SEMANTIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE NOUNS WITH MEANING 'RYE' IN THE SLAVIC LANGUAGES

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From ancient times to the present days rye (along with wheat) is always among the most widespread cereal crops grown in Europe because of its grain is prepared flour, from which bread is kneaded – the main food of the people from this region till the second half of 20 c. (ЕБ 1983: 16; 291).

That is why this plant is an important part of European and in particular of the Slavic material and spiritual culture. The picture of the fertile fields, striated by the wind and the singing harvesters is typical not only for the Bulgarian folklore and our poetry and prose but it is common in the literature of other Slavic peoples. Moreover, the heavy with grain class (wheat or rye), the sheaf or the bread are a necessary component of Bulgarian rituals. They attend at every major holiday and have a sacral function. Any encroachment against the daily bread is one of the greatest offenses, and even nowadays in Bulgaria is a common sight an old man to carefully collect bread crumbs from the table to give them to animals or eat them alone, because to discard even a crumb of bread is a sin that will bring home the poverty and misery. Testimony for this is a very popular Bulgarian proverb stating that „*Nothing is bigger than bread"*. It has a semantic equivalent in each Slavic language (comp.: *Хлеб – батюшка, вода – матушка.; Хлеб всему голова.* – Rus.; *Требам (некоме) као парче хлеба*. – Serb. etc. (Арх. ЕЛА; PCJ 2011: 1436)).

The important role of the rye in the daily bulgarian life becomes a reason for her image to be oftenly seen in the Bulgarian folklore. For example it consists in many proverbs and riddles. The Bulgarian proverb: *Не гази ли ти мечката ръжта не барай я*. /in English: *Do not tease the bear until the bear starts trampling your rye/* (Gerov 1978: 94) means that it is worth fighting a bear to keep the rye. Another Bulgarian proverb: *Житото евтиния не прави: да са живи ръжта и папура* /in English: *Wheat makes life expensive, rye and reed make it cheap/* (Gerov 1978: 94) means that rye makes life cheap and therefore easier. The Bulgarian proverb: *Дай, Боже, дъжд, да се роди ръж, да си купя мъж!* /in English: *Lord, send rain so the rye can grow and I can buy myself a husband./* (Gerov 1978: 94) means that rye is so valuable that it allows buying a man, something impossible according to the Bulgarian traditions, because usually the man pays the girls father for the right to marry her, in other words the Bulgarian

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tradition is to buy a wife. The Bulgarian riddle: *Растох, растох девойчински, поклоних се невестински, сякоха ме като роба, влякоха ме като буля, удряха ме по главата като змия. Що е то?* /in English: *I grew up like a girl, bent like a bride, they cut me like a slave, dragged me like an aunt, slammed on my head like I were a snake./* (Gerov 1978: 94) shows the main qualities of the rye – she is fragile and beautiful like young maid, bowing like a bride to the wind, but at the same time being strong, firm and reproductive.

The important place which is given to rye in everyday life and celebration of Slavic nations is crucial for the interest caused by the ways of its naming on linguistic and linguo-geographic level. This is especially true for dialect studies involving both separate vernacular speeches and vast geographical areas. The reason is the fact that it is an old basic lexis from the basic vocabulary of each of Slavic languages which names an ancient entity in which root vowel (when it comes to the lexeme *rye*) are clearly distinguished advocates of Old Bulgarian Ъ in a strong position under emphasis in a language or a dialect. Because of this St. Stoikov includes the word *rye* to the mandatory vocabulary to be collected (Stojkov 1969a: 32–33; Stojkov 1969b: 36; Stojkov etc. 1971: 10) in the study of Bulgarian territorial speeches to determine their linguistic specificity.

In most Slavic languages the lexeme indicating rye is not synonymous, but as the object it denotes is specific and clear, all its meanings are directly related to the plant. I.e. in this case it is about a relatively narrow semantic volume of the name, which usually means simultaneously the annual herbaceous cereal Secale cereale, its grains, and the place on which grow many of these plants.

