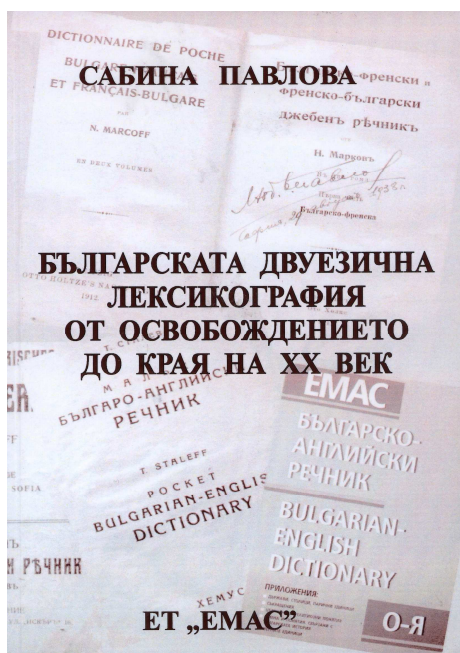


Sabina Pavlova, *Bălgarskata dvuezіčna leksikografija ot osvoboјdenieto do kraja na XX vek / Bilingual Bulgarian Lexicography from the Liberation to the End of the XX<sup>th</sup> Century*), Et “EMAC”, Sofia, 2010, 234 p. (Ion Toma)



The book represents a monographic study on Bulgarian bilingual lexicography from 1878 to 2000. The study is prefaced by an *Introduction*, setting forth the objectives, the principles and the methods applied in a clear and comprehensive manner. Afterwards, the book proceeds to the study proper, organized into 3 sections of comparable dimensions, the sections being concerned with *The History of Bilingual Lexicography in Bulgaria*, *Ground Principles in the Compilation of Bilingual Dictionaries* (described

both theoretically and practically), and finally an *Analytical Bibliography of Bilingual Dictionaries* from the period under review. These three complementary perspectives presuppose wide-ranging theoretical knowledge and practical competences and in this respect the author proves to have several decisive advantages: a long and substantial activity as a lexicographer, lexicologist and semantician, editor of several academic dictionaries, Bulgarian teacher for foreigners, translator from and into several languages.

Each section is meticulously organized and dense (the influence of lexicographic techniques), gradually shedding light on the aspects pertaining to or comprised within the analysed topic. Thus, the first section describes in successive sequences the background of the research on this topic, the evolution and historical stages of lexicographic activity, language families contrasted to Bulgarian (classical languages: Latin, Old Greek; artificial languages: Esperanto; Romance and Germanic languages: Italian, Spanish,

French, English, German; Slavic languages: Russian, Serbo-Croatian, Slovak and Slovenian, Czech, Polish, Belarusian and Ukrainian; “rare or small” European languages: Balkan, Central European, Scandinavian, Western languages; “rare or small” languages outside Europe: Hebrew, Armenian, Hindi, Middle and Far East languages, Arabic). For each of the respective fields, the author outlines the lexicographic works and, according to their importance, gives an overview of the authors, teams and representative works.

The evolution of lexicography is also followed as a general phenomenon, while highlighting the three periods of the XX<sup>th</sup> century (*before the First World War, the interwar period and the period after the Second World War*), characterised by an increase in the number and diversity of published dictionaries, as well as by the higher scientific and technical quality of the compiled works.

The second section analyses by degrees the principles at work in the writing of a bilingual dictionary, starting from the *general aspects* (theoretical foundation, explanations and general guidelines, linguistic design, aspects of lexicographic terminology), continuing with the *macrostructure* (the lexical organization model: by topic, grammatical, functional-stylistic; corpus compilation; extensions: proper names, phrase groups) and ending with the *microstructure* (definition of meaning, the translated equivalent, description, illustration, polysemy and synonymy, editors’ symbols).

The third section could be considered as a profuse annex to the study, comprising the complete inventory of bilingual Bulgarian dictionaries. These represent in fact the material on which the study in the first two sections relied and may constitute an information resource for lexicographers, linguists from other fields of research and non-linguists alike. The general dictionaries published during the analysed period are described bibliographically: this description is based on the analytical bibliography system, providing, where deemed necessary, detailed information on each edition.

The information is distributed into two complementary lists arranged alphabetically: a *Chronological List* (respectively the *Typological List*) per languages of bilingual general purpose Bulgarian dictionaries from the aforementioned period. At the end of the first list, there is a separate section for *polyglot dictionaries and foreign languages learning methodologies*. The second list shows simultaneously dictionaries with Bulgarian as the first language and those whose first language is the foreign language and Bulgarian is the second language (e.g. *Bulgarian-Romanian dictionary*, respectively *Romanian-Bulgarian dictionary*). The two lists do not include specialised dictionaries (medical, technical, economic, legal, etc.), as they are outside the scope of this work.

The study is completed by a summary that gives us the full measure of the author's dedication in achieving this research, entitled *Conclusion* or *On principles*, where the guiding lines of the study (design, theoretical framework, sources, development, context, delimitations, editorial plan) are reviewed synthetically, unencumbered by the inevitable descriptive load of the study. With a special mention on the sensibility of the expression of gratitude for the effort unknown to the general public of the often anonymous lexicographers, we recommend this study as a useful and valuable work and an example to be followed by the Romanian researchers in this field.