

РЕЦЕНЗИИ

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TOWARDS A HISTORICAL LINGUISTIC STUDY OF BALKAN ANTHROPOGEOGRAPHY

Review of the book: Sobolev, A. N. (2013). *Osnovy lingvokulturnoi antropogeografii Balkanskogo poluostrova* [Elements of the Linguocultural Anthropogeography of the Balkan Peninsula] (Vol. 1). Saint Petersburg: Nauka; München: Verlag Otto Sagner.

The paper briefly reviews the first volume of the series, which seeks to become a comprehensive study in the anthropogeography of the Balkans. Giving a high appraisal of the work as a whole, the reviewer specifically focuses on the historical and anthropolinguistic analysis of Balkan toponymy known for its extremely heterogeneous, multistratal nature, paying special attention to the presentation of the Paleo-Balkan data. The reviewed work significantly contributes to the overall understanding of this particular complexity, though it contains some inaccuracies pointed out in the paper.

Key words: Paleo-Balkan linguistics, toponymy, etymology, anthropogeography, Balkan studies.

The monograph is the first part of what is planned to offer a fundamental anthropogeographic study of the Balkan Peninsula, based on a holistic approach to the linguistic and cultural history of the Balkans as it was and is still being shaped by external as much as internal factors. As can be deduced from its subtitle «Homo balcanicus и его пространстве» (“Homo Balcanicus and His Space”) it primarily focuses on the interaction of the humankind with the set coordinates of the physical

environment as reflected in the linguocultural makeup of the peninsula (i.e. geomorphology as the constant parameter in its constitution). Going against the trend of stereotypical representations of the cultural, linguistic, economic, and political peculiarities of the Balkan peninsula, the particular linguocultural landscape is subjected to a systematic study in respect of the various mechanisms involved in its formation. As such it represents an attempt to write a historical grammar of the distribution, as well as the physical and spiritual constitution of humankind in the peninsula, being essentially an historical anthropogeography of the vast and complex Balkan region.

The introductory part (pp. 17–67) raises several methodological issues and provides a set of research coordinates for the ensuing analysis. The author uses the principle of polygenesis as the basic theoretical frame of the analytical understanding of the diachronic linguocultural constitution of the *homo balcanicus*, at the same time identifying the priorities of the contemporary specialist in Balkan studies, who is to focus on the identification/recognition and reconstruction of the multiplicity and the layered nature of the sources and mechanisms involved in the human geomorphology of the region. Especially worth noting is a rather comprehensive list of relevant bibliography concerning Balkan studies, which is appended as a subchapter «Что читать балканисту?» (“What Should a Balkanist Read?”; pp. 42–52), while «Задачи современной балканской лингвистики» (“The Tasks of Contemporary Balkan Linguistics”; pp. 59–64) offers a useful and well thought-out list of the priorities in contemporary Balkan linguistics, which despite its tradition admittedly still eludes clear parameters of description, be it the relationship between the ancient languages of the peninsula or the exact nature of convergence in the superseding linguistic situation.

The analytical part of the monograph first analyses the constant parameters in the human geography of the peninsula («Балканский полуостров: антропогеографический обзор: Географические константы Балканского полуострова» — “The Balkan Peninsula: An Anthropogeographic Survey: Geographical Constants of the Balkans”; pp. 71ff.), i.e. the natural physical environment and its active role (sometimes ambiguous) in the shaping of the distribution of the Balkan population — be it as a source of isolation and separation, or infiltration and integration of the individual anthropogeographic units — especially in relation to the patterns of linguistic and/or cultural isoglosses (concerning the latter see pp. 90–107). To these patterns the author adds the determinants of the anthropogenic landscape, a further factor in the “anthropogeomorphology” of the Balkan Peninsula («Антропологические доминанты балканского полуострова» — “Anthropological Determinants of the Balkan Peninsula”; pp. 107ff.). Considering human-induced changes in the morphology of the environment, both the physical components of human interaction with the geophysical factors are considered as well as the inherent fluidity of humankind in the form of quasi- or mass migrations («Метанастазис и маятниковые миграции» — “Migration and Transhumance”; pp. 148–155), juxtaposed with the formation of the oldest identifiable geocultural units (see chapter «Древние племенные территории» — “Ancient Tribal Territories”; pp. 140–148). Minor attention is finally devoted to the socio-political variables in the stratigraphy («Антропологические доминанты балканского полуострова» — “Anthropological Determinants of the Balkan Peninsula”; pp. 156–162).

