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NINETY-ONE YEARS OF TURKISH STUDIES IN BELGRADE

The Turkish language has been taught at the Faculty of Philosophy, Belgrade University, at an academic level, since 1925. Although it was planned through a Decree of the Faculty of Philosophy, which came into force at the beginning of the 1925/26 academic year, to hold courses in Turkish language with literature, lectures in Turkish literature began only after the official establishment of The Seminar for Oriental Philology, a year later, that is, on July 17, 1926. Since then, continuously until today, Turkology in Belgrade has seen remarkable development thanks to the numerous internationally recognized experts who, although having completed Oriental Philology (Turkish and Arabic), most opted for Turkish studies (prominent among these were the first assistants of Dr. Fehim Bajraktarević). This paper provides a brief overview of the development of Turkish Studies in Belgrade and reviews its main developers who, through their teaching and scientific work have contributed to the spreading of the general reputation of the Department of Oriental Studies, which is the oldest in the Balkans.

Key words: Turkish language, Belgrade Turkology, Department of Oriental Studies, Department of Turkish Language, Literature and Culture, Balkan Turkologists

Although the Turkish language, together with Serbian, was used for protocol communication for many years in the Balkan region during the Ottoman rule, it has been taught at the academic level at the Faculty of Philosophy – Belgrade University since 1925. It was the first among the oriental languages (Arabic, Hebrew – for a short period of time, Chinese, Japanese, Persian, and Korean) that would be studied institutionally at today's Department of Oriental Studies at the Faculty of Philology.

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After the founding of the Republic of Turkey on October 29, 1923 and the establishment of friendly diplomatic relations between the Kingdom of Yugoslavia and Turkey on October 28, 1925, interest in the situation within the newly formed state began to grow, as did interest in its creator and great reformer Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. This was one of the reasons why (by a Decree of the Faculty of Philosophy that came into force at the beginning of the 1925/1926 academic year) it was envisaged that Turkish language and Literature would be taught as one of the regular courses at the University in Belgrade. Owing to a number of fortunate circumstances, Dr. Fehim Bajraktarević had at the time arrived in Belgrade, just after completing his studies in Vienna (studies of Oriental Languages and Literature Related to Slavistic Philology, with a Doctorate in Arabic literature). As an already formed expert, he taught Turkish Language and Persian Literature at the Seminar for Comparative Literature and Literary Theory. Since the lengthy period of common life with the Turkish Ottomans had a profound impact on our material and intellectual heritage and non-material culture, history, language, folklore and literature, it was necessary to educate cadres who would master both Modern Turkish and the Ottoman language (knowledge of Ottoman is indispensable for researching and studying the rich source material related to the period of our history under Ottoman hegemony). In addition, it was also important for them to learn about Turkish literature and culture not only in order to study our cultural heritage and joint historical past, but also to become better acquainted with this other culture and to advance our cooperation with the young Turkish Republic, which was led by Mustafa Kemal Pasha with whom our King Aleksandar the First had established firm political connections and a closer, personal relationship¹.

However, the first serious step in establishing Turkological studies as an academic discipline was the foundation of the Seminar for Oriental Philology at the Faculty of Philosophy on the 17th of July 1926.² In addition to the Turkish language, which may be considered the foundation stone of Orientalistic studies in Belgrade, Turkish literature and Arabic language and literature were taught at this department. It is to Fehim Bajraktarević (Sarajevo 1889 – Belgrade 1970) that we owe the official foundation of the Seminar for Oriental Philology at the Faculty of Philosophy in Belgrade, an event which resounded strongly throughout the

¹ Mirjana Teodosijević, *Mustafa Kemal Atatürk u jugoslovenskoj javnosti*, 17.

² For deeper insight into the founding of the Department of Oriental Studies see: Марија Ђукановић, „Катедра за оријенталну филологију”, *Свој година Филозофској факултету*, 477–484.

global scientific community. It was the first Department founded for the study of Oriental languages in the Balkans, and as such, the Department for Oriental Studies became the disseminator of a large number of esteemed Turkologists, Arabists and Oriental Philologists, who would later take up important positions and be recognized in various fields of public and scientific life both in the former Yugoslavia, and in all of the newly formed states after the dissolution of that country.

