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## **The Usage of the Definite Article (DA) in Bulgarian and Macedonian**

### **Introduction**

The Bulgarian and the closely related Macedonian language are the only Slavic languages that have the definite article (DA), which is postposed to the left-most element of the noun phrase (NP). The Macedonian DA functions much like the Bulgarian DA, except that there are three forms of the DA in the modern literary Macedonian, while the same characteristic in Bulgarian is dialectical.

The formal difference is that the first form of the DA in Macedonian expresses close definiteness, another form expresses remote definiteness and the third DA is neutral as regards the object's localisation (Minova-Gurkova 1997: 98-100). Nevertheless, the form that has its equivalent in Bulgarian is the one most frequently used. This is mainly due to the fact that this form is less dependent on other factors as it is the least marked in comparison to the other two.

### **Topics of Discussion**

Eminent Bulgarian as well as foreign linguists have made researches on the DA's functions in both languages (see Guentcheva 1977; Topolinska 1981; Chvany 1983; Mayer 1988 and others). In most cases however, the DA usage has been considered in relation to the category of determination and namely to as one of the semantic oppositions, definiteness. That is the reason why even in the Academic Bulgarian Grammar (GSBKE 1983: 115-147) definiteness and articling of nouns are inseparably linked.

This study aims to point out that the functions of the DA in Bulgarian and Macedonian are not confined to the functions of determining. Definiteness is not the same phenomenon as articling. Certainly, some researchers (see Mayer 1988, Uhlířová 1996: 232) have already drawn our attention to that fact, but their views have not yet been internationally established.

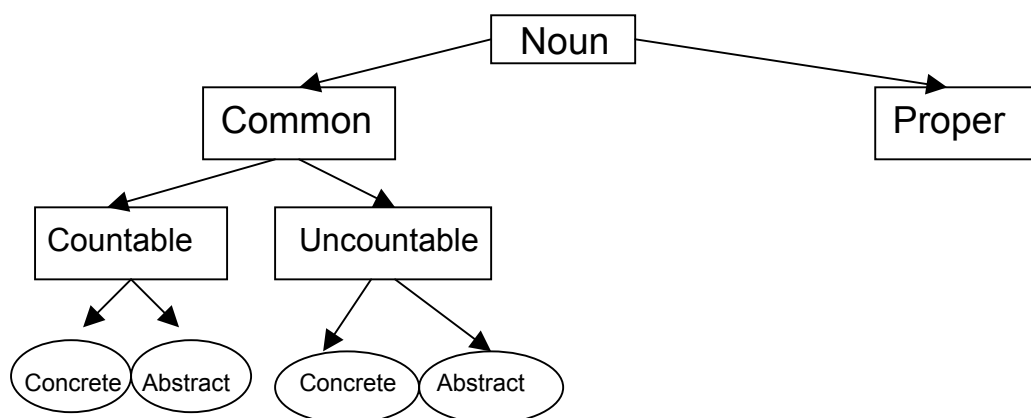
There are various approaches to the interpretation of noun determination and therefore of the DA. Hence it is relevant to present the main theoretical framework of the study before we begin analysing how the DA is used in the NP.

### **Theoretical Framework of the Study**

#### **1. GRAMMATICAL CLASSIFICATION OF NOUNS**

When we analyse how the DA is used with nouns, we take into consideration the following grammar and lexical classification:

## GRAMMATICAL CLASSIFICATION OF NOUNS



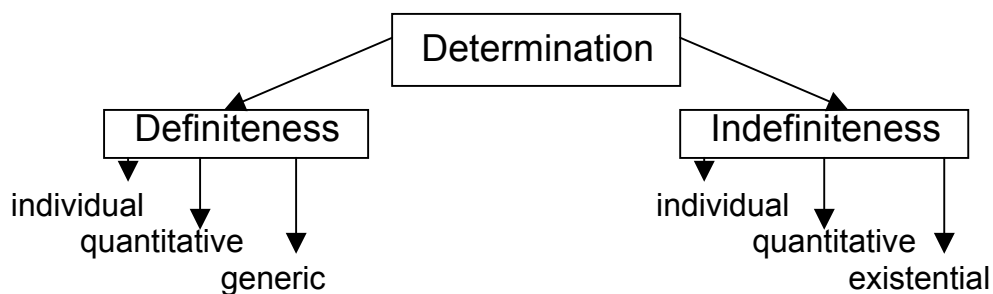
Both the proper nouns and the common nouns are used with the DA. However, as it has a different function in different cases, we will be dealing with each one separately. It is usually presumed that abstract nouns are uncountable, which in most cases is relevant only in the narrow sense of the concept. As soon as an aspect of the world is considered as something to be identified, counted or measured, language allows us to express that concept by means of a noun, no matter whether it corresponds to a physical object or not (Krapova 2000:184).

