

The multivolume *Dictionary of the Bulgarian Language* - a significant achievement of modern Bulgarian lexicography

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Abstract. This article presents the most important lexicographic parameters of the macro- and microstructure of the multivolume academic *Dictionary of the Bulgarian Language*, which make this edition unique to Bulgarian lexicography in terms of character and scope. With comprehensive descriptions of the lemmas it contains, the *Dictionary* gives a detailed and representative picture of the Bulgarian lexis of the last two centuries. The article discusses the lexicographic approaches and practices applied in the *Dictionary* in the presentation of the grammatical, semantic and pragmatic characteristics of the lemmas, their synonymy and antonymy relations, collocability, peculiarities of use, derivational and phonetic variants (if such are available), as well as their etymology (in the case of words of foreign origin).

Keywords: lexicography, monolingual dictionary, *Dictionary of the Bulgarian Language*, lexicographic parameters

1. Introduction

The development of a large monolingual dictionary which collects and keeps in maximum completeness the lexical stock of a language is the main and most important task of any national lexicography. The first steps towards creating a multivolume academic dictionary of the Bulgarian language were taken in the second half of the 20th century at the Institute for Bulgarian Language at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (Cholakova 1966). That was when the original concept of such an edition was developed (Andreychin (ed.) 1966)¹ and work on the *Dictionary of the Bulgarian Language* (*Rechnik na balgarskiya ezik* - RBE) began. With 16 volumes published so far, containing a total of about 120,000

¹ The concept behind the *Dictionary* was being updated and supplemented in the process of the *Dictionary*'s development (Pavlova et al. 1999).

headwords², the *Dictionary* has been Bulgarian monolingual lexicography's most considerable achievement to date. The predecessor of this work is the three-volume *Dictionary of the Modern Bulgarian Literary Language (Rechnik na savremenniya balgarski knizhoven ezik - RSBKE)*, which was published between 1955 and 1959, again at the Institute for Bulgarian Language (Romanski (ed.) 1955-1959), and it includes 63,567 headwords³. The RSBKE has a recognized normative character, i.e. it presents (as noted in the preface to the first volume) correct, established and typical word usages, and clarifies the semantic structure, stylistic and grammatical characteristics of the words in accordance with the established literary norms. The three-volume book, based on a detailed and scientifically sound concept reflecting the state of theoretical lexicography and lexicological research in our country at that time, has become "a fundamental work of modern scientific Bulgarian lexicography" (Choroleeva 2010, 14).

Unlike the normative RSBKE, the multivolume academic *Dictionary of the Bulgarian Language* has a mainly descriptive function (Krumova-Tsvetkova 2014, 28). It provides a description of the Bulgarian lexis of the last two centuries (more specifically, from the time of the publication of *Primer with Various Instructions (Bukvar s razlichni poucheniya)* (1824) or the so-called *Fish Primer (Ribni bukvar)* by Petar Beron) in its stylistic and functional diversity. At the same time, however, through some of its features, the *Dictionary* also performs normative (norm-affirming) and prescriptive functions, although this is not its main purpose.

The RBE's task to present the Bulgarian lexis and phraseology over a large time span as fully as possible determines a number of parameters of the *Dictionary*'s macro- and microstructure such as the size and composition of the headword list, the description of the lexical units' grammatical features, the detailedness of the lexical semantics presentation, the presentation of the systematic lexical relations, etc. Here we shall consider some of the more important lexicographic parameters⁴ which render the RBE, whose compilation involves modern lexicographic methods and approaches, the largest monolingual dictionary of the Bulgarian language.

2. Main lexicographic parameters of the RBE's macro- and microstructure

2.1. Lexicographic parameters of the RBE's macrostructure

We shall dwell only on the most important macrostructural parameter of the *Dictionary* - the features of its headword list, i.e. the range of the lexical units included in the *Dictionary*.

² The 16 published volumes contain dictionary entries for the words from *a* to *системност* [sistemnost]. The following volumes of the *Dictionary* are still being developed. From 2001 to 2022, the revised and supplemented editions of the first six volumes (from *A* to *Й*) were published. The first editions of these volumes were published before the year 2000.

³ Concerning the history of the RSBKE's creation and its place in Bulgarian lexicography, see Choroleeva 2010; Blagoeva 2023.

