# NAMES FOR *SHEEP, RAM, LAMB* DEPENDING ON THEIR AGE AND SEX IN SOUTH SLAVIC LANGUAGES

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Breeding of *ram* and *sheep* has been accepted in the life of peoples of Europe and Asia since ancient times. These names have been investigated by a number of Slavists. In many of these studies special attention was paid to the unity of the Slavic and the Carpathian areas in this respect (Клепикова 1974: 10, 18, 54–57).

The goal of this paper is to introduce parallels between the westernmost (Slovenian) and the easternmost (Bulgarian) parts from the southern Slavic languages. Slovenian language is known for its strong dialect segmentation, as well as the presence of many archaic features. A number of Bulgarian linguists have noted the similarities in this respect with Bulgarian (Цонев 1984, T. I: 32, 34). The comparison makes it possible to establish a modern repertoire of dialect names in southern Slavic languages. It refers to the specialized names of domestic and foreign origin, given the difference in interlanguage contacts.

The main names of *ram* and *sheep* have a common origin inherited from the antiquity and spread in different phonetic variants in several languages in Europe. In Slavic languages the names **ovьca* and **ovъnъ* are from an older form **avikā, *o̯u̯is.* According to Trubachev, in Indo-European initially the word **o̯u̯is* was used as a common generic term for the sheep. It is assumed that the name is related to the perception of thick fleece as a characteristic for the image that it creates about something "dressed" on the animal itself. (Трубачев 1960: 69–70).

In the *Slovenian Atlas for Domestic Animals* the following dialects forms are registered representing the distribution of the Slavic name *'o:u̯ca {ovca}* – kraško narečje; *o̯u̯cìę {ovca}* etc. (BADŽ 2004).

In the Bulgarian dialects the following phonetic variants are marked: *'hcạ://'uo:hca {ov'ca}* Koz; *of'ca{ov'ca}* Bač, Buk, God, D, I, K-ca, Kr, L, Med, O, Pad, R, Rž, Tr, U, Vr, Zg; Bis, Drag, Gor., Pril; Rop, Shisht., Sk, Kal, MD; *'uofc∧{ov'ca}* Frasht., Sjar., Mom, Plev., Pok, Dram., Vol., Dram.; *of'co{ov'ca}*Kam; *'ofcə {ov'ca}* J; *'uofcə {ov'ca}* Z; *of'cə {ov'ca}* Ban, Š; φcạ {ov'ca} Št; *uf'cə {ov'ca}* Gr, Rav, Ž; *uφ'ca {ov'ca}* Čer; *uφ'cə {ov'ca}* S; *φcə {ov'ca}*Sr, *fcə {ovca}; u'cə{ov'ca}* Tet, Vl; *us'cə{ov'ca}* Drg, Vin; *uf'ca {ov'ca}* Dl;

Also, the name *oven* occurs in both Slavic languages*:*

Sln.: *'o̯ven{ovenø, bakø}* – prekmursko narečje; *'o:vən{ovenø}* – banjško podnarečje; 'o:ven{ovenø} 5; *vó:vən {ovenø}//{biderø}*

FD, XXXIV, Bucureşti, 2015, p. 5–12

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Bulg.: *{o'ven} o'ven* – Buk, Rž, Tr, Vr, Zg; *o'ven'* – Med; *o'vən* – Gl; *u'ven'* – Vin.

In Slovenian, a name from the same root with the suffix *-ek* is marked. It denotes a young male animal or a big lamb – cf. question: 339. Ksi. samec? (jagnec) of BADŽ: *'o:vnek{ovnek}* – haloško narečje. In the Bulgarian dialects a derivative with suffix *-ak – ovnak* is marked, Sof. It can be assumed that the suffix is related to the model of collective nouns for animals (Стоянов 1977: 182). In this case, however, the semantics of the derivative does not express collectivity but augmentativity – it marks a positive assessment to the quality of the animal, which contributes to the abundance and welfare.

