

T. I. Vendina. *Praslovjanskoe slovo vo vremeni i prostranstve Slavii* [Proto-Slavic words in time and space of the Slavia]. Moscow, St. Petersburg: Nestor-Istorija, 2022. 344 pp. ISBN 978-5-4469-2067-9.

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The book under review represents another important study which draws upon the ultimate treasure trove of Slavic linguistics, the *Slavic Linguistic Atlas*, better known by its Russian abbreviation OLA (*Obščeslavjanskij lingvističeskij atlas*, <https://www.slavatlas.org>). The present study is a welcome contribution to Slavic lexicology and historical, areal, and typological linguistics. Its author, Professor Tatjana Ivanovna Vendina, is a leading global authority on this subject. This particular monograph by her is the latest in a series of important books, starting with *The Differentiation of Slavic Languages Based on Word Formation Data* from 1990, through *Medieval Man in the Mirror of the Old Church Slavonic Language* (2002), to, most importantly and connectedly, *A Typology of Lexical Areas of Slavia* (2014), to mention just the most interesting ones (see more at <https://inslav.ru/people/vendina-tatyana-ivanovna>). Being based on the OLA, this monograph also dovetails with various other recent publications about the lexicon of Slavic languages (Kurkina 2021; Marković 2020; OLA 1988, 2000a, 2000b, 2003, 2007, 2009, 2012, 2015, 2020; OLABG 2015; Saenko 2022, to name just the most immediately relevant ones).

The present monograph is intriguing even in its architecture. In addition to the Introduction and Conclusion, it includes four chapters which zoom in on the words inherited from Proto-Slavic, first by all three groups of Slavic languages, then by two groups, then by one group, and finally by one Slavic language. The book is also equipped with an index of lexemes featured on the maps, the maps (as many as 195 of them), an index of words, a list of references, and a list of places encompassed by the OLA.

The issues that the present monograph addresses put it in dialog with what is arguably the central question of historical linguistics, dialectology, and areal linguistics, namely: what is the relationship between maintenance and shift, as temporal categories, on one hand, and the area encompassed by stability or shift, as a spatial category, on the other hand. In contributing her evidence to elucidation of the broader question of how lexemes exist in the time-space continuum, Vendina deploys sound methodology. She has selected non-derived Proto-Slavic lexemes with Indo-European origin and ex-

plored their preservation and loss in Slavic dialects. The selection criteria as well as methodologically relevant topographic and linguistic criteria are discussed in the Introduction. The author also engages in dialog with previous researchers in this field, such as Bernštejn, Trubačev, and Tolstoj, to name just the most famous ones.

As previously noted, the main narrative part of the book comprises three chapters where the author traces the preservation of Proto-Slavic non-derived lexemes with Indo-European background first in the three groups of Slavic languages (chapter 1), then in pairs of branches of Slavic languages (chapter 2), in each individual branch (chapter 3), and finally in individual Slavic languages (chapter 4). Each of these three chapters details various configurations of preservation, providing ample data about each lexeme (its reconstructed form, meaning, sound shifts, sources of attestation, etc.). Each configuration is also depicted on one of the aforementioned 195 maps in the attachments.

Thus, in chapter 1, we can find various configurations of lexical preservation, from the situation that a lexeme has Slavic-wide distribution, such as *\*ledъ* 'ice', to those that have a wide distribution in East and South Slavic dialects and a limited distribution in West Slavic, such as *\*lic-e* 'face', and to those that have a limited distribution in all three groups of Slavic dialects, e.g., *\*jam-a* 'grave, burial site'. Following this list of configurations, the author lists which of these lexemes appear in the dialects of each of the major Slavic ethnic groups (Russian dialects, Ukrainian dialects, etc.). This serves as a sort of an index showing the number of the map in which each lexeme is treated. Next, the author provides a list of maximally distributed lexemes. The chapter concludes with a discussion of the distribution of various lexical fields (such as the animal world, agriculture, etc.) in Slavic dialects and the distribution of all observed lexemes across Slavic dialects.

Similarly, chapter 2 first provides binary configurations of preservation, from those covering the entire Western and Eastern Slavic dialectal space, such as *\*slov-o* 'word', to those broadly distributed in West Slavic dialects but with a limited distribution in their East Slavic counterparts, e.g., *\*vin-o* 'grapes', and those having a limited distribution in Eastern and Southern Slavic dialects, such as *\*kor-a* 'eggshell', to name just a few configurations. In this chapter, too, the distribution of lexemes in the dialects of major Slavic nations is next, followed by a list of maximally distributed lexemes.

Chapter 3 follows the same script. One can find configurations such as the distribution of a lexeme throughout the South Slavic dialectal space, e.g., *\*drъv-o* 'tree', a wide distribution in the Czech dialects with a limited distribution in other West Slavic dialects, such as *\*gonъ* 'hunt', and many others. Here too, the distribution of these lexemes in the dialects of major Slavic ethnic groups and a list of lexemes with maximal distribution follow. Finally, chapter 4 lists configurations by individual languages, such as the words found only in Ukrainian, e.g., *\*žag-a* 'thirst'.

The Conclusion presents major findings from the four main chapters, which can be summarized as follows. In the South Slavic realm, the highest level of preservation is to be found in most Slovene dialects, in Croatian Kajkavian dialects along the Slovene border, and in Serbian Zeta-Sjenica dialects. In West Slavic, the highest level of preservation is attested in Western Czech, Polish Małopolska dialects, and various Slovak dialects. In the East Slavic group, Ukrainian dialects show the highest level of preservation, most notably the Southwestern and Polesian dialects. The author also contextualizes her findings and points to possible further research in this field.

With this new monograph that continues a brilliant series penned by Professor Vendina and other scholars in and around OLA, we have received a wellspring of lexical information for various studies in the fields of lexicology, dialectology, areal, and typological linguistics. For example, it is worth exploring how well correlated is the level of lexical preservation with the degree of grammatical conservatism. One cannot help noticing that, for example in the South Slavic realm, those dialectal groups that are grammatically conservative also feature an equally conservative lexical stock. Needless to say, one should go a step further and ask what kind of geographical and historical circumstances contribute to a higher level of lexical preservation.

Concluding, one can add that the use of the magnificent wealth of information displayed in this monograph by Vendina and all other publications listed in the references below would be greatly facilitated if they were available as online searchable databases and GIS maps. Sadly, the current atmosphere in Slavic studies, where politics interferes with the profession, does not leave much hope that this brilliant data would reach its fully searchable potential any time soon.

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