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**ON THE TURKISH ORIGIN OF AN OBSOLETE AND RARE BULGARIAN WORD**

**Abstract:** The object of analysis in this work is the origin of a rare Bulgarian word with emotional-evaluative semantics, which has been documented in writing from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Various phonetic, word-forming and semantic variants are found in the available sources: *хългъз*, *хългъзин*, *хългъзник*, *хългъзник*, etc. The explanations of the word from S. Mladenov (1920) and A. Nichev (1979) are, in our opinion, unsatisfactory. The former points to a Slavic origin of the word, while the latter defines it as a Spanish word that entered Bulgarian through Judeo-Spanish. The article proposes a new etymological hypothesis, according to which the word is a loanword from the Turkish language. In contrast to the previous two etymological attempts, all formal variants are explained here, with the semantic diffuseness rooted in the peculiarities of the emotional or expressive vocabulary. The broad position of Turkisms in this layer of vocabulary in the Bulgarian language is also taken into account.

**Keywords:** etymology; Turkish borrowings in Bulgarian; emotional-evaluative vocabulary

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