

Balkan Slavic Noun Phrase: Synchronic and Diachronic perspective

Teodora Vuković^{1,3}, Anastasia Makarova^{2,3}, Ivan Šimko², Barbara Sonnenhauser^{3,2,1},

¹ SyNoDe, Language and Space, UZH, ² Areal Morphology, Language and Space, UZH ³ Slavisches Seminar UZH

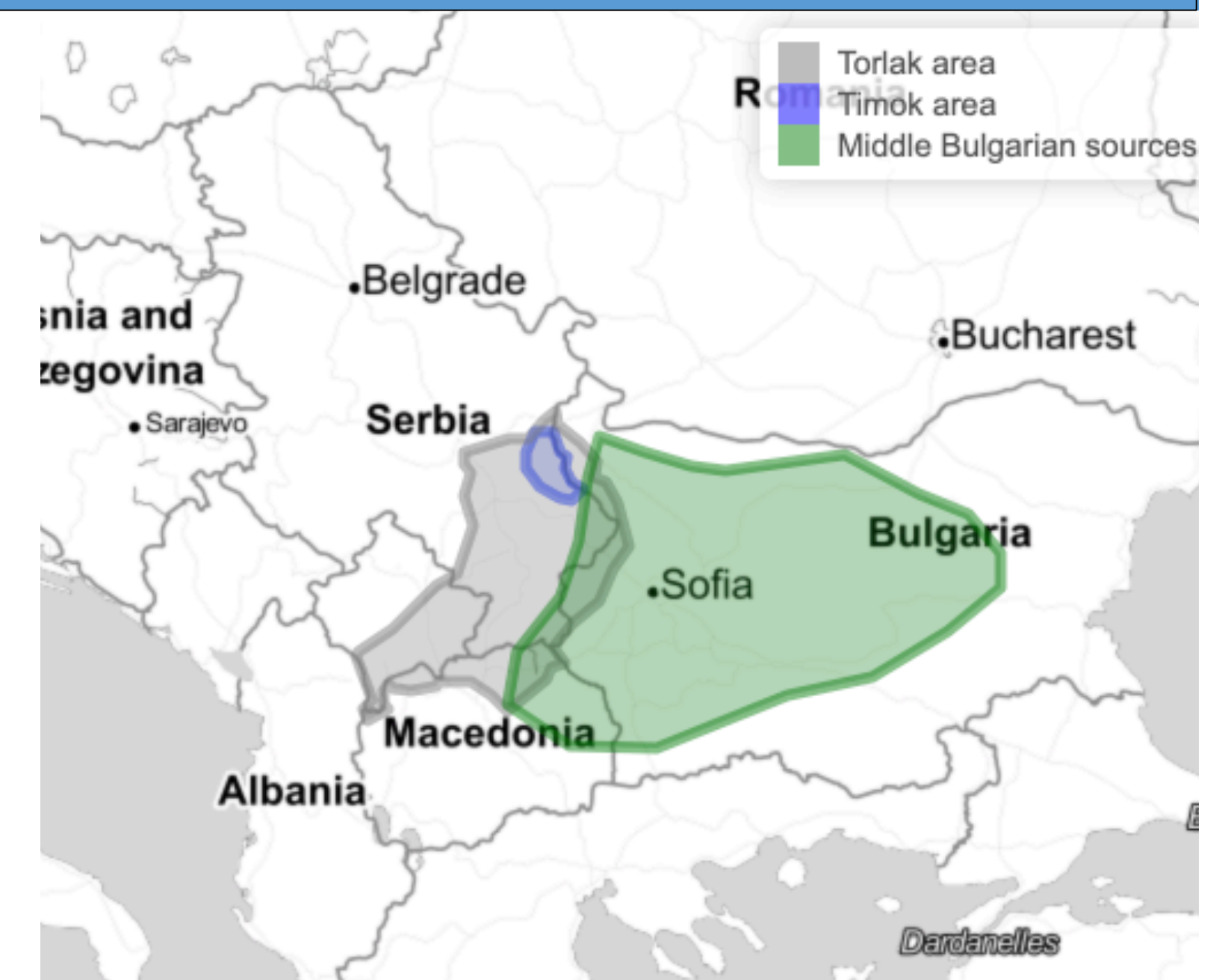
Areal and diachronic analysis of Balkan Slavic

BALKAN SLAVIC (BS) are eastern part of the South Slavic (SS) language group, characterized by *balkanized* morphosyntactic features, developed within languages from different families, due to the close contact. **TORLAK DIALECTS**, located in the western periphery of the area, have double affiliation: phonetically closer to West SS, morpho-syntactically to other BS.

