FROM THE HISTORY OF THE TURKISH-BULGARIAN AND
BULGARIAN-TURKISH DICTIONARIES

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ABSTRACT: The article discusses the history of the compilation of dictionaries testify about a certain tradition and experience in the compilation of Bulgarian-Turkish and Turkish-Bulgarian dictionaries. These dictionaries have been and some of them still are useful reference sources. They are valuable for the historic lexicology as well, because albeit to a limited extent, they can be used for following the changes in the Bulgarian and Turkish vocabulary from the 19th century to the present.

KEY WORDS: dictionaries, Turkish-Bulgarian dictionaries, Bulgarian-Turkish dictionaries, Thematic Dictionary, multilingual translation, language reform, alphabet, lexicography.

A short review of the published Turkish-Bulgarian and Bulgarian-Turkish dictionaries reveals that they have a long history\(^1\). The first attempts for the creation of such dictionaries were made in the 17\(^{th}\) and 18\(^{th}\) centuries. These were usually lists attached to other books. The real independent Turkish-Bulgarian dictionary, known as Lügat-ı bulgari (Bulgarian Dictionary)\(^2\), appeared in 1827. The author of this first handwritten dictionary is unknown. It is interesting to point out that the Bulgarian words were also written in Arabic letters.

The first printed Turkish-Bulgarian dictionary before the Liberation was written by Pencho Radov. It was published in 1851\(^3\). Several years later two more printed dictionaries appeared, which had somewhat different features and were multilingual. The first appeared in 1855\(^4\), compiled by A. T. Zhivkov, and the second in 1868\(^5\) compiled by S. P. Iliev and D. Hranov.

\(^1\) For detailed analysis of Turkish-Bulgarian and Bulgarian-Turkish dictionaries see: Yenisoy, H. S. “Geçmişten Günümüze Türkçe-Bulgarca ve Bulgarca-Türkçe Sözlükler” (Turkish-Bulgarian and Bulgarian-Turkish Dictionaries from Past to Present) in Uluslararası Türk Dili Kurultayı-II (Reports from the International Congress of Turkish Language-II). Ankara, September 20-26, 2004, pp. 2721-2731.

\(^2\) Lügat-ı bulgari, НБКМ, Ориенталски отдел (National Library “St. St. Cyril and Methodius”, Oriental Department), OR 900, Skopje, March 29, 1827 (Ramadan 1, 1242).

\(^3\) Radov, P. Кратък турско-български речник с разговорник. Списан и на тип издаден в полза и употребление своих соотечественников от Пенчо Радов карловца в Белград (Short Turkish-Bulgarian Dictionary with a Phrasebook. Written and printed for benefit and use by fellow countrymen by Pencho Radov of Karlovo in Belgrade). Belgrade, 1851

\(^4\) Zhivkov, A. T. Речник на думи турски и гръцки в язике български (Dictionary of Turkish and Greek Words in the Bulgarian Language). Bucharest, 1855.
The publication of Turkish-Bulgarian and Bulgarian-Turkish dictionaries continued after the Liberation. The Turkish-Bulgarian dictionary of S. Tilkov was published at the end of the 19th century.6

During the 20th century the publication of Turkish-Bulgarian and Bulgarian-Turkish dictionaries or of multilingual translation dictionaries including the Turkish language continued as well. In 1904 a Bulgarian-Armenian-Turkish7 dictionary compiled by Magardichian was published. In 1913 in Plovdiv a Small Turkish-Bulgarian Dictionary8 by unknown author was published. The Small Bulgarian-Turkish Pocket Dictionary of 1920 was compiled by Ahmet Ihsan9. At the end of the 1920s a two volume Bulgarian-Turkish Dictionary by the authors Mehmet Celil and Stoyan Blazhev was published10.

The language reform in the Republic of Turkey after 1928 started with the introduction of the new Turkish alphabet on the Latin basis. This necessitated a reconstruction of the publication business as textbooks, manuals and other reference publications had to be printed in the new alphabet. The first Turkish-Bulgarian dictionary in the new alphabet appeared in 193011. Three years later S. Starshenov issued a Handbook for Studying Turkish Language in the New Turkish Alphabet, to which a Turkish-Bulgarian dictionary was added12. In 1940 the Bulgarian-Turkish Dictionary by I. S. Dalkoçoğlu and I. Tüneyman was printed13.

