

Contents

Introduction	9
I. The rise of Slavic <i>x</i> in the non-initial position – the <i>ruki</i> rule	11
Conditions and area of retraction	11
The second step – retraction $\xi > x$	14
Phonologization	15
Relative and absolute chronology and the question of Iranian influence	16
II. The survey of opinions on the rise of initial Slavic <i>x</i> -	19
III. Potential sources of the word-initial <i>x</i> -	21
Slavic <i>x</i> - of the onomatopoeic origin	21
PS loanwords with initial <i>x</i> -	22
Slavic <i>x</i> - as a continuation of IE <i>*x</i> - or <i>*kh</i> -	28
Slavic <i>x</i> - – IE <i>*sk</i> -, <i>*k</i> -	30
Slavic <i>x</i> - – IE <i>*sg</i> -, <i>*g</i> -	36
Slavic <i>x</i> - – IE <i>*s</i> -	39
Slavic <i>x</i> - – IE <i>*k'</i> -	40
Slavic <i>x</i> - as a prothetic sound	45
Résumé of potential sources of Slavic <i>x</i> -	46
IV. Etymological analysis of PS lexicon with the initial <i>x</i> -/ <i>š</i> -	48
V. The interpretation of the etymological analysis	102
Findings	102
Interpretation	104
Conclusion	107
Bibliography	109