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### *Projects*

## THE TOPONYMS OF ZOONYMIC ORIGIN

**Vilotije Vukadinović**

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On the occasion of its 25th anniversary, the Faculty of Philosophy in Niš published the study of professor Vilotije Vukadinović, titled *The Toponyms of Zoonymic Origin*, as the second book in the edition *Lexicological Research in Southeast Serbia*.

The introductory part (7-10), having the same title as the study itself, gives details on the scope and significance of the work in gathering onomastic material, undertaken by the Council for Onomastics of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts with the help of collaborators in the field, primarily ethnographers and geographers and then linguists. The toponyms are particularly interesting as a dialectological lexical material, as they register the state of a language from the time it had originated, remaining usually almost unchanged ever since. The toponyms motivated by zoonyms (names of animals) were singled out of this abundant material. They included the names of 81 settlements, as well as the hydronyms and micro-toponyms from the region of southeast Serbia. The material is dialectologically significant because it shows the speech characteristics of this area.

The chapter on semantic characteristics (10-11) contains the material classified in three groups: the first group encompasses the toponyms named after the principle of metaphors, with unchanged zoonyms (*Вуци* - Wolves, *Гавран* - Raven, 10); the derivatives of zoonyms, their habitats or certain animal characteristics are in the second group (*Зайчевац* - Rabbit's Place, *Козарник* - Goat's Place, 10), and the third group contains the toponyms designating the locations on which certain activities related to animals had been performed. They are most often derived by the suffixes *-ица* and *-иште* (*Говедарница*, *Говедариште*, after *говед* - cattle, 11).

The chapter titled *Structural (Formation) Characteristics* (11-28) offers a survey of formation possibilities applied in the formation of toponyms. They can consist of: a) one word (12-15), such as: zoonymic appellatives metaphorically used to designate a toponym (*Павук* - Spider, *Теле* - Calf, 12), or derived by adding various simple or complex suffixes on a whole word or a part of it (*Сокол-ан* - for Falcon, *Пуж-евиште* - for Snail, *Коз-ја* - for Goat, *Тур-ија* - for Urus, *Орл-овка* - for Eagle, 13); b) two words (15-28), which are the most in number, created of zoonymic determinatives either possessive or descriptive in the meaning, and, most often, of geographic appellatives (*Мечи брлог* - Bear's Den, *Кучџин вир* - Bitch's Whirlpool, 17). For the sake of better insight, they are classified according to both appellatives and names of animal species (81 in number). The hydronyms of zoonymic origin are specifically separated and analyzed in a similar manner. They had been created of the zoonyms of the possessive meaning (secondary) and appellatives (*Змијевачка река* - Serpent's River, 27); c) the toponyms consisting of several words (28), which are small in

numbers (*На вука бесенога* - Of The Hung Wolf), and d) toponomastic combinations (28) or compound words (*Јурикобила* - Chasing Mare, *Свињивир* - Swine's Whirlpool) that are also scarce.

In *Some Linguistic Characteristics* (28-31), particular attention is paid to the problem of the category of numbers in toponyms. Most often, they have the singular form, but the form of pluralia tantum may also appear quite frequently (the suffixes *-ци*, *-е*, *-је*), and it designates the names of houses, parts of villages and other toponyms. The suffix *-ци*, which designated families (*Дигнимагарци*, *Кострешевци* - Romanian cstrac=perch, 20), was later substituted by the suffix *-це* (*Славујце*, *Шапранце* - Rom. sarpe=serpent, 29). The author also pointed out some phonetic features characteristic for certain dialects of southeast Serbia, for example: *ч, њ < ш, ђ* (*Јарчић*, *Говецак*, 30); *к, з + е, у > ђ, љ* (*Комаричћи вир*, 30); the vocalic *л* is either preserved or unvocalized in the investigated toponyms (*Влча*, *Вликовија*, 30); the semivowel is preserved (*Пијцик*, 31), and the forms *Говећар*, *Говећаруште* (31) appear in the furthest northeast under the influence of Kosovo-Resava dialects.

The areas of the mentioned phonetic phenomena are presented in the maps given in the enclosure (32-38): (in the sequence) 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. The map 1 shows the geographical region throughout which the material is collected, and the map 2 depicts the area in which house names formed under the influence of non-Slavic languages were observed.

Then, the *Dictionary* follows (39-60). It contains the alphabetical list of all the analyzed material. Every lexical entry is accompanied by the abbreviation of the (micro)toponym, and the abbreviation of the source the material was taken from (these are the published and unpublished works of the collaborators of the Council for Onomastics of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts). The toponym ubiety may most often be comprehended through them, as well. The name of the borough or nearest place next to the toponym location was cited where needed. The meanings of non-Slavic zoonyms were also given, together with the explanations of less known geographical appellatives.

The final part of the study contains the lists: *Abbreviations of Sources* (61-62), *References* (62-64), and *Technical Abbreviations* (65) that facilitate orientation in the Dictionary to the reader.

The epilogue (67-74), titled *Recording of Cattle-Breeding Vocabulary* by Dr. N. Bogdanović, the editor of the Edition, represents not only a mere review of the study on *The Toponyms of Zoonymic Origin*, but it may be regarded as a separate article that opens some other aspects concerning the cattle-breeding lexicon destiny and announces further publications on this topic.

*The Note on the Author* (75), by which this book is finished, does not contain the fact that, since recently, respected Dr. Vilotije Vukadinović is, unfortunately, no longer with us. This work should have been the first part of a monograph on the toponymy of southeast Serbia motivated by the cattle-breeding vocabulary.

The study *The Toponyms of Zoonymic Origin* presents and gives a many-sided (semantic, structural and linguistic) analysis of an abundant dialectological material. Such a great number of examples illustrate the great importance that cattle breeding has had in these regions. A particular validity and historical significance are attributed to the toponyms motivated by the names of animal species that do not exist here for a long time (urus, lynx). Those who are aware of the withering away of our villages, with which the designations of numerous locations in village districts irretrievably disappear, comprehend the necessity for such studies.

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