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**ROMANIAN *HARNIC* ‘INDUSTRIOUS, HARDWORKING’
AS A KEY TO THE ETYMOLOGY OF THE UKRAINIAN *ГАРНИЙ* ‘BEAUTIFUL, GOOD’¹**

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Rezumat

Cuvântul românesc *harnic*, ‘muncitor, sârguincios’ – cheia etimologiei cuvântului ucrainean *гарний* ‘frumos, bun’

Se propune o nouă etimologie a cuvântului ucrainean гарний „frumos, bun” și a celui românesc *harnic*. Potrivit ipotezei, sursa cuvintelor sus menționate este verbul proto-slav cu sensul „a munci din greu”. Existența acestui verb este evidențiată prin existența cuvântului ucrainean [гарувати] cu același sens, precum și de analogiile sale directe atât în limbile slave de est, cât și în unele limbi slave de vest și slave de sud. Originea acestui verb proto-slav poate fi clarificată prin referirea la două dialectisme ucrainene, asemănătoare în semantică, dar diferite fonetic și, după cum se crede, prin origine. Cuvintele acestea [гара] și [гара] au sensul de „car cu o ladă pentru transportarea pământului sau nisipului; sanie pentru transportarea încărcăturilor mari”. Întrucât în acest caz există o identitate semantică incontestabilă a ambelor forme (practic identice și fonetic), nu putem, contrar versiunilor exprimate mai devreme, să despărțim una de cealaltă în problema originilor. Diferența fonetică trebuie explicată, aparent, prin diferența de timp de împrumut. Prin urmare, trebuie să presupunem că sursa verbului proto-slav, care a dat atât cuvintele ucrainene [гарувати], гарний (precum și [гарник] „muncitor la căruță”), cât și cuvântul românesc *harnic*, a fost un cuvânt împrumutat la nivel proto-slav cu sensul „căruță”. Totuși, pare preferabil să vedem ca sursă de împrumut nu cea germană (Karre „căruță, roabă”), ci română (car „căruță”).

Cuvinte-cheie: români, ucraineni, interetnice, lingvistice, interacțiuni.

Резюме

Румынское *harnic* ‘работящий, трудолюбивый’ как ключ к этимологии украинского *гарний* ‘красивый, хороший’

Предложена новая этимология украинского гарний ‘красивый, хороший’ и румынского *harnic* ‘работящий, трудолюбивый’. Согласно гипотезе автора, источником и украинского гарний, и румынского *harnic* является праславянский глагол со значением ‘тяжело, усердно работать’. О его существовании свидетельствуют украинское диалектное [гарувати] с тем же значением, а также его прямые аналогии как в восточнославянских и некоторых западнославянских, так и южнославянских языках. Происхождение этого позднеславянского глагола выясняется при обращении к двум украинским диалектизмам, сходным в семантике, но различающимся фонетически, и, как считается, по происхождению, а именно – [гара] и [гара], имеющим значение ‘воз с ящиком для перевозки земли или песка; сани для перевозки больших грузов’. Поскольку в

данном случае наблюдается бесспорное семантическое тождество обеих форм (практически тождественных и фонетически), мы не можем, вопреки высказанным ранее версиям, отрывать друг от друга и вопросы их происхождения. Фонетическая разница должна объясняться, по всей видимости, разницей во времени заимствования. Поэтому, надо полагать, источником позднеславянского глагола, давшего и украинские [гарувати], гарний (а также [гарник] ‘работник при подводе’), и румынское *harnic*, стало заимствованное на праславянском уровне слово, обозначавшее повозку. Однако, кажется более предпочтительным видеть в качестве источника заимствования не немецкий язык (Karre ‘возок, тачка’), а румынский (car ‘повозка’).

Ключевые слова: румыны, украинцы, межэтнические, языковые, взаимодействия.

Summary

The Romanian *harnic* ‘industrious, hardworking’ as a key to the etymology of the Ukrainian *гарний* ‘beautiful, good’

The author suggests a new etymology of the Ukrainian гарний ‘beautiful, good’ and the Romanian *harnic* ‘industrious, hardworking’. He thinks that a Slavic (of the Proto-Slavic time) verb with the meaning ‘to work hard’ was the source of both mentioned lexeme. The existence of this verb is supported by the Ukrainian dialectal [гарувати] with the same meaning, which has direct analogies both in East Slavic, some West Slavic and South Slavic (Serbian, Slovenian) languages. The origin of this Slavic verb can be explained through the analysis of two other Ukrainian dialectal words that are semantically close to each other, but differing in phonetics and, as some researchers believe, according to origin. The mentioned words are [гара] и [гара], with the meaning ‘a cart with a box for transporting earth or sand; a sledge for transporting large loads’. Since in this case there is an indisputable semantic identity of both forms (practically identical phonetically as well), we cannot, contrary to the versions expressed earlier, separate from each other the question of their origin. The phonetic difference has to be explained by the difference in the time of the borrowing. Thus, the author thinks that the for-Slavic verb, which became the source for the Ukrainian [гарувати], гарний (as well as [гарник] ‘cart worker’), and the Romanian *harnic*, came from a word borrowed during the Proto-Slavic time with the meaning ‘cart’. However, contrary to the previous opinion, the author thinks that this borrowed word comes not from the German Karre ‘kart, wheelbarrow’, but from the Romanian car ‘cart’.

