personal	<i>аз/I, ти/you, мой/he, тя/she, то/it, ние/we, вие/youpl, те/they...</i>
2. Possessive	<i>мой/mine, твой/yours, наш/ours, нейна/hers ...</i>
3. Reflexive	<i>себе si/-self, мене si/myself, тебе si/yourself ...</i>
4. Interrogative	<i>кой/who (masculine), коя/who (feminine), кое/who (neuter)...</i>
5. Demonstrative	<i>този/this, онзи/that, тези/these, онези/those ...</i>
6. Negative	<i>някой/no one (masculine), никоя/no one (feminine) никого/no one (accusative form still in use) ...</i>
7. Assertive	<i>който/which (masculine), какъвто/which (type), чийто/whose ...</i>
8. Non-assertive	<i>някакъв/someone or something, нечие/belongs to someone/something, някой/someone (masculine)...</i>
9. Universal	<i>всички/everyone, всеки/every one, всякое/everyone (neuter)...</i>

To better understand the place of Bulgarian in the CT division, the main focus will be on personal pronouns. The eventual dropping of the rich case system left its mark on Bulgarian pronouns. A good example of such mark is the form of possessive pronoun *него* [*nego*] (=his/to him). This pronoun, in its current form, is considered to be a case variation of the Dative *нему* [*netu*]. *Нему* and a possessive case marking of the noun have been later replaced by the preposition + pronoun form *на него* as is shown in (11) from Pašov (2005: 99).

- (11) a. *Дай нему книгата.*
 [Daj nemu kniga-ta]
 Give him book-the.
- b. *Дай Петру книгата.*
 [Daj Petru kniga-ta]
 Give Peter book-the.
- c. *Дай книгата на него/на Петър.*
 [Daj kniga-ta na nego/na Petăr]
 Give book-the to him/to Peter.

“На него [na nego = to him_{OF}] cannot be replaced by *на той [na toj = to he_{SF}] – both are considered to be different words and not forms of the same pronoun.” (Pašov 2005: 100)

Therefore personal pronouns are considered to be divided into two groups: personal pronouns as subjects (*аз, ти, той, тя, то, ние, вие, те*/ I, you, he, she, it, we, you, they) and personal pronouns as objects (*мене, тебе, него, нея, нас, вас, тях*/me, you, him, her, us, you, them). SFs very apparently do not belong to the same paradigm as OFs, i.e. Bulgarian pronouns clearly display suppletion. This variation introduces possibilities of using the object (OF) or subject form (SF) as default pronominal case form. As Parrott (2017) mentions, for a language to belong to the pronominal case language group it has to have “morphophonologically distinct case forms [that] are limited to a subset of personal pronouns” (Parrott 2017: 2). It becomes very apparent from table (12) from Pašov (2005: 101) that this is the case for Bulgarian. There are several forms of personal pronouns.

Although listed in this order, personal pronouns in Bulgarian tend to vary a lot between individual speakers. Bulgaria, like every country, is divided into regions, each of which has its own dialect. Some personal pronouns in general, tend to be used in their wrong forms almost across the whole country, with small variations between regions. Standard language prescriptive form (*книжовен език* [knížoven ezik] = literary language) is used very scarcely throughout the whole country. This is an important note for the reader to later understand parts of the practical survey, where there are incorrect forms deliberately used to display speaker variation.

(12)

Number	Person	Gender	<i>Syntactic form (former case function)</i>					
			Subject – only full, stand-alone forms	Direct object		Indirect object		
				Full stand-alone forms	Shortened not stand-alone forms	Full stand-alone forms		Shortened not stand-alone forms
						Old	New	
Singular	1 st	-	аз	мене (мен)	ме	мене (мен)	на мене	ми
	2 nd	-	ти	тебе (теб)	те	тебе (теб)	на тебе	ти
	3 rd	m.	той	него	го	нему	на него	му
	3 rd	f.	тя	нея	я	ней	на нея	й
	3 rd	n.	то	него	го	нему	на него	му
Plural	1 st	-	ние (ний)	нас	ни	нам	на нас	ни
	2 nd	-	вие (вий)	вас	ви	вам	на вас	ви
	3 rd	-	те	тях	ги	тям (тем)	на тях	им

Bulgarian is displaying a similar variety in pronouns like are English, Danish or Swedish. It has both SFs and OFs. It may have been a rich case language once, but it has since developed from that into a pronominal case language. The practical research at the end of this thesis, will help with further determining which form is more favourable for native speakers. Theoretically though there are several more sentence members or constructions that might help with determining which form is more favourable.

4 Contrasts between Pronominal case languages

4.1 Predicate pronouns

To be able to fully understand where Bulgarian stands, other interactions in the sentence must be taken into consideration. Predicates are a good example of how pronouns behave. Rich case, or nominative languages have certain similarities with pronominal case ones.

Parrott cites Sigurðsson, in describing those similarities as such:

“a. SF are the default for predicate pronouns, with some semantic variation [...], b. case matching is possible in predicates, clefts, displacement and ellipsis” (Parrott 2017: 3).

These similarities however occur only with the SF as default. As it was already mentioned, SWE/DUT is a language group where SF is default (as shown in (5)). Variety in predicate pronouns however is expressed in example (13) from Parrott (2017: 11), even though SF is standardly preferred. This variety is excepted only when the predicate pronouns “takes on the ROLE or the ESSENCE or the PSYCHIC IDENTITY of the subject rather than its deictic identity”⁴ (Parrott 2017).