The most widely spread name in the Slavic languages is ***rye*** (comp.: ѓъжь – Old-Bulgarian; *ръж* – Bulgarian; *'рж, 'ржта, 'ржи* (pl.) – Bulgarian vernacular speeches in the geographical region of Macedonia; *pâж, p̂ж* – Serbo-Croatian; *rež, rž* – Slovenian; *рожь* – Russian; *рож* – Ukrainian; *raž* – Slovak; *rež* – Czech; *raż* – Polish; *rež* – Lower Sorbian; *rož* – Upper Sorbian (Арх. ЕЛА; БЕР 2002: 363-364; Fasmer 1971: 493-494; Snoj 1997: 550)). It is derived from the Proto-Slavic *rъgь, cognate with Lithuanian *rugỹs* 'rye', Latvian *rudzis*, Old Prussian *rugis*, Old Icelandic *rugr*, Old Saxonian *roggo* 'rye', Old High German *rocko*, *roggo*, Old English *ryge*, English *rye*, German *Roggen*, originating from the Indo-European root *rughi̯o- (БЕР 2002: 363–364; Fasmer 1971: 493–494; Snoj 1997: 550). In Serbian and Croatian languages with the same meaning function derivatives of the analyzed name denotations of Secale cereale, formed with different suffixes (comp.: rženica – Serbian; ŗʒůl'a (vern.) – Croatian (Арх. ЕЛА; ОЛА 2012: 16)). As a result of Slavic influence the noun *rye* is adopted in the Hungarian linguistic system, where even today is characterized by high vitality (comp.: *rozs* – Hungarian (Арх. ЕЛА)).

In all Slavic languages for which is typical the noun means firstly 'annual herbaceous cereal with one class with elongated, tapered at both ends and flattened sides grains that are used for flour production of spirits or feed – Secale cereale, as

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well as the whole family annuals or perennials family Cereal – Secale’ (e.g.: *С големи, жадни крачки обиколи първата нива, посята с* ***ръж****.; В едната си ръка държеше сноп зелена* ***ръж****, изтръгната от корен. Той издигна* ***ръжта****, която носеше, и я показа на Гроздана.;* ***Ръжта*** *се употребява повече за произвеждане на хляб. Вирее и на бедни почви и се сее предимно в планинските райони.*; *От растенията, които съставят главно богатство на Европа, са хлебните: пшеница,* ***ръж****, овес, царевица.* – Bulgarian; ***‘Ржјето*** *пораснале. Посеа една нива* ***‘рж****.* – Bulgarian vernacular speeches in the geographical region of Macedonia; ***Рожь****, овес, ячмень и гречиха родятся на тучных его нивах; В высокой густой* ***ржи*** *виднелись кой-где на выжатой полосе согнутая спина жницы, взмах колосьев, когда она перекла дывала их между пальцев…; озимая, яровая* ***рожь;*** *ржѝца* (dim.) – Russian; *клас* ***ражи****; сејати, жети* ***раж****; озима* ***раж****; јара* ***раж*** – Serbo-Croatian; *ozimná* ***až****; jarná* ***až*** – Slovak, etc. (РБЕ 2015: 1531-1532; Ozegov etc. 1992: 705; ТРМЈ 2011: 235; ССРЛЯ 1961: 1412–1413; Maroevich etc. 1985: 2010; РСХС 1965: 606; БРСС 1968: 244)). Simultaneously, it names also the fruit of the plant – its grains (comp.: *В обора, под подставката за кошове, заровиха стара бъчва с ръждиви обръчи и я напълниха с* ***ръж****.*; *До преди месец-два той пиеше кафе, смляно само от леблебии и* ***ръж****.*; *По-малката щерка занесе на двете жени в отделната стаичка голяма дървена паница мляко, две дървени лъжици и два комата клисав хляб от просо и* ***ръж****.* – Bulgarian; *Купи цела врека́* ***‘рж****.; Јачменот ѓо мешаа со* ***‘рж****.* – Bulgarian vernacular speeches in the geographical region of Macedonia; *Пуд* ***ржи****; Нередко начинали уже попадаться [на дороге]… возы с мукою,* ***рожью****, огурцами. В банках была пшеница,* ***рожь****, крупа ягневая, пшенная и гречневая.* – Russian (РБЕ 2015: 1531–1532; Ozegov etc. 1992: 705; ТРМЈ 2011: 235; ССРЛЯ 1961: 1413; Maroevich etc. 1985: 2010; РСХС 1965: 606)), and a mass of these plants grown in one place as well as the land area (fields, blocks) planted with this plant (e.g.: *Зад съседната* ***ръж*** *се показа главата на Янаки, забрадена с кърпа.; Виолов седи в откритата каруца, която тича към север между изкласилата* ***ръж*** *от двете страни.* – Bulgarian; *Далеко за рекой по* ***ржам*** *проезжал мужичок с сохою; Солнце закатилось и в мокрых* ***ржах*** *кричали перепела*. – Russian (РБЕ 2015: 1531–1532; ССРЛЯ 1961: 1413)).