How do AREAL and SOCIAL FACTORS, NORM and TIME affect the DISTRIBUTION OF LINGUISTIC FEATURES?

FOCUS ON THE NOUN PHRASE. Contrary to the West SS, with a rich case paradigm, BS have lost case inflections over time, showing a tendency to periphrastic expression of case and other NP relations. The poster presents three case studies of **different aspect of the NP from an AREAL AND DIACHRONIC PERSPECTIVE:**

- 1) The areal differences in the use of two possessive structures in Torlak.
- 2) The areal distribution of the use of the post-positive articles in the contemporary Timok dialect of Torlak.
- 3) Emergence and the distribution the post-positive article in pre-standardized BS manuscripts from 17-19th century.



1) Possessive dative clitic vs. congruent possessive pronoun in Timok dialect

There are two competing strategies: (1) congruent possessive pronoun (CPP) and (2) possessive dative clitic (PDC). What conditions the speaker's choice between them.

(1) *moj bašta* vs. (2) *bašta mi*
 my.M.SG.NOM father.M.SG.NOM father.NOM. PRON.PERS.1SG.DAT.CL
 'my father' 'father to me'

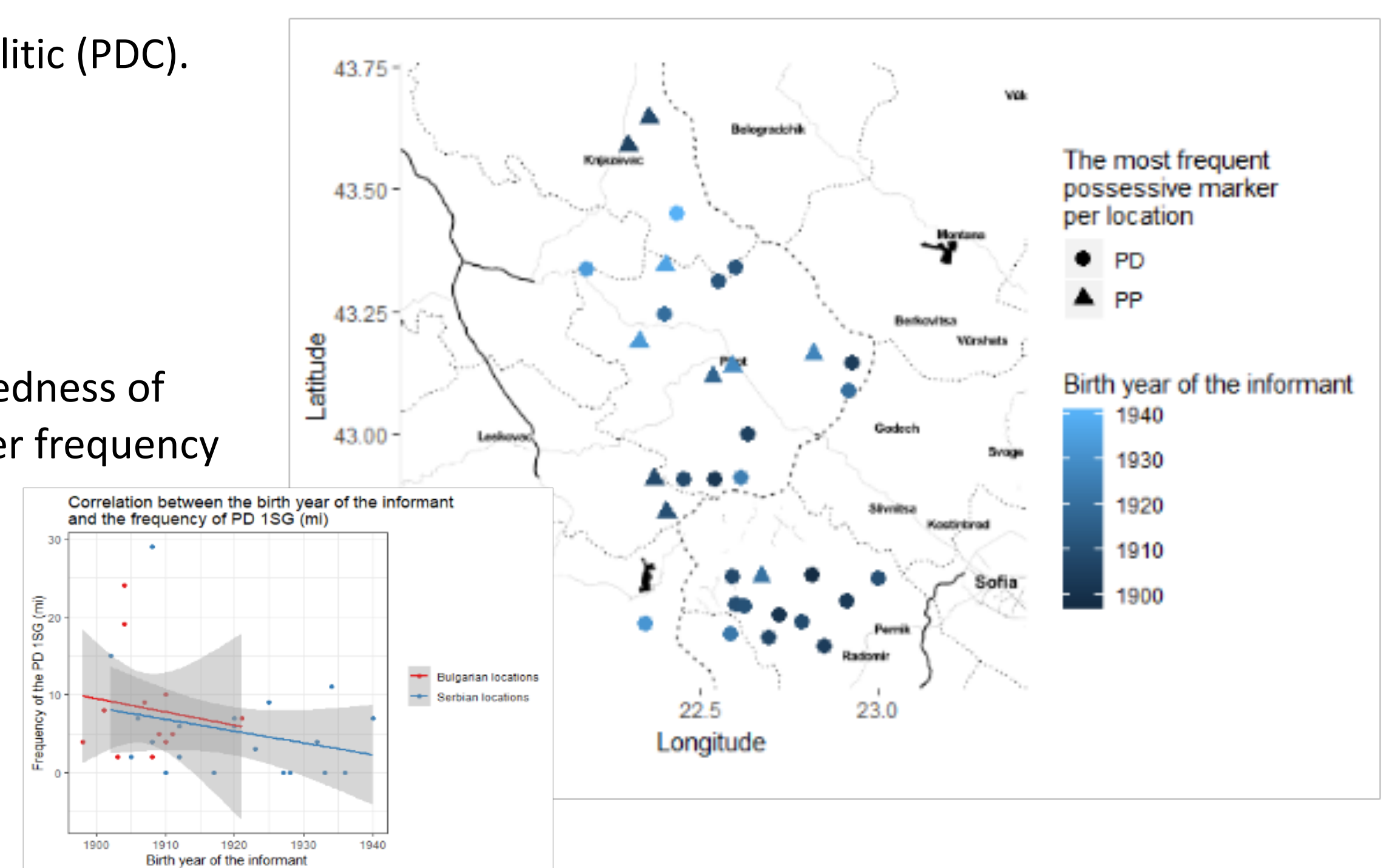
Effect of **SPEAKER'S AGE** is analysed separately in Serbia and Bulgaria due to different sociolinguistic markedness of PDC. Younger informants with better education in Serbian locations are expected to demonstrate a lower frequency of the PDC, since it is not encouraged by Serbian standard.