- (13) a. *Det är inte lätt at vara jag SF (% mig OF).*
it is not easy to be I_{SF} (% me OF)
b. *I mitt nästa liv vill jag vara du SF (% dig OF)!*
in my next life want I be you_{SF} (% you OF)

Deictic expressions in Bulgarian carry a certain similarity to those in Swedish. Deictic expressions are expressed mainly by personal pronouns. Possessive, reflexive and reciprocal pronouns are used in Sg. and Pl. as references in these expressions. Variety in expressing either psychic or deictic identity in Bulgarian occurs as well. Simple deictic identity examples are shown in (14)⁵.

- (14) a. *He e лесно да си мен OF.*
[ne e lesno da si men]
It is not easy to be me.
b. *В другия живот аз искам да съм теб OF.*
[v drugija život az iskam da sām teb]
In another life I want to be you OF.
c. *Преструвах се на теб OF.*
[prestruvah se na teb]⁶
pretended-I to you OF

It would be ungrammatical to use the SF form in sentence c. from (14). There is a possible variation of using the SF in sentences a. and b. from a native speaker’s point of view. Although these variations might occur

⁴ Capitalized in the original source.

⁵ Not a quotation; written by the author of this thesis.

⁶ Using the reflexive pronoun *се* [se].

across the country, that would be incorrect with respect to Standard Bulgarian. These examples however show that just one side of the language.

The other group of languages that have OF as their default are ENG/DAN. In the predicates if these languages OFs occur and using SFs is ungrammatical and unacceptable (in Danish). In English using the SF where OF is normally preferred is labelled as “pedantic” and “formal” by Parrott (2017: 5).

- (15) a. *Who broke the vase? – It was I_{SF}/me_{OF}. (pedantic SF?)*
 b. *The phone rang, it was *she_{SF}/her_{OF}.*
 c. *I am being unapologetically me_{OF}/*I_{SF}.*
 d. *This car belongs to him_{OF}/*he_{SF}.*

OFs and SFs in English predicates might vary slightly in an inter-individual level but that is impossible for Danish. Example (16) is from Parrott (2017: 5)

- (16) a. *Hvem har drillet hunden? Det var mig/dig [...].*
 who has teased dog-the it was me/you_{OF} [...].
 b. *Hvem har hunden bidt? *Det var jeg/du/han/[...].*
 *who has dog-the bitten *it was I/you_{SF}/he/[...].*
 c. *Hvis jeg var dig If I was you_{OF}*

The following examples in (17) are translations of the Danish and English sentences so that the differences and similarities are more apparent.

- (17) a. *Кой счупи вазата? Аз_{SF} бях.*
 [koj sčupi vaza-ta] [az bjah]
 Who broke vase-the? I was-I.
 b. *Телефонът зазвъня, беше тя_{SF}.*
 [telefon-ăt zazvănja, beše tja]
 Phone-the rang, it was she.
 c. *Аз съм си непримиливо аз_{SF}.*
 [az săm si neprimirimo az]
 I am unapologetically I.
 d. *Тази кола принадлежи на него_{OF}.*
 [tazi kola prinadleži na nego]
 This car belongs to him.
 e. *Кой подразни кучето? Аз_{SF} бях.*
 [koj podrazni kuče-to] [az bjah]
 Who irritated dog-the? I was-I.

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| f. <i>Кого ухапа кучето?</i> | <i>Мен(е) оF.</i> |
| [kogo uhapa kuče-to] | [men(e)] |
| Who has-bitten dog-the? | Me. |
| g. <i>Ако беше ти ...</i> | |
| [ako beše ti ...] | |
| If it was you SF... | |

In these translated examples it is apparent that Bulgarian is not as adamant in not using OF in predicates as is Danish. As this thesis will further display, Bulgarian is a language of high pronominal variety. This variety is given very likely because of the regional dialects and foreign language borrowings that are high in number in Bulgarian (mainly from English

Another factor that might have a significant relevance is finiteness. Previous examples above, in Swedish, are finite, for the most part. In Bulgarian infinitives of verbs are no longer in use so non-finite expressions, technically, do not exist. Bulgarian dictionary entries for verbs are in 1st person Sg., present tense. The translations are all in present tense. The comparison is made by using a Swedish non-finite example in (18) a. from Sigurðsson (2017: 3) and its translation in (18) b. along with more examples in c., d. and e. to show the preferred form even more clearly.

- (18) a. *Den där lilla bebisen på bilden ser ut att vara jag/mig.*
this there little baby on picture-the looks out to be I/me.

According to the survey results in Sigurðsson (2017), 97% preferred the SF (*jag*) and only 2% (*mig*) preferred the OF. In Bulgarian, the SF is preferred.

- (18) b. *Малкото дете на картината изглежда, че съм аз.*
 [malko-to dete na kartina-ta izgležda če sām az]
 Little-the child in picture-the looks that am I SF
- c. *В къщата остана само тя.*
 [v kăšta-ta ostana samo tja]
 In house-the remained just she SF
- d. *На партито присъстват той и брат му.*
 [na parti-to prisăstva-t toj i brat mu]
 At party-the present-are he SF and brother-his.
- e. *Това сме само ние.*
 [tova sme samo nie]
 It is only we SF.

The finite examples however only show the deictic identity. In these there can be clearly seen that SF is no longer completely unacceptable and it displays another similarity between Swedish and Bulgarian.

