

International Workshop on Balto-Slavic Accentology  
July, 1–3, 2005  
Filozofski fakultet, Sveučilište u Zagrebu

## The Balto-Slavic mobile accent paradigms

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### Abstract

Different explanations have been given of the Balto-Slavic mobile accent paradigms (e.g. *ā*-stem Lithuanian nom. sg. *galvà*, acc. sg. *gálvą*; Russian nom. sg. *golová*, acc. sg. *gólovu*) and their relationship to the accentual system of the Indo-European proto-language. Very briefly, the most important hypotheses are:

- 1 The accent curves of the Balto-Slavic thematic mobile paradigms more or less directly reflect the original state of affairs, the Proto-Indo-European thematic stems having mobile stress (Meillet, Stang, Illič-Svityč, Dybo).
- 2 The accent curves of the Balto-Slavic thematic mobile paradigms indirectly reflect the accent curves of the Proto-Indo-European consonant stems, a pivotal prerequisite being the accent retraction in word-forms like *\*duk<sup>l</sup>terin* > *\*<sup>l</sup>dukterin*. These morphologically determined accent curves were modified by subsequent phonological and/or morphological processes (Saussure, Wijk, Kuryłowicz, Kortlandt, Rasmussen).

In this paper, I shall present a third hypothesis (similar to one put forward by Sedláček in 1914) on the origin of the Balto-Slavic mobile accent paradigms:

- 3 The accent curves of the Balto-Slavic thematic mobile paradigms arose as a result of an accent retraction. These phonologically determined accent curves were modified by subsequent morphological processes.