

Mihail Videnov

THE CITY, ITS LANGUAGE AND MODERN TIMES

Larger Bulgarian towns accommodate mixed communities. For one reason or another, people from all over the country have moved home and settled down in the cities. This has created favourable conditions for speech diversity to emerge. Supporters of the traditional linguistic doctrine describe the situation as "speech chaos". The same view is shared by dialectologists, whose research methodology is devised to study dialects in rural setting. Cities, however, are to be investigated with sociolinguistic methods. We have an obligation to study urban speech, particularly that in the city of Sofia, because standard colloquial Bulgarian of modern times is nothing but the language system of the capital city's intellectuals. First attempts to this end have already been made. These endeavours ought to continue unabated.