The only teacher in the entire Department, up to the Second World War, was Fehim Bajraktarević himself, and among the small number of students who would later go on to become recognized scientists in the field, prominent were: Nedim Filipović (one of the founders of the Department of Oriental Philology in Sarajevo, in 1950), Branislav Djurdjev, member of the Academy of Sciences of Bosnia and Herzegovina and first Director of the Oriental Institute in Sarajevo, founded in 1964, Metodije Sokolovski, who lectured in Turkish at the Department of History of the Faculty of Philology in Skopje, the famous German language scholar, Aloys Schmaus, and others³.

Professor Bajraktarević had a very rich and rewarding career as an Orientalist before and after the Second World War. His fields of scientific interest were Turkology, Arab Studies, Iranian Studies and Islamic Studies⁴. Of his Turkological opus certainly the most important was the Grammar of the Turkish language – *Osnovi turske gramatike*⁵ in which the author states in his Preface that “this textbook contains the basic and main rules of Turkish grammar, as stipulated in the very title of this work. Understandably, we are here referring to purely Turkish rules, though certain Arabic and Persian words are also included, since Turkish is a noticeably mixed language”⁶. Although, with the reforms of 1928, the Arabic alphabet had been replaced with a Latin (Roman) script, in this grammar the examples and the lexis are presented in the Turkish and Ottoman / Arabic script so that students would be able to learn modern and Ottoman Turkish in parallel⁷. In connection with this

³ Miryana Teodosiyeviç, „Belgrad Üniversitesi Filoloji Fakültesi Doğu Dilleri Kürsüsünün Kuruluşunun Yetmişinci Yıl Dönümü”, *Hasan Eren Armağanı*, 297.

⁴ For deeper insight into the life and work of F. Bajraktarević see: Anđelka Mitrović, *Naučno delo Fehima Bajraktarevića*, Filološki fakultet, Beograd, 1996.

⁵ Dr Fehim Bajraktarević, *Osnovi turske gramatike*, Naučna knjiga, Beograd, 1962.

⁶ *Ibid.*, 5.

⁷ Up until the departure of Ljubinka Rajković, who retired in 1983, students of Oriental Philology and Turkish Language and Literature had been studying the Ottoman Language from the “Jelička” as they had popularly called the book: *Türkische konversations-grammatik* / von Henry Jehlitschka. – Heidelberg : Julius Groos, 1895–189. This Grammar book was written in Gothic script and since there were only two copies of the

Bajraktarević explains that “in this book alongside of every Arabic sign a corresponding graphic sign in the presently used Turkish Latin script has been included. Therefore, this book acts as a link between both of these periods and methods of writing and connects them from the early beginning phase of learning the language”⁸.

After the Second World War, the first student to graduate was Marija Djukanović (Mostar, 1923 – Belgrade, 1983), who was admitted to the position of Teaching Assistant for Turkish Language and Literature. A year before she graduated, she had started working as a librarian at the Seminar, and afterwards as a Teaching Assistant. She taught the following subjects: Turkish Language, Turkish Literature and Introduction to Oriental Studies. In 1956, Marija Djukanović defended the first doctoral thesis in the field of Turkological Studies, i.e., Orientalistics at Belgrade University, on the topic of *Rimovana autobiografija Varvari Ali-paše* (“The Rhymed Autobiography of Varvari Ali-Pasha”)⁹. Her most important works are the monograph *Kroz tursku narodnu poeziju* (“Through Turkish Folk Poetry”)¹⁰, the first study on Turkish literature *Turska književnost* (“Turkish Literature”)¹¹, the monograph *Primeri turske proze* (“Examples of Turkish Prose”) in collaboration with Slavoljub Djindjić¹² and the very informative review regarding the development of the Department of Oriental Philology since its establishment in 1963, under the title *Katedra za orijentalnu filologiju* (“The Department of Oriental Philology”)¹³.