This is the reason why, unlike most traditional classifications, we accept that abstract nouns can be either uncountable or countable, e.g. *I have many reasons not to do this* and then they follow the same rules as concrete countable nouns.

## 2. DETERMINATION OF NOUNS

We consider noun determination to be a semantic opposition consisting of definiteness and indefiniteness (see below). Definiteness can be individual, quantitative and generic definiteness. In all of these three subgroups definiteness is expressed morphologically by the DA.

### DETERMINATION OF NOUNS



Individual definiteness (Bojadziev at all 1998: 471; Stojanov 1965) or so called uniqueness of the element (Koseska-Toszewa at all 1990) is the possibility to present an object as being pragmatically identifiable through a noun or a NP. A broader meaning is given to the notion of *object*. It includes count objects and entities, which generally are indiscrete units, but which under certain conditions could be treated as separate, distinct entities, e.g. the abstract countable nouns.

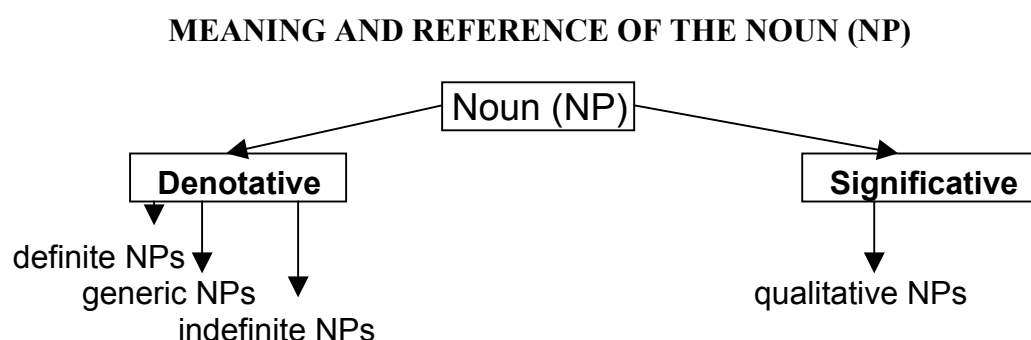
Quantitative definiteness (Bojadziev at all 1998:471; Stojanov 1965) or the so called uniqueness of the multitude (Koseska-Toszewa at all 1990) is the ability to identify a group of objects representing a multitude with a finite number of elements, which can be described or counted. Such multitudes are named closed or finite, limited multitudes.

Generic definiteness refers to the ability to identify not an object or a group, but a class of objects, i.e. all elements included in the extension of the notion, to which the noun or the NP refer. Such multitudes, which generally comprise an infinite number of elements, are named open or unlimited.

Indefiniteness can be individual, quantitative and existential. However, we shall not focus on this topic further as it lies beyond the framework of our study.

### 3. MEANING AND REFERENCE OF THE NOUN (NP)

Nouns and NPs in the statements we are going to analyse can have different meanings depending on how they refer to real objects, as well as on whether they are related to determination and if so, to which member of the opposition or to which subgroup of the member. It is well-known that the noun has on the one hand a denotative meaning, which is its property to denote real objects, and on the other hand a significative meaning, which is the meaning of the notion itself (see the scheme below). Most often the nouns and the NPs contain both meanings. Usually one of them predominates, while the other is not relevant in the concrete situation. Sometimes nouns can have only a denotative meaning (as proper nouns do) or a significative meaning (expressing nothing more than a notion). Such NPs are called qualitative because they mean a notion or a property of an object, not an object. Qualitative NPs cannot be described in terms of determination.



The category of definiteness and indefiniteness may be applied only to nouns that have a predominantly denotative meaning. The NPs that indicate individual or qualitative definiteness are named definite; those that indicate generic definiteness are named generic; and those that indicate indefiniteness are named indefinite.

The DA concerns definite NPs and generic NPs. Indefinite NPs possess another means of expression.