Sigurðsson mentions another interesting aspect – in some instances “where the predicate expresses role semantics” (Sigurðsson 2017), OFs have much higher frequency than in simple deictic identity cases. OFs are the more preferred and in bold in these sentences:

- (19) a. Finite: *Jag är bara jag/**mig** OF själv.*
*I am only I/**me** self*
- b. Non-finite: *Nej, jag skulle aldrig vilja vara hon/**henne** OF.*
*no, I would never want be she/**her***

Role semantics in predicate pronouns seem to vary in Bulgarian, as far as the translated examples from (19) go.

- (20) a. Finite: *Аз съм само аз SF.*
 [az sãm samo az]
 I am only I.
- b. Non-finite: *Не, аз никога не бих искала да съм нея OF.*
 [ne, az nikoga ne bih iskala da sãm neja]
 No, I never not-would want to be her.

In (20) (a) there is a possible variation to the translation by using the dative reflexive pronoun себе си [sebe si] in 1st person Sg. That form however, does not include a personal pronoun, as it does in Swedish.

These last examples have proven that the language is not similar to Danish or English completely, although there are some similarities. Where Bulgarian uses OF or SF might vary according to individual speakers, however there is a certain aspect that might help determine which form is used more.

As it was mentioned in (9), Bulgarian pronouns in the OF are used with a preposition. However, ownership and/or accusation are the two main aspects that need it for grammaticality. The preposition *на* [na] is the particle that basically replaced the whole rich case pronoun system and made most pronoun suffixes obsolete. So, where ENG/DAN use predicate pronouns almost exclusively in OF as default, Bulgarian does that only with the preposition describing ownership/accusation. Thus, the use of predicate pronouns further displays the probability that Bulgarian is more similar to SWE/DUT than ENG/DAN after all.

4.2 Coordination

Coordination in DPs across the sentence might be another interesting aspect that could help determine the place of Bulgarian. So far, the language has displayed traits of both OF and SF default and has more

In Swedish, there is no pronominal case variation in coordinate DPs. However, “*the difference in default case does not, by itself, explain the absence of variation inside (Co)DPS in SF-default pro-case languages.*” (Parrott 2017:12) Example (21) is from Parrott (2017: 12) and example (22) is a translation in Bulgarian.

- (21) a. **Björn och mig ska prata om det.*
B. and me will talk about that
b. **Mig och Björn hade rum vid sidan av varandra.*
me and B. had rooms by side of each other
c. **Det är två år mellan Björn och jag.*
there are two years between B. and I
d. **Honom och jag körde hem igår.*
her and I drove home yesterday
- (22) a. *Бjörn и аз SF ще говорим за това.*
[Bjorn i az šte govorim za tova]
Bjorn and I will talk about this.
b. *Аз SF и Бjörn имахме стаи един до друг.*
[Az i Bjorn imahme stai edin do drug]
I and Bjorn had rooms one to another.
c. *Между мен OF и Бjörn има две години разлика.*
[Meždu men i Bjorn ima dve godini razlika]
Between me and Bjorn are two years difference.
d. *Тя SF и аз SF се върнахме с кола вчера.*
[Tja i az se vărnahme s kola včera]
She and I we-got back with car yesterday.

In languages where OF is default, the situation is different. The OF appears in conjuncts.

- (23) a. My uncle and him went hunting.
b. Me and her went to see a movie.
c. Him and her are schoolmates.

Bulgarian displays a somewhat different aspect. It only uses only the SF in the conjunct these examples.

- (24) a. *Чичо ми и той* _{SF} *отидоха на лов.*
[čičo mi i toj otidoh-a na lov]
Uncle-my and he went-they on hunt.
- b. *Аз* _{SF} *и тя* _{SF} *отидохме на филм.*
[az i tja otidoh-me na film]
I and she went-we to movie.
- c. *Той* _{SF} *и тя* _{SF} *са съученици.*
[toj i tja sa säučenicī]
He and she are schoolmates.

There are possibilities of using both SF and OF in English sentences. However the use SF in default OF languages has its conditions. Parrott (2017) lists them as such:

- SFs in OF default languages are “*intra-individually variable*”
- SFs in OF default languages are “*linearly, construction or item-specific.*”
- SFs in OF default languages are “*language-specifically linked to ‘social meanings’*”

Parrot (2017) also notes that 1st person Sg. and 3rd person Sg. SFs have a very specific place in the sentences.

- (25) a. You and I (1st person Sg. SF) have a lot of things to talk about/ *I and you/*me and you.
- b. He and I are getting married next month/*I and he/*me and he.

These combined coordinated DPs in English can be regularly misused by language learners (e.g. they would use both OF/both SF/mistake the position of SF). It would be ungrammatical to say ‘I and you’ in English. In Bulgarian the placement of either of the personal pronouns in the DP has little to no meaning, both can be used in the first or second position. Of course, this, again, varies according to the individual speaker.

The examples above continue to display more evidence that Bulgarian is indeed a SF default language although it bears some similarity to OF languages as well.

4.3 Ellipsis

The next aspect that can further prove that Bulgarian is indeed more similar to SF default languages, is ellipsis. In his work Sigurðsson presents some examples and claims that it is possible to assume that SF is default in Swedish. He uses examples from Schütze (2001) and argues that in his work not all aspects have been taken into consideration (like “mismatching between coordinated DPs” (Sigurðsson 2017). Sigurðsson’s results in his online SwCS survey proves that choosing an OF variation in a SF language does not necessarily mean that OF is replacing all the SFs (in Swedish). “OBL is also excluded in ellipsis, as shown in [the examples below].” (Sigurðsson 2017). The following examples are from Sigurðsson (2017: 8), where a. is not from SwCS and b. is. He does note that in b. the sentence favours the OF but the result or replies was very low (1,1% of his total of 5315 respondents).

