Complementation strategies with the verb ‘know’ in Balkan Turkish compared to Standard Turkish and Macedonian

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Standard Macedonian and Standard Turkish differ greatly in how they link clausal complements to verba dicendi et sentiendi: Macedonian uses finite verb forms and free complementizers in complement clauses, while Standard Turkish generally prefers verbal nouns, i.e. bound non-finite verb forms. Both languages possess means to encode the opposition [±factual]. The Western Rumelian Turkish (WRT) dialects in Macedonia use finite complementation strategies much more frequently than ST, although non-finite strategies occur as well in certain settings.

The paper will investigate and compare the complementation strategies attested with the corresponding equivalents for the verb ‘know’ in Slavic and in the Turkish varieties spoken in Macedonia. The focus will be on how the semantic polysemy of the verb in the language varieties examined affects the CC patterns. Thus in the course of the paper we discuss semantic issues related to the opposition [±factual] and to shades of meaning within the non-factual domain (e.g. the development to know → to be able). We address the question to which degree language contact, internal developments and universal tendencies have contributed to the emergence of the picture in WRT and demonstrate how structures in a language can adjust to reflect features of very different structures of contact languages.