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The common slavonic : summary

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SUMMARY

THE COMMON SLAVONIC

This monograph provides a systematic survey of history of the phonological system of the Common Slavonic since the Indo-European Period until the time of disintegration of the Common Slavonic Community after the loss of jers. By way of comparing the Indo-European system of consonants with the systems of other language families which belong to the Nostratic macrophyllum the Author reconstructs the following original Proto-Indo-European system of consonants:

p'	p	b	$-$
t'	t	d	S
k''	k'	g'	H'
k'	k	g	H
k'''	k''	g''	H''

The Author does not consider the assumption of the German shift of consonants (*Lautverschiebung*) to be necessary; on the contrary he presupposes a shift in the Central Indo-European dialects, e.g., in Greek, namely $k' > k$, $k > g$, $g > (gh >) kh$. In dialects which were the point of departure for development of the Baltic and the Slavonic languages only two changes occurred, namely $k' > k$ and $k > g$, so that g (from the original k) fused with the original g (i.e. gh in the former notation). After the Late Indo-European changes ($k''', g'' > k, g; k', g' > s, z$) and before the Common Slavonic palatalizations the original Common Slavonic system of consonants had the following pattern:

p	b		
t	d	s	z
		(š)	
k	g	(čh)	

The Author also gives a short survey of development of the vocalic system during the Indo-European Period (including ablaut and the development of laryngeals); as concerns the Common Slavonic itself the explanation stems from the simple Late Indo-European vocalic system, namely:

i	u	i	\bar{u}
e	o	\bar{e}	\bar{o}
a		\bar{a}	

During the so-called Classical Period of Common Slavonic it changed into a different system of the following pattern:

i	y
$ɔ$	$ɔ$
e	$ǎ$
$ě$	a

It can be seen that the front and back vowels are in (sharp) opposition. The same opposition manifested itself later even in the system of consonants as the so-called 1st palatalization. The close connection of consonants and vowels within the boundaries of one syllable resulted in the so-called law of open syllables which was effective during the whole Classical Period A. D. 400–800, and which became the internal stimulus of all Common Slavonic phonological changes. These processes, however, could have been influenced by external conditions in connection with the ethnogenesis of the Slavs.

During the Classical Common Slavonic Period all typical Common Slavonic changes took place.

The monograph presents a chronological sequence of all changes which characterize the Common Slavonic from its earliest times to its disintegration.

The development of Common Slavonic – with respect even to the Nostratic Period – can be divided into the following phases:

- I The Nostratic Period and its disintegration about 8000 B.C.
- II The Indo-European Period
 - a Proto-Indo-European Period (after the disintegration of the Nostratic Community)
 - b Early Indo-European and the Classical Indo-European Period proper, approximately to 3000 B.C.
- III The disintegration of the Indo-European proto-language and establishing of the primary basic Late Indo-European areas, about 3000 B.C.
- IV The separation of the Proto-Baltic (Balto-Slavonic) dialects from the rest of the Indo-European dialects, after 2000 B.C., perhaps about 1500 B.C.
- V A The beginning of emergence of those dialects, from which the Common Slavonic arose later, from the Proto-Baltic (Balto-Slavonic) Community about 500 B.C. (perhaps during 700 to 200 B.C.). From the phonetic-phonological viewpoint this so-called Early Common Slavonic is still very close to the Baltic dialects, and it would be quite proper to call it the Late Proto-Baltic (Late Balto-Slavonic). It was already detached from the other Baltic dialects as a separated one. By the end of that period the actual ethnogenesis of Slavs took place.
- B The origin of the so-called Classical Common Slavonic, during A.D. 400–800, after the ethnogenesis of the Slavs had been fully completed. The following changes occurred:
 1. The 1st palatalization of velars ($k > \check{c}$, $g > d\check{z} > \check{z}$), after A.D. 400 (A.D. 400–475 ± 25 years).
 2. The monophthongization of diphthongs ($\check{a}i > \check{e}$, i ; $\check{a}u > u$; $ei > i$; $eu > 'u$), shortly after A.D. 500 (A.D. 500–575).
 3. The 2nd palatalization of velars ($k > c'$, $g > dz' (> z')$, $ch > s'/\check{s}$), approximately A.D. 575 to 650 (± 25 years), i.e., about 100 years after the end of the 1st palatalization.
 4. The 3rd palatalization of velars, approximately at the same time as the 2nd palatalization; its beginning and end cannot be fixed exactly; terminus ad quem is A.D. 675.
 5. The palatalization of alveolars ($sj > \check{s}$, $zj > \check{z}$, $rj > r'$, $lj > l'$, $nj > \acute{n}$, $tj > t'(\acute{c})$, $dj > \acute{d}(dz')$) and their further development in particular Slavonic languages), approximately during A.D. 675–750 (± 25 years), i.e., the end of the 3rd palatalization; cf. Slovak *kĥaz*, *peniāze*, but *medza*.
 6. The origin of the so-called *l'*-epentheticum on the major part of the Slavonic territory (*zemja > zeml'a*, etc.), about A.D. 750 (perhaps 710–785).
 7. The so-called metathesis of liquids *ǎrt*, *ǎlt*, *tert*, *telt*, *ǎrt*, *ǎlt* (cf. *vǎrna > vǎr'na > v'ǎrna > vrana* in the Old Church Slavonic), about A.D. 800, i.e., approximately during A.D. 750–825 (± 25 years).
 8. The origin of nasal vowels ϵ , ρ , after A.D. 750, approximately at the same time as the metathesis of liquids (after the palatalization of alveolars, cf. *konjъ > koňъ*, but *kotъ*).
 9. The origin of *o* from the short *ā* and the origin of jers (ь , ѣ which are different from the short *i*, *y*), about A.D. 800 (750–825), parallel to the metathesis of liquids with a slight delay of start in different areas of the Slavonic territory.
 10. The completion of the process of constituting the syllabic pattern *CA* and *CA-CA-CA* after A.D. 800, after the completion of all-Classical Common Slavonic changes.

C The Late Common Slavonic during A.D. 800–1,000.

1. The assimilation of consonants and vowels within the boundaries of one syllable and gradual origin of the correlation of softness in the Northern and South-Eastern part of the Slavonic territory (after the metathesis of liquids).
2. The dispalatalization (depalatalization) of some vowels, namely 'ě > 'a, 'e > 'o (*měra* > *miara*, *čelo* > *czolo*) in Polish approximately during A.D. 850–925 (the first evidence for 'ě > 'a is from A.D. 860); the change ě > 'a even in the East Bulgarian dialects with less exact date of its first evidence.
3. The contraction in the South-Western part of the Slavonic territory with its centre in Czech, about A.D. 900 (approximately A.D. 875–950 ± 25 years).
4. The loss of nasal vowels in the major part of the Slavonic territory (except Polish, extinct Polabian and the peripheral Macedonian and Bulgarian dialects), in Czech A.D. 950–1025; in the Bulgarian territory with a delay till the turn of 12th and 13th century.
5. The loss and vocalization of jers in Czech A.D. 950–1025 (or, perhaps, A.D. 925–1000); with a delay in the Eastern part of the Slavonic territory (the loss of jers as late as about A.D. 1150, or, perhaps, at the turn of 12th and 13th century) and in the Bulgarian territory, too (the loss of jers at the turn of 11th and 12th century).
6. The origin of the neo-acute intonation and the so-called compensatory lengthening in connection with the weakening and loss of the so-called weak jers.

The loss of jers signifies the end of the Common Slavonic Period and the beginning of the independent development of the particular Slavonic languages, or, at least, their partial groupings.

In the closing paragraphs concerning the Classical Common Slavonic Period, in the framework of the phonetic-phonological explanations, the Author also comments all morphological endings; in consequence the monograph also presents the so-called formal morphology of the Common Slavonic.

The concluding part of the monograph gives short views of the initial stages of the phonological and partly also morphological development of the particular Slavonic languages.