Data: Dialect texts from Bulgarian and Serbian part of Timok (36 locations) published in (Sobolev 1998).

Hypothesis: Negative correlation between PDC and positive correlation between CPP and age in Serbia. No correlation in Bulgaria.

Results: Serbia: Age <> PDC (p = 0.278) Age <> CPP (p = 0.068) Bulgaria: Age <> PDC (p = 0.346).

Conclusion: Younger speakers tend to use more frequently CPP. Older speakers in Serbia use PDC slightly more. There is no effect in Bulgaria.



2) The Distribution of the post-posed article in Timok dialect

Post-positive article is a clitic morpheme derived from demonstratives (3). In Bulgarian and Macedonian, it marks definiteness. It is not used in Serbian, except in Timok, where it shows inter- and intra-speaker variation. (Vuković & Samardžić 2018)

(3) *Unuk-at sadi višnje-te.*
 grandson. M.SG.NOM-DET plant.3SG.PRS cherries.F.PL.ACC-DET
 'The grandson is planting the cherries.'

Effect of the **GEOGRAPHIC PROXIMITY TO BULGARIAN OR SERBIAN** analyzed via distance from Bulgarian border and Knjaževac, longitude, latitude, altitude.

Data: 21 transcripts of fieldwork interviews annotated with PoS annotation.

