TOWARDS THE HISTORY OF WORDS FOR HUNGER IN THE OLD BULGARIAN CORPUS: ON MATERIAL FROM THE SO-CALLED UCHITEL'NOE EVANGELIE BY CONSTANTINE OF PRESLAV¹

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Abstract: DIKOVA, Ekaterina. Towards the History of Words for Hunger in the Old Bulgarian Corpus: On Material From the So-Called Uchitel'noe evangelie by Constantine of Preslav. The article is focused, firstly, on a substantive that has remained outside the scope of study on the 9th-century Uchitel'noe evangelie – $\Delta \lambda(\Xi)$ kota. Its 6 appearances in this collection are observed together with their Greek corresponding words and direct respective contexts in the source and target texts. The derivatives of the same root are also traced in the monument together with their Greek counterparts. Then, a visual thesaurus is presented of the concurrent nouns with the root *alk- according to the main diachronic dictionaries. Finally, two synonymic roots – noct- and raal- are presented in terms of their distribution in the monument and their semantic peculiarities.

The conclusions are that the words for hunger in *Uchitel'noe evangelie* are of three roots and that each of these roots has its exact Greek counterpart: page translates $\lambda\mu$ - and signifies 'acute need for food'; pict- corresponds to $\nu\eta\sigma\tau$ - and is related to 'voluntary deprivation of food', and $\lambda\lambda(\pi)\kappa$ - is related to $\pi\epsilon\bar{\nu}$ - only in its more general meaning of 'need for food' (but not in its meaning related to 'gluttony').

The word $\Delta \Lambda(\Sigma)\kappa$ is relatively rare in the older written monuments. Nevertheless, it completes the thesaurus of nouns with $\Delta \Lambda(\Sigma)\kappa$ -/ $\Lambda \Delta \kappa$ -, it is inherent in the Old Bulgarian literary language, and, in particular, in Constantine of Preslav's language.

Keywords: Old Church Slavonic, diachronic lexicology, ninth century, Didactic Gospel

The Old Bulgarian 9th-century² *Uchitel'noe evangelie*³ is a collection of 51 sermons intended to be given at the Sunday liturgies of the whole church year from Easter to Palm Sunday. It is a combination both of Constantine of Preslav's translations of Byzantine catenae⁴ (and homilies⁵) to the Sunday Gospels and of his own texts (including the introduction and the Alphabetic acrostic prayer at the beginning of the book, all the introductions, and conclusions of the orations as well

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² The monument is dated usually to 889 – 893 (cf. Arhim. Antonij 1885, 7; Galluchi 2001, 3-4; Spasova 2005; Tihova 2012, XII, Slavova 2017, 3 and the literature cited there).

Francis Thomson refers to this monument as *Evangelienhomiliar* (cf. Thomson 1986) yet the designation *Uchitel'noe evangelie* has been largely accepted in the scholarship.

⁴ See the catalogue of the Byzantine Greek catena manuscripts by Parpulov 2021.

See e.g., Gorskij - Nevostruev 1859, 423-424. Kotova 2022a and Petrov 2022 find previously unknown Greek source texts for certain parts of orations 19 and 20 respectively in St. John Chrysostom's homilies. Cf. also Mitov 2022.

as oration 426). This written monument is precious for many fields of Slavonic medieval studies and was fully edited in 2012 (Tihova 2012, reviewed by Krys'ko 2017).

The first of the words with sememe *hunger* observed here is $\Delta \Lambda(Z)$ word. This lexeme appears six times in three of the orations of the monument. The table below lists all these occurrences together with their Greek counterparts and their Old Bulgarian and Greek contexts. The first column in it marks the respective places according to the oldest manuscript Syn. 262 of the monument because this is how they could be easily found in Tihova's edition. The number before the slash indicates the number of the respective oration, then follows the page, column, and line of the occurrence. The null sign (\emptyset) designates that there is no Greek counterpart of the respective form because it is found in a text authored by Constantine of Preslav (i.e., in an introduction or conclusion of an oration); the grey script marks words omitted in translation and the square brackets enclose a newly discovered Greek counterpart.