⁴ According to Ju. N. Karaulov's definition, which we adhere to in this article, the lexicographic parameter is a minimal unit of linguistic information, presented in dictionaries and involved in the classification of the lexicographic information (Karaulov 1981, 44).

The selection of headwords is based on principles, specified already in the process of developing the concept of the *Dictionary* and clarified in the Handbook on its compilation (Andreychin (ed.) 1966; Pavlova et al. 1999). On the one hand, the included headwords cover a wide chronological range. As pointed out by Kr. Cholakova (Cholakova 1966, 179), one of the authors of the concept behind the *Dictionary* and editor-in-chief of eight of its volumes, the RBE includes words, fixed expressions and phraseologisms from the first half of the 19th century, when the lexical system of the New Bulgarian literary language was formed, to the present day. On the other hand, the *Dictionary* contains lexical units from different functional styles and communicative spheres of the Bulgarian language (Cholakova 1966, 179). The headword list is predominantly made up of commonly used lexical units that are stylistically neutral, literary or conversational in nature. There are also chronologically new words, meanings and combinations that have already become established or are at an advanced stage of becoming established in the language (e.g. **скрийншот** [skriynshot] ‘screenshot’), **скрийнсейвър** [skriynseyvar] ‘screensaver’, **сма̀рткарта** [smartkarta] ‘smartcard’, **сма̀ртфон** [smartfon] ‘smartphone’, **спам** [spam] ‘spam’, **скриптов език** [skriptov ezik] ‘scripting language’, **са̀пунена опера** [sapunena opera] ‘soap opera’). Obsolete words, meanings and phraseologisms attested in literary or journalistic written sources are also presented in the *Dictionary* (e.g. **венгера** [vengera] ‘home entertainment with music and dancing’, **газета** [gazeta] ‘newspaper’, **иждивявам** [izhdivyavam] ‘spend; donate’, **маза** [maza] in the sense of ‘*Shop, usually with a warehouse for the goods*’, **обаен** [obaen] ‘enchanted, captivating’, **павлин** [pavlin] ‘peacock’, **паздерник** [pazdernik] ‘name of the month of October’, **от аз до ижица** [ot az do izhitsa, literal translation: from A to Z] ‘completely, from beginning to end’); including colloquial words and phraseologisms, widespread in oral speech or used in fiction (**буфет** [bufet] ‘buffet’, **обирджилък** [obirdzhilak] ‘robbery’, **обуштарин** [obushtarin] ‘shoe-maker’, **гле́й си работа** [gley si rabota, literal translation: watch your job] ‘do not meddle in matters that do not concern you, do not show excessive curiosity about other people’s affairs’); dialect lexis and phraseology used in fiction or in published folklore (e.g. **бумбак** [bumbak] ‘deep river pool’, **набадина** [nabadina] ‘long pitchfork’, **обанвам** [obanvam] ‘to bathe, to wash’, **павитак** [pavitak] ‘a place densely overgrown with clematis (*Clematis vitalba*)’, **сагмал** [sagmal] ‘a herd of dairy sheep’, **венец** [venets] in the senses ‘*A braid of onions, maize, peppers, etc.*’ and ‘*A prominent and variegated circle around the mouth of a vessel*’, **правя си устата като габровец за бой** [pravya si ustata kato gabrovets za boy, literal translation: I make my mouth like a Gabrovo-dweller for a thrashing] ‘to prompt unequivocally and rudely what you desire’); some slang words, meanings and expressions - mainly used in fiction (e.g. **опамквам** [opatkvam] ‘to shoot, to kill; to do some work hastily’, **прецаквам** [pretsakvam] ‘to deceive; to make something go wrong’, **узгорели са ми бушоните** [izgoreli sa mi bushonite, literal translation: my fuses have blown] ‘to have gone mad’). In addition, the *Dictionary* also contains basic terms (nouns and substantival combinations) from various scientific and technical fields (e.g. **абдомен** [abdomen] ‘abdomen’, **обтуратор** [obturator] ‘obturator’, **палпация** [palpatsiya] ‘palpation’, **валумен борд** [valuten bord]

‘currency board’, **линеен пантограф** [lineen pantograf] ‘linear pantograph’, **минимална работна заплата** [minimalna rabotna zaplata] ‘minimum wage’, **сиво вещество** [sivo veshchestvo] ‘gray matter’, as well as terminological lexis (adjectives and verbs of terminological character) such as **волфрамов** [volframov] ‘wolfram’, **вторфявам се** [vtorfyavam se] ‘to turn into peat’, **месинговам** [mesingovam] ‘to apply a thin layer of brass to a surface’⁵. What remains outside the scope of the *Dictionary* are narrowly specialized terms that are to be described in a separate lexicographic branch, i.e. terminography.