The concluding chapter «Балканская топонимия и топонимика» (“Balkan Toponymy”; pp. 162–177) can be rightly viewed as a synthesis, especially if one considers the well established fact that the inherent capacity of place-names is to reflect quite unreservedly the interaction of the humankind with the physical and spiritual environment — in the case

of the anthropogeographic landscape of the Balkans not surprisingly even its essentially polygenous character (cf. the subchapter «Топонимическая полионимия» — “Polyonymy”; pp. 174–177). It is a well observed phenomenon that hybridisation and polyonymy have always been characteristic of the heterogeneous toponymic landscape of the Balkan Peninsula. This is partly due to geomorphological specifics of the region (as is the case with major rivers, cf. *Danuvius* vs. *Istros* or, not mentioned by the author, *Savus* vs. *Noaros*, the name of its lower section, as reported by Strabo), but the situation more often than not reflects the very heterogeneity of the corresponding linguistic landscape, be it adstratal or due to some secondary presence of an overlaying linguistic system. Both processes have of course been increased by the frequent onymisation of domesticated borrowed lexical items and artificial and hence essentially ahistorical imposition of polyonymy for political reasons.

Given the ultimately rather minor role of the Paleo-Balkan linguistic history in the formation of the modern anthropogeographic image of the peninsula it is perhaps understandable that the monograph shows less concern in the elucidation of the oldest traceable anthropogenic structures in the corresponding physical landscape. However, certain inconsistencies and slight inaccuracies in relation to the oldest toponymic data of the Balkan region should nevertheless be pointed out. *Ἰστρος* should, of course, not be without further elucidation pronounced as a Greek name (p. 74): in this case Greek is nothing more than the conveyor of the indigenous Thracian hydronym (with regular zero reflex of the second laryngeal in a **-THR-* cluster). *Sava* can under no circumstances be a Celtic river name (Ibid.) and its alternatively proposed “Illyrian” source (Ibid.) should be amended to Old European or, better still, Pannonian. In general “Illyrian” (*sensu lato*) as a label of linguistic affiliation is incorrect and simply inapplicable as it fails to recognise the heterogeneity of the Paleo-Balkan onomastic data (which, incidentally, is one of the main focuses of this monograph). A few of the adduced Proto-Indo-European (PIE) reconstructions should be modernised (**sH₂eu-* instead of **sau-/sou-*, p. 74; PIE **drū-* on p. 99 is of course non-existent and should not be quoted as such without further comment; similarly, PIE **sru-* ‘torrent’ cannot be the direct source of the Thracian etymon underlying the river name *Struma* < **s-t-ru-mon-* < **sréu-mon-/sru-mn-*, as would appear from the use of the “less-than” (<) symbol, etc.). A Latin starting point **Colepis* for the modern-day hydronym *Kolpa* (p. 74), although duly referred back to Skok, is an unjustified reconstruction (**Kólapis* > **Kól'pale*). A Thracian *dava* ‘town’ (p. 112) will very likely be due to an oversight, seeing that its linguistic affiliation is correctly restored as Dacian on p. 140. Celtic (i.e. Gaulish) **brixs* (attested as *brix* in *Aliobrix* in *Scythia Minor*) should not be derived from **briga* (sic.) as is in fact implied by the formulation *-brix* < **briga* (p. 111) — rather, it represents a derivational homonym to the thematic feminine action noun **brigā*. The suggested meanings of **salōn* ‘river’ (p. 112) and **katar* ‘town’ (p. 113) are of course *ad hoc* and should not be quoted as an established fact, while their “Illyrian” reconstructions are of course outdated and hence irrelevant for the discussion (see above). The number of other occasional misprints in the book is negligible.

Although the book only deals with onomastics rather indirectly, the insights into the stratigraphy and the patterns of human settlement (especially mass migrations and infiltrations) in the area under investigation significantly contribute to the understanding of its toponymy and enable an analytical approach to its systematisation in relation to different chronological layers, etymology / meaning, derivational models, hybridisation, etc.

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**К ИСТОРИКО-ЛИНГВИСТИЧЕСКОМУ ИЗУЧЕНИЮ
БАЛКАНСКОЙ АНТРОПОГЕОГРАФИИ**

Рец. на кн.: *Соболев А. Н. Основы лингвокультурной антропогеографии Балканского полуострова. Т. 1 : Homo balcanicus и его пространство. — СПб. : Наука ; München : Verlag Otto Sagner, 2013. — 264 с.*

В публикации дается краткий обзор первого тома издания, претендующего на то, чтобы стать фундаментальным исследованием по антропогеографии Балкан. Давая в целом высокую оценку изданию, рецензент специально останавливается на историческом и антропологическом анализе балканской топонимии, известной своей лингвогенетической неоднородностью, при этом особое внимание уделяется палеобалканским данным. Рецензируемое исследование вносит существенный вклад в понимание сложной природы балканской топонимии, в то же время оно не свободно от некоторых неточностей, отмеченных в данной публикации.

Ключевые слова: палеобалканские языки, топонимия, этимология, антропогеография, балканистика.

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