- (26) a. *Vem vill prova det här s pelet?*
who wants try this here game-the
‘Who wants to try this game?’
1. *Jag_{SF}/*Mig (också).*
I/Me (too)
2. *Inte vi_{SF}/*oss.*
Not we/us
b. *Vem vill prova? Mig_{OF}.*
who wants (to) try me

As it now becomes apparent from previous examples and results, Bulgarian once again favours the SF. In the translated version of a. from Sigurðsson’s examples it would be ungrammatical to use the OF and it is highly doubtful that any kind of regional variation is going to show otherwise.

- (27) a. *Кой иска да пробва играта?*
[Koj iska da probva igra-ta]
Who wants to try game-the?
*Аз_{SF}/*мен (също).*
[Az/men]
*I/*me (too).*
b. *Мария отиде на пазар, както и аз.*
[Maria otide na pazar kakto i az]
Maria went to market, as well and I_{SF}.

- c. *Дойдох по-рано, както и ти SF.*
 [Dojd-oh po-rano, kakto i ti]
 Came-I earli-er, as well and you.

English takes a different stance in ellipsis. Although it does display certain possible variation, its prevailing form is of course OF. It is interesting to note that in (28) a. it is possible to answer with ‘I do’ which would be the SF form, however it would require do-support. These examples do not ‘produce’ the same default form as Bulgarian does. Therefore ellipsis has proven further that Bulgarian is not like English.

- (28) a. Who wants to try the game?
 Me!/*I!
 Me too!/*I too!
- b. He went to the market.
 No way, me OF too!
- c. I came in early and so did you SF.

4.4 Dislocation and apposition

In Sigurðsson’s work there is another interesting comparable aspect to be considered and that is dislocation. Although not included in his SwCS. One of the points he describes in his work is that there is a concern that Swedish is undergoing a “general default case switch” (Sigurðsson 2017: 7). That becomes prominent in some of the results of his survey. However, in the dislocation and apposition example he proves that there is no such thing, despite the ongoing changing preference. Example (29) is from Sigurðsson (2017: 6) and it shows that SF is still preferred and OF would be very much ungrammatical (even though he hadn’t included this particular example in his online survey).

- (29) a. *Jag/*Mig, jag gillar bönor.*
I/Me, I like beans
‘Me, I like beans.’
- b. *Den bästa atleten, hon/*henne, borde vinna.*
The best athlete she/her should win
‘The best athlete, her, should win.’

Dislocation in English can prove to, again, use mixed default forms, similar to the exceptions with coordinated DPs. While Swedish uses repetition on some sentence members and uses SF for both, English uses

usually OF first and SF in the dislocated phrase. This occurs for both singular and plural and in all the personal aspects.

- (30) a. Me_{OF}, I_{SF} like beans
 b. The best athlete/Him_{OF}, he_{SF} should win the race.
 c. Who do you choose?
 Them_{OF}, they_{SF} should slay the dragon.

Dislocation in Bulgarian is somewhat less used and probably ignored as a language tool altogether. To use it and for it to be grammatically correct, of course, some repetition of sentence members should be used (as it is apparent from (29)). However, would somebody use it, it would sound archaic, pedantic and it would be probably used only in older literary sources (king's speeches, proverbs etc.). It would simply sound unnatural, even if use correctly and in agreement with Standard Bulgarian prescriptive regulations. The following examples in (31) a. and b. are the translated versions of (29). Sentences in c. and d. are used to simply further confirm that the preferred form is again. SF. A combination of forms, such are the ones in English, would be ungrammatical in Bulgarian, from a native speaker's point of view.

- (31) a. *Аз_{SF}, аз_{SF}/*мен_{OF} обичам боб.*
 [Az, az /*men običa-m bob]
 I, I /*me love-I beans.
 b. *Най-добрият атлет, той_{SF}/*него_{OF} ще спечели.*
 [Naj-dobr-ijat atlet, toj/*nego šte spečeli]
 Best-the athlete, he/*him will win.
 c. *Иван, той_{SF}/*него_{OF} ще спаси царството.*
 [Ivan, toj /*nego šte spasi carstvo-to]
 Ivan he /*him will save kingdom-the
 d. *Ванга, тя_{SF}/*нея_{OF} която предсказа бъдещето.*
 [Vanga, tja/*neja kojato predskaza bādešte-to]
 Vanga, she/*her who (f.) foretold future-the.

From these examples, one can draw the conclusion that even though Bulgarian is vast in variety, OFs and SFs simply do not mix when it comes to dislocation. Further, they have once more shown similarities between Bulgarian and SWE/DUT.

4.5 Comparative objects

In his work, Parrott (2017: 12) cites “When a pronoun is object of a comparative, SF-default Swe converges with OF-default Eng and Dan: OFs occur by default but ESFs are prescribed (Språknämnden 2005).” He also notes that Swedish, English and Danish use SFs in comparative objects which have “social meaning”. The following examples are from Parrott (2017) and illustrate this point in Swedish.