Another feature of the RBE’s headword list that should be pointed out is the significantly wider (in comparison to other monolingual dictionaries of the Bulgarian language) presentation of the lexical units’ derivational variability (Pernishka 1992, 383; Krumova-Tsvetkova 2014, 29). In accordance with the concept underlying the *Dictionary*, one variant is indicated as representative and has a descriptive definition, and the others are inserted in their alphabetical places and interpreted synonymously through the main variant. In this way, the *Dictionary* also performs a prescriptive function (Krumova-Tsvetkova 2014, 33).

The RBE registers and documents the lexical stock of Bulgarian over the last two centuries with much greater completeness than other monolingual dictionaries of the Bulgarian language (including the three-volume RSBKE). This is possible thanks to the rich empirical base and diverse lexicographic resources that provide the material for the *Dictionary*. A traditional source of lexical material is the *Dictionary*’s lexical card index, which currently contains over 7 million cards with excerpts from contemporary scientific, educational and popular science literature, contemporary fiction and journalism, Revival literature and journalism, published folklore, records of oral speech, etc. Each index card contains a headword with the context of its use and information about the relevant source. The creation of the lexical card index began as early as 1942, when the Bulgarian Dictionary Service⁶ was founded, and its expansion continued until the beginning of the 90s of the 20th century. It is currently in a process of digitization.

The use of the lexical card index goes hand in hand with the use of modern digital resources, especially the Lexicographic Electronic Archive developed at the Department of Bulgarian Lexicology and Lexicography at the Institute for Bulgarian Language (Blagoeva, Kolkovska 2007; Blagoeva 2008; Atanasova 2017; Blagoeva, Kolkovska 2020). Currently, the archive contains over 120,000 electronic documents (books representing various genres and subject areas or issues of periodicals, published ever since the second quarter of the 19th century) with a total of about 4 billion tokens. The resource is constantly replenished and expanded and it enables the generation of alphabetical frequency lists of word forms, on the basis of which the *Dictionary*’s headword list is compiled. The archive also makes it possible to observe the use of words, their collocability and frequency of occurrence; to extract illustrative material; to establish the chronology of the origin and use of words.

⁵ As regards the distinction between terms and terminological lexis, see Popova 2012, 45, 51.

⁶ A few years later, the Service grew into Institute for Bulgarian Language.

2.2. Lexicographic parameters of the RBE's microstructure

2.2.1. Morphological parameter

The RBE is a source of detailed information about the formal linguistic features of the words in the Bulgarian language. In the dictionary entries, what is indicated in the headword's zone for nouns is the grammatical gender; for verbs - a representative part of their paradigm as well as their belonging to the imperfective or perfective verbal aspect and to the group of transitive or intransitive verbs; for adjectives - their gender and number forms. For transitive verbs - their passive, reflexive and reciprocal forms (if any) are shown in another zone of the dictionary entry.

Cases of morphological deficiency in some word classes are also indicated, for example, the absence of a plural form for nouns such as **жар** [zhar] 'embers', **желатин** [zhelatin] 'gelatine', **евро** [evro] 'euro', **кобальм** [kobalt] 'cobalt', etc., as well as some other form-formation peculiarities. Thus, for the noun **популизъм** [populizam] 'populism' the forms with the definite article (**-зъмът** [-zmat] and **-зма** [-zma]) are specified and for the noun **косъм** [kosam] 'a hair' - the plural form (**косми** [kosmi]). In this way, the *Dictionary* marks a characteristic morphological change - the dropping of the **ъ** [ǎ] vowel when using a noun with the definite article and when forming the plural respectively.