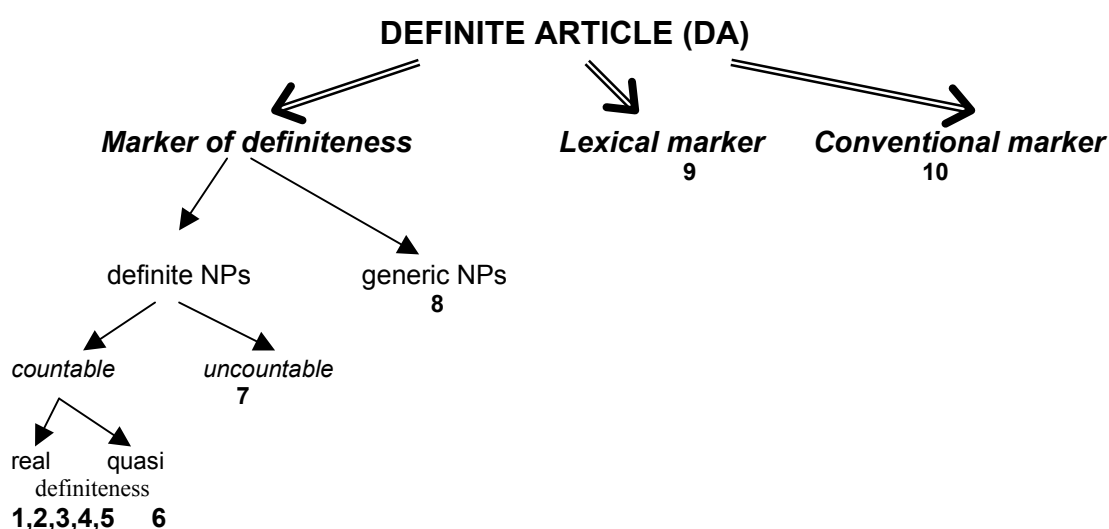
In keeping with the theoretical principles outlined above, we shall try to throw light upon the functions of the DA with nouns mainly from a semantic point of view. In this

respect, we will consider how it is used with common and with proper nouns separately.

## Usage of the DA with Common Nouns with Respect to Reference

The primary, most typical function of the DA used with common nouns is to determine. Thus the DA is a marker of definiteness of the NP. In this case the DA is used both with definite and with generic NPs (see the scheme below).

In this work we are interested in article NPs where the DA does not function as a marker of definiteness, but has another "role" – to be a lexical marker or to be used as a grammatically empty morpheme only, thus to be a conventional marker.



### DA as a Marker of Definiteness

in *Definite NPs*

with Countable Nouns

#### Real Definiteness

The DA functions as a specific determiner.

The DA points out that a specific NP is referential to an identifiable object in the real world, which can be singled out as unique.

The information about the possibility of identification of the referent can either be present in the NP itself, which would mean that it is of linguistic matter, or it can be dependent on pragmatic factors such as the intention of the speaker and the way of introducing the referent, the existence of a preliminarily identified referent in the universe of the Speaker (S) and the Hearer (H) or the existence of a common knowledge of the communicants about the world, which permits the identification.

The possibility of identification is *real*, when the NP allows both communicants (or at least one of them, usually S) to identify the referent at the moment of speaking or when there is a potential possibility that the communicants under certain conditions (but not at the moment of speaking) will make that identification.

The NPs, which indicate real definiteness, directly identify a referent from reality. According to the type of connection between the linguistic expression and the referent, several different types of usage can be defined (we suggest five).

The DA in such NPs has two functions – to be a marker of definiteness or to be a maker of definiteness. In the first case the usage of the DA is facultative because the uniqueness of the NP is defined by semantic, pragmatic or other factors and the DA only regulates, shows this uniqueness. In the second case the usage of the DA is obligatory, because its presence fixes the uniqueness of the NP.

## 1. Unique Use of the DA

a) Examples:

<b>ekvatora</b> (the-Equator)	(Bulgarian)
<b>vselenata</b> (the-Universe)	(B)

The DA is a marker that the object or group of objects is the only one that exists (or has existed). The article indicates by its mere presence that the object is unique (*the Equator, the Universe*).

The relationship between the NP and the referent is constant, the referent is fixed. The definiteness of the NPs depends neither on the intention of the speaker, nor on the possibility of S / H to identify it.

b) Examples:

<b>slanceto</b> (the-Sun)	(B)
<b>mesecot</b> (Macedonian), <b>lunata</b> (B) (the-Moon)	
<b>Severnija poljus</b> (the-South Pole)	(B)
<b>Saedinenite amerikanski stati</b> (the-United American States)	(B)

The DA is a marker that what is referred to is interpreted as unique on the basis of the common knowledge of the communicants.

The usage of a DA is thus obligatory, as it is the DA, which singles out the name from the rest of the multitude (suns, moons) and turns it into something unique (*the Sun, the Moon*).