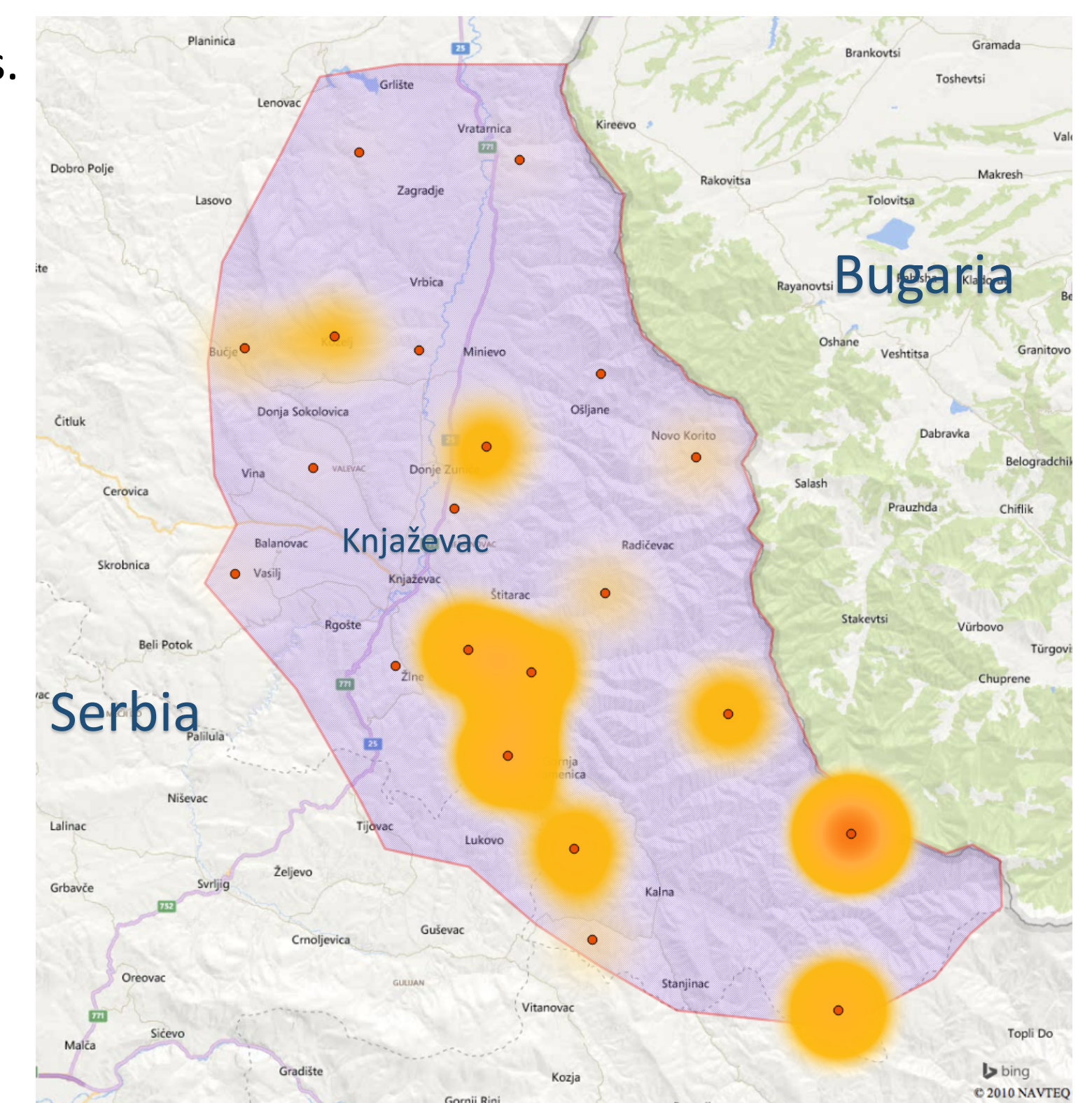
Hypothesis: Higher frequency closer to the Bulgarian border, Knjaževac, to the East and South and in higher altitudes.

Method: Spearman Correlation Rank between NORMALIZED FREQUENCY and DISTANCE FROM BULGARIAN BORDER, DISTANCE FROM KNJAŽEVAC, LONGITUDE, LATITUDE, ALTITUDE