The presence of certain formal restrictions on the functioning of some lexemes is also indicated in the dictionary entries through relevant grammatical notes. For example, for **абориген** [aborigen] 'aborigine', it is shown that this noun is predominantly used in the plural form. For **разбягам се** [razbyagvam se] 'flee in disorder', it is noted that in the sense of '*Scatter suddenly by running*' this verb is used only in the plural or in the 3rd person singular. For the adjective **длъжен** [dlazhen] 'obligated', it is indicated that it occurs only in the syntactic function of a predicative complement (e.g. *Ти в нищо не си длъжен към мене, можеш и съвсем да ме изоставиш.* [Ti v nishto ne si dlazhen kam mene, mozhesh i savsem da me izostavish.] 'You are not obligated to me about anything, you can even completely abandon me.' D. Talev). Restrictions like these reflect the interrelationship between the grammatical forms or syntactic use of the word, on the one hand, and the word's lexical meaning, on the other hand (Cholakova 1966, 181).

2.2.2. Information on collocability⁷

Unlike previous monolingual dictionaries of the Bulgarian language, the RBE thoroughly and systematically presents the typical lexical, semantic and syntactic collocability of words from different parts of speech, as well as the interrelationship between semantics and collocability (Pernishka 1992, 369). Thus, for the 7th sense of the noun **перспектива** [perspektiva] ('*Possibility of achieving some goal in the future*') the dictionary entry presents its typical lexical

⁷ The name of this lexicographic parameter (i.e. *съчетаемост* [sachetaemost]) has been proposed by M. Popova (Popova 2017, 122).

collocability, i.e. its ability to collocate with the verbs **има́м** [imam] ‘have’, **ня́мам** [nyamam] ‘not have’, **да́вам** [davam] ‘give’ and others. For **рабо́тя** [rabotyа] in the sense of ‘*Make efforts to achieve something, strive to make something happen or not happen*’, it is indicated that this verb combines with noun groups with the prepositions **за** [za] ‘for’ or **про́тив** [protiv], **сре́щю** [sreshtu] ‘against’. Consistently presented is also the constructive dependence of the meanings of some lexical units, i.e. the realization of these meanings under certain restrictions - only in combination with specific lexemes or specific sentence constituents (Krumova-Tsvetkova 2014, 31). For example, for **репу́тата́ця** [reputatsiya] (meaning ‘*Established opinion of someone or something in society*’), it is noted that this noun is always used in combination with a modifier that is in concord with it or not.

2.2.3. Stylistic, register-related and chronological characteristics

Comprehensive information about the functional, stylistic and chronological characteristics of the lemmas and their meanings is provided through a developed system of qualifiers. In this way, the *Dictionary* presents the functional and stylistic stratification of the language (Krumova-Tsvetkova 2014, 32). The used system of qualifiers includes the labels *literary* (e.g. for the words **ма́гизъм** [magizam] ‘magism’, **у́зчадие** [izchadie] ‘freak of nature’, **възде́сьщ** [vezdesash] ‘omnipresent’), *colloquial* (e.g. for the noun **ка̀вга̀джия** [kavgadzhiya] ‘brawler’, **о̀пя̀вам** [opyavam] in the sense of ‘*Repeat something to someone, usually complaints, accusations, requests, demands, etc., continuously and in an unpleasant, annoying manner*’, **вя̀тъ̀р̀ рабо̀та** [vyatar rabota, literal translation: wind job] ‘something frivolous, impossible, pointless or insignificant’), *vernacular* (e.g. for **ка̀дѐм** [kadem] ‘good luck’, **га̀й̀ле** [gayle] ‘trouble’, **пи́нтия** [pintiya] ‘miser’), *slang* (e.g. for **га̀д̀же** [gadzhe] ‘boyfriend, girlfriend’, **сва̀лка** [svalka] ‘flirting’, **пѐй̀за̀н** [peyzan] in the sense of ‘*Peasant, yokel*’, **прѝби́рам на то̀пло ня̀кого** [pribiram na toplo nyakogo, literal translation: put someone in a warm place] ‘put someone in jail’), which indicate the functional variety of the commonly used language that the lemmas (or their meanings) belong to. The qualifiers *obsolete, old-fashioned* (e.g. for **бра̀н**¹ [bran¹] ‘war, battle’, **ло̀же**¹ [lozhe¹] ‘bed’) and *new* (e.g. for **пара̀еко̀логия** [paraekologiya] ‘paraecology’, **па̀ч** [pach] ‘patch’, **пѐра па̀ри** [pera pari] ‘to launder money’) indicate the time reference of a given lexeme, meaning or phraseologism. The labels *rude* (e.g. for **п̀лю̀ска̀м**¹ [plyuskam¹] ‘guzzle’, **ко̀фа** [kofa] in the sense of ‘*Head*’), *ironic* (e.g. for **звє̀ря се** [zverya se] ‘*To look at something with amazement or surprise, usually because you cannot understand it*’, **лѐя кро̀кодѝлски с̀ъ̀зи** [leya krokodilski salzi, literal translation: shed crocodile tears] ‘express insincere, false regret about something’), *derogatory* (e.g. for **да̀рта̀к** [dartak] ‘oldster’, **ма̀зник** [maznik] ‘toady’, **жѐно̀ря** [zhenorya] ‘womenfolk’), *endearing* (e.g. for **до̀брич̀ък** [dobrichak] ‘good-natured’, **ко̀тана** [kotana] ‘cat’), *vulgar* specify the emotional-expressive features of the lemmas. The label *dialect* is used to indicate the regional distribution of a given lexical unit or meaning (e.g. **по̀жова̀рник** [pozhovarnik] ‘stove poker’, **прѐлиц̀а** [prelitsa] ‘distaff’, **ра̀внѝне** [ravnine] ‘plain’). A system of term qualifiers (e.g. **нѝтрира̀не** [nitirane] ‘nitration’ - chemical term; **Ма̀лка мѐчка** [Malka mechka] ‘Little

