

UDC 930(477):929Петров(043.3)  
DOI: 10.24919/2519-058x.10.159167

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**Бібліографічний опис статті:** Andryeyev, V., & Kariaka, A. (2019). Problems of the Baltic-Slavic linguistic unity and ancient Prussian language in the scientific heritage of Victor Petrov. *Skhidnoievropeiskyi Istorychnyi Visnyk [East European Historical Bulletin]*, 10, 8–17. doi: 10.24919/2519-058x.10.159167

**PROBLEMS OF THE BALTIC-SLAVIC LINGUISTIC UNITY  
AND ANCIENT PRUSSIAN LANGUAGE  
IN THE SCIENTIFIC HERITAGE OF VICTOR PETROV**

**Summary.** *The purpose of the research is to analyze the methodological aspects of the use of V. Petrov's Baltic languages and their archaic structures for the reconstruction of the pre-written stages of the Slavic (Ukrainian first of all) ethnogenesis. The research methodology is based on the principles of historicism, systemicity, science, interdisciplinary. The following general-historical methods have been used: historiographical analysis, historical-genetic, terminological analysis, comparative, typological. The authors adhere to the civilizational approach and principles of cultural and intellectual history. The scientific novelty of the basis of a wide range of published and unpublished researches of V. Petrov on historiography, ethnogenesis, linguistics, archaeology, onomastics, the contribution of the scientist to the study of the Balto-Slavic community and the ancient Prussian language has been described.*

**Conclusions.** Many years of polydisciplinary research of V. Petrov from the Balto-Slavic language and historical connections became an important component of the proposed reconstruction of the ethnogenetic processes by the scientists in the ancient history of Ukraine («The ethnogenesis of the Slavs» (1972)).

V. Petrov's «Theory of the epochs» went beyond the tenets of the formation approach. It allowed us to consider the process of ethnogenesis as discrete, which has its own features within a self-sufficient era. The isolation of the Baltic element in the language of the Scythians and the advancement of the scientific theory of the existence of the Balto-Slavic linguistic community allowed the researcher to trace the connection between the Scythian age and the historical Slavs. Instead, in the theory of Slavic ethnogenesis of V. Petrov there was no place for the concept of «the united ancient Russian nationality», which was actively imposed by the official Soviet science.

Many of V. Petrov's conclusions of different degrees of generalization have been refuted now. However, the methodological approaches retain some research potential. The results of V. Petrov's study of the Prussian language require a further analysis of linguists.

**Key words:** V. Petrov, ethnogenesis, Balto-Slavic community, the Prussian language.

## ПРОБЛЕМИ БАЛТО-СЛОВ'ЯНСЬКОЇ МОВНОЇ СПІЛЬНОСТІ ТА ДАВНЬОПРУССЬКОЇ МОВИ У НАУКОВОМУ ДОРОБКУ ВІКТОРА ПЕТРОВА

**Анотація. Мета дослідження** – проаналізувати методологічні аспекти використання В. Петровим балтійських мов та їх архаїчних структур для реконструкції дописемних етапів слов'янського (передовсім українського) етногенезу. **Методологія дослідження** спирається на принципи історизму, системності, науковості, міждисциплінарності. Використано такі загальноісторичні методи: історіографічний аналіз, історико-генетичний, термінологічний аналіз, компаративний, типологічний. Автори дотримуються цивілізаційного підходу та засад культурно-інтелектуальної історії. **Наукова новизна:** на основі широкого кола опублікованих і неопублікованих досліджень В. Петрова з історіософії, етногенезу, мовознавства, археології, ономастики охарактеризовано внесок вченого у вивчення балто-слов'янської спільності та давньопруської мови.

**Висновки.** Багаторічні полідисциплінарні дослідження В. Петрова з балто-слов'янських мовних та історичних зв'язків стали важливою складовою запропонованої вченим реконструкції етногенетичних процесів у давній історії України («Етногенез слов'ян» (1972)).

«Теорія епох» В. Петрова виходила за рамки догматів формаційного підходу. Вона давала можливість розглянути процес етногенезу як дискретний, який має у межах самодостатньої епохи свої особливості. Виділення балтійського елементу в мові скіфів та відстоювання наукової теорії про існування балто-слов'янської мовної спільності допомогло дослідникові простежити зв'язок скіфської доби з історичним слов'янством. Натомість у теорії слов'янського етногенезу вченого не знайшлося місця для концепту «єдиної давньоруської народності», що активно нав'язувався офіційною радянською наукою.

Багато з висновків В. Петрова різного ступеня узагальнення на сьогодні спростовано. Однак методологічні підходи зберігають певний дослідницький потенціал. Доробок вченого з вивчення пруської мови потребує подальшого аналізу фахівців-лінгвістів.

