AN ATTEMPT TO TRACE A HYPOTHETICAL DERIVATIONAL PATTERN

(Summary)

The article questions the existence of the suffix -οιμα in the Old Bulgarian language. This hypothetical suffix is to be met with in only two words known from the Old Bulgarian manuscripts – namely the words ραλοιμα and λεποιμα. These words are recorded only in their plural form – the first is attested in the instrumental and the second in the dative case. Concerning the word ραλοιμα there are two possible explanations available. The first one is the assumption of an autonomous suffix -οιμι in the meaning of an adverb. The second one takes into account the existence of words with -οιμι in old East Slavonic texts, as well as the contemporary pluralia tantum in the Ukrainian language with the suffix -οιμί (ραδοιμί, λιοδοιμί, λαοοιμί etc.), deriving the hapax legomenon ραλοιμαмι from *ραλοιμα, not ραλοιμα. As far as the word λεποιμα is concerned it is assumed that it represents a hypercorrect form of the word λεποιμα is concerned it is assumed that it represents a hypercorrect form

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