In Bulgarian language the name of Turkish origin *kočˇ* with the meaning of *ram* is also used*: {kočˇ} kočˇ* – Ban, Bač, Bis, D, Dl, Drg, God, Gr, Ž, J, L, Kal, Kam, K-ca, Kr, MD, Mom, Rav, Rop, S, Sk, Sr, Tet, U, Št, Š, Pad, Z; *kočˇ'* – Drag, O; *kʷočˇ* – Frasht., Sjar.; Plev., Dram., Vol., Dram.; Čer; *'kʷo:čˇ'* – Koz; *kʷočˇ'* – Pok.; *{'kočata} 'kočata* – Med.

The name of the offspring of *sheep* and *ram* is archaic – slav. * *agne*. Trubachev accepts its relation with the root of the word *ogьnъ* – 'fier'.

In the dialects of both languages the following dialects forms are marked:

Sln.: *'ja:ŋńe{jagnje}* – kraško narečje; *'ja:gńe {jagnje};'ja:ńe{janje}* – notranjsko narečje;

Bulg.: *{'agne} 'agn'ʌ* – Drg; *'agne* – Koz; *'agni* – Dl, Ž, S, Sr, Tet, U, Vl, Š, Št; *'a:gni* – Koz; *'egne* – Ban, K-ca; *'agni* – Tarn., Targov.; *'jagn'ę* – Kal, O; *'jagne* – Bač, Bis, Buk, D, Gl, God, I, J, K-ca, Kr, L, Med, Pad, Pril., R, Rav, Rop, Rž, Tr, Vin, Vr, Zg; *'jagnę* – Pok; 'jagn'ę – Vol., Dram.; *'jǫgn'ę* – Mom; *'jagni* – MD, Čer; *'jagn'ə* – Z; *'jegne* – Kam, Sk.

Both languages have different word-formation variants of the name. The variant with suffix *-ec* has the meaning of 'big lamb' or 'young ram'. In Bulgarian the name *agnec* is used exclusively as a stylistic tinted word and thus is associated primarily with the language of religion and literature (РРОДД 1977).

According to BADŽ in Sln. *jagnec* has a stylistically unmarked use: *'ja:nc {jagnec}* – kraško narečje; *'janc {janjec}//{kAštron}* – cerkljansko narečje; *'ja:nc {janjec}// jànjac* – notranjsko narečje as fully equivalent name with *mlad oven* (cf. also interpretation *jâgnjec* m. das männliche Lamm (Pleteršnik 2006: 352).

From the name *agne* diminutives with suffix *-ce,* with suffix *-ič, -iče, -ič* with suffix *-ček, -čko* are derived*:*

Bulg.: *'agənci* – Tet; *'jagənce* – Buk, Med, Zg; *'agnęncę* – Š, Varn, Targov, Kyust; *'jagnence* – Kr;

Sln.: *'ja:gn̯č{jagnjič}* – srednjesavinjsko narečje; *jágnič* (Bezlaj : 217);

Bulg.: *{'agniče} 'jagn'ič'ə* – Z; 'jegn'čę – Drag

Sln.: *'jǫnčk{janjček}* – cerkljansko narečje; 'jaːnčku {janjčko} – notranjsko narečje;

*já:gənčək:1 {jagenjček}* Stara Fužina, p. Srednja vas v B., ob. Bohinj – gorenjsko narečje; *á:gn'e: {jagenjček}* – gorenjsko narečje.

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In Slovenian also a derivative name is registered, which is formed with the suffix *-ica: jag'niːca:1 {jagnjica}*; *jag'niːca*, *jagˈniːca;* ('jaːgənčək):1 {/} 6, as well with suffix *-ina: agnjetina* (Gutsman, Jarnik –Bezlaj : 217).

The meaning *little lamb male* is used in Slovenian language, and the diminutives are formed by the name *oven:*

Sln.: *ov'niːček*:{ovček} – severnobelokranjsko narečje; *o̯vnìːčək: {ovniček} 'oːu̯ček:2 {ovniček}* 3; *'oːu̯ček: {ovček}* – severnobelokranjsko narečje;

In Bulgarian diminutive forms are registered with suffix *-e, -nce: ovnè* – Lom., Botevgr., Etrop., Kopr., Sof., Razl., Lozengr.; *-ce: ovnènce* – Belogr., Sof. Similar forms are registered in pl.: *ovnòvce//ovnòvci, ovnòfci* – Kul., God., Sof.