Key words: Romanians, Ukrainians, interethnic, linguistic, interactions.

The Ukrainian гарний ‘beautiful, good’ has not an acceptable (and recognized) etymology at present. The “Scandinavian” version of A. S. Melnichuk (ЕСУМ 1: 476), also accepted by the authors of ЕСУМ, does not withstand, in my opinion, critical analysis. Actually, the authors of ЭССЯ dictionary consider it “extremely doubtful”; they think that the “origin of the Ukrainian гарний” is “unclear” (ЭССЯ 6: 103). Likewise, A. E. Anikin (in the “Russian Etymological Dictionary”, РЭС) says that the “Scandinavian etymology” of this word is “unacceptable” (АНИКИН 2016: 106). The same is A. F. Juravlev’s opinion: “This version is extremely doubtful” (Журавлев 2005: 76).

The authors of ЕСУМ think that “from the Ukrainian гарний comes the Romanian *harnic*” (ЕСУМ 1: 476). They mention here the Bulgarian харен and the Macedonian арен with the identical to гарний meaning. However, the ЭССЯ and РЭС dictionaries believe that these South Slavic analogies (as well as the Greek χαρίς ‘beauty’, i.e., they think the source of the mentioned South Slavic words) are „phonetically unlikely” (ЭССЯ 6: 103), or, at least, „require complex reservations” (АНИКИН 2016: 106; see also: Журавлев 2005: 76).

These dictionaries both mention here some thoughts of Iu. V. Shevelov, which do not exclude the South-Slavic origin of the Ukrainian гарний; he wrote the following: „if this word is not borrowed from Bulgarian” (Шевельов 2002: 447). Besides, he supposes it is doubtful that the Bulgarian харен comes from the Greek χαρίς ‘beauty’.

At the same time, the authors of СДЕЛМ dictionary (addressing the same South Slavic analogies to explain the origin of the Romanian *harnic*) did not mention the Ukrainian гарний at all (СДЕЛМ 1979: 469). They believe that a Proto-Slavic word *харьнь ‘graceful, benevolent’ (reconstructed by them) was the source for the Romanian *harnic*, as well as for the mentioned above South Slavic words.

I suppose that everything explained above is a nice demonstration of the complexity of the issue and the inconsistency of the proposed etymologies; no one of these can be accepted. And, consequently, this demonstrates that we need to find some new answers to the question of the origin of both the Ukrainian гарний and the Romanian *harnic*.

Trying to suggest such an answer, let me start from the thesis that the appellation to the Proto-Slavic word (the idea, proposed by the authors of СДЕЛМ) better correlates (regardless of the fidelity

of the etymology of СДЕЛМ itself) with the fact of wide range of analogies (including South Slavic ones) than the version of ЕСУМ, or the “Polish” version of A. F. Juravlev.

Referring to the last mentioned version, we can repeat with more reason the words of A. E. Anikin concerning the analogies of the Ukrainian гарний in the Russian area: “wide geography and the whole range of semantics <...> the Ukrainian etymology cannot explain” (АНИКИН 2016: 106). Besides, A. F. Juravlev, as I can see, does not pay enough attention to the phonetic-aspects of the etymology he suggested, or the chronology of phonetic transformations (see the reasoning of Yu. V. Shevelov in connection with the borrowing into the Ukrainian language of the Romanian *cîrlig* (Шевельов 2002: 445-446), as well as of the authors of ЕСУМ in connection with the borrowing of Polish *gara* in the Ukrainian dialects (ЕСУМ 1: 469)).

And, as it is obvious (and as it will be additionally shown below), in his hypothesis A. F. Zhuravlev took into account (as well as other etymologies of the Ukrainian гарний proposed in the literature today) by no means the entire range of available analogies. That, by definition, is already a fundamental flaw in any etymology.

Here it is necessary to immediately stipulate that I do not propose in this case to involve in the analysis all, without exception, Slavic words that are phonetically consonant with the Ukrainian гарний. Among them, as I can see, there are words that are neither semantically nor by origin connected with гарний.

However, even excluding such (I believe wrong) “analogies”, we have to take into account a quite large amount of words, that are somehow related to the problem of origin of the Ukrainian гарний, and are represented in all three groups of Slavic languages.

