

**On some antroponymic and toponymic Slavic patterns which were apparently in use in the Early Balkan Slavic (from 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> century), and on the question how to approach to the research of this early period of the Balkan Slavic languages**

***Abstract:*** The aim of the paper is to present a recent work on the historical development and on the geographic and social distribution of the surname patterns and some toponomastic models in the Slavic languages and based on that to put forward the question if it is possible on that ground to develop a linguistic method that would help the researches to reach the oldest Slavic historical period (from 3<sup>th</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> century AD), for which generally there are almost no data, at least considering the South Slavs and their languages. To that aim, the text starts with one of the oldest known Slavic toponomastic and anthroponomastic suffixes – the Proto Slavic *\*-it’b*. The author starts with a short presentation of the oldest efforts to describe it, then it passes to how the question is solved and then he presents the new insights about it that have arose from the newest researches. The text then goes on to show how this suffix reflects both the geographical spreading and the social development of the Slavs by marking the types of settlements in toponomastic sense and the development of new social classes in anthroponomastic sense. Then, after a short discussion on the general insights about the social structure of the early Slavs that are gained in this approach, it passes on to few examples on how it could help us also clear some current historical issues that were not fully or were wrongly understood. It ends offering some other onomastic formants and patterns that could help in this sense and putting forward the question whether it would be possible to develop an approach which would, based on a research of the oldest known Slavic toponomastic and anthroponomastic formants and patterns, be able to provide a frame for gaining new facts and awareness regarding the earliest known, or possibly even the previous unknown historical period of the Slavs.