In the year 1955, a second Teaching Assistant was appointed for the course of Turkish Language and Literature, Dr. Ljubinka Rajković (Selevac, 1925 – Belgrade, 2006), who was already a formed Turkologist-Ottomanist, with working experience as a translator and researcher in the Ottoman archives at the Military Museum in Belgrade. On her arrival at the Department she was entrusted with courses in Ottoman Language and she remained at that job where she worked diligently un-

book in the Faculty Library, the teaching process was facilitated by copying and transcribing all the lessons by hand.

⁸ Dr Fehim Bajraktarević, op. cit., 5.

⁹ Marija Đukanović, *Rimovana autobiografija Varvari Ali-paše*, Filološki fakultet Beogradskog univerziteta, Beograd, 1967.

¹⁰ Marija Đukanović, *Kroz tursku narodnu poeziju*, Filološki fakultet Beogradskog univerziteta, Beograd, 1969.

¹¹ Marija Đukanović, „Turska književnost”, *Povijest svjetske književnosti. Knjiga 1*, Mladost, Zagreb, 1982, 186–218.

¹² Dr Marija Đukanović, Dr Slavoljub Đinđić, *Primeri turske proze*, Univerzitet u Beogradu, Naučna knjiga, 1969 Beograd.

¹³ Марија Ђукановић, „Катедра за оријенталну филологију”, *Свој година Филозофској факултету*, Народна књига, Београд, 1963.

til her early retirement in 1983. Her doctoral dissertation *Turski pesnici i pripovedači kod Srba i Hrvata* ("Turkish Poets and Storytellers among the Serbs and Croats")¹⁴ was presented and defended at the Faculty of Philology in 1965 and it is still used today as a very informative and significant source in the teaching of Turkish Literature, as is her study entitled *Turske zagonetke* ("Turkish Riddles")¹⁵ (with a Preface by Marija Đukanović) which includes many excellent translations of Turkish riddles into Serbian.

In the year 1959, Slavoljub Djindjić was chosen as a Teaching Assistant for Turkish Language and Literature (Krnjigrad, 1935 – Belgrade, 2000), and he was the first to hold lectures in Modern Turkish Language. He then collected and redrafted his class notes and lectures and published them in book form in 1979, as the *Udžbenik turskog jezika* ("Textbook of Turkish Language")¹⁶, which came to be used over the many years in language teaching for First and Second Year students. He also headed a project to compile and publish a Turkish – Serbian Dictionary (*Türkçe – Sırpça Sözlük*)¹⁷. When the Dictionary was completed in 1988, Dr. Slavoljub Djindjić and Dr. Mirjana Teodosijević, Secretary of the project and author, received Golden Plaques for this pioneering work in the Balkans, awarded by Hasan Celâl Güzel, the Minister for National Education, Youth and Sport of the Republic of Turkey.

Shortly after Professor Djindjić, Milan Adamović was chosen as Teaching Assistant, and, after successfully defending his master's thesis *Dvosufiksni status constructus u turskom jeziku* ("Double-suffix Status Constructus in the Turkish Language")¹⁸, moved to Göttingen where he worked at the Seminar for Turkological Studies and Central Asia, at the Faculty of Philosophy attaining a considerable international reputation as a professor.

On this occasion we must also mention the important and precious collaboration with Professor Dr. Dušanka Bojanić Lukač (Banja Luka, 1927 – Belgrade, 2004), an internationally acknowledged and re-

¹⁴ Ljubinka Rajković, *Turski pesnici i pripovedači kod Srba i Hrvata*, Filološki fakultet Beogradskog univerziteta, Beograd, 1968.

¹⁵ *Türk Bilmeceleeri. Турске зајонешке*. Избор, предговор, превод и коментар Марија Ђукановић и Љубинка Рајковић САНУ, Одељење језика и књижевности, Балканске народне умотворине. Књига 1, Београд, 1980.

¹⁶ Slavoljub Đindjić, *Udžbenik turskog jezika*, Univerzitet u Beogradu, IŠRO Privredno-finansijski vodič, Beograd, 1979.

¹⁷ *Türkçe Sırpça Sözlük*. Hazırlayanlar: Prof. Dr. Slavoljub Đindjić, Doç. Dr. Mirjana Teodosijević, Prof. Dr. Darko Tanasković, Atatürk Kültür, Dil ve Tarih Kurumu. Türk Dil Kurumu, Ankara, 1997.

