

Arne Hult

*NOTES ON THE VERBAL ASPECT AND VERBAL TENSE
IN CHRISTO BOTEV'S POEM "CHADJI DIMITAR"*

On the basis of a short analysis of the compositional structure of Christo Botev's poem "Chadji Dimitar" an attempt is made to sketch how this structure is reflected in the choice of verbal forms. The imperfective present tense is used in the realistic frame story which is enacted during two successive days whereas the perfective present is used in the poetic description of the intervening night – the core of the poem. The use of perfective present verb forms in main sentences to express a course of events gives to this sequence its very special flavour of timelessness.

Keywords: Christo Botev, Chadji Dimitar, present tense, imperfective aspect, perfective aspect.