In Bulgarian language this noun has evolved also some other meanings. Here the lexeme *rye* is an constituent element of the sustainable phrase *wild (mountain)* ***rye***, which names the kind of annual herb (Secale sylvestre) with a shorter stem and smaller classes than the cultivated rye which thrives on sandy soils and dunes and has no economic importance (see: ***Дива ръж****, прегоряла на слънцето, се наклони под тежестта на ръката му.; Трябва да се внесе и тъй наречената* ***горска ръж****, която дивечът използва и през зимата.* (РБЕ 2015: 1531–1532)). On dialect level in Bulgarian language the word *rye* means not only ‘a kind of cereal plant (Secale cereal), its grains and place of growth’, but also functions as

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‘wheat/grain’ (БЕР 2002: 363). The reason for this is the fact that in some of the Bulgarian territorial speeches the cereal Secale cereal is named with the noun *grain*, which in the most of Bulgarian dialects is the name for wheat (Triticum). This mixing of the names and their full semantic alignment allowing to both to mean ‘rye’, facilitates also the reverse process – transfer of the meaning ‘wheat (Triticum)’ from the noun *grain* to the name *rye*. A similar phenomenon is observed in the Hungarian language, where the semantic alignment of the names of wheat and rye led to the emergence of a compound word *rozsbúza*, in constitution of which are found the elements *rozs* ‘rye’ and *búza* ‘wheat’ (Арх. ЕЛА). In the Serbian lexical system, on the other hand, there is a separate word meaning ‘low quality rye’, which is formed by the same root – *ràжуља* (PCJ 2011: 1086).

In each of the Slavic languages presented by far the noun *rye* is feminine and is characterized by a relevant to this nominal grade formal paradigm. In some members of the Slavic language family it is non-reduced (e.g.: *‘рж* fem. pl. *‘ржи*, collective pl. *‘ржје* Bulgarian vernacular speeches in the geographical region of Macedonia; *Далеко за рекой по* ***ржам*** *проезжал мужичок с сохою; Солнце закатилось и в мокрых* ***ржах*** *кричали перепела*. – Russian; *рӓжи* – Serbian; *hovor ražné pole, pole zasiate* ***ražou*** – Slovak, etc. (TPMJ 2011: 235; ССРЛЯ 1961: 1413; БРСС 1968: 244)), but in others the analyzed lexeme is distinguished by the absence of plural, i.e., it singularia tantum: (comp.: sing. *ръж* // pl. *ø* – Bulgarian (РБЕ 2015: 1531–1532)).

