

DON'T EAT YOUR WORDS!

THE LANGUAGES OF FOOD



Special Issue of *Ezikov svyat – Orbis Linguarum*

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At the intersection of nature and culture, of biological and social need, food plays on emotional, anthropological, sociological, and political triggers that are conveyed by language(s) through rhetorical and visual strategies.

‘Language’ is intended here in its broadest sense, including not only its literal meaning, but also languages in the plural as different tongues, as socio-cultural and psychological phenomena, and as constructs shaped within political discourse.

Food rhetoric, as enacted through language, is the practice of using food as a persuasive, meaning-making tool. It reflects culture, history, and emotion, shapes identities and communities, and fulfils both practical needs and personal desires. Yet, food is also a powerful means for political agendas when it is weaponised to appeal and nurture divisive identity discourses, as in gastronationalism. Hence, food and food system – how food is produced, shared, consumed, marketed, and mobilised – carry ecological, economic, social, and political impacts.

In our view, language is more than just speech. It includes all the different ways humans convey meaning as they rarely rely on only one form of expression. Instead, meaning is created through a combination of different elements working together. Therefore, a multimodal perspective is also

welcome, as it highlights how communication unfolds across multiple channels, shaping how people understand one another and the world around them.

For this CfP, we welcome interdisciplinary contributions that are related to these themes:

- Food, language, and populism: us vs them; gastronationalism
- Food, language, and nostalgia: playing on emotions
- Food, language, and culture: anthropological perspectives
- Food, language, and tradition: appropriation and resignification
- Food, language, and marketing/advertising (playing on emotions, creating desires, belonging, etc.)
- Food, language, power, and inequality
- Food, migration, and language
- Food, language, and gender
- Language(s) of food in the traditional and social media
- Food, language, and the arts, street art, etc.
- Food, language, class, and politics
- The language of digital foodscape & digital kitchen
- Feminist food aesthetic/politics and language
- Digital food literacy
- Food, language, and religion
- Eating taboos in languages and cultures
- Urban food (e.g., riders), its language manifestations and exploitation

Information about submission format and expected schedule

- Deadline for Abstracts: end of April 2026
- Length of Abstracts: up to 300 words without references
- Date of acceptance of Abstracts: 10 May 2026
- Full manuscripts: 15 standard pages; Times New Roman, font 11 (refer to the [technical guidelines of the Journal](#))
- Deadline: 1 September 2026
- Published: July 2027 (Issue 25.2)

We welcome contributions in English, German, French, and all Slavic languages.

Contacts

Please send your submissions to ezikovsvyat@swu.bg

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About the Journal

Ezиков Svyat – Orbis Linguarum (ISSN 1312-0484 / eISSN 2603-4026) is an open-access journal with no publication fee and is included in databases such as ERIH+, SCOPUS, MLA, EBSCO, DOAJ, Index Copernicus, CEEOL, etc. It publishes materials in the fields of linguistics, literary studies, cultural studies, media studies, methodology of language and literature teaching. All papers submitted to the journal are double-blind peer-reviewed.