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ELEXIS visiting grant report – Institute of Bulgarian Language Lyubomir Andreychin

From May 7 to 21, I was on an ELEXIS visiting grant at the Institute of Bulgarian Language. The main goal of my visit was to explore the possibilities of digitalization, retrodigitalization and modernization of the dictionary writing process since I am one of the lexicographers working on the compilation of the dictionary of the Croatian Redaction of Church Slavonic. This dictionary is the first dictionary of Croatian Church Slavonic, and it is currently being compiled using MS Word and is, for now, available only in the physical form. The corpus for this dictionary consists of paper handwritten card files that are currently in the process of OCR. During my visit to the Institute of Bulgarian Language Lyubomir Andreychin I met with various lexicographers and computer linguists, mainly working on the Dictionary of the Bulgarian language. It is the most extensive, most comprehensive, and most representative monolingual dictionary of the Bulgarian language. So far, 15 volumes have been published with entries from a to r and include more than 100 000 entries.

On Monday, May 9, I met with the head of the Department of Bulgarian Lexicology and Lexicography prof. Diana Blagoeva, the head of the Department of Computational Linguistics prof. Svetla Koeva and a lexicographer from the Department of Bulgarian Lexicology and Lexicography Sia Kolkovska. They presented their work on the Dictionary of Bulgarian Language and the work of their departments and gave me a fundamental insight into the compilation process. They also showed me their physical corpus and explained its digitization process.

On Tuesday, May 10, I met with assist. prof. Tsvetana Ivanova Dimitrova and Valentina Georgieva Stefanova, who introduced me to the Bulgarian sources for historical languages (historical dictionaries, corpora, programs for syntactic linking of the translational texts, etc.) and the work on the Etymological dictionary.

On Wednesday, May 11, I met the entire Department of Bulgarian Lexicology and Lexicography, presented my work and some of the problems with retrodigitization of the corpus and previously published volumes and the compilation process, and learned more about their work.

On Thursday, May 12, I met with Michaela Kuzmova, a lexicographer from the Department of Bulgarian Lexicology and Lexicography, who showed me the possibilities of the online version of their dictionary and with whom I discussed some of the problems concerning the digital version of the dictionary. In the evening, I participated at the conference celebrating the hundredth anniversary of the Department of Classical Philology at the University of Sofia.

On Friday, May 13, I met with computer scientist Borislav Stankov who showed me how to work in the dictionary writing system LexIt, which he developed for the Institute. We discussed the advantages and disadvantages of this program and other dictionary writing systems. I also tried to use this program for my dictionary project.

From Sunday, May 15 to Tuesday, May 17, I attended the annual conference of the Institute. I met with many researchers working in different fields and exchanged experiences at the conference. In the evenings, I met with assist. prof. Simeon Stefanov from the Department of Bulgarian Etymology, with whom I discussed some problems in their dictionary compilation process and some problems and challenges in the field of historical linguistics. I also met with prof. Margaret Dimitrova, Iskra Hristova Shomova, and Aneta Dimitrova from the University of Sofia, Ekaterina Dikova and Lora Taseva from the Institute of Balkan Studies and Centre of Tracology, and Petra Stankovska from the University of Ljubljana and discussed various lexicographic problems relevant for our project.

On Wednesday, May 18, I met with Michaela Kuzmova, who showed me different types of corpora and how they use various programs for corpus search.

On Thursday, May 19, I held an online lecture entitled *Croatian Church Slavonic in the Digital Era* at the Spring linguistic seminar.

On Friday, May 20, I worked at the library and tried using some of the ELEXIS programs, such as Elexifier, to convert my dictionary, Lexonomy, for future dictionary compilation and publishing. I also learned about NAISC and EDiE, which I learned even further about in the online lecture *ELEXIS: AI-powered tools for lexicographers in the 21st century* on May 25.

During my visit to the Institute of Bulgarian Language, I learned a lot about different dictionary writing systems (such as LexIT, tLex, iLex, Lexonomy). I discussed their usage with more experienced lexicographers and computer scientists and tried using some of the programs for my dictionary project. I also learned about different programs used to facilitate managing different types of corpora. I think this visit will enhance my work. During the visit, I learned

to use various programs and learned about different lexicographic projects and gained experience that will shifted the way I plan my future work in this field.