In the same way, the names of the diminutive of *sheep* with suffix – *(i)čka* meaning 'small sheep or lamb female' are derivatives:

Sln.: *u̯číːčka:1 {ovčička}* – dolenjsko narečje; *'oːu̯čka:1 {ovčka}* – kraško narečje;

Bulg.: *'hči:čka {ov'čička}* Koz; *of'čička {ov'čička}*Kr, Pad, U; *of'čička {ov'čička}*Š; *uf'čička {ov'čička}*Drag; *uf'čičkə {ov'čička}*Ž; *uφ'čičkə {ov'čička}*Št; *us'čičkə {ov'čička}*.

For some Bulgarian dialects the names with suffix *-inka: of'činka {ov'činka}; o̯f'činkʌ {ov'činka}; ufč'inka {ov'činka}; uf'činkʌ {ov'činka}; ufč'inkə {ov'činka}* are specific.

From the noun *agne* the verb *agniti (sę)* (БЕР. Т. 1: 3) is derived; **ob-agniti sę*, Sln. *(o)jágniti se* which is distributed in a number of Slavic languages.

The verb has a variant *bagni se* < *obagnya* Bulg. (Trubačev 1960: 73; БЕР. Т. 1: 24).

In Slovenian and Bulgarian the names *bagne*, *bagi* 'lamb' are marked:

Bulg.: bàgni Svisht.

Sln.: *bàːgi: {bagi}* – vzhodnodolenjsko podnarečje. It is used along the composite names: *'miːčkeno: {majčkeno jagnje}* – tolminsko narečje; *'miːčkənu: {majčkeno janjčko}* – notranjsko narečje.

In my opinion, the name *bagne* cannot be related to the verb *obagnya*, which is spread more widely in the variant *oyagnya*, but to the names of the animals *ram, sheep* type *bečka, becka, bekica*. Perhaps they are all derived from the name of the sound *be-e-e* uttered by sheep or similar interjections. These names have many examples also in Slovenian:

Sln.: *bẹ́ːca {beca}* – gorenjsko narečje, as well and *bàːca {baca}* – dolenjsko narečje; *'biːci {bici}* – podjunsko narečje;

*béːcka {becka}* – gorenjsko narečje;

*bèːgica {begica}* – dolenjsko narečje, also *bìːgica {bigica} bìːgica;*

Bulg.: *bèka, bèyka* – Belograd., Pird., Iht. – cf. *bêκa* 'bleats' – Smol., Ardin., Asenovgr., Starozag, Ukr.; *bèjkə* – Silistr., Kazanl.

Cf. also the names for *'young and//or small ram'* in Sln.:

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*bíːgəc {bigec}* – dolenjsko narečje; *'biːci {bici}* – podjunsko narečje.

The name with the suffix *-ек* can be added to this type of names*: 'baːcek {bacek}* – srednjesavinjsko narečje (def n: 338 q: Ksi. majhna ovca?), as well as *'iːcek: {icek}* – prleško narečje (№ 341, 342, 343).

Here the derivative variants formed with suffix *–ka* can also be added, which are used both as diminutive and for expressing affection to the sheep animal – cf. response to the quest. № 337:

Sln.: *'bəcke {becka}* – mežiško narečje; *béːcka {becka}* – gorenjsko narečje, and also *bàːcka {backa}* – dolenjsko narečje. Similar names with suffix *-ica* are also marked: *bèːgica {begica}* – dolenjsko narečje.

The names with a root *big-* and *bid-* constitute a specific group in Slovenian: bíːga {biga} – dolenjsko narečje; *bíːgəl {bigelj}* – dolenjsko narečje; *bíːgəc {bigec}* – dolenjsko narečje; *bìːgəlčẹ̑k {bigeljček}* – dolenjsko narečje; *bíːder {biderø}* – gorenjsko narečje; ˈbidərčẹ̑k {biderček} – severnopohorsko narečje.