Although Bulgarian literary language did not preserve a plural for the noun *rye*, its regional dialects did preserved a vide diversity of plural forms of the name with or without a shade of collectiveness in meaning (e.g.: *Да пораснат есените,/ ичемици до полици,/ а* ***ръжата*** (съб.) *до билата.* – Levski village, Pazardzhik region; ***Ръжѐти*** *тъ̀з гудѝнъ съ дубрѝ*.; *тези* ***ръжѐ*** *зилени;* ***ръжето*** (съб.) – Tchirpan region; ***ръжите*** *лебородни* – Blagoevgrad region; *Морѐ узвѝва се уз длъ̀ги* ***ръжо̀ве****, / море, како̀ мома̀ уз мла̀ди йунà̀к* – Kyustendil region; *Бели* ***ръжове*** *класеха*. – Eleshnitsa village, Petrich region, etc. (Арх. БДР)). Here should be appended also the Bulgarian vernacular speeches of western type in the geographical region of Macedonia, which underlie the literary language of the Republic of Macedonia and examples of which were cited above.

In any of the aforementioned Slavic languages also operates an adjective with meaning ‘which is made of rye’, formed from the noun *rye* by means of various suffixes (e.g.: ***ръ̀жен*****:** ***ръ̀жен*** *л’àп* /Satchanliy village, Komotini region; Gabrovo region/; ***ръ̀жен*** *лѐп* /Trastenik village, Pleven region/); ***ръ̀жену*** *бра̀шну* /Banat/; ***ръ̀жена*** *сла̀ма* /Ihtiman region/; ***ръ̀жъни*** *снопи* /Gorna Oriahovitza region/; ***ръ̀жно*** *бра̀шно* /Asenovgrad region/; ***ръжов*** /Gotze Delchev region/; *хл’àба* ***ръженѝви*** /Rakita village, Lukovit region/; ***ръженò̀ва*** *сла̀ма* /Tryn region; Lom region; Vidin region; Pleven region/; *жѝтото* ***ръ̀женово*** /Razlog region/; ***ръжà̀нкуф****; въ̀жѐ* ***ръжà̀нкуву*** *//* ***ръжà̀нуф****; сла̀мки* ***ръжà̀нуви*** /Voyniagovo, Karlovo region/; ***ръженѝчен;*** *тѝрта* ***ръженѝчна*** /Belogradchik region/; ***‘ржан***

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*// **‘ржен** // **‘ржанов** // **‘ржовит*** ‘which contains rye’: *‘ржано // **‘ржено** // **‘ржовито** брашно; **‘ржан** леб; **‘ржана** слама; **‘ржена** погача* /Bulgarian vernacular speeches in the geographical region of Macedonia/) – Bulgarian; ***ржанòй -àя -òе*: *ржаное** *поле; **ржаная** мука; **ржаной** хлеб, **ржаные** волосы* /the colour of the ripe rye, golden-yellow/) – Russian; ***рàжан / рàжен / рàжев / рàжни*** / ***рàжов*** ‘which is made of rye’: p***àжна*** *слама,* ***рàжна*** *ракија,* ***рàжни*** *класје;* ***Ражни*** *леб не нарасте као шенични.; Суха* ***ражова*** *слама букну.; Други [је] вршај… од…* ***ражовог*** *жита. //* ***ражòвит*** ‘which has many impurities of rye’, from which is formed the noun ***ражòвитост*** ‘a peculiarity of what has impurities of rye’ – Serbo-Croatian; ***režný*** ‘made of rye’ // ‘harsh, ungrateful’ – Czech, etc. (Арх. БДР; Ozegov etc. 1992: 705; TPMJ 2011: 235; РСХКЈ 1973: 330–332; PCJ 2011: 1086; Bachvarov etc. 2002: 238; Korveziroski etc. 1967: 546)).