**Ключові слова:** В. Петров, етногенез, балто-слов'янська спільність, пруська мова.

Viktor Platonovych Petrov (pseudonyms – V. Ber, V. Domontovych, V. Plyat and the others) (1894 – 1969) – a scientist of the encyclopedic erudition (a historian, an ethnographer, an archaeologist, a literary critic, a linguist, a folklorist, a philosopher), an organizer of science, a public figure and a writer from the circle of the neo-classics. In the Ukrainian literary and scientific circles V. Petrov was considered to be an outstanding and distinctive representative of the «golden age» of the Ukrainian humanities of the 1920-ies and the «emigrant Renaissance» of the second half of the 1940-ies. But due to various life situations and circumstances, he was «seized» for a long time from the intellectual space of the USSR and the Ukrainian diaspora, and his creative heritage was unappreciated.

Beginning with 1919 V. Petrov devoted almost an entire life to the Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. He was one of the first scientists of the All-Ukrainian Academy of Sciences. During the prewar period he worked actively at various institutions of the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic (Academy of Sciences of the USSR).

In the years of the Soviet-German war, Victor Platonovych served in the ranks of the Red Army – he was a scout. In 1945 – 1949 he worked in the circles of Ukrainian emigration in Bavaria, became one of the founders of the Ukrainian Free Academy of Sciences. In 1950 – 1956 he worked as a researcher at the Institute of History of Material Culture at the Academy of Sciences of the USSR in Moscow, and since the December 1956 and until his death in Kyiv, at the Institute of Archaeology of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR (IA Academy of Sciences of the USSR).

**Problem statement.** V. Petrov's scientific preferences were extremely wide and various (both chronologically and substantially). The basic ideas, the internal logic of presentation, the argumentation and conclusions of the scientist are based on his original historical concept («theory of the epochs»). Understanding the historical process as a discrete and cyclic one allowed V. Petrov to develop a scheme of an ancient history of Ukraine and the ethnogenesis of the Ukrainian people as a component of European history.

At the same time, the historiographical work of V. Petrov is used insufficiently by the contemporary domestic researchers of the ethnic history of the Eastern Slavs (Ivangorodsky, 2018). The theory of the existence of the Balto-Slavic linguistic community, some of the narrow specialised works of V. Petrov and his methodological developments speak in the interest of the above mentioned linguistic community, remains relevant and controversial.

A further study and introduction into a scientific circulation require the study of V. Petrov's works from the Baltic and Balto-Slavic problems, which are stored in the Scientific Archive of the Institute of Archaeology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (Kyiv) (SAIA NASU) and the Central State Archives of the Museum of Literature and Arts of Ukraine (Kyiv) (CSAMLAU).

A further research on the personality and scientific work of V. Petrov is guided to such perspective directions of a national historiography as intellectual history, the history of archaeology and biography (Sayenko, Shestakova, 2018).

**The analysis of sources and recent researches.** Nowadays, we have several attempts to generalize the scientific work of V. Petrov from various fields of the humanities (Andreyev, 2012; Briukhovetskyi, 2013).

The works of V. Petrov's followers (Abashyna, 1986, 1997; Korpusova, 2002; Kravchenko, 2002) are devoted to the analysis of the author's methodology of the ethnogenetic researches.

The works of Petrauskas on the Balto-Slavic historical and linguistic connections (Petrauskas 1997) and onomastics (Zheliezniak, 1999; Stryzhak, 1999) deal with the problematic issues of the Balto-Slavic community in the creative work of V. Petrov.

At the present stage, the study of V. Petrov's contribution to domestic historical science is facilitated by the reprint of his little-known works and previously unpublished works (Petrov, 1992; 2013).

**The publication's purpose** – to analyze the methodological aspects of the use of V. Petrov's Baltic languages and their archaic structures for the reconstruction of the pre-written stages of Slavic (Ukrainian first of all) ethnogenesis.

**Statement of the basic material.** The first works of V. Petrov, based on the methods of comparative linguistics, were in the general direction of his interests in the 1930-ies in

archeology, history of the tribal society, the material and spiritual culture of primitive peoples, the slash form of grain cultivation in Eastern Europe, and the others. Under conditions of the ideological and organizational development of Soviet historical science, V. Petrov tried to approach to the introduction of Marxism in his studies creatively.

For a long time, V. Petrov was influenced by the teachings of N. Marr. The latter proposed an original comprehensive linguistic theory based on interdisciplinary researches, combining the efforts of linguists, archaeologists, ethnographers and other humanists. The main assertion was that as all cultures of the East and the West, and all languages are the result of one and the same creative process. In fact, this was the proper way to solve the equation «culture = language = ethnos = socium».