With a similar phonetic form of the roots are also the names *bagel, bagelček*: *báːgẹ̑l {bagelj}* – vzhodnodolenjsko podnarečje; *bàːgẹ̑lčẹ̑k: {bageljček}* – vzhodnodolenjsko podnarečje.

In the etymological dictionaries of Slovenian, Croatian and Serbian there is no clear indication of similar forms. The following phonetically similar forms might be mentioned as having some semantic proximity: *bagláti* ‘prozjačiti, beračiti’; *baglač, baglavec* ‘berač’ (Bezlaj, I, 1976: 8, 20); *bàga* ‘nekakva konjska bolest’, *bàgljiv konj; bagalj, bagljič* ‘naviljak’; *bàgana* ‘koža jagnenica’, Turkish *bagana* ‘jagnje’, noting that the stress of this form should be *bagàna* (Skok, I, 1971: 88, 147). Forms with similar phonetic structure lead to some parallels mentioned in BER: *бàгa* ‘garden violet’ – unclear; *багаùв* ‘crippled, lame’, cf. Serbian and Croatian *bàga* ‘a disease in the leg of the horse’ (БЕР, Т. 1, 1971: 24); *багашат ‘hairy, scraggly, bushy’* (Младенов, 1951: 97). It is possible, in my opinion, that the names of *lamb {bagelj}, {bigelj}* are connected to the naming of the *coat of the Lambs*, given that Astrakhan, which is the skin of an unborn lamb, is known for its valuable furriers.

Besides the onomatopoeic names like *beca, bekica* etc. and the above mentioned uncertain parallels I am tempted to introduce here the surprisingly close relationship between the phonetic form of these names and the name *bigel* meaning ‘shepherd’, which is found in excerpts of ALE for Breton Celtic dialects cf.: *b'y̲g±l, b±g'yl {bugel}* – with explanation ‘child which leads livestock’. We can make comparison with the word *biška*. According to BER (БЕР, Т. I, 1973: 51), the name *besčia* ‘sheep’ from Ladinian (Switzerland), *biest* – ‘swine, sheep’ from Obvaldian (Switzerland) by Albanian is borrowed in Slavic languages.

As it is pointed by Trubačev, the names of animals at age of one take i.e. root ** i̯ēr-* (1960: 76–78). In Bulgarian the names formed from this root are used only to refer to *goat*. In Slovenian as well as in old Russian (1960: 77) this root was also recorded, and it refers to *sheep*. In the contemporary Slovenian material the name

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is marked without the special importance of age – cf. names with the suffix *-ec:* 337 q: Ksi. žival, ki daje volno? – *jàːrc: {jarec}* – gorenjsko narečje. More often, however, these names have differential semantics naming *a young male animal*, *a young ram:* № 341, 342, 343 Ksi. mladič?; Ksi. majhen mladič?; 343 q: Ksi. mladič m. sp.? (ovček) 'jaːrčk:1 {jarček} 6 2–4a: Poljubinj, p. Tolmin, ob. Tolmin – tolminsko narečje. Also the names with suffix *–ек* have been marked: № 343 *'jaːrčk{jarček}//{birec}* – tolminsko narečje. In Bulgarian the name *{su'kałče} su'kałče* – K-ca is used as a common name for *the animal, which still sucks*.

According to Trubachev in Slovenian the name *bînek* – 'two-year lamb' is known denoting the age of the animal. It is a loan from Romance languages. This name was not on the BADŽ. In Bulgarian we can find a name formed from base * *dvizъ* with the same meaning and with meaning 'small sheep giving birth for the first time in the second year' (Кирилова 2011: 105). It is from Slavic origin and is widespread in the southern Slavic languages (Трубачев 1960: 78; Поповски 1974: 140):

Bulg.: – with suffix *-ak*, m. rarely: *{dvi'zak} ʒvi'zak* – D, I.; with suffix *-ka*, *-arka* f. usually *{d'vizka} ž̑u'viska* – Rop; *z'viska* – K-ca, T; *z'viskʌ* – M, Vol., Dram.; *z'viskə* – S, St; *ʒ'viska* – D, DR, G, I, Kam, Koz, P, V; *ʒ'viskʌ* – Pod, Poi; *ʒ'vizkə* – B, Z; *ǯe'viskʌ* – Kom.; *ǯi'viskə* – K.; – Sof., Plev.

