

Angel G. Angelov

## **LINGUISTIC RIGHTS AND LANGUAGE SITUATION IN BULGARIA AND SOME NIGHBOUR COUNTRIES**

Two main kinds of minorities could be distinguished on the Balkans – traditional (e.g. Roma, Paulukians, Gagaus, Cincars, Karakachans) and national (those who are remained in neighbor countries because of historical reasons, i.e. because of border changes – e.g. Turks in Bulgaria, or Bulgarians in Rumania and Serbia). Minorities have different status in different Balkan countries and their language rights are impaired (or stimulated) in different way – such diversity is significant and it is difficult to generalize. These minorities, however, could be observed and described one by one in regards of their problems, identities and earlier stages of the history. Political situations in more of the Balkan countries are dynamic – Greece, Bulgaria and Rumania are members of EU; some former Yugoslavian countries are far from initial negotiations etc. According to liberal attitudes, minorities are endangered from assimilation and they should be protected – in many cases this is true, e.g. the Roma's case. Completely different are those cases of minorities, which have support of a strong neighbor country – usually they have well defined self-identity and clear pretensions for cultural and linguistic rights, e.g. Turks in Bulgaria or some national minorities as consequences from Tito's Yugoslavia. On the other hand, however, the status of "deprived of rights" minority or minority "with special genealogy" could be result of political manipulations or ideological myths.