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OLD AGE AS THE FINAL STAGE OF HUMAN LIFE

(Abstract)

This paper studies the complex of judgments attested in proverbs, that refer to *old age as the last stage of a human's life*.

In particular the study provides an analysis of the senses of the keyword *old age* and its closest synonyms drawn from different lexicographic sources, as well as the etymology of *стар* and its synonyms *дъртт* and *вехт*. The lexical group which represents the concept of *old age* in the proverbs is identified. The conceptual attributes are grouped according to the attitude towards *old age* and *old people* – positive or negative – expressed by Bulgarians. Another finding presented in the paper is that the proverbial concept of *old age* possesses gender characteristics, as well.

Judging from the proverbial material, I draw conclusions about the place and role of this concept in the Bulgarian picture of the world and infer the stereotypes expressed in the attitude of Bulgarians towards *old age* and *old people*.

Keywords: Bulgarian, proverbs, concept, picture of the world, old age, archetype

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