In Bulgarian the widespread name for a young animal without defining gender (Кирилова 2011: 122) is: *{'šile} 'šile* – D, DR, G, I, K-ca, M, P, Pl, Poi, Rop, St, T, Č; *'šil'e* – Koz; *'šil'ę* – Vol., Dram.; *'šil'ə* – Z; *'šili* – B, K, Pod, S. According to Trubachev this word comes from the Old Slavic **selětaka* - 'goat of a year' passed through Albanian (Trubachev: 78). A diminutive form is also formed: *{'šilence}*: *'šilence* – D, I; *{ši'ležence}* – Sof.; *{'šiletinka} 'šil'e'tinkʌ* – Vol., Dram.

From Slavic origin are also the names denoting 'male animal forbreeding'. These names are connected with the name of fertilization (eg. *'mərkam se* – for sheep, fertilize – Bosilegr.) – with root *mərk-* (Трубачев 1960: 81):

Sln.: *mər'kaːč*:1 {mrkač} – hor. n.;

Bulg.: *mərkalèc* – Blagoevgr., Kyust., Bosilegr., Goced.; *'mərkalče* – Strandja; *mərkàč, mərkàk* – in Macedonia (Поповски 1974: 140)

Some of these names are motivated by the qualities of the animal, which fertilizes – with root *praz-//pras-:*

Sln.: *p'raːs:1 {prasø}* – notranjsko narečje;

Bulg.: *{praz} pras* – Buk ,Vl. and also in Macedonia (Поповски 1974: 140) and also *màtorec* ' ram after the second year' Sof. (Кирилова 2011: 116)

To this type of names the Slovenian names with root *kic-* belong*: 'kicerlę {kicerle}* – slovenskogoriško n. (cf. German *kicken, kicker*).

The name *maːndəlc:{mandeljc}* – mežiško narečje (№343 q: Ksi. mladič m. sp.? (ovček) in Slovenian dialects is from Greek origin. It has a metaphorical usage in the word *mandalo* – 'latch' (БЕР, Т. 3: 642).

There exists also a specialized name for *'castrated, emasculate male animal'* with root *skop-//škop-*: Sln. *š'kopəc: {škopec}* – južnobelokr. n., which is from

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Slavic origin (80). According to the data from the Archives and from the dictionaries in Bulgarian that name is used especially for the ‘mail goats’ (БЕР Т. 6, 2002: 778). The name of Turkish origin means ‘old ram, unable to overbreed sheep’ Sof. (Кирилова 2011: 117).

Specific for Slovenian language are the names of *sheep* and *ram* formed with the root *bir-*: *'biːrc: {birec}* – tolminsko narečje; *'båk:1 {birkeči bakø}* – prekmursko narečje;

*'birka: {birka}6–77 'birka, 6–78 'birkå; birke:1 {birka} – prekmursko narečje; 'maːla: {mala birka} – prekmursko narečje; birkå{mala birka}– prekmursko narečje;*