¹⁸ The Master Degree Thesis was defended in 1968.

spected Turkologist and historian, who contributed greatly to the expansion of the good reputation of Turkological Studies at Belgrade University, especially so in Turkey, and notably through her engagement at the Department as a lecturer for the subjects of the Fundamentals of Islamic Civilization, and Ottoman Diplomacy with Paleography, as well as with her work in mentoring doctoral studies and her participation on numerous Doctoral Level Examination Commissions in Turkological Studies and Arabic Studies. Also, Dr. Radmila Tričković (Trnjani, 1939 – Belgrade, 2011), researcher at The Institute of History, Belgrade, worked occasionally at the Department offering her assistance for the course on Ottoman Diplomacy with Paleography.

In 1976 Mirjana Teodosijević began working as Secretary of the Department of Oriental Studies (prior to her engagement, this position was held for a few years by Radojka (Rada) Popović). It was in this position that she formed the Archive of the Department. In 1980, Mirjana Teodosijević became Teaching Assistant to Prof. Marija Djukanović. Prior to the completion of her studies of Oriental Philology (Turkish Language and Arabic Language) Mirjana Teodosijević was educated at the Lyceum for Girls at Nishantash (*Nişantaşı Kız Lisesi*) due to her father's diplomatic service, and also completed one year of studies of Architecture at the Technical University in Istanbul. With her arrival, teaching in Turkological Studies was extended to include new subjects and new methods of work. Her knowledge of modern Turkish and personal acquaintance and friendship with contemporary Turkish writers, contributed to the modernization and enrichment of the teaching of Turkish Language and Literature for graduate studies and later also for Master Degree Studies and Doctoral Studies. When she started working as a Teaching Assistant, she held a seminar in Old and New Turkish Literature, developed exercises in Turkish Language at the First and Second Year Levels, prepared examinations for the subject Introduction to Oriental Studies and introduced language courses for the Third and Fourth Year of Studies: Translation theory – translation of texts between Serbian and Turkish, and lectures in the Pragmalinguistics of the Turkish Language. She obtained her master's degree in 1983, having defended her master's thesis *Jeziik štampe turske narodnosti u Jugoslaviji (list Tan)* ("The Language of the Publications of the Turkish Ethnic group in Yugoslavia – "Tan newspaper"), and obtained her doctorate with the thesis *Jeziik Fazila Husnija Dağlardže s osvrtom na pokret jezičkog purizma u Turskoj* ("The Language of Fazıl Hüsnü Dağlarca with Reference to the Movement of Language Purism in Turkey"). M. Teodosijević spent her entire career at the Department of Oriental Studies. In addition to a great number of scientific papers she also published the following monographs: *Jeziik Fazila*

Husnija Daglardže s osvrtom na pokret jezičkog purizma u Turskoj (“The Language of Fazıl Hüsnü Dağlarca with Reference to the Movement of Language Purism in Turkey”), *Izbor iz savremene turske proze* (“Selections from Contemporary Turkish Prose”), *Mustafa Kemal Atatürk u jugoslovenskoj javnosti* (“On Mustafa Kemal Atatürk in the Eyes of the Yugoslav Public”), *Turski jezik u svakodnevnoj komunikaciji* (“The Turkish Language in Everyday Communication”), *Sa turskim u svet* (“With Turkish Around the World”), *Türkçe – Sırpça Sözlük* (“Turkish-Serbian Dictionary”) (Co-authorship), *Srpsko-turski rečnik* (“Serbian – Turkish Dictionary”), *Progonjeni islam* (“The Persecuted Islam”) (Co-authorship), *Udžbenik savremenog turskog jezika* (“A Textbook of Contemporary Turkish Language”), co-authored with Dr. Erman Artun, a large number of translations of Turkish literary works – a collection of short stories *Reci joj da je volim* (“Tell Her That I Love Her” – *Ona Sevdigimi Söyle* by Tarık Dursun K.), the novels *Ljubav* (“Love” – *Aşk* by Elif Şafak), *Nevini* (“The Innocents” – *Masumlar* by Burhan Sönmez), *Dnevnik jedne ljubavi Grmuša* (“The Gold Crest” – *Çalikuşu* by Reşat Nuri Güntekin), as well as numerous short stories and poems written by contemporary Turkish writers that were published in various periodicals.