- (32) a. *Jag är äldre än henne (% hon).*
I am older than him (% he)
b. *En karl som du (?% dig) kan inte göra så.*
a guy as you SF (% you OF) can not do so

The translations of these sentences in (33) a. and b. in English show a similarity between the languages. Sentences in c. and d. further illustrate the point. It also confirms the above mentioned from Parrott (2017).

- (33) a. I_{SF} am older than him_{OF}.
b. A guy like him_{OF} cannot act like this,
c. He_{SF} is smarter than you_{OF} in every way.
d. I_{SF} liked her_{OF} better than him_{OF}.

The examples above have shown that really, the mixture of SFs and OFs in both language groups is needed for grammaticality. This appears to be a general statement that applies to these Nordic languages. However, a Slavic language like Bulgarian can be also added to this statement. Like Swedish, English and Danish, Bulgarian displays the need of a combination of both SFs and OFs for grammaticality in comparative objects. Their use is common in the language and corresponds with Standard Bulgarian. Examples in (34) a. to d. are translated versions of the Swedish and English sentences. Similar to English, sentence d. in Bulgarian also shows signs of meaning ambiguity. To literally translate a sentence, word-for-word, from English to Bulgarian proves to be not entirely possible in most cases. The sentence has to be altered in a way to be grammatical. Comparative object pronoun sentences however are the example of the opposite – a literal translation is possible. Furthermore, it once again proves the statement that a combination of OFs and SFs is a “meeting” point for both OF and SF default languages.

- (34) a. *Аз* _{SF} *съм по-стар*⁷ *от него* _{OF}.
 [Az sǎm po-star ot nego]
 I am old-er from him.
- b. *Човек като него* _{OF} *не може да се държи по този начин.*
 [Čovek kato nego nemože da se dǎrži po tozi način]
 Person like him cannot to behave in this manner.
- c. *Той* _{SF} *е по-умен от теб* _{OF} *във всеки аспект.*
 [Toj e po-umen ot teb vǎv vseki aspekt]
 He is smart-er from you in every aspect.
- d. *Аз* _{SF} *харесвах нея* _{OF} *повече от него* _{OF}.
 [Az haresvah neja poveče ot nego]
 I liked her more from him.

4.6 Reciprocal pronouns and identity

Finally, to positively confirm the place of Bulgarian in CT, one more aspect should be presented. This is how Leafgren describes reciprocity in Bulgarian:

“Reciprocity, i.e. the situation in which plural entities perform the same action with respect to each other, is often expressed with reflexive verb forms with the accusative reflexive particle/pronoun when the role of direct object is involved, or with the dative reflexive particle/pronoun when the role of indirect object is involved.” (Leafgren 2011)

After this he also adds that in Bulgarian reciprocity is expressed with an obligatory “form of един ‘one’ together with a form of the adjectival word друг ‘other’” (Leafgren 2011: 62). From this definition it is apparent that using reciprocals in Bulgarian is similar to English and direct translation would be also possible, as in comparative objects.

In the aspect of reciprocals is where Swedish definitely differs from English and Bulgarian. Based on a Google search, it becomes apparent that Swedish does not use ‘each other’ or ‘one another’ like two separate sentence members but rather has one form. This is one of the points where Bulgarian displays more similarity to English.

- (35) a. De pratar aldrig med varandra. [Swedish]
 They never talk to each other.
- b. Ring varandra.

⁷ In this case native speakers tend to use по-голям [po-goljam] to refer to age which means literally bigger.

Examples in (36) show the use of ‘one another’ in Bulgarian and also display the other possible forms. This confirms Leafgren’s statement that reciprocals are only possible when using the forms ‘each other’ and only when (in)direct object is in question. This is one aspect where Bulgarian comes closer to English, than to Swedish.

- (36) a. *Те никога неговорят един на друг.*
 [Te nikoga negovorjat edin na drug]
 They never not-talk one to another.
- b. *Обадете се един на друг.*
 [Obad-ete se edin na drug]
 Call-you_{PL} one to another.
- c. *Хайде да си говорим на ти.*
 [Hajde da si govori-m na ti]
 Let’s to speak-we to you⁸

Another important aspect to mention is how these languages deal with description of identity. In English, the default OF is preferred when talking about identity or shift of identity.

- (37) a. That actress was playing me _{OF} in the movie.
 b. I was being him _{OF} in the play.
 c. We were them _{OF} for a moment.

In Bulgarian the chosen form for identity expression could be mixed. It would depend on the situation and of course, on the individual speaker. Question 1 in the practical research survey deals with one such case of identity expression. There the respondents answered that they would feel “Totally uncomfortable” (83% of 40 people) with using the OF form. However, the sentence did not deal with shift of identity as in (37) a. to c. Examples (38) a. and b. are the translated versions of the survey question 1.

- (38) a. *Аз съм си аз _{SF}*
 [Az sǎm si az]
 I am I.
- b. **Мене _{OF} съм си.*
 [Mene sǎm si]
 Me am me.

⁸ The familiar form of [ti] is the same as the Czech *ty* or the term *tykáni*.

c. *Актрисата играеше мен OF във филма.*

[Aktrisa-ta igrae-še men vāv film-a]

Actress-the playing-was me in film-the.

d. *Аз SF бях него OF в постановката.*

[Az bjah nego v postanovka-ta]

I was him in play-the.

e. *Ние SF бяхме тях OF за момент.*

[Nie bjah-me tjah za moment]

We were them for moment.

As is apparent from these examples, Bulgarian uses the combination of SFs and OFs, similar to English. However, the exception is in 1st person Sg where it displays variety, where it prefers the SF form (based on research results).