And the fact of the presence of these numerous, and represented, I repeat, in all three groups of Slavic languages, as well as in Romanian, analogies in connection with the Ukrainian гарний puts forward the idea of the authors of СДЕЛМ that we need to look for a Proto-Slavic source of the Romanian *harnic* (and, consequently, of the Ukrainian гарний) the most promising, in my opinion.

However, I cannot agree with the authors of СДЕЛМ in their ignoring of the Ukrainian гарний in the context of the issue of the origin of the Romanian *harnic*. Although, we actually cannot derive the Romanian *harnic* from гарний, and not so

much for phonetic reasons, but (as I will try to explain below) for semantic ones.

Let me mention here that in some Ukrainian dialects we see *гарний* nameley in the same meaning as the Romanian *harnic*. For example, in the dialect of Bulaestian Ukrainians exists /гарниѣй/ ‘industrious, hardworking’. The same meaning exists in some dialects of Bukovina (СБГ 2004: 69).

Earlier I supposed (Романчук 2022) that in this case we should think about the reversed Romanian influence. However, in the light of some facts (see below) we, probably, should look for another explanation. I mean we should suppose that these Ukrainian dialects reflect the more archaic meaning of *гарний*. The Romanian influence was only an additional factor of conservation of this archaism.

In any case, it is worth noting that there is no other meaning for Bulaestian /гарниѣй/. If this is a reversed Romanian influence, then as a result of this influence the actual Ukrainian meaning of this word was completely replaced. Then this, as it seems, is interesting in itself.

Nevertheless, in this case it is especially worth paying attention to the fact that Yu. V. Shevelov, discussing (in the context of the question of the origin of the fricative /r/ in the Ukrainian language) the cases of r/x substitution in the Ukrainian area (where he mentions the Ukrainian *гарний*, considering this word (if, I should remind, “it was borrowed from Bulgarian” (Шевельов 2002: 447)) just as a result of the substitution of /x/ for /r/), points out that this substitution occurs in the borderlands along with some other languages (Hungarian and Romanian). He pays attention that this substitution, for example, often exists in the medieval Moldavian land ownership documents (Шевельов 2002: 447), where we can see (in the documents of the early XV century, i.e., early documents) some cases of substitution of /r/ for /x/: мохилу – from могилу; Хавриловци – from Гавриловци; оухорских – from оугорских. And, that is more important here, the reverse substitution cases: Тигомирово – from Тихомирово.

Actually, if we approach it purely formally, this fact, attested by Moldovan land deeds, removes the objection about the phonetic impossibility of deriving the Ukrainian *гарний* from the Bulgarian *харен* (and, consequently, from the Greek *χαρίς* ‘beauty’). Researchers suppose that namely „the existence of r” in the Ukrainian *гарний* is the reason of this impossibility (Журавлев 2005: 76). However, namely in Slavic dialects of the contact zone of Romani-

an-Slavic borderland the transformation of initial /x/ to fricative /r/ was possible. Then, the form with fricative /r/ spread through the entire Ukrainian area.

However, the „Bulgarian version“ presumes too late the appearance of the Ukrainian *гарний*. Fricative /r/ in the Ukrainian (future Ukrainian, of course) area appeared, according to Iu. V. Shevelov, not earlier than in the XI century (Шевельов 2002: 446), while the possibility of r/x substitution appeared even later. And this, apparently, does not correlate well with the fact of the presence of broad analogies in the Slavic and Romanian languages noted above.

However, a more important consideration exists here. If we believe the etymology of the Romanian *harnic* assumed by the authors of the СДЕЛМ, as well as the version that would try to proceed in its explanation to the Greek *χαρίς* ‘beauty’, we have to explain an extraordinary and actually inexplicable, unmotivated semantic shift from the meaning of the original Proto-Slavic (or Greek) word to the meaning that is basic in Romanian, i. e. ‘industrious, hardworking’.

Considering all of the above, I think that the key to the etymology of both the Ukrainian *гарний*, and the Romanian *harnic* could be found if we presume the existence of a Proto-Slavic verb with the meaning ‘to work hard, to work diligently and without interruption’. Its existence is proved by the Ukrainian dialectal [гарувати] with the same meaning (ЕСУМ 1: 477-478). This verb exists in some Bukovinian dialects (СБГ 2004: 69), and namely in the dialects of Zastavna and Kitsmani districts (these dialects, as I tried to prove earlier, are the closest to the Bulaestian one), and, also, in the dialects of Vijnitsa and Novoselitsa districts.

Besides, the Ukrainian dialectal [гарувати] has some direct analogies in Eastern (Russian, Belorussian), Western (Polish, Czech, Slovak), and South Slavic languages (Serbo-Croatian, Slovenian).