Bear (Ursa Minor)' - astronomical term) and qualifiers of terminological lexis (e.g. **месинговам** [mesingovam] 'to apply a thin layer of brass to the surface' - metalworking, **никелов** [nikelov] 'nickel' - chemistry) is also applied in order to indicate the field of scientific knowledge, technique or production activity that the relevant terminological units are related to. In addition, the label *poetic* is used to indicate that a given word belongs to the poetic style (e.g. for the nouns **взор** [vzor] 'gaze', **разлъка** [razlaka] 'parting, separation').

Through the applied system of qualifiers, the *Dictionary* has a role in affirming the lexical and stylistic norm, so that it performs a normalizing function (Krumova-Tsvetkova 2014, 32).

2.2.4. Interpretation parameter⁸

This lexicographic parameter refers to the principles of presenting the meanings of the headwords. As E. Pernishka points out, in comparison with previous monolingual dictionaries, the words and expressions in the RBE are interpreted more adequately and in greater detail, with a deeper insight into the semantic properties that make up the individual meanings (Pernishka 1976, 368). For instance, while in the three-volume RSBKE there are two meanings for the adjective **блестящ** [blestyash] 'brilliant, shining', in the RBE, the meanings are six and the metaphorical transfers are also indicated. The RSBKE does not provide the figurative meanings '*Connected with great fortune, filled with prosperity*' (e.g. *блестяща кариера* [blestyashta kariera] 'brilliant career') and '*Standing above the ordinary level because of their positive qualities and skills*' (e.g. *блестящ пианист* [blestyasht pianist] 'brilliant pianist'). Observations on the functioning of the interpreted units in a large body of texts make it possible to establish the semantics of these units more accurately and in greater detail.

Another characteristic feature of the RBE is that, unlike other monolingual dictionaries of the Bulgarian language, it presents the non-lexicalized figurative uses of some words, i.e. these are cases when "generally accepted nominative meanings are used in fiction to create a poetic image (most frequently in the personification of objects)" (Pavlova et al. 1999, 28). For example, the dictionary entry for the noun **накостник** [pakostnik] 'mischief-maker' indicates the figurative use of this word in the poetic text *Върни се, облако неверен, / почакай, пакостнико черен* [Varni se, oblako neveren, / pochakay, pakostniko cheren] 'Come back, you treacherous cloud, / wait, you black mischief-maker' (from P. K. Yavorov's poem "Hail"). A more careful approach to the correlation between lexical meaning and non-lexicalized use allows for more precise observations to be made on the functioning of words, and at the same time, this helps to draw a distinction between the language-related and speech-related phenomena (Pernishka 1976, 368).