The definiteness of the NPs is dependent neither on the intention of the speaker, nor on the possibility of the S / H to identify it.

In this case NPs function as a proper noun.

## 2

Examples:

<b>majkata na Ivan</b> (the-mother of Ivan)	(B)
<b>ubieca na Smit</b> (the-killer of Smith)	(B)

The DA is a marker of the uniqueness of the referent at a semantic level. The link between the linguistic expression and the referent is constant, because there is only

one real object that a NP can refer to - no other person can become the killer of Smith or the mother of Ivan.

Here the usage of the DA is not obligatory, which means that the DA is not a maker, but a marker only, of the definiteness of the NP. That is why the use of *the* in some languages is optional, for example in English one can say ***the mother of Ivan*** (articled NP) and ***Ivan`s mother*** (non-articled NP); ***the killer of Smith*** and ***Smith`s killer***.

However, in Bulgarian and Macedonian articling is necessary in both cases: ***majkata na Ivan*** (B) (the-mother of Ivan) and ***Ivanovata majka*** (B) (the-Ivan`s mother).

This is so called *attributive usage* of the DA (cf. Donnellan 1966, Paduceva 1985), which is considered to be the exact opposite to the referential one. The authors assert that in examples of this kind S presupposes the existence and uniqueness of the object, but does not have a specific referent in mind (the speaker can hardly connect a NP with a referent from reality). That fact does not mean that there is no referent or that the referent is arbitrary. The definiteness of the NPs is set once and for all and is not dependent on the intention of the speaker. The referent is always fixed, but its identification on the part of the S or H is not always possible at the moment of communication. The ability (or inability) of S (and of H) to make identification though has no effect on the nature of the link between the NP and the referent.

Such NPs can be used only articled. They function in the sentence like proper nouns.

### 3

a) Examples:

<b><i>prezidenta na stranata</i></b> (the-President of the-country)	(B)
<b><i>kmeta na seloto</i></b> (the-Mayor of the-village)	(B)
<b><i>ministara na pravosadieto</i></b> (the-Minister of the-Justice)	(B)

The DA is a marker of the uniqueness of the referent in the given situation, defined by the sociolinguistic convention – any country has only one president, the mayor of a village is one and only and so on. The DA indicates that in this respect the referent is fixed in the real world and its identification is possible.

The use of *the* can be optional, if we are sure that S/H possess the knowledge mentioned above.

In general the link between the NP and the referent is variable, because NPs have just one fixed referent, but only in a specific time and space. For example, the president, the mayor and the minister are elected for a certain period and the NP in the statement:

<b><i>Imam sresta s kmeta na seloto</i></b>	(B)
((I) have appointment with the-Mayor of the-village)	

would be linked to a different referent in different cases according to space and time localisations.

b) Examples:

<b>upravitelja na magazina</b> (the-manager of the-store)	(B)
<b>kolata na Ana</b> (the-car of Ana)	(B)
<b>kastata na Ivan</b> ( the-house of Ivan)	(B)

Similarly to a) the DA in b) is a marker of uniqueness of the referent in the given situation. The difference from the examples given above is that here the usage of the DA is obligatory, because in this case it is actually much more than just a marker of definiteness – it is its maker too. The store manager might be more than one person, Ivan, and Ana may have more than one house or car and it is the usage of the DA that indicates their uniqueness at this very moment.

In general the link between the NP and the referent is variable. It depends on time and space localisation.

## 4

In these cases additional factors - not only linguistic, but also pragmatic factors, including the participants in the discussion, affect the nature of the link. Such NPs usually have possessive adjective modifiers in their structure, making the link between the NP and the referent vary according to the subject of speaking. If S is one and the same, the link remains constant. When the speaker is different, the same NP will be linked to another referent. So the DA is a marker of uniqueness of the referent in the given situation only, but in general the link between a NP and its referent is variable. It depends on the speaker.

When possessives are used, two meanings of the NP can be outlined according to the lexical semantics of the noun.

a) Examples:

<b>mojata majka</b> (the-my mother)	(B,M)
<b>moeto dete</b> (the-my child)	(B,M)
<b>mojata sestra</b> (the-my sister)	(B,M)

The use of *the* in NPs like **mojata majka** is optional, because uniqueness is semantically defined.