All Slavic languages keep a variety of derivatives from the noun rye: diminutive name (e.g.: *ржùца, ржùчка* – Russian (РУС 2003: 1049)), names for the *rye bread* (e.g.: *ръ̀женик* /Sevlievo, Gorna Oriahovitza, Koprivshtitza regions/, *ръ̀жъник* /Elena region; Veliko Tyrnovo region/; *ръж’е̯нùк* /Nova Zagora region/; *‘ржаник* (*Два т̄олеми **‘ржаника** тазе испечени.*) // *‘рженик // ‘ржаничник; ‘ржаниче* pl. *‘ржаничињa* (dim.) / Bulgarian vernacular speeches in the geographical region of Macedonia/ – Bulgarian; *ржàнец* – Russian; *ражѐница // ражòвница; Села под планином… почела би да гладују… не би дотекла **раженица**.* – Serbo-Croatian etc. (Арх. БДР; TPMJ 2011: 235; РУС 2003: 1049; PCJ 2011: 1085–1086; РСХКЈ 1973: 330–332)), of the *rye straw*, used in making roofs (e.g.: *ръ̀женица* /Svishtov, Preslav, Targovishte, Tvarditza, Slivnitza, Tryn, Bansko, Banat, Sevlievo and Peshtera regions /; *ръжѐница* /Kotel, Asenovgrad, Stara Zagora, Shumen regions/; *ръженùца* /Nova Zagora, Karlovo, Kalofer, Ihtiman, Popovo, Targovishte, Belogradchik, Tzaribrod, Sofia, Novi Pazar, Lovech, Razlog, Dedeagach regions/; *ръжънùца* /Kukush region/; *ръ̀жаница* /Pazardzhik region; Bebrovo village, Elena region/; *ръжаница* /Panagyurishte region/; *ръжанùца* /Rozhen village, Sandanski region/; *ръжàницъ* /Dolnoslav village, Asenovgrad region and Voyniagovo village, Karlovo region/; *ръжавица* / Malko Tyrnovo region/; *Ше дòм да ви чӳка̨ме ръ̀ш да ни да̨дѐте **ръженùна̨*** / Komotini, Strandzha dialects/; *ръжа̨нùна̨* /Gaytaninovo village, Gotze Delchev region/; *ръжнùна* / Gotze Delchev region, Komotini region/; *ръженùйа* /Preslav region/; *ръжàнка* /Burgas, Haskovo and Dedeagach regions/; *ръжàнка // ръжѐнцъ* /Elena region/; *ръжàнка̨* /Zheravna village, Sliven region/; *ръжàнкъ* / Konopchiye village, Tchirpan region, Belitza region /; *ръж’àнцъ* /Bolyartzi village, Asenovgrad region/; *‘ржаница (Стеблото се витка со **‘ржаница** или со хартија. Покрив од **‘ржаница**.) // ‘рженица* /Bulgarian vernacular speeches in the geographical region of Macedonia/ – Bulgarian; *ржанѐц, ржанùна, ржанùца* – Russian (Арх. БДР; TPMJ 2011: 235; РУС 2003: 1049)), for the *rye field* (e.g.: *ръжаник // ръжàниште* /Panagyurishte region/; *ръжùште* /Madan

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region, Kyustendil region/; *ръженѝште* /Ihtiman region/; *ръженѝшти // ръ̀жънцъ* /Sevlievo region/; *ръ̀жъништи* /Elena region/; *ръжѐнца* /Stara Zagora region/; *ръжѐнцъ* /Tryavna region, Haskovo region/ *'ржиште; 'ржиштето добро роди оваа година* /Bulgarian vernacular speeches in the geographical region of Macedonia/ – Bulgarian; *ржа̀нище, ржѝще* – Russian; *ра̏жӣште // ра̀жӣште* – Serbo-Croatian etc. (Арх. БДР; РУС 2003: 1049; РСЈ 2011: 1086; РСХКЈ 1973: 330–332; ТРМЈ 2011: 236)). Also, in some Bulgarian dialects, mostly in those of western type (Kyustendil, Ihtiman regions; Pleven region; Samokov region; Dupnitza region; Burgas region; Vidin region; Sofia region; Montana region; Dryanovo region; Svoge region; Byala Slatina and Breznik regions) *ръженѝще* is called the specific *extended railings* which are placed on the wagons to facilitate the transport of sheaves (Арх. БДР), and in Dervent village (Dedeagach region) they call *ръжа̀нкъ* a mat woven by rye straw (Арх. БДР). The name of the plover bird (Charadriidae family) and the corresponding adjective meaning 'belonging to plover' in Russian is also a derivative of the noun rye (comp.: *ржа̀нка, ржа̀нковые* – Russian (РУС 2003: 1049)).