After Mirjana Teodosijević for the position of Teaching Assistant for Turkish language was taken by Vojna Stojisavljević and Pajo Avirović, who left the faculty after a few years. Apart from her contribution to modernization, with the introduction of new courses, Prof. Teodosijević also contributed to the training of younger generations of scholars among whom are: Ksenija Aykut, Mirjana Marinković, Saša Bradasević, Tarık Duran and Smiljana Ristić Bojanić.

Associate Professor Ksenija Aykut (Ksenija Golubović Brejk) began working as a Teaching Assistant for Turkish Language and Literature in 1999. She defended her master’s degree thesis *Sintaksičke funkcije participa na –dik i –(y)acak u turskom jeziku i njihovi ekvivalenti u srpskom jeziku* (“The Syntactical Functions of the Participle –dik and–(y)acak in the Turkish Language and their Equivalents in the Serbian Language”) in 2000. Her doctoral dissertation, entitled *Priroda i funkcije postpozicija u turskom jeziku* (“The Nature and Function of Postpositions in the Turkish Language”) was defended in 2006. She has published the following books used for Faculty courses: *Proparticipi – ključ turske sintakse* (“Proparticiples – the Key to Turkish Syntax”), *Turske postpozicije – „reči bez značenja”* (“Turkish Postpositions – Words Without Meaning”), *Kontrastiranje turskog i srpskog jezika* (“Contrastive Analyses of Turkish and Serbian Languages”) and *Turski folklor* (“Turkish Folklore”). Ksenija Aykut has published a number of scientific works and has prepared and

translated to Serbian language a selection of the creative works of Turkish Story-tellers *Turska priča* (“Turkish Story-telling”).

Assistant Professor Saša Bradašević began working as a Teaching Assistant for Turkish Language and Literature in 2002. He obtained his master’s degree in 2007 at the Faculty of Philology, Belgrade University, having defended his thesis on the topic of *Narativ i narativni sufiks –miş u savremenom turskom jeziku* (“Narrative and the Narrative Suffix *-miş* in the Contemporary Turkish Language”). In 2014 he defended his doctoral dissertation on the topic *Sintaksa i semantika veznika u savremenom turskom jeziku* (“The Syntax and Semantics of Connectives in Contemporary Turkish Language”). Saša Bradašević lectures in Contemporary Turkish Language in all four years of Turkish studies. In addition to his teaching work, he has translated the following novels from Turkish to Serbian: *Kad lišće pada* (“The Fall of Leaves” – *Yaprak Dökümü* by Reşat Nuri Güntekin), *Sultan Sulejman i Hurem* (“Suleiman the Magnificent and Hurrem Sultan” – *Muhteşem Süleyman ve Hürem Sultan* by Erhan Afyoncu), *Kuća mog oca* (“My Father’s House” – *Baba Evi* by Orhan Kemal), as well as a book of poems *Pred ljubavlju* (“Facing Love” – *Sevginin Önünde* by Ataol Behramoğlu).

Teaching Assistant Tarık Duran, PhD was appointed as a contractual lector for the Turkish language in the academic year of 2006/2007 at the Department of Oriental Studies, and in 2016 he was appointed Teaching Assistant for Turkish language. He gained his master’s degree in 2009 having defended his study on the theme of *Prezimana turskog porekla u Srbiji* (“Surnames of Turkish Origin in Serbia”). His doctoral dissertation entitled *Toponimi turskog porekla u Srbiji* (“Toponyms of Turkish Origin in Serbia”) was defended in 2018. Tarık Duran teaches classes in Turkish language for students of the First, Second, Third and Fourth years. As a Turkish native speaker who learned Serbian he also works as an interpreter and as a Turkish language editor of texts translated from Serbian into Turkish.

