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# Introduction

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The second issue of *Balcania et Slavia* for 2024 brings together a rich collection of articles exploring diverse linguistic phenomena across the Balkan and Slavic regions, offering fresh insights into both historical and contemporary developments.

This issue opens with Beatrice Bindi's study, *"I corpora diacronici per la lingua russa: caratteristiche, modalità di funzionamento e possibilità di impiego."* The study focuses on the growing role of diachronic corpora in Russian linguistics, examining eight key resources to highlight their design, functionality, and potential applications, while also addressing their limitations.

Hysnie Haxhillari's contribution "*Genitival phrases in Albanian and Romanian. A comparative approach*" delves into the unique structures of the Genitival Phrase in Albanian and Romanian, comparing their morphological and syntactic features to uncover shared traits and distinctions within the Balkan Sprachbund. The study highlights both the origin and syntactic role of the genitival article in these two languages, which exhibit notable similarities and differences in their morphological and syntactic structures.

Finally, a corpus-based study of the Timok variety of Serbian by Mirjana Mirić and Boban Arsenjević investigates complementizer drop and clitic climbing, offering new perspectives on the structural properties of complement clauses in Torlakian dialects. Through statistical analysis, the authors reveal the conditions under which these phenomena occur, contributing to our understanding of syntactic variation in non-standard varieties and opening new avenues for research into the so-called "Balkan subjunctive."

This issue also includes an exploration of the linguistic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, analyzing the rapid emergence of neologisms in Russian related to the virus and the disease. The study presented by Julija Nikolaeva and entitled "Лингвистические мутации коронавируса, или об истории означивания новой болезни" traces the evolution of these terms, their integration into everyday language, and the stylistic differentiation that emerged across various registers of contemporary Russian.

Complementing this, a comparative analysis of destructive nominations in Russian and Italian journalism sheds light on how language reflects societal change, identifying both forward and inverse models of lexical-semantic transformation in journalistic discourse. At the same time, Yuliya Rohava's article "Модели деструктивных субстантивов русского и итальянского языков" underscores the importance of comparative studies in journalistic discourse, illustrating how lexical semantics encodes destructive events of the 21st century and shapes public perception.

Together, these articles showcase the dynamic interplay between language, society, and cognition, making valuable contributions to Slavic and Balkan linguistics. They offer deeper insights into key language-internal mechanisms of change while also demonstrating how language adapts to new realities and shapes public perception. This issue underscores the significance of comparative linguistic approaches in examining the structural and cognitive functions of language across different cultural and historical contexts.