5 Practical Research

5.1 Methodology

The participants in the survey were chosen randomly. There was no question included about education or occupation so there is no certain way to show a correlation between them and the answers. The survey was distributed online via Facebook social groups consisting of current Bulgarian residents and Bulgarian residents living outside the country. The survey was created in Bulgarian and was written in Cyrillic. All the questions were created by the author of this thesis. The survey was distributed as a link in the period between March 1st and April 15th, 2019.

5.1.1 Survey requirements and aspects

The heading of the survey asked participants to answer a short survey of 13 questions, based solely on their perception of the options given. They were asked not to search for any official linguistic source on the matter and that there were no wrong answers. They were also informed that the purpose of the survey was strictly educational and needed to determine whether Bulgarian native speakers preferred pronouns in the OF or SF as default. Questions were formulated as two non-exclusive possibilities – one using the OF, and the other using the SF of the pronoun. To illustrate the preferred form, mainly forms of personal pronouns have been used. In some cases, Bulgarian requires the use of reciprocal pronouns (where English would just use personal), hence these were also included in the original questions. To

both options participants were asked to mark how would they feel using each option in everyday conversation. They could mark “Totally comfortable”, “Maybe” and “Totally uncomfortable”.

As the results showed most of the participants were in the age groups of 26 to 45 years (19 people) and 46 to 65 years (16 people). The majority of participants were female – that is 26 women (or 65% of total 40 participants) and the rest were male – that is 14 men (or 35% of total 40 participants). The final question was about determining the geographical aspect of language variation. Taking into consideration that some of the participants lived outside of Bulgaria but were native speakers, the last question asked which Bulgarian city they came from. Being an open question, this had some variation in answers, some of which could be unified (the only difference was the spelling). Most of the participants (11 people) answered that they are from Pleven, a city situated in the middle of the Northern part of the country. The second largest group (5 people) wrote that they were from the capital Sofia. Participants from other Northern cities, such as Gabrovo, Montana, Mezdra, Veliko Tŕrnovo, Ruse, Sevlievo and Sliven, were the prevailing group of the total number of participants. There were also participants (4) from several Southern cities – Plovdiv, Stara Zagora, Pernik and Sliven. The geographical aspect proved to be the major determining aspect in this survey. The second aspect of age did not prove to have as big of an impact as the regions/cities.

The conclusions that were made from the results were somewhat surprising. Perhaps in every language there is a certain interpersonal variation and in Bulgarian this variation is vast. See 5.1.3 below for the full regional variety of answers. Another result was the fact that Bulgarian prefer some forms that are ungrammatical according to Standard Bulgarian.

This survey proved that Bulgarian belongs to the group of SF default languages such as Swedish and Dutch and that it also bears some similar traits to English and Danish.

5.1.2 Translated research questions

For the original questions in Bulgarian, see the Appendix. Some of the percentages have been rounded by 0,5%. This chapter includes the translations of all the questions and the transcriptions and short commentaries about some of the questions.

Look at the options. Would you be comfortable using the sentence in the given form? You would maybe use it? Or not at all?

Question 1.:

- Options available: a. I_{SF} am being I_{SF}.
b. Just me_{OF} being me_{OF}.

Results: 90% said they are “Totally comfortable” and 10% said “Maybe” to a. **VS.** 83% said they are “Totally uncomfortable”, 15% said “Maybe” and 4% said “Totally comfortable” to b.

Question 2.:

- Options available: a. I was pretending that I am you_{SF}
b. I was pretending that I was you_{OF}.

Results: 30% said “Totally comfortable”, 15% said maybe and 55% said “Totally uncomfortable” to a. **VS.** 60% said “Totally comfortable”, 23% said “Maybe” and 18% said “Totally uncomfortable” to b.

Commentary: It is important to note here that in the original option b. a dative reflexive *cu* [si] had to be used, so an OF of the personal pronoun could be used as well. The original options do not form a minimal pair as they do in English. The translation could be the cause of confusion due to ambiguity in English when it comes to 2nd person Sg and Pl.

Question 3.:

- Options available: a. She_{SF} was hit by a car.
b. They hit her_{OF} with a car.

Results: 90% said “Totally comfortable” and 10% said “Maybe” to a. **VS.** 80% said “Totally uncomfortable”, 18% said “Maybe” and 4% said “Totally comfortable” to b.

Question 4.:

- Options available: a. He_{SF} does not love red.
b. He_{OF} does not like red.

Results: 80% said “Totally comfortable”, 13% said “Maybe” and 8% said “Totally uncomfortable” to a. **VS.** 43% said “Totally comfortable”, 30% said “Maybe” and 28% said “Totally uncomfortable” to b.

Commentary: This is another example where the translation can lose some of the original aspects. In option b. the OF is an object of the preposition *на* [na] – *На него не му харесва червено.*

[Na nego ne mu haresva červeno]

To him does not like red.

This is another example that forms a minimal pair in English but not in Bulgarian.

Question 5.:

- Options available: a. We OF are doing/feeling good.
 b. We SF are good.

Results: 25% said “Totally comfortable”, 20% said “Maybe” and 55% said “Totally uncomfortable” to a. **VS.** 85% said “Totally comfortable”, 10% said “Maybe” and 5% said “Totally uncomfortable to b.

Question 6.:

- Options available: a. I SF am feeling bad/ill.
 b. I OF am feeling bad/ill.