Smiljana Ristić Bojanić, MA was elected Teaching Assistant for Turkish language and Literature in 2012. She gained her master’s degree by defending her master’s thesis in 2010 on the topic of *Članci prof. dr Hamze Zulfikara u časopisu “Türk Dili”* (“The Articles of Professor Hamza Zulfikar in the periodical *Türk Dili*”). After obtaining her master’s degree, she enrolled for doctoral studies at the Faculty of Philology (Module: Language). The Scientific Teaching Council of the Faculty of Philology positively evaluated her application and accepted her doctoral dissertation on the theme of „The Study of Diminution in Turkish Based on the Aspects of Word-Formation, Semantics and Pragmatics”. She teaches classes in the subject Turkish Language for students of the

First, Third and Fourth years at the Faculty. Smiljana Ristić Bojanić also translates texts from Serbian into Turkish.

In 2014, Ljiljana Čolić, PhD, Mirjana Marinković, PhD, and Radosav Mikić, M.A., separated a number of the subjects related to Ottoman studies and Turkish literature into a separate Ottoman Studies Section, which has unfortunately resulted in the splitting of the uniform Turkish Studies curriculum.

Although the engagement of lecturers from Turkey was envisaged from the foundation of Turkish Studies in Belgrade, this did not happen until the arrival of Mehmet Aydın in 1965. In the late 1960s we were joined briefly by Şükrü Kurgan a professor of Turkish language and literature who was in Belgrade as a member of the Turkish Embassy and who offered his services as a lecturer. In addition to classes Mr Kurgan also lectured on the subject of folk literature. To date eighteen lecturers from the Republic of Turkey have worked at the Department for Oriental Studies, and their assistance in the teaching of the spoken Turkish language has been invaluable, especially before the advent of the computer and internet era. The following individuals were lecturers who contributed greatly to the development of Turkish Language studies:

1. Mehmet Aydın (1965–1968)
2. Kaya Can (1968–1970)
3. Akif Öncül (1971–1975)
4. Aydın Oy (1976–1980)
5. Mustafa İsen (1981–1983)
6. Erman Artun (1984–1987)
7. Bünyemin Çağlayan (1987–1992)
8. Semiha Akkan (1994–1995)
9. Hüseyin Kavalcı (1996–1999)
10. Keriman Erdiñç (1999–2004)
11. Ayhan Öktem (2004–2006)
12. Tarık Duran (2006–2016)
13. Ahmet Küçüktekeli (2007–2008)
14. Keziban Keleş (2008–2009)
15. Enver Orhan (2008–2013)
16. Mustafa Durdu (2014, 6 months)
17. Hakan Yalap (2014–2015, 8 months)
18. Emine Güler (2015–2018)

Our present Lecturer of Turkish language, Dr. Gürkan Yavaş (2018–), is continuing the tradition of his predecessors, teaching students to master the Turkish language successfully. Many of our former lecturers, on their return to Turkey, became reputable professors at Turkish universi-

ties (Mustafa İsen, Erman Artun, Bünyamin Çağlayan), and one of them Mustafa İsen is currently serving as a senior official in the Government of Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

The Department has a very rich library of Turkish, Arabic and Persian books, as well as valuable Oriental Studies works in the Serbian, English, French, Russian and German languages. The librarians employed there from 1948 onwards were Marija Djukanović, Zorka Pantelić, Katarina Ašković, Anđelka Mitrović and Katarina Jaić. In the Library of the Department of Oriental Studies, the collection of which is expertly managed and processed by the librarians Snežana Genčić and Jelena Anić, there are over 4500 Turkish titles and more than 300 periodicals. The collection of literary works has been constantly updated since 1959 with regular purchases of the most recently published books and through donations from Turkey.

The Government of Turkey regularly and promptly offered grants to students for Turkish language courses at the prestigious TÖMER School from 1988 until 2011. After the establishment of the Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities (YTB) on April 6, 2010, this organization took on the task of coordinating activities aimed at Turks living abroad, related communities and the Türkiye Scholarship Program. Since the Türkiye Scholarship Program was put into practice in 2012, students of Turkish language can no longer get a fixed number of scholarships as they did every year before that, but, like everybody else, can only apply for scholarships in application periods which are announced on the website of the Presidency and over social media channels. Unfortunately, since this new system came into effect, none of our students have received scholarships or grants for Turkish Language Summer Courses.