In NPs like **moeto dete**, **mojata sestra** the use of *the* is obligatory, because the uniqueness is not semantically motivated – anybody can have more than one child or sister. It is the DA, which determines the uniqueness of the referent in that very situation. The lack of a DA would mean indefiniteness of the NP.

b)Examples:

<b>mojata drugarka</b> (M), <b>mojata prijateljka</b> (B) (the-my friend)	
<b>moeto kolelo</b> (the-my bike)	(B)
<b>mojata canta</b> (the-my bag)	(B)

The NPs can vary as regards the referent not only when the speaker changes, but also when there is an objective possibility of another referent in another period of time or in another place. The link between a NP and its referent is constant only

within certain parameters of time and space and of the presence of an unchangeable speaker.

The usage of the DA is obligatory, because it is the DA, which determines the uniqueness of the referent in that very situation.

## 5

Examples:

<b>po radioto cux</b> (on the-radio (I) heard)	(B)
<b>po televizijata kazaxa</b> (on the-TV (they) said)	(B)
<b>procetox vav vestnika</b> ((I) read in the-newspaper )	(B)
<b>otidox do postata da platja telefona</b>	(B)
(I) went to the-post-office to pay the-phone-bill	

The usage of an article noun without modifiers would signify that the radio, the TV, the newspaper and the post office are unique. Apparently, it is not so. In this case, the use of a definite NP means that the speaker is talking about a fixed referent to be identified by himself/herself alone or he/she presumes that H would be able to identify the referent of the NP (in case of a closer relationship between them).

In these circumstances S could use indefinite NPs as well, such as:

<b>procetox v edin vestnik</b> ((I) read in a newspaper)	(B)
<b>otidox do edna posta ...</b> ((I) went to a post-office...)	(B)

This would make it even clearer that for the speaker the identification of the corresponding NP is not important to the communication.

In such cases definiteness is determined by purely pragmatic factors - the use of a DA is dependent on S.

## 6

### Quasi-definiteness (textual, indirect)

We called this meaning *quasi-definiteness* because the DA is a marker of identity of the given NP not with a referent from the real world, but with another NP from a preceding or a succeeding text.

Example (1) shows the so-called back-pointing use of the DA (Leech 1994:52), when identity has been established by an earlier mention (often with an indefinite article).

Example (2) shows the so-called forward-pointing use of the DA, when identity is established by a modifier or a restrictive clause that follows the noun.

Examples:

(1) **Edna zena varvese srestu men. Zenata se usmixvase.** (B)  
A woman was walking towards me. The-woman was smiling.

(2) **Zenata, kojato varvese srestu men, se usmixvase.** (B)  
 The-woman (who) (was) walking towards me, was smiling

In cases like (1) the preceding NP very often has an indefinite article, so it is not linked to a fixed, identifiable referent. The articted NP **the woman**, whose referent is the same as the mentioned NP, is much more defined than the first one (**a woman**) due to the previous text (*a woman who was walking towards S*). This determination is obviously not sufficient for H to identify the object, but S may be able to do it. So in example (2) the articted NP shows identity with a linguistic correlate (**a woman**), implicated in the relative clause **walking towards me**, which only formally takes place after the articted NP, not logically.

There is some difference between Bulgarian and Macedonian here. In Macedonian it is very often an **articted** NP that appears instead of an **indefinite** one as a first mention, e.g.,

**X. prijde do fenerot** (M)  
 X. came-near to the-street-lamp

In Bulgarian it is impossible to use a definite NP in such cases, where it does not become clear from the situation that the street lamp is unique. Then Bulgarian prefers an indefinite NP:

**X. se priblizi do edin fener.** (B)  
 X. came-near to a street-lamp)

## 7

### DA as a Marker of Definiteness

#### in *Definite NPs*

#### with **Uncountable Nouns**

Uncountable nouns (sometimes called 'mass' nouns, see Leech 1994: 41-47) do not refer to objects from the reality because they cannot be counted. They typically refer to substances e.g. **glass, milk, air** (concrete mass nouns) or they refer to qualities, events, feelings, etc. e.g. **trouble, knock, love** (abstract mass nouns).

Nevertheless, these nouns are also able to form definite NPs.