Thus, we should mention here the Russian dialectal [ухариться] ‘to get tired’, the Belorussian dialectal [гараваць] ‘to work hard’, the Polish *harować* ‘to work hard; to torture someone with hard work’, the Slovak dialectal [harovat] ‘to work as a horse’ (ЕСУМ 1: 477-478). More interestingly, the Slovenian *garati* ‘to work hard’ (ЕСУМ 1: 478; Bezljaj 1977: 138-139), and the Serbo-Croatian *harati se* ‘to suffer, to grow old, to work (to work hard)’ and *харан* ‘worn out, shabby’ (ЕСУМ 1: 478).

The authors of ЕСУМ, mentioning these analogies (ЕСУМ 1: 478), exclude them *de facto* from the analysis, and point out that these words „need additional investigation“. However, I cannot agree with such an approach, as well as with their supposition that the analogies (mentioned above) in Western Slavic languages come from the Ukrainian dialectal [гарувати].

Taking into account the entire set of analogies, including both the cited South Slavic lexemes and the Romanian *harnic*, we, I believe, inevitably come to the need to see precisely the Proto-Slavic verb with the meaning ‘to work hard’ at their origins.

Thus, according to my hypothesis, the initial meaning of the Ukrainian *гарний* (as well as its source, the Proto-Slavic adverb) was namely the meaning ‘industrious, hardworking, diligent’. The Romanian *harnic* concurred this initial meaning.

This hypothesis explains well the following semantic evolution of the initial meaning to the meaning ‘beautiful, good’, which occurred later in the Ukrainian and some South Slavic (Bulgarian, Macedonian, Serbo-Croatian) languages.

Besides, it seems that this evolution was also influenced (in Bulgarian *харен*, Macedonian *арен*, as well as in some meanings of Serbo-Croatian *har*; *haran* („1° milost, <...> gratia” (Skok 1971: 655), i. e. „gracefulness”), and (later and indirectly) in Ukrainian *гарний*) by Greek *χαρίς* ‘beauty’. However, I think that it was an additional factor, which led to the strengthening and further development of the semantics that was already present in the spectrum of meanings of the Proto-Slavic lexeme.

Also, in some Slavic languages (independently of each other) occurred the semantic interference of lexemes originated from the Proto-Slavic **gьrdь* (and **gьrdьnъ(jь)* ‘proud’ and lexemes like Ukrainian *гарний*). This interference led to the appearance of variants noted by A. F. Zhuravlev.

However, there is one more important question: what was the origin of this supposed Proto-Slavic verb with the meaning “to work hard”?

I think that we can receive the key through the appellation to another two Ukrainian dialectal words. They are similar in semantics, but differ in phonetics, that is why the authors of ЕСУМ believe that these lexemes are different by origin also.

I mean here [гара] ‘a cart with a box; large sled on wheels for transporting large loads’ and [рапа] with the same meaning. Phonetically they differ in the first sound (in the first case it is fricative /r/,

and in the second it is a sonant sound); the authors of ЕСУМ think that the second word is borrowed from Polish (in the Polish language it is also a borrowing from German).

With regard to the former, they point to such analogies as Old-Russian *гары* ‘ships’ and Czech *harovec* ‘two-wheeled cart’, and believe that this word is related to the same Old-Russian **гарь*, from which they made an attempt to derive the Ukrainian *гарний*.

I agree that only the first Ukrainian dialectal word (with fricative /r/) is related to the origin of *гарний*. However, the fact is that both words are semantically identical, and almost identical in their phonetics. That is why we cannot, despite the opinion of the authors of ЕСУМ, to tear apart from each other the question of their origin. The phonetic difference should be explained by the difference in the time of the borrowing (and, respectively, by the difference of the source of borrowing).

Therefore, I think that the early (in the Proto-Slavic times) borrowed word with the meaning ‘cart’ became the source of the Proto-Slavic verb, which gave rise to the Ukrainian [гарувати], and then *гарний*. However, despite the authors of ЕСУМ’s opinion, I think that it is the Romanian *car* ‘cart’ (see about this Romanian word: СДЕЛМ 1978: 174) was the source for borrowing the Ukrainian [гара], and not the German *Karre* ‘wagon, wheelbarrow’ (ЕСУМ 1: 469). Such an explanation seems, in my opinion, preferable both from a phonetic point of view and in the light of the territorial distribution of the derivatives of this borrowing in the Slavic languages.

The very important and interesting fact in the context of the hypothesis I suggest is that the authors of ЕСУМ mention also a Ukrainian dialectal word [гарник] ‘a worker with cart’ (ЕСУМ 1: 469). This word, as we can see, is almost identical in its phonetics to the Romanian *harnic*.

Thus, based on all of the above, we can say that the initial link in this etymological chain was a word borrowed in Proto-Slavic from Romanian, which began to denote a cart for transporting large loads.

Note

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