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REGARDING THE ORIGIN OF CERTAIN BULGARIAN SHEPHERD TERMS

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The paper deals with the origin of certain Bulgarian shepherd terms, belonging to the common Balkan and Carpathian lexis. From the perspective of Bulgarian etymology, the origin of most of these has been clarified with respect to their immediate source (Romanian, Ancient and Modern Greek, Serbo-Croatian, Hungarian, among others), i.e., the way in which they entered the language, along with their existing linguistic relationships. However, an unresolved etymological issue remains their original source and the uncovering of deeper linguistic layers in a Paleo-Balkan, Indo-European and possibly pre-Indo-European context.

Keywords: Bulgarian language; Balkan languages; etymology; shepherd terminology; Euskaro-Caucasian linguistic substrate; neolithization

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