

Summary

The linguistic analysis of The Apostle of Skopje

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The Apostle of Skopje (Skop) is a Macedonian Church Slavonic manuscript, which contains a short Praxapostle. The scribal inscription on the last page places its compilation to the city of Skopje in the year 1313 thus allowing for its inclusion among the north-Macedonian texts. The goal of the present thesis was to evaluate its paleographic, orthographic and phonological characteristics and its morphological and syntactic peculiarities. The established facts were then compared with other north-Macedonian manuscripts and writing traditions of the Ochrid, Preslav, Tarnovo and Raška schools. Another aim was to evaluate how much could the reception of individual scribal norms be impacted by the north-Macedonian dialect and identify the dialect elements of *Skop*. On this account, I conclude that *Skop*, while belonging to the circle of north-Macedonian manuscripts and reflecting rather evident influence of the local dialect, remains conservative, especially from the perspective of paleography, orthography and phonology, a feature typical of the older tradition of the Ochrid School. In the Apostle pericopes, *Skop* however rather consequently receives the standardized use of the full scope of the iotified vowels, which is the norm most probably taken over from the Tarnovo Literary School apparent also in the rashka orthography. *Skop* also contains a layer witnessing the parallel balkanization of the living language, which includes for example the development of the definite category, simplification of the declination system, and gradual disappearance of the infinitive and certain participia. The language analysis of *Skop* thus contributes not only to the research of Church Slavonic literary traditions in northern Macedonia at the turn of the 13th and 14th centuries but also to the study of historical grammar and dialectology.