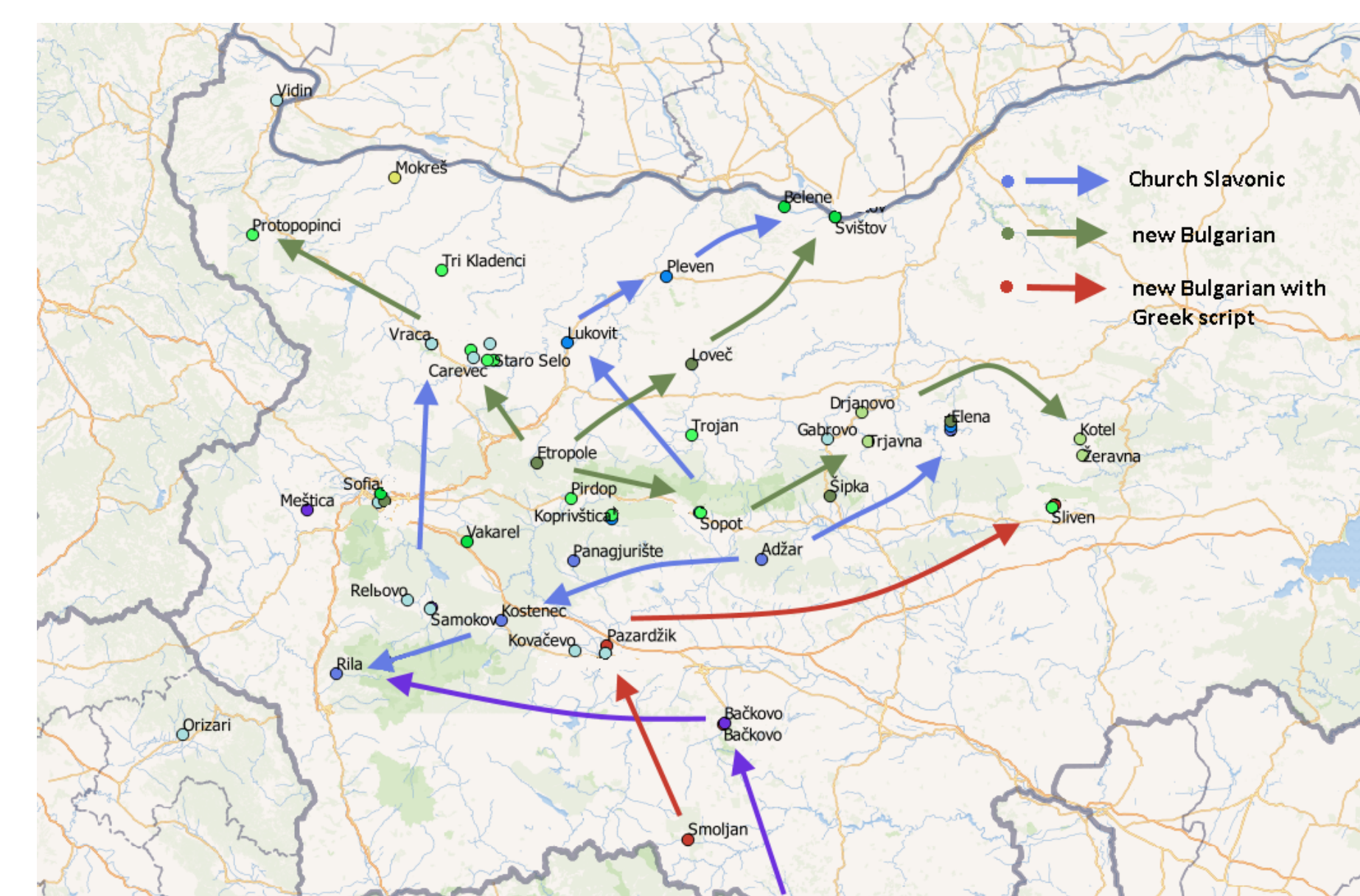
Results: FREQ <> DistBulg (p = 0.561) FREQ <> Longitude (p = 0.033) FREQ <> Latitude (p = 0.033)

FREQ <> DistKnjaž (p = 0.016) FREQ <> Altitude (p = 0.028)

Conclusion: Remoteness (altitude and distance from Knjaževac) has the strongest effect on the use of articles.