An important feature of the *Dictionary* is that by presenting chronologically diverse meanings - active in modern times (including the latest meanings), pass-

⁸ The name of this lexicographic parameter (i.e. *интерпретационен параметър* [interpretatsionen parametar]) has been proposed by M. Popova (Popova 2017, 127).

ing out of current use (marked with the stylistic qualifier *rare*), no longer in current use (with the qualifier *obsolete*), archaic (with the qualifier *old-fashioned*) - it makes it possible to trace the dynamics in the semantic development of words over the last two centuries. An interesting case is, for example, the history of the noun **пенкилер** [penkiler] (from the English *pain-killer*, literally 'killer of pain'). The word was borrowed into Bulgarian in the last quarter of the 19th century, originally as the name of a then popular American medicine against various diseases. Subsequently, it developed a second figurative meaning: '*Something with which any obstacle or difficulty can be overcome, something which can serve any purpose*'. Today, these original meanings have fallen out of use and the noun functions with a completely different meaning, carrying an ironic or disapproving connotation: '*One who understands and is able to do everything, one who undertakes to do any kind of job*'.

2.2.5. Synonymy relations⁹

With commonly used lexical units, synonymy points to the richness of a language and serves as a means of diversifying and adding different nuances to speech. In the RBE, this type of lexical-semantic relations is consistently and thoroughly presented. According to the established lexicographic practice, the synonyms of a lemma are indicated in the dictionary entry after the lexicographic definition and are separated by a semicolon. They are also presented as headwords in the relevant alphabetical places in the *Dictionary's* headword list.

The more detailed description of the polysemous words' semantic structure, provided in the RBE (see the comment in 2.2.4.), makes it possible to present more thoroughly and precisely the synonymy relations in the Bulgarian lexis. This becomes evident when comparing the RBE with other monolingual dictionaries of the Bulgarian language. For example, for the adjective **кратък** [kratak] 'brief' there are 7 meanings specified in the RBE (versus 3 meanings in the RSBKE). For the first meaning of this adjective ('**1.** *Happening or continuing for a relatively small amount of time*'), the dictionary entry provides three synonyms: **къс** [kas] 'short', **краткотраен** [kratkotraen] 'short-lived', **непродължителен** [neprodalzhiteln] 'nondurable' (versus one synonym for the corresponding meaning in the RSBKE). The fifth and the sixth senses are respectively: '**5.** *Of phrases, expressions, speech and the like - containing few words or sentences*' and the given synonym is **лаконичен** [lakonichen] 'laconic', and '**6.** *Of people - using few words to express or communicate one's thoughts*' again with the synonym **лаконичен** [lakonichen] 'laconic'. Such meanings are absent from

⁹ According to M. Popova, the lexicographic parameter related to lexical synonymy is connected both with the microstructure of the relevant dictionary (because the synonyms of the interpreted unit are included in the dictionary entry's structure) and with its macrostructure (because these synonyms are also presented as headwords in the relevant alphabetical places) (Popova 2017, 150). The same applies to the parameter related to the lexicographic presentation of lexical antonymy, see 2.2.6.

the RSBKE and therefore the synonymy between the adjectives **кратък** [kratak] and **лаконичен** [lakonichen] is not reflected in the three-volume dictionary.

2.2.6. Antonymy relations

Antonymy relations are another type of lexical-semantic relations presented comprehensively in the RBE. In the dictionary entries, the headword's antonyms are given in a separate zone after the definition and are preceded by the label *Opposite*. They are also presented as headwords in the relevant alphabetical places in the headword list.

The wider range of the lexical units included in the RBE and the more detailed semantic description of the polysemous words lead to a more precise realization of this lexicographic parameter as well. For example, for the fifth sense of the adjective **къс** [kas] 'Lasting a little time, or needing a little time for its completion' the given antonyms are **дълъг** [dalag] 'long' and **продължителен** [prodalzhitelен] 'continuous', whereas for its seventh sense 'Of a written or spoken text - concise, succinct, brief' the given antonym is **обширен** [obshiren] 'extensive'. These antonym relations are not presented for the same headword in the RSBKE.

