

North American cities. As these were born as the result of a rapid economic development, they differ from the cities with a rich historical and cultural heritage, like most of the West European capitals are. However, Bucharest, at least as it looks in present, after the radical is to a great extent the result of the economic modernization. Therefore, the model Chelcea has chosen may be adopted.

Stelu Șerban

BILJANA SIKIMIĆ, TIJANA AŠIĆ (eds), *The Romance Balkans*, Institute for Balkan Studies, Belgrade, 2008, 386 p.

The content of the volume is given by the papers of 29 researchers, linguists and ethnologists, delivered at a conference held in November 2006. The meeting was organized by the Commission of Balkan Linguistics of International Committee of Slavists, in Belgrade.

In the first part of the volume the topics of Latin etymology is briefly discussed (80 pages). The contribution of Latin to the *Balkansprachbund* (Klaus Steinke) receives the needed attention. Likewise, we are shown various Latin *survivals* in the Balkan languages (Helmuth Schaller, Alexander Falileyev, Anna Kretschemer, Maslina Ljubičić, Maja Kalezić, Ljiljana Dimitrova-Todorova, Todor At. Todorov).

The second part of the volume analyses at-length (on almost 300 pages) the Romance influence on the Slavic languages in the Balkans. This is investigated mainly through the agency of few Latin languages and dialects which co-existed with Slavic languages along the centuries. These are the Daco-Romanian spoken outside Romania and Moldova as well as the Aroumanian and Megleno-Romanian (Christian Voss, Xhelal Ylli, Andrej N. Sobolev, Thede Kahl, Kleanti Anovska, Anna A. Plotnikova, Petya Assenova with Vassilka Aleksova, Annemarie Sorescu-Marincović, Biljana Sikimić, Corina Leschber, Mariana Petrović Rignault, Ingmar Söhrman). A couple of articles graps the ways of assimilating the modern Latin languages outside Balkans, as Italian, Spanish, and French, through mass-media (*telenovelas*), work migration and public policies (Anna Jovanović with Marija Matić, Tjiana Ašić with Veran Stanojević, Julijana Vučo). In a few papers the authors are concerned with the marginal influences like the Judeo-Spanish presence in the territories of the former Yugoslavia and the French wide spreading among the Serbian elite during the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Jelena Filipović with Ivana Vučina Simović, Tatjana Šotra).

The papers were published with minimal editing interventions. Though, one can notice a common theoretical perspective. The synchronic and diachronic approaches are combined in the paradigm of linguistic structuralism, being aware anyway that the history of Romance evolution in the Balkans needs the contribution of ethnology as well. Topics like identity, acculturation and boundary are therefore central in the volume.

The volume is a considerable contribution to South East European studies. It comes on the path that the book *Hidden minorities in the Balkans* (Belgrade, 2004) has opened a few years ago. That work was followed by *Refugee Kosovo*, Kragujevac, 2004, *Bayash in the Balkans*, Belgrade, 2005, *Life in the enclave*, Kragujevac, 2005, *Torac, metodologia cercetării de teren* (Torac. The fieldwork methodology), Novi Sad, 2006, *Kurban in the Balkans*, Belgrade, 2007. All these volumes are a part of the project 'Ethnic and social stratification of the Balkans', that is developing in the frame of the Institute for Balkan Studies, Belgrade.

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