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ON THE TRANSLATION OF THE NAME "SHARKOLIYA" IN HUNGARIAN

*The famous hero of the South Slav epic King Marko rides many different horses, but most loved and liked by the people is his horse Sharkoliya. This name appears in many variations, including the most commonly used like Shara, Sharo and Sharko. This study sought the supposed origin of the name, which by the folk etymology is may be with local home, from the name of Shar mountains. Another popular interpretation of the name is associa-ted with the white hair on the flanks of the horse, so that its meaning is interpreted as "piebald horse". But everywhere in the popular songs the anonymous writer expressly states that the horse of King Marko is mainly black. Old layers of the South Slav epic allow to seek the meaning of the name further back in time before the conquest of the Balkans in the fourteenth century. So in the early poetic image of the horse Sharo can be clearly detected well pronounced supernatural traits like the presence of six wings, the ability to fly and talk to a human voice, to emit smoke from his nostrils and fire from his mouth, etc. These special events and horse skills require the opinion that Sharko is a composite image of the characteristics of various mythical and demonic beings. Therefore the study of the name is directed to find any connections between the mythical creatures - snake, dragon and horse. Evidences were found as in the South Slav folk songs and fairy tales also in the Hungarian language and culture. This gives grounds to argue that the personal names Shara, Sharo, Sharkoliya etc., are not associated with some ordinary exaggerating image of a winged horse, but mean a metaphorical sum of the characteristics of some mythical, demonic creatures like snake, dragon, lamya, karakondzhol etc. Therefore, the name of the horse should be understood, interpreted and translated in the sense of "horse-dragon".*