

DEW AS SACRALISED NATURAL MOISTURE: NOMINATION AND CULTURAL SEMANTICS IN BULGARIAN TRADITION

ROBERTINO STOILOV (BULGARIA)

INSTITUTE FOR BULGARIAN LANGUAGE, BULGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
r.stoilov@ibl.bas.bg, *stoilov.robertino@gmail.com*

The article examines the atmospheric phenomenon *dew* as a culturally and linguistically conceptualised element in Bulgarian traditional culture, adopting an ethnolinguistic approach to the conceptualisation of dew as an example of the interaction between language, symbolic thought, and traditional knowledge. The analysis focuses on the linguistic nomination of the phenomenon, its lexical field, and the processes of secondary cultural semantisation through which natural moisture is transformed into a stable cultural sign. Dew is interpreted as a sacralised natural substance with a clearly defined liminal status – between night and day, heaven and earth, the natural and the supernatural. Drawing on lexicographic, ethnographic, and folkloric sources, the study traces stable semantic models that structure the folk conceptions of *dew* within the Bulgarian traditional worldview.

Keywords: dew; atmospheric phenomena; nomination; ethnolinguistics; sacralisation; folk worldview

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✉ Assist. Prof. Dr. Robertino Stoilov
Department of Ethnolinguistics

Institute for Bulgarian Language, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
52 Shipchenski prohod, Bl. 17, 1113 Sofia, Bulgaria