

Title: Alive and well in the Balkans: The Continuing Life of Sprachbund Phenomena  
Author: Victor Friedman, University of Chicago

A common theme in current studies of Balkan linguistics is that the demise of the Ottoman Empire and the rise of nation-states and borders of varying degrees of impermeability, together with the rise of English as the lingua franca of the Balkans, as in many other places, have rendered the Balkan Sprachbund an artifact of history. In this paper, based on recent research in the Republic of Macedonia, I shall argue that not only is the Sprachbund itself alive and well in Macedonia, but even the directions of spread of new phenomena recapitulate older ones. I shall do so by comparing the spread of the 'have' perfect, on the one hand, and the spread of double prepositions, on the other, in Macedonian. Both originate in the Ohrid region, both involve an Aromanian substratum, and both are connected with competition between local identity and larger structures of prestige. The former, however, occurred in the early modern period, whereas the latter is taking place today.