| Syn262 | Old Bul | Gr | Context |
|-----------|-----------|--------------------|---|
| 16/78a13 | ልእкотъі | πείνης | καὶ οὐδὲ <u>τῆς πείνης</u> ἐλάμβανον αἴσθησιν и <u>αλκοτъι</u> же не чογιααχογ• |
| 16/80a13 | ልለፚкотቴ | [πεῖναν] | [πόθεν δὲ ἡμεῖς παραμυθησόμεθα <u>τὴν πεῖναν</u> τὴν ἡμετέραν;] κογρογ намъ боγρеть ογπέχα• <u>ανъκοπέ</u> нашен• |
| 16/80d16 | алкотоу | πεῖναν | έδύνατο μὲν γὰρ καὶ σβέσαι τῶν ὄχλων τὴν πεῖναν· μοκαλαμε σο μαλκοτού ογγαζητη• |
| 16/82a08 | алкотъ | Ø | и въ поустъїни живаахоу \bullet и <u>алкотъ</u> ноудащии не \ddot{w} идоща \bullet |
| 27/130d18 | ልለ'ፚкот'ቴ | ἐσχάτοις κακοῖς | καθάπερ γὰρ ἐάν τις τοὺς οἰκέτας ἴδοι, τοὺς ἐν τρυφῆ ὄντας, ἑαυτὸν δὲ ἐν ἐσχάτοις κακοῖς κακοκε δο αιμε κῶτο ογχερντε εδοία ραδω Βω πυιμι εογιμα• εξε κε βω αλκοτέ• |
| 31/143a12 | ልለкотъі | Ø | славохотие не н \S дить <u>алкотΞі</u> и жа $\widehat{\mathbb{R}}$ а не можеть оуже тьрп Ξ ти \bullet |

The place in the middle of oration 16 (16/80a13) was thought to not have its Greek original according to Tihova's edition of the monument in which Cramer's edition of catenae was used to juxtapose source and target texts. Dobriela Kotova, however, has checked other Byzantine sources and found its correspondence in St. John Chrysostom's Homily 49, more precisely in Joan. Chrys. Hom. in Matth. (CPG S, 4424.49; PG 58, 499, 4-6 (the very word is on line 5)).

At a recent conference (Das kirchenslavische Schrifttum als Kulturerbe: Texte und Textwelten, Rezeptionswege, Digitale Erfassung, Heidelberg, 15–16.07.2022) D. Kotova presented her discovery of Greek parallels for about one-fourth of this oration. This study has been published already – Kotova 2022b

⁷ For the meanings of the Greek words, check e.g., LSJ.

κακοῖς. It does not seem like a standard translation and so requires some explanation. My initial assumption was that Constantine of Preslav, thinking about his neophyte audience, decided that the idea of the eschatological troubles would be difficult to comprehend. But here, it seems, the key is rather in the translation of τρυφή with πιιμμ⁸ and the meaning of πιιμμ as 'abundance'9. And so, it is more reasonable to assume that, while editing his text, the translator introduced αλ(α)κοτα as contrasting to πιιμα because the opposition πιιμα and what would be the Slavonic counterpart of ἐσχάτοις κακοῖς would not be clear enough for Constantine's audience and would rather confuse them. But this case is specific and should not be considered a second translation variant of λλ(α)κοτα.

The substantive ΔΛ(Σ)κοτλ is not present in the following Slavonic diachronic dictionaries: Slovník jazyka staroslověnského (SJS 1, 27-28), Etymologický Slovník Jazyka Staroslověnského (ESJS 1, 48 referring to 7, 399-400), the dictionary of Ceitlin, Vecherka and Blagova (SS, 68-69), the Old Bulgarian Dictionary of the Institute of Bulgarian language at BAS (SR, 18), the learner's dictionary by Stojanov and Janakiev (SETR, 117), Argirovski's dictionary of Greek-Old Church Slavonic correspondences (Arg, 362-363) as well as in numerous dictionaries to particular editions of codices, including the oldest Gospels and Old Testament books.

In other dictionaries, the word is mentioned in later monuments. Izmail Sreznevsky finds it in *Palaea* of the 14th and *Skazanije* of the 15th century (Srezn 1, 19), Franz Miklosich documents it in the *Mihanović Homiliar* and a *Paterikon* of the 14th century (Mikl, 4), Atanasij Bonchev discovers it in a *Prolog* for February (Bonch, 23) and yet this occurrence does not seem an early one as the word is missing in the indices of the *Prolog* for the winter half of the year which have been prepared according to the earlier copies (Krys'ko at al. 2011)¹², moreover, in the complete Church Slavonic dictionary of Dyachenko, the word is quoted only in the same *Skazanije* of the 15th century already pointed by Sreznevsky in this respect (D'jachenko 1993, 12). The dictionary of the Old Russian language fixes λλ(λ)κοτλ in three texts of the 14th century (SDRJ 1, 81) and, in the meaning 'fasting' also in the *Izbornik* of the year 1076 (Mushinskaja at al. 2009, 93) without any Greek counterpart. The dictionary of the 11th-17th-century Russian language pins the word to *Uspenskij Sbornik*¹³ (SRJa 1, 29). The last two usages are the only earlier references in the general

