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TERMINOLOGICAL PROBLEMS IN THE FIELD OF SOCIOLECTS

A researcher who undertakes a thorough examination of the works in the field of the European social dialects, will be struck by the existing great terminological heterogeneity. Many expressions, which belong to national traditions and cultures, are used in conjunction with internationally established scientific terms. Moreover, as soon as we start talking about sociolects (slang, jargon or argot) the cultural and linguistic polysemy of these terms immediately arises thus building a very complex and diverse picture.

Such complexity and diversity exist in all countries in Europe and in the United States, and they are quite difficult to overcome because of numerous extralinguistic factors. Specialists are very often faced with obsolete and eccentric concepts and ideas. Scientific articles are confronted with superficial journalistic materials and non-professional explanations the main goal of which is not the accuracy but rather the emotional effect on the readers.

For all these reasons we find extremely important to establish some order in this terminological chaos. The proposed paper will try to draw a reliable picture where the European social dialects will be defined according to their linguistic and social characteristics. Several countries representing different linguistic families and schools will be thoroughly analyzed – Great Britain, France, Russia, Bulgaria and Serbia. Many traditional terms will be examined and compared with the international linguistic ones and an explicatory table will be drawn in order to illustrate the problems.

The final objective of the paper is to develop a clear structure and a common terminological system for all European sociolects where each national slang, jargon, argot or special language can find its appropriate place.