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putatively used as the basis for his own gospel, and then to trace the intellectual shift from source to present gospel—in short, to sharpen our understanding of John as “redactor” of older material, and so of his own message.

The manuscript is nearing completion and will be ready for publication shortly.

VICTOR A. FRIEDMAN, University of North Carolina

Grant No. 8207—Penrose Fund (1978), \$900. Verbal categories in the languages of the Balkans.

The grantee visited Sofia, Bulgaria and Prishtina, Yugoslavia to collect data on Bulgarian and Albanian verbal categories as part of a larger project, which will ultimately result in a monograph comparing verbal categories of the languages of the Balkans, the Caucasus, and Central Asia.

In Bulgaria, the grantee consulted with members of the Academy of Sciences and engaged in conversations with other educated Bulgarians to determine the extent to which the opposition perfect/reported (the latter being distinguished by omission of the auxiliary in the third person) is consistently observed in spoken literary Bulgarian. He also worked in Varna, in Eastern Bulgaria, where this opposition is said to be stronger. He has concluded that the omission is not a grammatical marker of reported speech but a stylistic device similar to the same phenomenon in Serbo-Croatian and West Macedonian dialects.

In Yugoslavia, the grantee consulted and conversed with Albanians teaching at the Universities of Prishtina and Skopje and with Shaban Demiraj of the University of Tirana. The grantee's most salient conclusions are the following: (1) While the perfect is becoming an unmarked past similar to the French compound past, this is true only for some speakers. (2) The imperfect cannot be used with time-limiting adverbs and for noncoordinated events, thus differing from the Balkan Slavic imperfect. (3) The two types of pluperfect, one using an aorist auxiliary, the other an imperfect, may be distinguished by status rather than aspect, the imperfect being preferred for reported events, the aorist for witnessed. (4) The admirative (a series based on an inverted perfect) cannot be used in subordination to *mendoj* “I think,” although it can be used for irony and report as well as surprise. This may indicate that it is limited to events associated with direct or indirect observation. (5) The past admirative of “be” and “have” can be used to express present surprise in exactly the same manner as the use of the Balkan Slavic past indefinite, which has previously been compared to the Albanian present admirative.

FRIEDMAN, V. A. 1979. “Influence vs. Convergence in Areal Phenomena.” *Bulletin of the Southeastern Conference on Linguistics (SECOL)*, 3,1: pp. 1-8.