

Title: i-stem pl. tantum Nouns as a Declension Class in the Transcarpathian Ukrainian Dialects: Lingvogeographical Aspect

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This paper, based on field recordings in Transcarpathian villages, investigates the nouns with plural forms as Dpl *san'om*, Lpl *san'ox*, Ipl *san'mə* 'sledge'. Though dialectal features in Transcarpathia greatly vary across the territory, the systems of noun declension in plural are alike, except for the westernmost dialects:

1. there are several basic types, or declension classes, in plural. Among these, one declension class is constituted by the former i-stem nouns pl. tantum retaining what appears to be the i-stem endings in GSLIpl (see below). These nouns preserve their original endings especially well, i.e. they are the least susceptible (along with the C-stem (-*ət*-) nouns) to the loss of their original endings in favor of a-stem endings;
2. i-stem endings occur not only with i-stem pl.tantum nouns, but also (less consistently) with some jo-stem nouns;
3. basing on the geographical distribution of i-stem endings in various lexemes of the former i-stems and jo-stems, one can make inferences about the relative chronology of changes;
4. i-stem endings in DLpl in Transcarpathia have /o/ instead of /e/, which may suggest their merger with u-stem endings. The geographical distribution of the endings with /o/ and /e/ in i- and jo-stem may help clarify the origin of the endings with /o/.

The new declension types for plural forms of nouns in Transcarpathia are organized according to gender-class: the masculine type; the neuter type (former -*ət*- nouns); the feminine type; and the pl. tantum type. However, the factors influencing the preservation of the non-feminine types' endings include the nouns' belonging to clearly defined morphonological groups characterized by formal features such as the lack of forms of the singular or the presence of certain stem-final consonants.