

On some terms of horse keeping in the Mari language

The author draws attention to the lexical group of the Mari language related to horse keeping, the etymological investigation of which has not been the subject of research until now. The words examined in the article confirm that the lexemes belonging to this lexical group are heterogeneous in terms of origin. The word *im̄ne*, meaning 'horse', is of unknown origin, while *purlo*, meaning 'gray' is a Kazan Tatar loanword, which is of Middle Mongolian origin in Tatar. The word for horse color *čal*, meaning 'grey', is of Old Turkic origin. Its monosyllabic form is a direct takeover from Tatar: its two-syllable form entered Mari through Russian mediation. Finally, a detailed historical-etymological analysis of the Mari dialect variants of the word *sülək* ~ *tšülük* meaning 'leather belt' (part of the horse-furniture), will be given. The author states that this word is of Middle Chuvash origin in the Mari dialects, but the Chuvash noun is copied from Middle Tatar. The Middle Tatar word can figure as a Volga Bulgarian substratum element, where the root of the word can be explained from Early Middle Kipchak.

Keywords: horse keeping, Mari (Cheremis) language, Turcic loanwords

KLÁRA AGYAGÁSI