

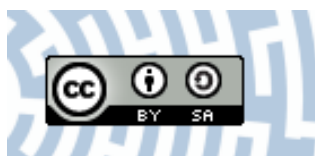


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Preface

The volume *Historical Issues in Hamito-Semitic and Indo-European Languages* is a collection of nine articles presented at the scientific session SIEHL (Session on Indo-European Historical Linguistics) organized annually in the Department of Language History at the Institute of English, Faculty of Philology, University of Silesia in Katowice. Overall, SIEHL is dedicated to issues related to broadly understood history of language, and in particular the history of Indo-European languages discussed both from the diachronic and synchronic perspective. Each year, the session has a different guiding theme and it aims not only at creating an opportunity for exchange of thoughts but also at popularization of historical linguistics at the abovementioned Faculty of Philology.

Although the guiding theme of this volume are issues concerning Semitic languages and their influence on selected Indo-European languages, some of the articles go beyond this area of study and touch on subjects related to other linguistic aspects. The volume is divided into two parts.

In the first part there are articles in English, whereas in the other one there are articles in Polish. Here is a brief outline of the topics discussed in the English part of the volume. In his paper, Artur Bartnik raises the problem of possible Celtic influences on the genitive form of resumptive pronouns in English. Ireneusz Kida in his article discusses Hamito-Semitic influences in Celtic languages. The internal structure of liquid sounds and the history of their vocalization is discussed in Artur Kijak's article. In turn, the text by Adam Pluszczyk touches the problem of dialectal diversity in American English.

As for the Polish part of the volume, the first article, written by Monika Grotek, depicts the characteristics of male and female human figures engaged in magic on the basis of the origin of the names given to them in Polish. Kamil Krakowiecki in his article makes a diachronic analysis of words of forgetting in Altaic languages and searches for correlations between Altaic and Indo-European word roots. The subsequent paper by Andrzej M. Łęcki

deals with the grammaticalization of the names of body parts and with denoting space in Polish. In the article written by Kamilla Termińska, in turn, are examined the most important peculiarities of Semitic languages. Finally, Małgorzata Zadka in her article discusses Semitic borrowings in Mycenaean names of food products.

Ireneusz Kida