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### PROBLEM OF DISTINCTION BETWEEN LANGUAGE AND DIALECT II – SYSTEMIC-STRUCTURAL CRITERION AND ITS OPPOSING VIEWS

The article deals with a rather significant issue of modern linguistics – a distinction between a language and a dialect. The author discusses a systemic-structural criterion the main principles of which were established by such outstanding scholars of the 19<sup>th</sup>–20<sup>th</sup> centuries as *Johann Andreas Schmeller, Karl Weinhold, George Abraham Grierson, Ramón Menéndez Pidal, Clemente Merlo, etc.*

The author mentions that modern linguistics witnesses quite many facts that challenge a systemic-structural criterion applied for making a distinction between a language and a dialect. The scholars who expressed preference for the systemic-structural criterion used for distinction purposes, considered the above-mentioned challenging facts as mere exceptions. Afterwards, it has been confirmed that a language-dialect division based on the systemic-structural criterion does not represent a universal method and is mostly as arguable as the rest of the criteria.