In Slavic languages as a second by frequency of use and range of distribution name of the plant Secale cereal is used the neuter noun *grain* meaning 'rye'. This phenomenon is especially characteristic for the linguistic systems of Western Slavs but on a dialect level is observed also with other Slavic peoples (e.g.: *žito* 'rye' – Czech; žito 'rye' – Slovak; *žíto* 'rye' – Slovenian; *żyto* 'rye' *(żyto ozime)* – Polish; *жито* 'local denotation for rye, barley or in general for cereals as grain or as a plant' – Russian; *жи́то, жита́* 'rye'– Ukrainian; *жы̀та* 'rye'– Belorussian; *жѝтото ръженово* (dial.) – Bulgarian; *жӥто* 'common denotation for homogeneous plants whose fruit serves for food (wheat, barley, rye, oats, rice, etc.)' – Serbian etc. (Арх. ЕЛА; ОЛА 2012: 106; ЧБР 2002: 1383; РЧС 1968: 680; РЧС 1978: 280; БРПС 1970: 112; Linde 1860: 1209; РУС 2003: 1049; РБС 1998: 260; БРС 2003: 898; РСЈ 2011: 356; ССРЛЯ 1955: 167)). The noun *grain* originates from Old Slavic word *žita (Old Bulgarian. жито – Serbo-Croatian *жӥто*, Slovenian *žíto*, Russian *жѝто*, Ukrainian *жи́то*, Polish *żyto* 'rye', Czech *žíto*, Slovak *žito*, Upper Sorbian *žito*, Lower Sorbian *žyto*); it is related with Old Prussian *geits* 'bread', Kimvr. *bwyd* 'food', Ireland *biathaim* 'feed', from root in *жив* – borrowed in Romanian *jitár, jitniţă* (БЕР 2007: 548). No matter if it means 'rye (Secale cereal)' or 'wheat (Triticum)', in all Slavic languages, like the analyzed above word *rye*, it means as 'annual herbaceous plant with grains from which is made flour for bread' as well as' grain from this plant', 'many such plants grew up together 'and 'land area (fields, blocks) planted with this plant' (e.g.: *Тъй ми се иска да жъна на хубаво* ***жито***.; ***Жито*** *като злато се сипеше в хамбарите му.; Пред нас се простират* ***житата***. – Bulgarian; ***Житата*** *почнале да растат.; Извозот на* ***жито****, за разлика од минатата година оваа година е послаб.*; *По* ***житја-та*** *вее се гледаа жетвари.* – Bulgarian vernacular speeches in the geographical region of Macedonia; *висо́ке* ***жи́то*** *// висо́кі* ***жита́;***

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зе́рна ***жи́та****; Лани з посіяним на них* ***житом***. – Ukrainian; *Прекрасные* ***жита*** *по дороге.* – Russian etc. (РБЕ 1987: 88; Zagnitko etc. 2012: 230; РУС 2003: 1049; TPMJ 2003: 630)).

When it comes to the semantics of the noun *grain* in Slavic languages, an interesting pattern may be noticed. In all linguistic systems in which the word is characterized by the presence of first meaning ‘wheat’, it usually develops another meaning, i.e. ‘all kinds of cereals, from which is made flour for bread – each of these cereals’. This is the case with Bulgarian, Russian, Ukrainian, etc. (БЕР 2007: 548; РБЕ: 88; Ozegov etc. 1992: 198; РУС 1980: 422). Another pattern is observed in Bulgarian. Here the noun *grain* is used as denotation for the main grain culture for a given region, no matter if it is wheat or rye. (ЕБ 1983: 16).