3) Articles in the Damaskini



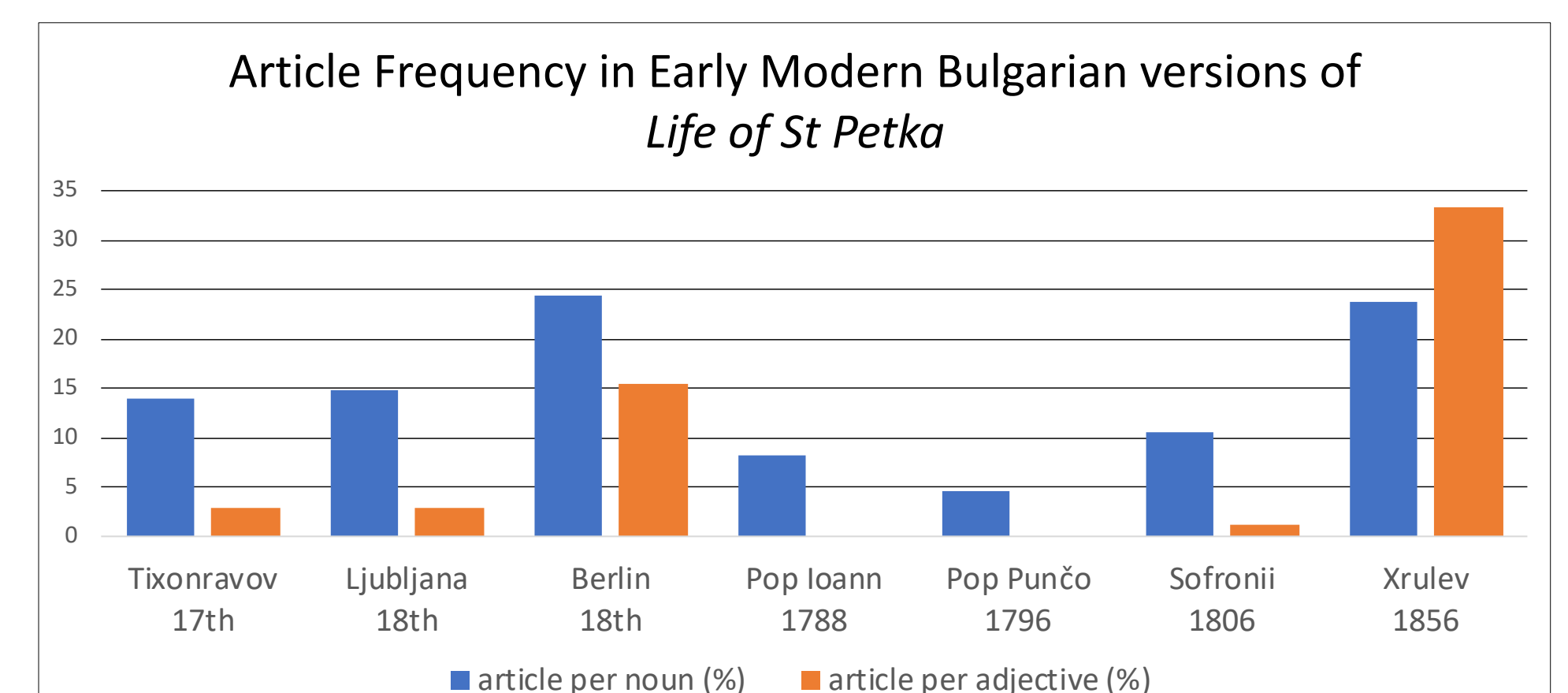
Translations of *Thesaurus* by Damascenus Stoudites into the common language have sparked an intensive literary activity in the 17th century Bulgaria. The scribes struggled between the imperative of staying true to the Church Slavonic tradition, and making the text intelligible to the speakers of contemporary BS dialects. This includes the choice of the definiteness markers: archaic texts prefer a long-form article, while the more innovative ones prefer postponed articles. (Šimko, submitted)

(4) *padà ljúti zmei pod kráka-ta konjú-tomu*
 fall.3SG.PRS fierce.M.SG.NOM.LF dragon..M.SG.NOM under leg.PL-DEM.PL horse.DAT.SG-DEM.DAT.SG
 the fierce dragon fell under the horse's legs'
Tixonravov damaskin (Dyomina 1972)

Data: 7 Early Modern Bulgarian versions of the *Life of St Petka of Tarnovo* from 17th-19th century annotated with PoS and philological annotations.

Hypothesis: Replacement of long-form adjectives by postponed articles is expected to appear in later literature, rather than being influenced by different norms.

Conclusion: The choice of definiteness markers shows a stronger effect of normative traditions than the dialectal background of the scribe.



References:

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