The confusion of τρυφή and τροφή as counterparts of πища had a long Slavonic tradition – cf. randomly chosen diachronic dictionaries e.g., Arg, 460-461; Srezn 2, 945; SJS 3, 43 and its electronic version e-SJS.

⁹ Reflected as a second meaning of пища in SJS 3, 43 which always translates τρυφή. Thanks to the e-SJS we can easily find out that τρυφή was translated with only two words in the earliest Old Church Slavonic monuments, namely with пища and кръмана and that these two words were the counterparts of τροφή as well

¹⁰ In another learner's dictionary it is, however, present – Bojadzhiev 2016, 222.

The exact lexicographic volumes I have checked are: Pogorvelov 1910, 260; Istrin 1930, 205; Meyer 1935, 4; Aitzetmüller 1975, 5; Davidov 1976, 22; Lebedeva 1988, 12; Lihachev – Dujchev 1988, 259; Ljusen 1995, 183, 245, 249; Christians 2001, 3; Krys'ko 2005, 667; Hristova-Shomova 2007, 329; Pichhadze – Makeeva 2008, 16; Penkova 2008, 45-46; Sels 2009, 3; Dimitrov 2010, 13; Maksimovich 2010, 2; Taseva 2010, 525, 590; Veder 2011, 3; Afanas'eva 2012, 276; Fahl – Harney – Fahl 2012, 1760; Ilieva 2013, 258; Dimitrova 2016, 367; Iliev 2017, 423; Savova 2017, 261; Hristova-Shomova 2018; Dimitrova 2019, 318; RPE 2019, 31; Danova 2020, 375.

Besides, the lists of word forms to the twelve-volume edition of the Tarnovo redaction of the *Verse Prolog* (Petkov – Spasova 2008–2014) lack δλ(ζ)κότδ and the only use of the stem registered there is of the adjective δλκότδηζε in the *Vita* of St Fevronia on 25 June (ibid. 59, 89). See also *Cejtlin* 1986, 195-198, where a number of nouns with the suffix -otδ are explained, but the one in question is not given.

¹³ The exact context given in the dictionary is: "(Багов) вщаваю азъ Ис Хсъ уже убо къ тому не боите са мущчитела, нъ не родите о страст ни о съмьрыни ни о алъкотт ни о скрым. Усп. сб. 426 XII-XIII вв." together with the quotation of another source of the 15th − 16th century.

diachronic dictionaries which I have found so far. It is present also in the *Scete Patericon* and this seems to be its earliest fixation (Veder 2012, 157)¹⁴.

This all comes to confirm that the word an(7) kota, as present in *Uchitel'noe evangelie*, is not just part of Constantine of Preslav's idiolect but also of the earliest literary language, no matter that it enjoyed a less frequent use. Its absence in the majority of the general lexicographical manuals for the period means, above all, that their publication preceded the publication of the monuments in which it is found. As Vadim Krys'ko and Geogrij Mol'kov (2017, 385) point out, even though some of the words found in *Uchitel'noe evangelie* have not been included in SRJa – albite the fact that the Description of Alexander Gorsky and Kapiton Nevostruev (Gorskij – Nevostruev 1859) and Sreznevsky's dictionary (Srezn) were among its sources – many others did, besides with reference to the work of Gorsky and Nevostruev. In addition, SJS also includes certain lexemes found in *Uchitel'noe evangelie*, while SR, SDRJ, and SRJa do not reflect the monument at all (Slavova 2013, 107, see also Zhikova 2017, 25).

