

“I am a Bulgarian, but I am not THAT Bulgarian”  
Language and Identity among Banat Bulgarians

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In the course of time, one and the same ethnic entity can obtain a different identity and the change can be not only a superficial one, but a structural one. As a consequence, the entity's linguistic identity can modify as well. This phenomenon is often observed in the area where the entity's settlement area is divided between two different political realms. As a case study of such identity changes, both ethnic and linguistic, in this presentation I will analyze the changes of the identity of the Catholic Bulgarians in the Banat region, known as Banat Bulgarians, who have been divided into two different political zones since 1920. Special attention will be paid to the Banat Bulgarian's attitude toward their mother tongue that can be observed in various linguistic material such as discourse (Nomachi 2015), literature (Nomachi 2016), linguistic landscape (Sikimić and Nomachi 2016) in a different way between the Banat Bulgarians in Romania and those in Serbia.

Literature

Nomachi, Motoki 2015. “The Rise, Fall, and Revival of the Banat Bulgarian Literary Language: Sociolinguistic History from the Perspective of Trans-Border Interactions“, *The Palgrave Handbook of Slavic Languages, Identities and Borders* (T. Kamusella, M. Nomachi, C. Gibson, eds.), London: Palgrave Macmillan, 394–438.

Nomachi, Motoki 2016. “Whose literature? Aspects of Banat Bulgarian Literature in Serbia“, *Perspectives on Contemporary East European Literature: Beyond National and Regional Frames* (K. Abe ed.), Sapporo: Slavic-Eurasian Research Center, 179–192.

Сикимић, Биљана и Мотоки Нوماћи 2016. „Језички пејзаж меморијалног простора вишејезичних заједница: банатски Бугари/Палћани у Србији“, *Јужнословенски филолог* 72, 1-2 (Forthcoming)