Results: 78% said “Totally comfortable”, 18% said “Maybe” and 5% said “Totally uncomfortable” to a. **VS.** 35% said “Totally comfortable”, 38% said “Maybe” and 28% said “Totally uncomfortable” to b.

Commentary: In option b. a dative reflexive *mu* [mi] had to be used so the OF could be used as well.

Question 7.:

- Options available: a. You SF are not interested.
 b. You OF do not care.

Results: 48% said “Totally comfortable”, 43% said “Maybe” and 10% said “Totally uncomfortable” to a. **VS.** 85% said “Totally comfortable”, 10% said “Maybe” and 5% said “Totally uncomfortable” to b.

Question 8.:

- Options available: a. He SF was promoted.
 b. They promoted him OF.

Results: 90% said “Totally comfortable”, 8% said “Maybe” and 4% said “Totally uncomfortable” to a. **VS.** 53% said “Totally comfortable”, 38% said “Maybe” and 10% said “Totally uncomfortable to b.

Question 9.:

- Options available: a. I SF like it.
 b. I OF like it.

Results: 8% said “Totally comfortable”, 13% said “Maybe” and 80% said “Totally uncomfortable” to a. **VS.** 93% said “Totally comfortable”, 5% said “Maybe” and 4% said “Totally uncomfortable” to b.

Commentary: The dative reflexive *mi* [mi] had to be used in b. so that the OF could be used as well.

Question 10.:

Options available: a. You SF will be welcomed.

b. You OF will be welcomed.

Results: 63% said “Totally comfortable” and 38% said “Maybe” to a. **VS.** 50% said “Totally comfortable”, 38% said “Maybe” and 13% said “Totally uncomfortable” to b.

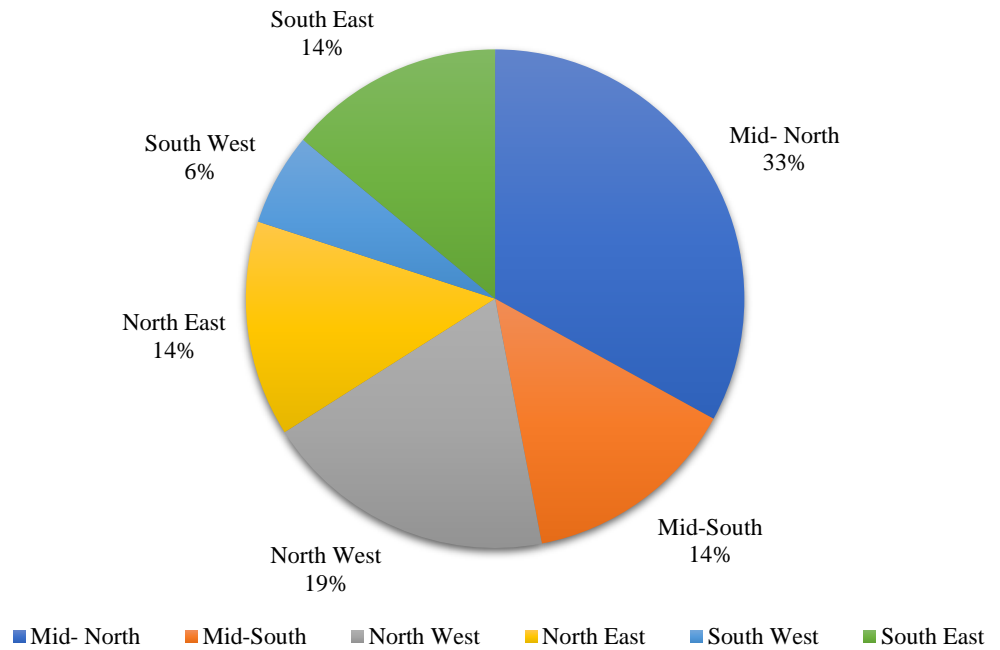
Question 11. and 12. are about the gender and age group of the participants, both of which have already been mentioned in 5.1.1 above. Question 13. was an open question about the city of origin of the participants. It is important to note that a total of 8 participants did not write the Bulgarian city that they were from, instead they wrote the foreign cities that they were from. Unfortunately, these cannot be included in the regional statistic that is in 5.1.3 as it deals strictly with Bulgarian cities/regions.

5.1.3 Graphical representation of the regional results

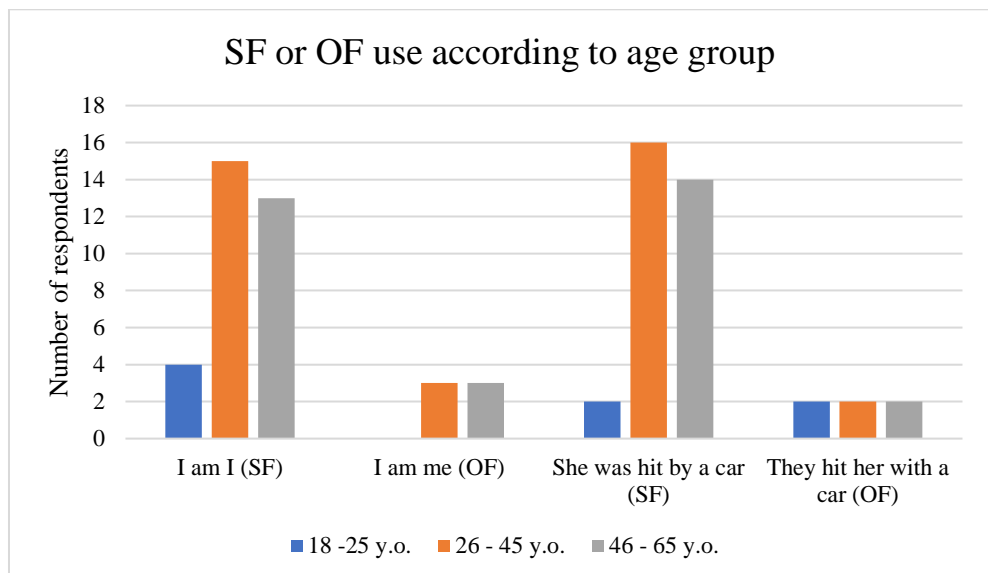
The total number of cities of respondents was 15. Here is a list of them along with the percentual representation (% out of 40 respondents). There were 8 answers that were not taken into consideration, as mentioned in 5.1.2 above. The division of regions is created for the reader to be able to better understand which city belongs to which part of the country.

