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**THE ANCIENT DIATHESIS AND ITS METAMORPHOSES IN THE BULGARIAN  
GRAMMARS  
FROM THE PERIOD OF THE NATIONAL REVIVAL**

*Abstract:*

The study attempts to trace the grammatical tradition of diathesis from the works of ancient Greek grammarians Dionysius Thrax and Apollonius Discolus through the Latin grammars and the commentaries on them to the Byzantine era and the first grammars of the Church Slavonic language – Adelphotes, Zyzanij, Meletij Smotryckyj, and A. Mrazović. The grammars of the Church Slavonic language take on the traditions of ancient and Byzantine grammatical thought of diathesis, but in turn try to adapt the legacy matrix to the classification of verbs in view of the Slavonic verb system. In this experience, they rely on the achievements of the Latin grammarians and the Latin school grammars from the period of the sixteenth to the eighteenth centuries, designed for the needs of the Western European and, in particular, the German classical language education. The third part of the study follows the formation of the concept of the diathesis in the Bulgarian Revival grammars as a result of multi-directional influences and factors – on the one hand, the ancient grammatical tradition of the diathesis that passed through the Byzantine and Church Slavic reception, on the other – the Western and Russian grammatical writings, and on the third one – the efforts of Bulgarian men of letters to achieve an adequate model of description of the Bulgarian verb.

The application of such a diachronic method makes it possible to highlight both the inheritance that authors of Bulgarian grammars received at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the way in which they take advantage of it. The most important aspect of their understanding of the diathesis is their pragmatic approach as they neither aim at nor engage with unnecessary theoretization on the diathesis and its nature, but rather offer a concise and easy-to-learn content in their school grammars, which is essential for the education and the assertion of literary language.

*Keywords:*

diathesis, voice, ancient grammar, Byzantine grammar, grammar of the Church Slavonic language, Bulgarian grammars from the period of the Bulgarian Revival