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**LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS
AND FUNCTIONS OF BULGARIAN LANGUAGE TEACHING**

An object of analysis in the paper is a concept that is structure determining for the methodology of teaching Bulgarian as a first language. A starting point for the author are his views on teaching Bulgarian (1) as a kind of verbal communication, and (2) as a means of improving the efficiency of verbal communication. This conception determines the views on two main functions of teaching Bulgarian: pragmatic and cognitive. Special attention is paid to the need for a culturological orientation of language classes. Furthermore, the paper treats the relationship between the functions of Bulgarian language teaching, the functions of language, and the competences acquired by students.

According to the author, a topical problem for the contemporary education paradigm is the substantiation of a system in the acquisition of declarative and procedural knowledge of the Bulgarian language.