

**2018, No 1–2, 119–129**

KRASSIMIRA PETROVA

Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski

✉ krapetrova@slav.uni-sofia.bg

### **PSYCHOLINGUISTIC MECHANISMS FOR WORD IDENTIFICATION IN CROSSWORDS**

#### *Abstract*

The article discusses various psycholinguistics (semantic, cognitive, emotional-affective) mechanisms of word identification in crosswords in Bulgarian, Russian, and English as one of the types of language play. Different approaches and levels of access to the associative-verbal network of a certain lexical item are used in different subgenres of crossword puzzles: by activating different types of hierarchical semantic relationships, context reconstruction, references to precedent names, texts and background knowledge, minimization of encyclopedic knowledge, provoking creativity for language games, etc. It is an attempt to discover some ethno-, psycho-, and socio-cultural aspects of crosswords in a comparative approach. Their possible application in linguodidactics and their function as means for entertainment or brain training are pointed out.

*Keywords:* psycholinguistics, semantics, crosswords, native and foreign language teaching