Examples:

a) uncountable concrete nouns:

**Podaj mi brasnoto!** (Fetch me the-flour!) (B)

**Masloto se e svarsilo.** 'We are out of butter'  
 the-butter is finished (B)

**Cajat mi izstina.** 'My tee cooled' (B)  
 the-tea my cooled

b) uncountable abstract nouns:

**Ljubovta i kam nego njamase granici.** 'The love she felt for him was infinite'(B)  
 the-love her for him had not limits

**Izkacvaneto kam varxa go umori.** 'The climbing to the top was difficult for him'(B)  
the-climbing to the-top him got tired

Uncountable concrete nouns can form definite NPs usually when the articulated NP consists in its deep structure of a word for a container (**box, cup, bottle, packet**, etc.), which is omitted in its surface structure and to which the DA is linked as a specific marker of definiteness. In fact, NPs with uncountable nouns are 'converted' into NPs with countable nouns. Thus the examples a) are synonymous to:

**Podaj mi kutijata s brasno(to)!** 'Fetch me the flour box!'

Fetch me the-box with (the)-flour

**Paketceto maslo se e svarsilo.** 'We are out of *the packet of butter I bought*'

the-packet butter is finished

**Casata mi s caj izstina.** 'The cup of tee before me cooled'

the-cup my with tee cooled

Just like concrete mass nouns, uncountable abstract nouns combine with unit nouns, quantifiers and other words, used to subdivide notionally a mass into separate 'pieces'. They can in this way form definite NPs. Most often, however, NPs with abstract nouns are 'converted' into NPs with count nouns when the articulated NP consists in its surface structure (or in the sentence to which the NP belongs) of modifiers limiting and individualising an abstract referent of the given NP from reality, even though the notion cannot be interpreted in a physical sense. For the examples in b) **the love** is not love in general, but **her love**; **the climbing** means **his climbing** and so on.

## 8

### DA as a Marker of Definiteness in Generic NPs

The DA also functions as a generic determiner. Then the DA is a marker that the NP refers to what is general or typical for a whole class of objects (in NPs with countable nouns) or the DA indicates totality of the entity, marked by the notion (in NPs with uncountable nouns)

Examples:

(countable singular) **Rozata e rastenie.** (The-rose is plant) (B)

(countable plural) **Lipite cutat vo juni.** (The-limes are in flower in June) (M)

(uncountable) **Zaharta e vredna za zabite.** (The-sugar is bad for the-teeth) (B)

Here **the rose** refers to roses in general, not one individual one. This NP has essentially the same meaning as **the limes** and **the sugar**.

Generic meaning may be expressed not only by the DA in singular and plural NPs, but also by the indefinite article in plural NPs and by zero article in singular and plural NPs.

It should be noted, however, that the universal morphological means of expression in generic NPs is the DA. In some cases it is the only possible morphological indicator.

Macedonian differs significantly from Bulgarian as to the usage of the DA with generic NPs. When the NP refers not to a species as a whole, but to any member of the species, Bulgarian uses the indefinite article exclusively, e.g.

**Edna zena ne moze da zabravi tova** (A woman can't forget this)  
a woman not can to forget this

In Macedonian though the DA or zero article is predominantly used in such cases, e.g.

**Zenata toa ne moze go zaboravi**. (The woman can't forget this)  
the-woman this not can to forget

## 9

### DA as a Lexical Marker

In some cases the DA has a lexical instead of a determining function.

a) some kinship terms, e.g.,

**baba** (B, M) (grandmother)  
**djado** (B), **dedo** (M) (grandfather)

whose primary meaning is 'mother (father) to one of the parents' are not articulated in either language, because such words function analogically to proper nouns. The articulated NP has a different meaning, synonymous to another lexeme, **tasta** (B) 'mother-in-law' or **tast** (B) 'father-in-law', and thus becomes opposite in meaning to the primary meaning of the word. Therefore, the DA becomes a marker of a different semantics of the NP, e.g.

**Odam kraj baba** 'I go visited the grandmother' (M)  
**Odam kraj babata** 'I go visited the mother-in-law' (quoted by Koneski 1954: 226)

b) another typical example of the lexical function of the DA is the usage of the lexemes that indicate the four points of the compass and are treated both in Bulgarian and Macedonian as proper nouns (but not considered to be proper nouns). When they have this meaning they are not articulated, e.g.

**iztok, ot iztok, na iztok** (East, from East, to East) (B)

The DA adds new meanings, which transform the common noun into a proper noun. Then **Iztoka** (The East) may mean:

a) the former communist countries in Europe: **covek ot Iztoka** (man from the-East);

b) the Asian countries: **patuvane iz Iztoka** (trip around the-East).

**Zapada** (The West) means:

a) the industrialised Western-European countries in contrast to the former communist states: **Zapadat ne se interesuva ot nas** 'The West is not interested in us'

b) the Western part of the United States: **Divijat Zapad** (the Wild West).

The novel *North and South* by John Jakes is translated in Bulgarian as "**Severa i Juga**" (The-North and the-South).

