

**Victor A. Friedman**, *Macedonian Studies 2* (Skopje: Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts, 2015), 360 pp. (Available online at: <http://ical.manu.edu.mk/books/FriedmanMacStudies2.pdf>)

*Macedonian Studies 2* is the second collection of articles presenting the work of Victor A. Friedman and published by the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts under the editorship of Zuzanna Topolińska and Marjan Marković. The current book is, however, by no means a scraping together of the leftovers of the first *Macedonian Studies* (Friedman 2011); it contains republished articles in English, whereas the first book consisted of work in Macedonian.

The occasion for the republication of the chosen articles is not addressed in the preface, yet some reasons may be surmised. While obviously an homage from the publisher to one of the most prominent scholars of Macedonian studies, this completely newly typeset book, freely available in electronic format, allows for internal searches, something the scanned online versions of the individual articles did not.

Most importantly however, the articles in *Macedonian Studies 2* are brought up-to-date by the author by the addition of fresh references and occasional commentaries. Yet one should not expect significant changes of heart. The newly-edited parts mostly involve references to literature that further support the original argumentation. However, they are valuable for readers, introducing, as they do, subsequent developments in the field.

The book opens with the article “Grammatical Categories and a Comparative Balkan Grammar” (originally published in 1983). While perhaps made redundant in some respects by the author’s more recent work, the article concisely introduces the background to Friedman’s thinking and choices regarding his influential analysis of evidentiality in the Balkans, which is often passed over quickly in later studies.

The book is implicitly divided into two parts, the first dealing with linguistic analyses and the second with topics in socio-linguistics, sociology of language and linguistics, and language policy. The first part contains nine republished articles, including one of the most cited publications by the author, “Evidentiality in the Balkans with Special Attention to Macedonian and Albanian” (2003; 82 citations by other authors in Google Scholar alone, as of 25 May 2018).

While the linguistic analyses, as expected, focus heavily on the Macedonian verb in its areal context, two articles, “About the *ja-* in Makedonskiot jazik: The fate of \**ǰ-* and \**ǰ*” (1994; co-authored by Laura Janda) and “‘One’ as an Indefinite Marker in Balkan and Non-Balkan Slavic” (2003), dealing with historical phonology and determiners, respectively, bear testimony to the author’s famous versatility.

Generally, the topics of the seven articles in the second part of the book are arguably more vulnerable to obsolescence than the linguistic analyses. Yet even the oldest of these, “The Sociolinguistics of Literary Macedonian” (1985), remains essential reading for anybody interested in the Macedonian language, as evidenced by its continued popularity as a source in today’s academic literature.

The most welcome republications in the second part are perhaps “Language in Macedonia as an Identity Construction Site” (2003) and “Turkish Influence in Modern Macedonian and the Turkish Lexical Element in the Languages of the Republic of Macedonia” (1996). The former, characterized by a frank treatment of various political actors, Friedman’s analytical hallmark, serves as an excellent introduction to the complexities of linguistic identity in the region.

The latter article, then again, has not always received the attention it undoubtedly deserves, despite the continued interest in the Turkish lexical element in the Balkan languages. Especially invaluable are the typologizations of the Turkish loans, in terms of form, historical settings, and socio-linguistic implications.

Finally, the question arises of citing the articles republished in *Macedonian Studies* 2. The additions are in most cases not highlighted, making comparison with the original difficult. Undoubtedly, many authors will, however, find the new sources and commentaries useful and wish therefore to refer to the re-edited articles. In this case, the wisest approach is to treat them as a subsequent edition and include the bibliographical data for the first publication.

*Macedonian Studies* 2 successfully showcases Victor A. Friedman's immense contribution to the field in English. Among the desiderata for the paper version are indices and the printing of the references with the individual articles, yet the lack of these is generously compensated for by the free availability of a searchable electronic version. Friedman's academic prose, often overlooked in reviews, is also highly readable, witty, and delightful, not least because of his sense of humor—down to the last page.

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