2.2.7. Illustrative material

In the RBE, the use of the lemmas and their meanings is elucidated by illustrative examples (sentences or individual word combinations) drawn from the lexicographic resources described above (the traditional lexical card index and the electronic archive). Modern digital technologies and the corpus-based approaches applied in the *Dictionary's* compilation facilitate and improve the selection of illustrative material, making it possible to use a large body of chronologically, thematically and stylistically diverse texts (Blagoeva, Kolkovska 2020).

2.2.8. Fixed expressions and phraseological units

Fixed expressions and phraseological units containing headwords are presented much more thoroughly in the RBE in comparison to other monolingual dictionaries of the Bulgarian language. This becomes evident when comparing the RBE with the three-volume RSBKE. For the headword **вода** [voda] 'water', for example, the RSBKE provides two fixed expressions with this noun, whereas in the RBE, they are 22 and include compound terms such as **варна вода** [varna voda] 'limewater', **желязна вода** [zhelyazna voda] 'iron water', **мека вода** [meka voda] 'soft water', **тежка вода** [tezhka voda] 'heavy water', and also dialect compound units such as **бабуна вода** [babina voda, literal translation: grandmother's water] 'holy water used to bathe a newborn child'. In addition, while the RSBKE contains around 40 phraseological units with the component **ръка** [raka] 'hand', in the RBE, these units are over 190.

The *Dictionary* presents consistently the different variants of the phraseological units. For example, for the idiom **обливам със студена вода някого** [oblivam sas studena voda nyakogo, literal translation: to pour cold water on someone] 'to

unpleasantly surprise, criticize or discourage someone', the dictionary entry provides also the variant **поливам със студена вода някого** [polivam sas studena voda nyakogo], indicating, in addition, the possible variation of the component **студена** [studena] 'cold', which, in some other variants of this expression, is replaced by the adjectives **ледена** [ledena] 'icy' or **вряла** [vryala] 'boiling'.

Another important feature of the *Dictionary* is that it presents new fixed expressions and phraseologisms that have entered our language in the past 20 years, such as the expressions **системен администратор** [sistemem administrator] 'system administrator', **зелено училище** [zeleno uchilishte] 'green school' and the phraseologisms **разпъвам (политически) чадър над някого** [razpavam (politicheski) chadar nad nyakogo] 'put up a political umbrella over someone', **светлина в тунела** [svetlina v tunela] 'light at the end of the tunnel'.

The detailed information in the RBE about the semantics and stylistic features of the phraseological units in the Bulgarian language serves as a reliable basis for various linguistic studies. Given that phraseologisms directly reflect the worldview of the respective language community, the phraseological stock presented in the *Dictionary* also provides material for broader cultural observations on the values and attitudes of Bulgarians.

2.2.9. Etymological parameter

The RBE consistently provides information on the etymology of words of foreign origin. The etymological information is presented in a special zone at the end of the dictionary entries - the so-called reference division. If necessary, it is not only the source language of the borrowing that is indicated but also the intermediary language. For example, for **салюм** [salyut] 'salute' the dictionary entry specifies its origin from French (*salut*) through Russian (*салют*), for **вензел** [venzel] 'monogram' - from Polish (*węzeł*) through Russian (*вензель*).

2.2.10. Phonetic variants

Phonetic variability is connected with fluctuations in the sound shape of the word, which arise in the process of the word entering and gradually becoming established in the language (this usually applies to loanwords) or reflect different dialectal pronunciation features. In the RBE, unlike other monolingual dictionaries of the Bulgarian language, the headwords' phonetic variability is systematically presented.

The registered phonetic variants are indicated in the reference division of the dictionary entries after the label "Other form". For example, for the French loanword **пайети** [payeti] 'sequins' the given phonetic variant is **паети** [paeti]. For the noun **магьосник** [magyosnik] 'magician' the dictionary entry provides the obsolete phonetic variant **магесник** [magesnik], and for the Turkish loanword **гжезвè** [dzhezvè] 'Turkish coffee-pot' - the dialect variant **гжèзбе** [dzhezbe]. For the native word **одеяло** [odeyalo] 'blanket' there are several dialect variants listed in the *Dictionary*: **одяло** [odyalo], **видяло** [vidyalo], **деяло** [deyalo], **худяло** [hudyalo].

The realization of this lexicographic parameter is part of the *Dictionary's* norm-affirming function.