# 10

## DA as a Conventional Marker

In **Bulgarian** the treatment of appositive constructions, in which common nouns are in appositive relationship to proper nouns, is complex – we can see examples with and/or without articles. For example, titles are usually non-articled:

**profesor Ivanov** (Professor Ivanov)  
**doctor Petrov** (Doctor Petrov)

When the common noun is used as a descriptive noun, as a profession for example, common nouns usually appear non-articled,

**pisateljat Janev** (the-writer Janev)  
**xudoznika Venev** (the-painter Venev)

but:they could be articles as well, e.g.,

**arxitekt(at) Ivanov** (/the/-architect Ivanov)

It is not clear at all why one must say **prezidenta Velev** (the-President Velev) and not **prezident Velev** (President Velev) or why one must not say **ministara Velev** (the-minister Velev) but **minister Velev** (minister Velev). These variations are a good illustration of the fact that the usage of the DA in such cases is purely conventional.

Among the geographical names one can see both types - articulated as:

**planinata Rila** (the-mountain Rila)  
**ezeroto Okoto** (the-lake Okoto)

and non-articled as:

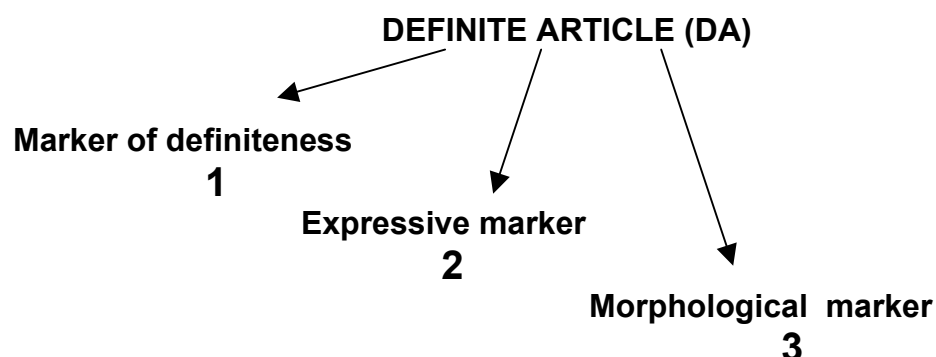
**Rila, Sar planina** (B, M) (Rila, Sar mountain)  
**reka Vit** (river Vit)  
**selo Banja** (village of Banja)

Such constructions in **Macedonian** tend to be always articulated, for example:

**profesorot Ivanov** (the-Professor Ivanov)  
**vo seloto Bregalnica** (in the-village Bregalnica)  
**rekata Vardar** (the-river Vardar)

Possibly, the reason for the difference in the usage of the DA in both languages is the fact that these word groups are perceived differently. In Bulgarian in some occasions the whole NP is perceived as a syntactic and semantic entity, synonymous to a proper noun, and then it is not articulated, while in Macedonian the common noun is perceived as a definite NP with modifier + proper noun and then they need to be articulated.

## Usage of the DA with Proper Nouns with Respect to Reference



### 1

#### DA as a marker of definiteness

The proper nouns are inherently definite and usually unique and do not need an additional marker of determinedness. Nevertheless, the anthroponyms (personal names) in plural are articed when used as descriptive common nouns, representing a group of people with the same names. In this case personal names are always used with a DA and the NPs that consist of such names may have a definite or a generic meaning, e.g.

**Mariite ste dojdət li s nas?** 'Will the Marys come with us?' (definite NP) (B)  
the-Marys will come part. with us

**Dnes Mariite imat imen den** (Today the Marys have a name day) (generic NP)  
Today the-Marys have name day

### 2

#### DA as an Expressive Marker

Semantics apparently determines the use of the article in the case of certain categories of emotionally charged nouns. Even proper nouns, which are typically never articed, may become so if used in an emotionally charged context.

##### a) anthrponyms

In contemporary Bulgarian, mostly in colloquial speech, the DA is used:

with family names:

(1) **Petrovite pak kupixa nova kola** 'The Petrovs have bought a new car again'  
The-Petrovs agian have bought new car

(2) **Ivanovata i тази sedmica ne pomete stalbite** 'Ivanova again did not sweep the stairs this week  
the-Ivanova ..... stairs this week

with feminine personal names ending in –a:

(3) **Marijata e mnogoumno dete** ' Maria is a very clever girl  
the-Maria is very clever child

The usage of the DA expresses the pragmatical estimation of S. The connotation is most often negative and shows disapproval, rudeness, or resentment (see example 1, 2). Sometimes the connotation may be positive and then it shows familiarity, which is a sign of sympathy or admiration (3).

