

*Andrii Yarovyi*  
*O.P. Georgiieva, research supervisor*  
*SIHE «Kryvyi Rih National University»*

## **CHURCH SLAVONIC LANGUAGE AS LANGUAGE OF OUR ANCESTORS**

Church Slavonic language is the language of cultural and historical region of Central and Eastern Europe. For centuries, it played the same role as the medieval Latin for the nations of Western Europe, it was the language of the Church, education and training, of literature and science; but longer and fuller than Latin, Church Slavonic (Slavic) language served as the language for administrating the state, for international correspondence and documentation. The modern Church Slavonic is a means of modern Orthodox education and training, the language of our modern church.

Old Slavonic language has been introduced in Slavic philology, comparative and historical grammar of Slavic languages. Slavonic language has been well studied through the efforts of the international community of scientists.

The Church Slavonic language is a special sphere of spiritual life with special spiritual experiences, attitudes, concepts and mental images that do not exist in the secular sphere. The language of the Church has words and concepts that are remote to people who stay out of it, such as "salvation, mercy, repentance, contrition of the heart, penance, sin, trespasses, grace, the kingdom of God." In this spiritual sphere one can enter only with the soul, mastering the language of texts and theological concepts, thus, to learn that language in divinely sense. But this is impossible without mastering the language in everyday terms, without mastering its grammar and vocabulary.

Academician A.H. Vostokov offered to distinguish three periods in the history of the Church Slavonic language:

1. The ancient one (IX-XIII century). This period is well understood by the international scientific community. The ancient monuments of Slavic literature, summarizing dictionaries and grammar have been edited and carefully studied. There are numerous high school guides of Old Church Slavonic (Old Slavonic) language. This

language is sometimes called Old Bulgarian, thus emphasizing that Church Slavonic language of Bulgarian Slavs from Thessalonica city, the birthplace of Cyril and Methodius, was the basis for the living national language.

2. Medieval period covers the XIV-XVII century. The rapid development of Church literature on the vast territory from Novgorod to Lviv, from Vladimir to Serbia and Bulgaria, from Iasi (Moldavia) to Vilnius and Kyiv led to the centrifugal tendencies, to the emergence of local varieties, "recension" of Church Slavonic language. By the end of this period, there had appeared grammars and dictionaries, printing had begun to develop. There had been different textual, vocabulary and grammar manuals.

3. Third period is synodal (1721-1917) which was the era of co-existence and development of the Church Slavonic language, stabilization of its rules, numerous publications. Following the norms of Church Slavonic modern literary language of the Serbs and Bulgarians, Ukrainian, Belarusian and Russian have been formed. Church Slavonic Philology of this period has not been studied, though many works of liturgical theology for church service have been written.

St. Vladimir Christianizer clearly conceived the process of Christianization as a dual one including schools foundation. Today's task of chatechization cannot be solved without creating a mass study of Church Slavonic language as an essential tool for churching Orthodox Christians without purposeful, systematic training of mentors of Church Slavonic.