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**THE VOCATIVES *БОЖЕ!* AND *ГОСПОДИ!* ‘GOD AND LORD!’ –  
DERIVATIVE INTERJECTIONS WITH VARYING SEMANTICS**

(Abstract)

The article examines the linguistic features of vocatives *Боже!* *Боже мой!* *Господи!* ‘*God/Lord! My Lord! My God!*’ and traces the process of their transformation into interjections. The interjections *Боже!* *Боже мой!* *Господи!* ‘*God/Lord! My Lord! My God!*’ are derived from the ritual vocative expressions *Боже!* *Боже мой!* *Господи!* originally used in prayers. Several different types of *Боже!* *Боже мой!* *Господи!* conveying a different message can be identified, four of which qualified as true interjections. The expression *Боже* (*Боже мой, Господи*) while always being used to convey a highly emotional state, also expresses various nuances linking it back to its previous uses in religious discourse.

*Keywords:* vocative, primary interjection, secondary interjection, religious discourse, delocutive derivation

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