*'birkica:1 {mala birkica} – prekmursko narečje.*

This name is directly related to names in Romance languages, such as **u̯ers-*, lat. *vervex* ‘ram’, French, *brebis*, *bera* 'sheep', French dial. *berri* ‘ram’, Italian dial. *berro* ‘ram’. It is widespread in Central Europe but according to Trubachev is also related to the Russian *баран*, Greek *βάριον*, *εἶρος* ‘wool’ (1960: 75, 76). According to G. Klepikova the name *birka* is typical “karpatizam”. It is echoic (onomatopoeic) and its semantics is related to the names of high-quality sheep wool (1974: 54). It is likely that it reflects the ancient contacts of the peoples of Europe and Asia, spread from East to West. The same applies to the name braf, brava, bravka < i. e. **bhorwo-s* ‘castrated beast’ (БЕР, Т. 1 1971: 72): Sln.: *brà:u̯ka* [*'oːu̯ca*], *b'raːu̯ka;* b'raːu̯sku me'su; Bulg. *braf, brava* – Rupian dialect., although usually the name is used generically for *small livestock – sheep, ram, lamb* (Кирилова 2011: 97). The Slovenian *bar- bàːrc:{barec}* – gorenjsko narečje might be viewed as contamination between the forms with root *ber-//bir-, bar-* (cf. Russian *баран*) and *brav-*.

Specific for the Slovenian language is the name with the root *koštr-: kuštru̯ːni {koštrunø}* – vzhodnodolenjsko podnarečje; *kəšt'roːn {kAštronø}* – briško narečje; *koštrùːn {kAštrunø}* – selško narečje; 4–36 *kuštərnu̯ːca; koštrùːnčək {koštrunček}* – dolenjsko narečje; *kuštrùːnč(ə)k {koštrunček}* – vzhodnodolenjsko podn; *kᵩšt'ruon {kAštron}* – cerkljansko narečje; kəšt'roːn {kAštrunček} – tolminsko narečje; *kAštron-č-ek ( : kAštron); kəšt'roːnčk ( : kəšt'roːn)*; *kᵩšt'ruončk/kᵩšt'runčk ( : kᵩšt'ruon*, *'janc)*; 1–11 *kašt'ruončk ( : kašt'ruon)*, 5–50 *kušt'ruːnčk ( : kušt'ruːn); kaštrun-ek ( : kaštrun):* 5–59 *kašt'rüːnek ( : kašt'rüːn);* majhen konštrun-č-ek ( : koštrun): 4–39 *màːjxən koštrùːnčək ( : koštrùːn); majhen konštrun-č-ek ( : koštrunček):* 4–25 *mèːjxən koštrùːnčək ( : koštrùːnčək).* It is related to the verb *kastriren*, which has a parallel in Bulgarian ‘kastrja’ (Bezlaj, T. II, 1982: 72).

In conclusion, it can be said that the names of *sheep, ram, lamb* in Bulgarian and Slovenian reflect common ancient names typical for Slavic languages. Some of them share ancient lexical peculiarities of Central European languages with these of languages in Asia.

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## ABREVIATIONS

The full list of settlements, from which is given Bulgarian material according to the Archive of Bulgarian Dialect Dictionary see on the Site: http://bgslo.ibl.bas.bg/materials/

Ardin. – Ardinsko
Asenovgr. – Asenovgradsk
Bač – Bachevo, Razlozhko
Buk – Bukovets, Vodinsko
Belogr. – Belogradchishko
Blagoevgr. – Blagoevgradsk
Bosilegr. – Bosilegradsko
Botevgr. – Botevgradsko
D – Dobroslavtsi, Sofiisko
Goced. – Gotsedelchevsk
God. – Godechko
Etrop. – Etropolsko
I – Iskets, Sofiisko
Kazanl. – Kazanlashko
Kopr.; K-ca – Koprivshtitsa
Koz – Kozaeevo, Preslavsko
Kul. – Kulsko
Kyust. – Kyustendilsko
Lom. – Lomsko
Lozengr. – Lozengradsko
Pird. – Pirdopsko
Plev., Dram. – Plevnya, Dramsko
Razl. – Razlozhko
Rop. – Ropkata, Asenovgradsko
Shisht., Gora – Shishtavec, Gora, Albania
Silistr. – Silistrensko
Smol. – Smolyansko
Sof. – Sofijsko
Starozag – Srarozagorsko
Svisht. – Svishtovsko
Targov – Targovishko
Ukr. – Ukrayna
Varn – Varnensko
Vol., Dram. – Volak, Dramsko
Frasht., Syar. – Frashtane, Syarsko

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