Indo-Slavic lexical isoglosses and the prehistoric dispersal of Indo-Iranian

Palmér, A.I.

Stellingen │ Propositions

behorende bij het proefschrift

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Axel Palmér

1. Indo-Iranian and Balto-Slavic languages share more than 50 unique lexical isoglosses, but only ten percent of these are compelling shared innovations.

2. The Indo-Slavic lexical isoglosses provide evidence for an Indo-Slavic subgroup, but more research is needed to determine whether Indo-Slavic was part of a dialect continuum or formed a subgroup in the strict sense.

3. Based on linguistic palaeontology, the Indo-Slavic and Proto-Indo-Iranian speech communities can be linked to a succession of archaeological cultures in Eastern Europe and Ural region that includes the Fatyanovo culture, Abashevo culture, and Sintashta culture.

4. The linguistic evidence presented in this dissertation is consistent with genetic evidence linking Central and South Asian populations to Eastern European Corded Ware populations.

5. Lexical isoglosses are just as important for inferring subgroups of a language family as phonological and morphological isoglosses.

6. Besides interacting via publications and during conferences, linguists, archaeologists, and geneticists should work together in joint research projects to achieve true interdisciplinary collaboration.

7. To increase effectiveness and transparency of research, historical linguists should strive to make research data FAIR (findable, accessible, interoperable, reusable) by publishing their datasets online.

8. Instead of back-projecting formations attested in two or three branches to Proto-Indo-European, a bottom-up, phylogenetic perspective should be applied to etymological dictionaries and other comparative works.

9. Rejected etymologies should be included in publications, not only for the sake of transparency, but also to prevent them from persisting in the literature.

10. 19th century works of comparative Indo-European linguistics remain valuable and should not be neglected by modern scholarship.

11. Ancient DNA allows scholars to reconstruct past population structures and movements, but should not be used to legitimize any particular political agenda.