This denotation of rye also became a part of some stable phrases. For example, in some Bulgarian dialects the rainbow is called *вино-жито* // *житовино* (РБЕ 1987: 88; TPMJ 2003: 630), in Czech *hodit, házet flintu do žita* means ‘to give up, to surrender in front of the troubles’, *byl bit jako žito* – ‘to beat someone to deatch’ (ЧБР 2002: 1383), etc.

As in the case with the noun *rye,* as well as here, archaism and affiliation of the analyzed lexeme to the basic for each Slavic language vocabulary is the cause numerous derivatives words to be formed from it: diminutive name (e.g.: *жѝтце* – Bulgarian and Bulgarian vernacular speeches in the geographical region of Macedonia; *В нашем* ***житце*** *хорош росток.* – Russian; *жи́течко, житце́* – Ukrainian etc. (РУС 2003: 1049; ССРЛЯ 1955: 167; TPMJ 2003: 631)), adjective meaning ‘which is made from this plant’ (e.g.: *жѝтен* – Bulgarian; *житен клас, житно поле, житен жижок* (Sitophilus granaris)*, житен молец* (Sitotroga celealella) – Bulgarian vernacular speeches in the geographical region of Macedonia; *жи́тній* – Ukrainian; *Починковские постные „шаньги” состояли из кружка* ***житной*** *или ячменной муки в виде лепешки, в которую запекался меньший кружок муки пшеничной.* – Russian etc. (РУС 2003: 1049; TPMJ 2003: 630; ССРЛЯ 1955: 167)), name of the place on which the plant is grown (e.g.: *жи́тнище, жи́тнисько* – Ukrainian (РУС 2003: 1049)), name of the bread which is made from the grains of this plant (e.g.: *житня́к* – Ukrainian (РУС 2003: 1049)) and the straw from this plant (e.g.: *жѝтеница* (dial.) – Bulgarian; *житня́нка, жи́тниця* (dial.) – Ukrainian (РУС 2003: 1049)), etc.

Another word meaning ‘rye’, however with a very limited range of distribution as it is typical only for Bulgarian, Serbian and Croatian languages on dialect level is the noun *зимница // зимица* (comp.: *зѝмница // зѝмица* – Bulgarian; *zimica* – Serbo-Croatian (Арх. ЕЛА; ОЛА 2012: 106)). The main meaning of this lexeme, with which it is found also in literary lexical paradigm of the languages in question, is ‘grain cereal (wheat, rye, barley), which is sown in autumn and gathered after winter; winter supplies, winter wheat’ (РБЕ: 1987: 917), as clearly shows its origin (from Winter) from Old Bulgarian ꙁима ‘the coldest season, which occurs after the fall and precedes spring, astronomicaly lasting from

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December 22 to March 21' (БЕР 2007: 640; РБЕ 1987: 915). However, as in the mountainous regions the main cereal food, on which the population relies is the rye, so gradually in Rhodope mountains dialects, West Roupi mountain and Southwestern Bulgarian dialects and the dialects in southern Serbia and Croatia the semantics of this noun narrows to 'rye', simultaneously naming again 'annual herbaceous plant with grains from which is made flour for bread' as well as' grain from this plant' , 'many such plants grew up together 'and 'land area (fields, blocks) planted with this plant' (e.g.: *Вчера беше паднал хубав, напоителен дъжд, такъв дъжд, за който казват, че е благодатен за зимниците и почти осигурява реколтата от тях.*; *Той бе продал три хамбара зимница и сега имаше много пари.; Напред, додето стигаше погледът, се ширеха вретенилите зимници, застлали полето с плътно зелено кадифе.* – Bulgarian (РБЕ 1987: 917)). It is interesting to note also that in the Bulgarian dialects there are several names for rye derived from the noun *winter* (comp.: ***зѝмна ръ̀ш' /зѝмна рàш'/***– Rhodope mountain dialects; *зѝмно /зѝмню, зѝмну/; зѝмнина /зѝмнинъ/; зѝмник* – Roupian and south-western Bulgarian dialects (Арх. БДР)), that occurred in a similar manner.