The Department of Oriental Studies has been located in an old building in Knez Mihajlova Street No. 40 since the very founding of the Faculty of Philology in 1960. During its restoration (1973–1979) it was temporarily relocated first to the building of the present-day Library of Belgrade City (Knez Mihajlova Street No. 56) and then on the first-floor of the present-day building of the Heritage Home (Knez Mihajlova Street No. 46), the ground floor of which houses the traditional cuisine restaurant “Kolarac”.

The current Secretary of the Department of Oriental Studies is Tanja Kojić, M.A. Her predecessors were Radojka (Rada) Popović, Mirjana Teodosijević (for four years), Ljiljana Čolić (for eight years), Maja Trifunović Kaluđerović, Milica Ivančević and Marija Obrenović.

Substantial changes to the education system in Serbian universities were implemented in the academic year 2006/2007, after the adop-

tion of the Bologna Declaration, affecting the teaching curricula and programs of the Faculty of Philology. Being the only professors at the time, Mirjana Teodosijević and Ksenija Aykut actively participated in the preparation of new educational programs in accordance with the Bologna Declaration, and they have been lecturing since then within the framework of the study program entitled "Language, Literature, Culture" that began in 2007/2008 (the Programs for the Ottoman Language and Turkish Literature were prepared in that period by Ljiljana Čolić and Mirjana Marinković). It was then that Mirjana Teodosijević introduced the course subject Contemporary Turkish Language for the First, Third and Fourth Years of study, in addition to Turkish Language, and the following elective courses for all students of the Faculty for graduate studies: Introduction to Turkology, Introduction to Turkish Loan Words in the Serbian Language and a two-year course of Modern Turkish; For the Master Degree Studies, she introduced the subjects of Turkish Loan Words in the Serbian Language, and The Linguistic Purism Movement in the Turkish Language; for Doctoral Studies, the subjects: Turkish Modernism and The Morpho-syntax of the Turkish Language. Ksenija Aykut introduced the following new courses: Turkish Folklore for the First year, Contemporary Turkish Language for the Second year of faculty studies, Contrastive Analysis of the Turkish Language and Serbian Language for the Third and Fourth year study courses of undergraduate studies. Within the Master Degree Studies, Ksenija Aykut lectures Traditional and Contemporary Turkish Art, Cultural-linguistic aspects of Turkish Onomastics and The Dialectology of the Turkish Language 2 within the Doctoral Studies program.

A number of other significant changes were introduced after 2007 when the faculty curriculum and programs were reorganized in accordance with the Declaration of Bologna. All existing subjects were to become single-semester subjects (for example: Turkish Language 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8); many new subjects were introduced (Contemporary Turkish Language 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8), Introduction to Turkology, Introduction to Turkish Loanwords in the Serbian Language, Turkish Folklore, Contrastive Analysis of the Turkish and Serbian Language, Introduction to Ottoman Turkish Language, The History of the Ottoman Empire, and The Cultural History of the Turks. These new subjects will greatly extend the possibilities of employment for Turkologists who have graduated, owing to their acquired knowledge and skills. Up until the year 2017/2018, approximately 30 to 40 students were enrolled every year. Due to the great interest expressed for studying Turkish, the enrollment quota was increased for the first time to 60 students per year in the school year of 2018/2019. Apart from full-time students, many students

from the other Departments eagerly choose elective courses from the Turkish Language Group. Special interest has been manifest for the subjects Introduction to Turkology and Contemporary Turkish Language (two years) and Turkish Folklore. To illustrate this, we are including a chart showing the number of students from other Departments who sat examinations for one or other of the elective course subjects at the Basic and Master Studies from which one can easily conclude that substantial interest was shown for the above-mentioned subjects.¹⁹

Subjects	2007	2009	2014
Introduction to Turkology	511	1302	523
Turkish Folklore	149	224	14
Contemporary Turkish as an elective course 1		243	112
Contemporary Turkish as an elective course 2		208	79
Contemporary Turkish as an elective course 3		147	41
Contemporary Turkish as an elective course 4		133	18
Turkish Loanwords in Serbian (master)		165	191

From the academic year 1946/47 to that of 2009/10, a total of 521 students graduated within the Groups for Turkish Language and Oriental Philology (Turkish and Arabic were studied for four years). During the past six years about 200 more students graduated Turkish language (in the new Bologna programs Oriental Philology was rescinded).

