

**DIALECTOLOGICAL TOURISM: THE MODELS OF MOTIVATION
REGARDING THE LEXIS OF HEAD AREA
OF THE NORTHERN SAMOGITIANS**

In terms of how we humans perceive our surrounding world and communicate about it, the human body is unique. We perceive other human bodies mainly through sight and feeling, but every human has also got a body of his own, and it is perceived in a radically different way. Humans use their bodies every day for vitally important tasks. Therefore every human culture and language needs to be able to talk about the body and categorize it. If we make the assumption that all humans have the same perceptual capabilities and essentially the same bodies, cross-linguistic differences in the categorization of the body would suggest a cultural influence on how we conceptualize and describe our surrounding world.

The presentation is intended to determine motivational models of somatonyms and cognitive principles regarding their creation in one subdialect, Northern Samogitians in particular. Samogitians (Lith. *žemaičiai*) are one of the Lithuanian ethnic groups who have inhabited the region of Samogitia in Western Lithuania and who speak Samogitian dialects. The so called historical memory of this region distinguishes the ethnographic region of Samogitia from other regions by strongly expressed ethnographic identity and by sense of its unity.

For this research, a subgroup of names for head area (SHA) has been chosen which encompasses the names of head, face, their internal or external organs, parts and areas (for example, head, forehead, brain). The research is intended to answer these questions: 1) What is the scope and composition of SHA? 2) What is the onomasiological system of this thematic subgroup? On the basis of various lexicographical sources and their verification in the viable subdialect in question, it has been found out that SHA of Northern Samogitians comprises nearly 300 lexemes. They share various systemic semantic relationships whose analysis enables to discern particular features of a “naive” body categorization. The major part of somatonyms used in the subdialect of Northern Samogitians belongs to the layer of motivated lexis which has derived locally. The

onomasiological system of SHA lexemes is comprised of several types of motivational models: the descriptive motivational model includes names whose lexical motivators explicitly define external or internal qualities of a particular part of the body as well as the sounds it produces, the locative motivational model encompasses somatonyms which are motivated by the feature of location of the body part. The comparative motivational model is based on similarity criterion and the functional motivational model refers to the character of an action which is performed by a specified part of the body.