We have no information about the language situation in Macedonian in this respect.

#### b) toponyms

A typical expressive usage of the DA with emotional coloration of the context is observed in both languages:

**Mi dosadi Skopjevo** (M) 'I am bored with Skopje)(quoted by Topolinska 1974: 64)  
to me bored the-Skopje

**Sofijata si e po-krasiva** (B) (The-Sofia is more beautiful)(quoted by Molxova 1970:8)

Such examples can be found in fiction as well, in the works of the well-known Bulgarian writer Ivan Vazov: **Balgarijata, Rusijata** (The-Bulgaria, the-Russia) (quoted by Michov 1908) where the articling apparently shows a familiar attitude.

The usage of the DA as a marker of expressiveness with proper nouns is morphologically limited in regard to the gender of the nouns - masculine toponyms and anthroponyms are never articulated. That is why it is impossible to find *Londona* (the-London), *Pariza* (the-Paris), or *Ivanat* (the-Ivan), *Petara* (the-Peter).

**Gabrovoto** (the-Gabrovo - a name of a town) (neuter) exists, but not:  
**Plovdiva** (the-Plovdiv - a name of a town) (masculine)

**Italiata** (the-Italy) (feminine) is correct, but not:  
**Ljuksemburgat** (the-Luxembourg) (masc.)

The only found exception to the rule is **Vatikana** (the-Vatican), but in this case the proper noun has no expressive connotation.

## 3

### DA as a Morphological Marker

#### a) anthroponyms

In Bulgarian some diminutives of personal names are always articulated and regularly used in all functions of the sentence. This is obviously based on morphological grounds. For example:

**masculine** diminutives ending in –a, such as **Savata** (the Sava), **Tonkata** (the Tonka) - diminutive from *Anton*), **Vaskata** (the Vaska) - diminutive from *Vasil*)  
**masculine** and **feminine** diminutives ending in –e, such as **Saseto** (the Sashe) - diminutive from *Alexander*), **Anceto** (*the Anche*) - diminutive from *Ana*), **Miceto** (diminutive for *Maria*), etc.

Some scholars define that type of usage of the DA as morphologically marked. At the same time though, they do not deny that it is in a way semantically conditioned due to the fact that the articted masculine diminutives are highly expressive and are usually emotionally coloured. This, however, is also valid for all diminutives that are expressive but do not take the article. In fact, certain masculine first names ending in –a, e.g. *Sava or Toma*, have their form that does not take the article and is in a way stylistically opposed to the articted form **Savata** and **Tomata**.

Unlike the usage in Bulgarian, in literary Macedonian neither the masculine nor the feminine personal names in –e are articted, although they are considered diminutives, e.g.: **Riste** (from *Christo*), **Krste** (from *Krastju*), **Lence** (from *Elena*) etc. Nevertheless, in colloquial Macedonian the feminine personal names usually take the article, for example **Lenceto**, **Danceto**.

By the way, in literary Bulgarian, there are names in –e, originating from Western Bulgaria, that are diminutives from a lexical point of view, but are not considered as such, e.g.

**Dame Gruev, Stanke Dimitrov, Nane, Vute**, etc.

#### b) toponyms

As a rule the names of places in singular do not take the article in either Macedonian or Bulgarian, e.g.: **Struma** (B, M) (the name of a river), **Osogovo** (B, M) (the name of a mountain)

Still, there is one major category of geographic names (mostly masculine) that are almost always articted, namely those used with a deleted common noun, e.g.

**Dunava e pridosal** (The Danube has risen) (B)  
**V nedelja bjaxme na Iskara** (On Sunday we went to the Iskar)  
(with 'river' omitted in both instances)

**Balkan(ot)** –mountain (M)  
**Vardar(ot)** – river (M)  
**Baltik(ot)** – a sea (M), etc.

In these cases the DA is a semantically empty morpheme, which appears under the suppression of the grammar system.

## Conclusion

The usage of the DA is expanding in both Bulgarian and Macedonian. The functional spectrum tends to go beyond the framework of the definiteness / indefiniteness category. Apart from its function as a determiner, it assumes other functions that differ significantly from its typical ones. Although such kinds of usage are still in the periphery of the semantic field and appear

mostly in colloquial speech, one has to take them into consideration and not confuse them with the determining functions of the DA. Thus one can avoid the danger of blurring the picture of definiteness as a phenomenon.

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