2.2.II. Earliest written registration

In the RBE, this parameter is realized primarily for headwords belonging to the international cultural lexis that entered our language in the Revival period. If available, the year of their earliest attestation in a written source from that period is indicated in the dictionary entry's reference division zone. For example, what we can learn from the reference division of the dictionary entry for the term **гaлвaнoплaстикa** [galvanoplastika] 'galvanoplasty' is that, in all probability, this term was used for the first time in 1872 in Yoakim Gruev's translated work "Physics for the Principal Schools". The data available for the noun **пaвилиoн** [pavilion] 'pavilion' and presented in the *Dictionary* shows that the earliest use of this word was in the "Letostruy" magazine in 1874. This chronological information is tentative in nature as it is based on the oldest source that the lexical card index and electronic archive contain (Pavlova et al. 1999, 44), which, however, does not exclude the possibility that there were earlier uses of the relevant headwords in sources unknown to the *Dictionary's* compilers.

3. Conclusion

The multivolume *Dictionary of the Bulgarian Language* gives a detailed and representative picture of the Bulgarian lexis within the chronological framework of the last two centuries and successfully performs the function of the large-volume national monolingual dictionaries in that it serves not only as a lexicographic reference book, but also as a monument of the relevant language - a basic component of national identity (Pernishka 1992, 380). The *Dictionary* presents a significant part of the lexical and phraseological stock of Bulgarian, providing comprehensive descriptions of the lemmas. Their grammatical, semantic and pragmatic characteristics, their synonymy and antonymy relations, collocability, peculiarities of use, derivational and phonetic variants (if such are available), as well as their etymology (in the case of words of foreign origin), are presented in great detail. If necessary, this information is also supplemented with data on the earliest written registration of the relevant word in sources from the Revival period.

With its diverse lexicographic information, the multivolume monolingual RBE also combines features of a dictionary of synonyms and antonyms, a phraseological dictionary and partly a dictionary of foreign words (Krumova-Tsvetkova 2014, 31). It is widely used both in linguistic, linguocultural or other scientific studies and in the compilation of other different types of dictionaries. It is valuable not only from a purely scientific viewpoint but also from the viewpoint of general culture as a carrier of rich and diverse information, important for the entire Bulgarian society.

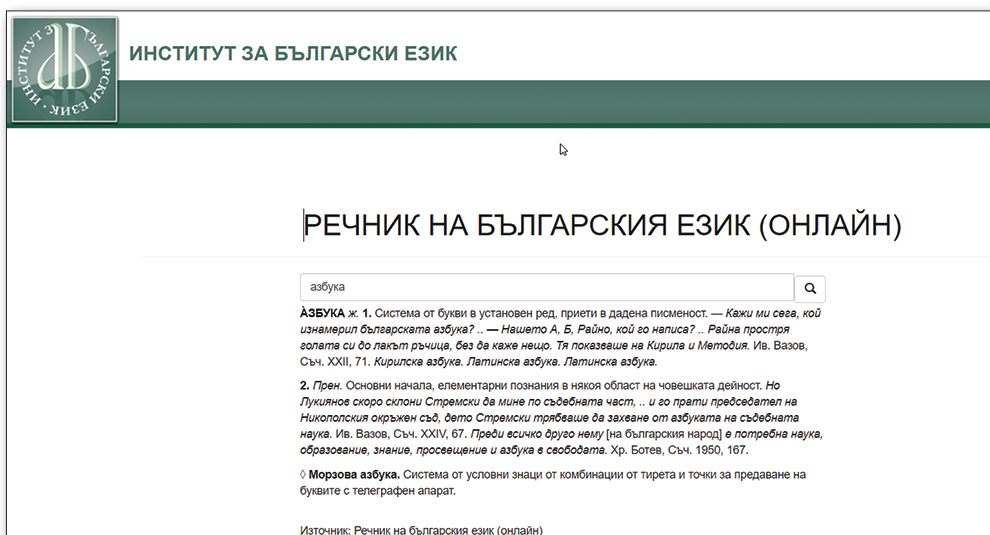


Fig. 1. Online access to the content of the *Dictionary of the Bulgarian Language* (*Rechnik na balgarskiya ezik*)

Source: <https://ibl.bas.bg/rbe/>

The *Dictionary* is useful for a wide range of users and it reaches them not only through its traditional printed edition but also through free online access to its content (see Fig. 1).

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