On the occasion of the celebration of the Seventieth Anniversary of the Department in 1996, the then Turkish Ambassador, Dr. Ali Engin Oba donated a television set and satellite dish antenna to the Department. On April 13, 2016 there was a further major donation to the Faculty of Philology from the Turkish Agency for Cooperation and Coordination (TIKA), mediated by the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey, which included computer equipment (computers, laptops, and barcode readers) not only for teachers and collaborators that have participated in the teaching of the Turkish language, but also to all the other libraries of the Faculty of Philology. The greatest donation, however, for which we are deeply honored, and extremely grateful, is, of course, the renovation of the Library of the Department of Oriental Studies, which was officially reopened on December 8, 2016, on the occasion of the opening

¹⁹ The data was obtained from the Student Administrative Body of the Faculty.

of the International Scientific Conference “Oriental Studies. Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow”.

For almost ten years now, through the TEDA program, Turkey has been financing the translation and printing of literary works into the Serbian language, which has enabled Serbian readers to become better acquainted with the significant body of works of modern Turkish literature. The screening of numerous Turkish commercial series has led to an increase in the number of those wishing to learn the Turkish language. These series have undoubtedly brought about a deeper insight into the Turkish people and their culture, changing the perception of Turks, altering the collective consciousness and helping to dispel many of the existing negative stereotypes. According to the Turkish “Hürriyet” daily newspaper, Turkish TV series also serve as support for the “soft influence” of Turkish diplomacy. Even the New York Times had written that Turkish television series were in fact “the secret means of successful Turkish diplomatic relations”.

The existence of good political and economic relations with the Republic of Turkey is of great importance for both of our countries and peoples. Increased interest in Turkey as a tourist destination and the contemporary perception of Turkish culture, stemming from the existing similarities of our two cultures, as well as the possibilities for employment in the numerous Turkish companies that have been opening up in Serbia in recent years, are only some of the additional reasons why so many young people are deciding to study Turkish language, Turkish literature and its culture.

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ДЕВЕДЕСЕТ ЈЕДНА ГОДИНА БЕОГРАДСКЕ ТУРКОЛОГИЈЕ

Резиме

Корени београдске туркологије као научне дисциплине сежу до 1925. године када је турски језик почео да се предаје на Филозофском факултету Универзитета у Београду, годину дана пре званичног оснивања Семинара за оријенталну филологију 17. јула 1926. године. То је разлог што се београдска туркологија може сматрати каменом темељцем, иако то још многи неће да увиде и признају, не само српске већ и југословенске оријенталистике, и правим почетком изучавања оријенталних дисциплина на академском нивоу у Србији.

У овом раду осврнули смо се на друштвено историјске прилике које су изискивале школовање познавалаца језика новоосноване Републике Турске, турског Турске, као и османлијског турског који је за нас представљао језик преко кога смо могли да дешифрирамо своју историју под турском влашћу. Посебна пажња посвећена је бившим наставницима, сарадницима и лекторима за турски језик који су својим радом утемељили и трасирали развој београдске туркологије као и садашњем наставном кадру који на темељима традиционалне туркологије предано ради на модернизовању курикулума и наставе.

Овај рад даље пружа увид у планове и програме настале у складу са Болоњском декларацијом као и табеларни преглед похађања одређених изборних предмета са Групе за турски језик, књижевност и културу како би се документовала велика заинтересованост студената са других група Факултета за турколошке предмете. Аутор у раду издваја најважније донације турске владе Филолошком факултету, с посебном освртом на донацију Турске агенције за сарадњу и развој (ТІКА) која је према највишим стандардима реновирала библиотеку Катедре за оријенталистику и донирала велики број компјутера, лаптопова, штампача и бар код штампача за библиотеке свих катедара Филолошког факултета.

Кључне речи: турски језик, београдска туркологија, Одсек за оријенталистику, Група за турски језик, књижевност и културу, балкански турколози.