1. 4% Pavlikeni (Mid-North)
2. 13% Sofia (North West)
3. 4% Burgas (South East)
4. 5% Montana (North West)
5. 4% Varna (North East)
6. 4% Veliko Tărnovo (Mid-North)
7. 4% Gabrovo (Mid-North)
8. 33% Pleven (Mid-North)
9. 4% Mezdra (North West)
10. 5% Pernik (South West)
11. 4% Plovdiv (Mid-South)
12. 4% Ruse (North East)
13. 4% Sevlievo (Mid-North)
14. 4% Sliven (South East)
15. 4% Stara Zagora (Mid-South)

Regions



The following graph depicts the correlation between the used forms (OF or SF) and the age of the respondents. It shows that the age aspect is not a determining factor when it comes to choosing a default form. These are only 3 of the total 5 age groups. They were included because of the higher number of respondents.



6 Conclusion

In the previous chapters Bulgarian has been presented from a historical point of view. It was a rich case language in some of its early development stages but has since switched to pronominal case. Neofit Rilski has proven this in his work where he corrected his own previous thesis that the language has seven morphological cases. The simple example that he used showed the current state of the language. It was no longer in need of more than one morphological form. Even foreign linguists (mainly from Russia) started to admit that Bulgarian maybe once resembled Russian in more than one way however its development had brought it in a completely new direction. Opposing it to Russian has helped to reach to the correct conclusion. Some have said that perhaps developing into a pronominal case language is the natural development every European language has to go through (Kucarov 2007: 484).

It has become apparent that Bulgarian belongs to the SF default language group. This has been proven by comparing SF and OF languages in several terms. Predicates in Bulgarian have expressed similarities with Swedish to express deictic or psychic identity. The construction of the sentences both languages is proved to be similar, with possible variation in Bulgarian. Even though Swedish is SF default it used OFs in predicates, the same way Bulgarian did. It was in these variations that the language expressed similarity with ENG/DAN but that was proven to be just an exception.

Comparing of coordinating DPs in both language groups also helped to determine which instances were the same in Bulgarian. Examples have shown that Swedish has no pronominal case variation and uses only the SFs while English had both forms in very specific cases. Bulgarian proved to be using mainly SFs but also had some variation with OFs, although not as specific as in English.

Another aspect where Bulgarian and Swedish met was ellipsis. Certain deviations in Swedish, described by Sigurðsson showed that OF is possible in Swedish, however it is rare and almost omissible. English proved that despite of some exceptions it prefers its default form. Bulgarian proved to prefer the SF with minor exceptions, where it could have been comparable with English.

More aspects of comparing were dislocations, reciprocal pronouns, identity expressions and comparative objects. Reciprocal pronouns and comparative objects proved to be a 'meeting point' between English and Bulgarian and literal translation was possible without changing the format of the sentence in any way. Dislocations and identity expressions however,

proved that in terms of choosing a default form, Bulgarian is definitely more similar to the SF default language group.

The practical survey was another proving point, although it had mixed results at some point. Bulgarian native speakers have shown that in some cases they prefer the “officially” ungrammatical form. They have also shown that the age factor is not as important, as in other language research (SwCS survey showed dramatic changes in between different age groups). A major determining factor proved to be the region where the respondents came from. Respondents from the Southern part appeared to hesitate with some options nonetheless they preferred the SF in the end. Respondents from the Northern part seemed to be more certain with their choices and gave less “Maybe” answers.

This work has concluded that Bulgarian is more likely to belong to the SF default group of languages like Swedish and Dutch. It has widened the (English-written) international research and it has showed why pronominal case language form is more preferred in Bulgarian.

- b. (На) Мене ми е зле.
-
- a. Ти не си заинтересован. Удобно, Може би, Неудобно
- b. Теб не те интересува.
-
- a. Той беше повишен. Удобно, Може би, Неудобно
- b. Него го повишиха.
-
- a. Аз ми харесва. Удобно, Може би, Неудобно
- b. (На) Мен ми харесва
-
- a. Вие ще бъдете приветствани. Удобно, Може би, Неудобно
- b. Вас ще ви приветстват.
-
- Вие сте ...
- a. Жена
- b. Мъж
- Коя е Вашата възрастова категория? *
- a. Под 18г.
- b. 18г. - 25г.
- c. 26г. - 45г.
- d. 46г. - 65г.
- e. Над 66г.
- От кой български град сте? (отговорите може да са на латиница или кирилица)

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