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ON FEAR AND DESIRE: THE ETYMOLOGY OF MODERN GREEK *λαχτάρα*

Abstract: The article examines the Modern Greek noun *λαχτάρα* and the corresponding verbs *λαχταρίζω* and *λαχταρώ*, combining the meanings of ‘desire’ and ‘fear’. It clarifies their semantic structure in diachrony and discusses their etymology. The Medieval Greek noun *λακτάρα/λαχτάρα* is formed from *λακτέα* ‘kick’ with the augmentative suffix *-άρα*. The verb *λαχταρίζω/λακταρίζω* is a denominative formation, while *λαχταρώ/λακταρώ* is a remodeled form from *λαχταρίζω/λακταρίζω*.

Keywords: etymology; semantics; Greek; emotions; fear; desire

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