If this is so, it is logical to look for information about the word ΔΛ(Δ)κοτλ in the very studies of the vocabulary of *Uchitel'noe evangelie*. The earlier scholars of it (Gorskij – Nevostruev 1859, 424-432) aim at making an overview of more specific linguistic features and of particular translation decisions and author's choices and so the word ΔΛ(Δ)κοτλ remained out of their scope. Roman Kryvko attempts to prove the Western and South-Western origin of the monument (Krivko 2014); V. Krys'ko and G. Mol'kov systemize various linguistic features on a territorial basis – Eastern and South Slavonic – and do not mention the word ΔΛ(Δ)κοτλ (Krys'ko – Mol'kov 2017). Zheni Zhikova does not pay special attention to the lexeme, but it still appears in an example quoted in her dissertation – the one from Oration 31 (Zhikova 2017, 148, 198). So, as far as I know, ΔΛ(Δ)κοτλ has not attracted special attention in the studies of *Uchitel'noe evangelie* – presumably, because it is neither a loan word nor a theological term, it is not present in a Biblical quotation and has nothing unique in its etymology, morphology and word formation, no specific rhetorical uses of it were noticed.

Yet the root *alk- was relatively productive in Old Bulgarian as attested by the number of words which contain it – verbs, adjectives, and other nouns. *Uchitel'noe evangelie* shows various occurrences of the kind – fifteen in total in twelve orations as follows:

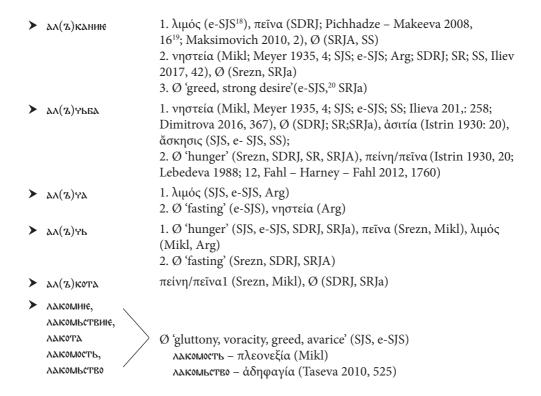
| 02/10a06 | алъчющана \varnothing |
|-----------------|---|
| 03/11d06 | αλъчьнааго (αλьчоущаго WH) πεινῶντα |
| 12/67d06 | αλγούμα πεινώντα |
| 13/68d16 | алчоуще Ø – in an introduction, metaphorically used |
| 16/77d16-17 | αλκάτη же ноудащи τοῦ λιμοῦ γε καταναγκάζοντος 15 |
| 26/126b06 | алчоущиимъ Ø – in an introduction, metaphorically used |
| 28/133c16 | aayana \emptyset |
| 32/144b06 | възалкалъ \emptyset – in an introduction with reference to Christ in the desert |
| 32/150d13 | אאאאא Ø – in a conclusion |
| 33/153c21 | алъчьнии Ø – in a conclusion |
| 42/195b21-195c1 | възалкалъ \emptyset – in an introduction |
| 47/212b10 | ΒЪЗΑΛΚΑΧΤ ἐπείνασα |
| 47/212d19 | λλυδη πεινών |
| 47/210d21 | алуыламъ Ø |
| 49/220d04 | алүжщюоумж Ø – in an introduction |
| | |

¹⁴ I am indebted to Ivan P. Petrov for this finding.

¹⁵ This asymmetry is one of the numerous examples of phrase-for-phrase and not word-for-word translations in *Uchitel'noe evangelie* unless another source was used in this particular case.

The excerpts above reveal that: 1. no other nouns of the same root were used in the monument 16 , 2. two-thirds of the usages of $-\lambda\lambda(z)\kappa$ - are in original and not translated parts, which themselves constitute a much smaller share of the corpus – probably around one-tenth of it, and 3. the majority of the usages correspond to the Greek root $-\pi\epsilon\nu$ -.

The lack of other nouns of the root $-\lambda \Lambda(Z)\kappa$ - in the monument would make the scholar curious about the system of these competing terms, that is, of the other nouns with the root *alk- and the semantic relation between them. The outline of the related substantives, according to the dictionaries is as follows¹⁷:



The broadest meaning has $\text{an}(\mathbf{z})$ κανιμέ as it translates both λιμός and πεῖνα as well as νηστεία, besides, was noted to designate also 'greed'; $\text{an}(\mathbf{z})$ γρρα translates νηστεία and even ἄσκησις, while $\text{an}(\mathbf{z})$ γρα most often translates λιμός but is also fixed to designate 'fasting' even though without

¹⁶ In it, there are no metathesized forms – with initial πaκ- from *alk-.

