Bulgarian Language Journal 64 (2017), 4, 46–52
ISSN 0005-4283

THRACIAN ONOMASTICS AND THE ISSUE OF SEMANTIC MOTIVATION

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The onomastic material, being a key component of the Thracian linguistic relicts, is often subjected to etymologisation. The paper presents the idea that in view of the lack of a substantial mass of appellative lexical material from which to derive the onomastic units, and also due to the lack of sufficient data on the morphological division of many of the Thracian proper names, a serious problem exists with the semantic motivation of these etymologies. Therefore, most of them should be examined as uncertain and a small part – as probable. This should be borne in mind when they are used subsequently for identifying phonetic, morphological and – especially – historical-phonetic characteristics of the Thracian language.

Keywords: Thracian onomastics, etymology, semantics

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Published: 22 December 2017