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NOSTRATIC REFLEXES IN LITHUANIAN

The Nostratic Linguistics became a separate independent branch of knowledge, because of *the problem of mass language relationship* (A. Bomhard, J. Greenberg, A. Dolgopolsky, G. and S. Starostin, S. Burlak et al.). Today it draws scholars' attention to the search for new solutions based on the results achieved in those areas of scientific knowledge that consider the issues of the origin of a human-being (O. Zubov) in general and the human language in particular (scholars working in the spheres of *anthropology* (L. Campbell, O. M. Pearson), *archeology* (W. Jungers, I. Schultz), *genogeography* (O. V. Balanovska, O. P. Balanovsky), *culturology* (W. Jungers, I. Schultz), etc.

Taking into account the phonological, morphonological and semantic data material for at least 6 language families (V. M. Illich-Svitych), nowadays Nostratic Linguistics (I. Rassokha et al.) tries, on the one hand, to substantiate different degrees of relationship (J. Baudouin de Courtenay), i.e. to establish the manifestation coefficient of every type of degree of relationship, and, on the other hand, to put forward arguments in favor of the monogenesis theory. By the way, the origins of the latter go back to the works of A. Trombetti, the Italian neolinguist, and other scholars, in particular in Ukraine, the USA, who suggested the existence of genetic connections among languages belonging to different language families and who later united them into the Nostratic macrofamily.

Today different scholars try to prove the mass Nostratic languages relationship by searching a sufficient number of related morphemes going back to the Nostratic etymon that is considered to be a diachronically reconstructed phonological, morphonological and semantic proto-language complex at the level of every language family, i.e. a part of the Nostratic macrofamily. These etmons are recorded in the following sources: 1) "Nostratic Dictionary" (A. Dolgopolsky [1]), Global Lexicostatistical Database "Tower of Babel" (S. A. Starostin [2]), "A Comprehensive Introduction to Nostratic Comparative Linguistics With Special Reference To Indo-European" (A. Bomhard [3]), etc.

In order to search the versions for mass relationship proof, *the diachronic interpretation method* (O. Semerenyi [4]) was developed, which is usually based

on fixing phonological, morphonological and semantic correspondences in the genetic data material of word forms, i.e. ready-made or independently diacronically reconstructed etymons at the level of language groups, as well as at the level of language families that were involved in the establishment of the Nostratic etymon in the Nostratic languages.

In order to examplify, dictionary entry for Nostratic *wol[a] "big; to heap" taken from the Global Lexicostatistical Database "Tower of Babel" (S. A. Starostin) is to be considered.

The aim of the study is to fix the reflexes of Nostratic *wol[a] "big; to heap" in Lithuanian valíti "gather", with the reference to both Indo-European *(e)wel- (Gr hw- / ew-) "great number; to heap" and Baltic *wal-î "gather".

By combining into a single chain four chronologically different, but at first glance identical forms (Nostratic *wol[a] – Indo-European *(e)wel- (Gr hw- / ew- – Baltic *wal-î- – Lithuanian valíti) and using the morphemes identification method (V. M. Illich-Svitych) it is necessary to establish their relationship and determine its type. This procedure will be outlined with the fundamental phonological laws that are fixed in the data material of the Baltic languages, i.e. Lithuanian valíti.

The first law is *the phonetic transition* of Nostratic, Indo-European and Baltic *w- to the lip phoneme /v/ in Lithuanian valíti. It is possible under the influence of Czech (according to J. Otrębski).

The second law is *the vowels alternation*, i.e. Nostratic * -o- / Indo-European *-e- / Baltic *-a- and preserved in Lithuanian valíti as a vowel /a/.

The third law is *the prosody* that demonstrates the reflexion of the stress in the Baltic *wal-î- to Lithuanian valíti. It is explained by the existence of two accents: if an acute (Lithuanian *Tvirtaprādė*) is characterized by an increase in tone on the second syllable, then a circumflex (Lithuanian *Tvirtagālė*) is on the first in this example.

An important argument in favor of a possible relationship between the Nostratic and Lithuanian is *semantic similarity*, namely, the same archetypal archisheme. For example, the Nostratic *wol[a] "big; to heap" (archisheme – 'size' and 'accumulation') corresponds to Indo-European *(e)wel- (Gr hw- / ew-) with the meaning "great number; to heap" (archisheme – 'size' and 'accumulation') and Baltic *wal-î- with the meaning "gather" (archisheme – 'accumulation'). At the same time, the attention is drawn to the fact that the coincidence of the archetypal archisheme of 'accumulation' is recorded in

Nostratic, Indo-European and Baltic proto-forms, which is preserved in Lithuanian and represented by the meaning of "gather".

To sum it up the preliminary results of the study, there is every reason to assume that the Nostratic hypothesis is more and more promising and has more supporters than skeptics. The above-mentioned phonological, morphological and semantic parallels demonstrate the preservation in modern genetic data material of those archetypical ideas about the world that existed in the period of the Nostratic community.

1. *Dolgopolsky A*. Nostratic Dictionary. 3rd ed. McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, 2012. 3667 p.
2. Глобальная лексикостатистическая база данных "Вавилонская Башня" / С.А. Старостин, Г.С. Старостин. 2006–2013. URL: http://starling.rinet.ru
3. *Bomhard A. R*. A Comprehensive Introduction to Nostratic Comparative Linguistics: with special reference to Indo-European: in 4 Vols. 3rd ed. 2018. Vol. 1. 723 p.; Vol. 2. 533 p.; Vol. 3. 1174 p.; Vol. 4. 643 p.
4. *Szemerenyi O*. Einführung in die vergleichende Sprachwissenschaft. 3. Aufl. Darmstadt, 1989 XXV, 370 S.