

The Balkan Languages

Southeast Europe's Balkan peninsula is home to numerous languages that have come to converge structurally and lexically, due to complex social factors involving contact among speakers of these languages, constituting a sprachbund. This volume provides the first comprehensive, book-length survey of the Balkan languages in English. It covers the full range of languages involved in the Balkan convergence zone, including Albanian, Aromanian, Bulgarian, Gagauz, Greek, Judezmo, Macedonian, Meglenoromanian, Romani, Romanian, Torlak, and West Rumelian Turkish. Balkan convergences – “Balkanisms” – are presented, considering the grammatical domains of phonetics, phonology, morphology, morphosyntax, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, and lexicon. It gives attention to relevant notions of contact linguistics and to the history of the field, while also introducing key conceptual innovations. Providing fresh data and perspectives on the most studied intense contact situation, this work is essential reading for anyone interested in Balkan languages and language contact. This title is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.

VICTOR A. FRIEDMAN is Andrew W. Mellon Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus in the Department of Linguistics and the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Chicago and Honorary Associate at La Trobe University. Notable publications include *Turkish in Macedonia and Beyond* (2003), *Studies on Albanian and Other Balkan Languages* (2008), and *Macedonian Studies II* (2015).

BRIAN D. JOSEPH is Distinguished University Professor of Linguistics, Emeritus, and The Kenneth E. Naylor Professor of South Slavic Linguistics, Emeritus, at The Ohio State University. Notable publications include *The Synchrony and Diachrony of the Balkan Infinitive* (1983), *Morphology and Universals in Syntactic Change* (1990), and *Albano-Balkanological Observations* (2020).

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This series offers general accounts of the major language families of the world, with volumes organized either on a purely genetic basis or on a geographical basis, whichever yields the most convenient and intelligible grouping in each case. Each volume compares and contrasts the typological features of the languages it deals with. It also treats the relevant genetic relationships, historical development and sociolinguistic issues arising from their role and use in the world today. The books are intended for linguists from undergraduate level upwards, but no special knowledge of the languages under consideration is assumed. Volumes such as those on Australia and the Amazon Basin are also of wider relevance, as the future of the languages and their speakers raises important social and political issues.

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Victor A. Friedman

University of Chicago

Brian D. Joseph

The Ohio State University





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