A valuable reference tool to check this list is CID-COLCSLL 1. 2015 (9, 11, 12), 2. 2018 (260). It refers to all the listed substantives and marks the Slavonic diachronic dictionaries which mention them. The three missing above are the dictionaries of Croatian, Serbian and Macedonian redactions respectively, of which just the first one is available to me and it mentions some of the non-metathesized forms just as references to the metathesized, whose entries, however, are forthcoming (the last volume of the edition, as far as I know, is 22. (2018) (zemlьпь – i)).

¹⁸ The print version of SJS does not give a Greek correspondence of the word – it is present only in the electronic version, e-SJS, which includes the additional material from the fifth section.

¹⁹ But also, ἔνδεια, ἐπιτυμία (ibid.).

The third meaning of the word is present only in the electronic version of the dictionary.

a Greek correspondence; and is registered generally as 'hunger' but without a Greek counterpart and in only one example. To this system, we need to add also an(z)kota from the ninth-century monument (the noun previously noted in Mikl, Srezn, SDRJ, SRJA) which relates to the first meaning of $\pi\epsilon$ iv $\eta/\pi\epsilon$ īv α . Last but not least, there is a whole group of nouns that have the same root but with metathesis in it, i.e., starting with nak-. They all mean 'voracity' and 'avarice'. All this system may be presented visually in the following way:



The most general term is $\Delta \Lambda(\Xi)$ kanne – it includes the need for food, the severe lack of it, the voluntary restriction of eating, and, even, the gluttony and greed. In the upper register comes $\Delta \Lambda(\Xi)$ year designating fasting and metaphorically used also for any kind of ascesis. The upper register is touched by $\Delta \Lambda(\Xi)$ ya in its meaning related to fasting while the severe need for food pulls it down. Quite narrow – and rather neutral – in meaning is $\Delta \Lambda(\Xi)$ kota designating simply the need for food. And the substantives with metathesis in their root, at least according to the dictionaries listed, seem to signify abnormal desire for food and other goods.

Needless to say, the visual thesaurus presented above related to nouns deriving from *alk- is not fully attested in *Uchitel'noe evangelie*. The higher register of an(z) yers and the lower of arkomhie... are missing in it; raage is used instead of its synonymic an(z) kanhie and ποστε replaces an(z) ya. So, the distribution of these two additional lexical roots designating *hunger* in the monument is as follows: first, come the four uses of raage in the monument plus two of the adjective raagenz and then follow the eight occurrences of ποστε plus six other of the verb ποστετία ca:

- ➤ 32/148c06 γλαμοῦ λιμοῦ
- 39/185a21 γλαμανικά εδικρτικάπὸ λιμοῦ θάνατον
- 39/185b06 γλαда λιμοῦ
- ➤ 43/199b06 гладъ Ø in a conclusion
- 47/212d19 γλαμων λιμώττων
- > 23/118a03 постъ Ø − in an introduction
- ➤ 23/118b08 постите са Ø in a conclusion

- ➤ 27/131c05 постомь Ø in a conclusion
- ➤ 48/216b12 поста Ø in an introduction
- ➤ 48/217b01 ποςτυπε ςα νηστεύητε
- ➤ 48/217c21 ποςτείας
- ➤ 48/217d08 ποςτπ νηστείαν
- ➤ 48/218b01 ποιμь са νηστεύσας
- ➤ 48/219b15 поститї са Ø in a conclusion
- ➤ 49/220c08 постъ Ø in a conclusion
- ➤ 49/220c10 постъ Ø in a conclusion
- ➤ 49/220c11 постъ Ø in a conclusion
- ➤ 49/220c16 са постиши Ø in a conclusion
- ➤ 49/221a07 постим са Ø in a conclusion

These excerpts reveal that: 1. raad- is exclusively the counterpart of $\lambda \mu$ -, 2. rad- corresponds to $v\eta\sigma\tau$ -, and 3. aak- corresponds – to the main meaning of $\pi\epsilon v$ - i.e., the one related to hunger, but not the secondary, the metaphorical one.

The first conclusion to be drawn is that the words for *hunger* in *Uchitel'noe evangelie* are of three roots, namely $\[Gamma]$, $\[Gamm$

Most specific among the three is the word $\Delta \Lambda(\Sigma)$ word as it seems to be relatively rare in the older Slavonic monuments but nevertheless, it is inherent in the Old Bulgarian literary language and in the vocabulary of Constantine of Preslav in particular. Besides, it finds its place in – and completes – the thesaurus of nouns with the root *alk- which are related to various aspects of the sememe hunger.

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