After the WWII better opportunities for development of the Bulgarian lexicography appeared. The Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS) became a centre of intense lexicographic activity. Dictionaries for various purposes were published. The publication of dictionaries for translation was given a special attention. One of the first translation dictionaries after the war was the Turkish-Bulgarian Dictionary14, prepared under the leadership of Academician S. Romanski and the Bulgarian-Turkish Dictionary, compiled by a collective of authors and edited by Academician S. Romanski, S. Ilchev and T. Deliorman15.

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6 Tilkov, S. Малък турско-български словар (Small Turkish-Bulgarian Dictionary). Sofia, 1896.
7 Magardichian, A. Речник българско-арменско-турски (Bulgarian-Armenian-Turkish Dictionary). Sofia, 1904.
8 Küçük Lügat (Türkçe-Bulgarca Sözlük) (Small Turkish-Bulgarian Dictionary). Plovdiv, 1913.
9 İhsan, A. Bulgarçadan Türkçeye Cep Lügatı (Bulgarian-Turkish Pocket Dictionary). Plovdiv, 1920.
11 Hazimov, I., I. Sabri. Нов турско-български речник, съдържащ всички употребителни думи в тяхното произношение (New Turkish-Bulgarian Dictionary Containing all Usable Words with Their Pronunciation). Svishtov, 1930.
13 Dalkoçoğlu, I. S., I. Tüneyman. Българско-турски речник (Bulgarian-Turkish Dictionary). Varna, 1940.
Apart from the academic publications, other Turkish-Bulgarian and Bulgarian-Turkish dictionaries were issued during this period. They were of small format and belonged to the type of incomplete dictionaries.

Three dictionaries with special purposes were published as well: Military Bulgarian-Turkish Phrasal Dictionary, Military Turkish-Bulgarian Phrasal Dictionary and Bulgarian-Turkish Thematic Dictionary.

A significant number of dictionaries have been published during the last ten years. Some of the important ones are: Dictionary of the Turkmens in the Contemporary Bulgarian Press, Dictionary of the Turkmens in the Bulgarian Language, Turkish-Bulgarian Dictionary and Bulgarian-Turkish Dictionary, Russian-Bulgarian-Turkish and Bulgarian-Russian-Turkish Dictionary for Businessmen, Bulgarian-Turkish Dictionary and Turkish-Bulgarian and Bulgarian-Turkish Dictionary and Turkish-Bulgarian Thematic Dictionary.

Apart from their practical usefulness, these dictionaries are important for the Bulgarian lexicography as well.

The enumerated dictionaries testify about a certain tradition and experience in the compilation of Bulgarian-Turkish and Turkish-Bulgarian dictionaries. These dictionaries have been and some of them still are useful reference sources. They are valuable for the historic lexicology as well, because albeit to a limited extent, they can be used for following the changes in the Bulgarian and Turkish vocabulary from the 19th century to the present.

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25 Cheshmedzhieva, G. Турско-български речник и Българско-турски речник (Turkish-Bulgarian and Bulgarian-Turkish Dictionary). Sofia, Colibri, 2006.
Prof. Hayriye Süleymanoğlu Yenisoy was born in 1934 in Krichim. She graduated in Turkic studies and Bulgarian philology at the Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”. She worked as a teacher of Turkish language and literature at the Turkish Pedagogical School in Kardzhali. She was appointed Head of the Faculty “Turkish Schools” at the Teachers’ Qualification Institute in Stara Zagora. She taught Turkish language at the Turkic Studies Department of the Sofia University for 22 years. She also worked at the Institute for Balkan Studies, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

In 1991 she started work at Ankara University where she founded the department of Bulgarian Philology. She also held lectures at the Mugla University on Rumeli (Baklan) Turkish dialects and on the literature of the Balkan Turks.

She specialised at the Azerbaijan State University (1970) and defended her Doctoral dissertation at the Institute of Linguistics, Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences (1995). In 1987 she became an Associate Professor and in 2003 a Professor.

Her scientific work is in the fields of Balkan linguistics and in particular Turkish-Balkan and Slavic-Turkish (and Turkic) linguistic contacts. She also researched the cultural problems of the Balkan Turks. She has a number of publications (monographs, studies, collections and textbooks) and articles published in university volumes and international scholarly journals. She participates in international projects on philology. She is a member of several international societies of scholars.