

**Semantic derivation of iconic Indo-European roots with the initial bh-**

The article contributes to the problem of semantic derivation from iconic meanings. The thesis of genetic priority of iconic (onomatopoeic and sound symbolic) roots in the evolution of lexical and semantic systems of languages is hypothetically argued. The article examines Proto-Indo-European roots with the initial bilabial aspirant bh- (bha-, bher-, bhel-) and shows the ways of their semantic development in different Indo-European languages. These roots exhibit three kinds of iconic reference: bucal, manual and onomatopoeic. Each of these aspects develops to a set of semantic augmentation, and the homonymy assigned by dictionaries is in rather cases just a synaesthetic shift of meaning of the same root. The extension of such study of Indo-European roots basing iconic aspect of meaning could lead to the reduction of lexical and semantic derivative sources and to the whole view of semantic system and evolution of language.

**Key words:** phono-semantics, iconicity, sound symbolism, onomatopoeia, semantic derivation, semantic shifts, linguistic world map, language evolution, Indo-European root, aspirant, iconic meaning, semantic augmentation, language evolution.