It is a well-known historical fact that a series of geo-political processes lead to a stable neighborhood between a part of Slavic languages and some representatives of the Turkic language family. Besides, as a result of the invasion of the Ottoman Empire in the Balkans in the Middle Ages the southern and most of the western Slavs lived for centuries under Ottoman rule, i.e. in terms of real bilingualism. Thas is why many words with Persian roots to come through Turkish in their linguistic system. Usually this type of vocabulary is marked as colloquial or carry some negative semantic features, but it is alive and functional on dialect level. It contains the word *чавдар*, originated from Turkish, Crimea-Tatarian *čavdar, čaldar* 'rye' (Fasmer 1973: 309), which in the region in question is also used with meaning 'rye' (e.g.: *чавдàр; чъвдàр съ кàзвъ нъ ръштѝ* /Provadia region/ – Bulgarian (mainly Rodopi and nort-eastern Bulgarian dialects); *чавдàр* – Bulgarian vernacular speeches in the geographical region of Macedonia (Арх. ЕЛА). In Bulgarian dialects from Thracian region the noun in question is a part of the stable phrase ***чавдàр*** *чичиклѐр*, which is the name of the rye flower (*чаѝрче, чаѝрска китка* etc.), the blooming of which shows the farmers that it is time to sow the rye.

The lexemes reviewed so far, which are used to refer to the rye, and their derivatives are typical or all or for most of Slavic languages. However, there are words of similar semantics which are typical only for a specific linguistic system. Such is the case with the noun *хлеб* 'rye' in Russian. The word is of domestic origin (comp.: Old Bulgarian хлѣбъ, Russian хлеб, Ukrainian хлiб, Belorussian хлеб, Serbo-Croatian хлѐб, хљѐб, Slovenian hlẹ́b, Czech chléb, Slovak chlieb, Polish chleb, Lower Sorbian khlěb, Upper Sorbian chlěb, klěb; borrowed from German, Middle Gothic hlaifs 'bread', Old Icelandic hlėifr (Fasmer 1973: 241–242))

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and in all Slavic languages functions with the meaning ‘food made of dough’. In Russian, however, the name of this type of food is transferred on the cereal itself from which is made the flour required for kneading bread (comp.: *Матушка даже руками всплеснула, увидевши громадные вороха обмолоченного и невывеянного* ***хлеба****.; Там где эта почва орошена арыками,… прекрасно растут* ***хлеба*** *(просо, ячмень, рис, пшеница и др.), засеивамые местными жителями.; Я ехал по земля, везде засеянной* ***хлебом****.; Предлагаю,… чтобы все посевы состояли из колосовых* ***хлебов****, а именно: рожь озимая, овес.* – Russian (Арх. ЕЛА; ССРЛЯ 1965: 173)).

Words meaning ‘rye’ are also *šegala* and *sakàra* (dial.), which are specific only for Serbo-Croatian lexical paradigm (Арх. ЕЛА). They have a common Latin origin (comp. SĒGĂLE lat. m. secalem, secale) and probably had entered in this linguistic system under the influence of Romanian.

On completion and as a result of the above formal and semantic analysis of the words, operating in the lexical system of Slavic languages with meaning ‘rye’ and their derivatives several major conclusions are imposed. The expectations for a word to function in most or in all analyzed lexical paradigms are fully justified, since the majority of the analyzed vocabulary is of domestic origin and closely related languages are considered which belong to a single linguistic family, the archetype of its word-formation models is found in Old Slavic. It is with the help of the very close geo-political conditions in which are placed and developed Slavic peoples – which is the reason for the existence of interesting parallels with the evolution of the Turkic borrowings in them. However, there is no full consilience in semantic characteristics of words, as the meaning of each of them undergoes also an individual development within the specific linguistic system in which it is found.

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