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A history of East Baltic through language contact

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Propositions

1. The conservative phonology of East Baltic with respect to Proto-Indo-European does not imply that the language developed in isolation without any significant contact with other languages.
2. The earliest identifiable layer of Slavic loanwords in Baltic coincides with the northern migration of Slavic speakers and is datable to the turn of the first millennium CE.
3. The Baltic loanwords in Early Proto-Finnic are the result of the assimilation of a Baltic substrate most closely related to, but not the direct ancestor of, the modern East Baltic languages.
4. The clearest evidence for prehistoric contact with unattested languages can be furnished by lexical evidence exhibiting irregular but recurring correspondences.
5. The collected evidence for borrowings from unattested sources in East Baltic is suggestive of a complex contact situation with multiple source languages.

6. Phonological and semantic change can be considered forms of data degradation, and should be treated as such: the more changes that occur, the less likely it is that the original form can be recovered.
7. A derivative may only be reconstructed for a proto-language if it is unproductive in at least two branches, at least two branches show a common, non-trivial semantic innovation, or there are indications that its formation must have predated the given proto-language.
8. The more phonemes involved in a comparison, the lower the probability of chance resemblance: thus, segmenting a root of the shape **CeRC*- as **CeR-C*- dramatically increases the risk of a false equation and lowers the scientific validity of the comparison.

9. To reduce the role of personal intuition when dealing with semantic change, a hypothetical semantic change should only be postulated if robust parallels are identified.
10. In an Indo-European context, the terms 'lengthened grade' or 'secondary full grade' should be preferred to *vr̥ddhi*, as a direct connection to the productive Indo-Iranian phenomenon is often neither evident, nor necessary to an argument.

11. The sustainable growth of the human population is impossible without the active promotion of a vegan lifestyle.
12. The suspension of goods and services marketed at civilians cannot have any positive humanitarian impact on that country's state policies, but is more likely to be used to fuel polarizing narratives.