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SOME THEORETICAL PROBLEMS OF BULGARIAN HISTORICAL MORPHOLOGY

*The author examines certain historically problematic or confusing phenomena of the Bulgarian morphological system. He tries to illustrate that the widely used, mostly traditional methods very often may lead to completely different results, and that their reliability and plausibility can be evaluated only subjectively, which does not promote our knowledge of the grammatical system and its functioning. It is suggested in the paper that from the more recent approaches to Slavic studies, one is especially promising and should not be ignored. Naturalness theory including natural morphology provides all the necessary principles and methods which are needed for fruitful system-wide investigations. System-dependent principles like system congruity, and system-independent ones like constructional iconicity used in the study make research more objective and reliable than age-old dubious and speculative hypotheses.*