V. Petrov's investigations of the archaic semantic structure of the word and the methods of reconstruction of the archaic complexes in the Eastern Slavic languages consisted in the plane of change in the semantic load of the word in connection with the changes in the system of agriculture and land use, the transition from primitive to feudalism. The author enlisted a wide range of analogies and correspondences among the European languages, including Lithuanian and Latvian.

For the first time, his methodological approach to the problems of ethnonymic definitions of hydronyms in Ukraine, far from traditional Indo-European studies, was described by V. Petrov in his report to the III Conference of the Linguistic Group of the Ukrainian Free Academy of Sciences in Füssen (Bayern) in 1946 (Shevelov, 2001, p. 150). The onomastic research was continued by him already in Soviet Ukraine and became an important component of his generalized research on the ethnic development of the Ukrainian population in the pre-written period.

The main issues of his original conception of the historical development as a change of epoch («theory of the epochs») were formulated by V. Petrov in a series of historiosophical essays from 1945 – 1949. For the first time, it was based on the historical specifics of the ancient history and ethnogenesis of the Ukrainian people in the lecture on «The Origin of the Ukrainian People» (1947) (Petrov, 1992). In a relatively complete form, transformed and expanded, taking into account the latest scientific advances, the concept of V. Petrov was presented in the «Ethnogenesis of the Slavs» (Petrov, 1972).

Understanding the discreteness of the historical time and the refusal to absolutize the idea of progress, in our opinion, somewhat approximate the concept of «era» of V. Petrov «cultural-historical type» in the theory of local civilizations A. J. Toynbee – supranational socio-cultural communities, peculiar «blocks» of the world history, the interaction of which determines the course of the historical process (Andreyev, 2015).

V. Petrov has identified in the ancient history of Ukraine four periods – «Trypillya», «post-Trippilian», «Scythian», «classical», which are «prehistory» of the Ukrainian people (from the Eneolithic to the times of historical Slavs (IV millennium BC – VI c. AD). The analysis of ethnogenetic processes in the territory of Ukraine was carried out within the limits of separate epochs and in the historical sequence of changes of epochs.

Thus, the obvious is the incompatibility of V. Petrov's theoretical views with the stage-linear deterministic progressive vision of the historical process dominant in Soviet science. The theory of the epochs of V. Petrov is an independent phenomenon of national historiography, and not an example of a «soft revision of Marxism».

One cannot avoid the question of the ratio of the concept of «epoch» introduced by V. Petrov with widely-used terms «ethnos» and «archeological culture». The scientist abandoned the

identity of archeological culture and ethnos and proposed the idea of ethnic, polyethnic and superethnic archaeological cultures. According to N. Abashina, under the archaeological culture the scientist understood the social organism, which is «at a certain degree of economic development», with the corresponding forms and levels of ethnic connections (Abashyna, 1986, p. 10–11). Notice that V. Petrov did not share the point of view of the need to correlate the concept of «ethnos» and «archeological culture» and unify archeological cultures on the basis of this definition. According to V. Petrov, the problem of ethnos is a problem of a language definition (Petrov, 1972, p. 116).

Between the notions of «archeological culture» and «era» there is no definite correlation – archaeological cultures are very roughly correlated with «epochs» and «inter-epoch breaks». «Theory of the epochs» was described by using the established terminology and on the basis of the archeological cultures that were dedicated at the time, but regardless of these conditional concepts.

The source base, methods and scientific instruments of V. Petrov in ethnogenetic research are polydisciplinary, but the main texts were historical texts. The archaeological and linguistic sources are auxiliary: archeological cultures lack ethnic characteristics, linguistic materials – temporal and geographical.

As V. Petrov pointed out, two linguistic problems stand on the obstacle to the solution of Slavic ethnogenesis: the thesis of the Slavic linguistic community, put forward without direct indications on its spatial and temporal coordinates, and the recognition of the Sanskrit language of the Scythians (Petrov, 1972, p. 213). To overcome these problems and to create a holistic concept of Slavic ethnogenesis, it took the author almost two decades of hard work, clarifying and developing the general theoretical positions of ethnogenesis, improving the methodology of linguistic research.

In connection with this, V. Petrov's scientific interests in the 1950-ies – 60-ies included the Skythology and problems of the Balto-Slavic linguistic community. The scientist identified three stages of the linguistic analysis: the first one, the language is studied «as such» – the method of developing single common complex series within a certain source base; at the second stage a comparative characteristic is drawn with the involvement of synchronous languages of the nearest neighboring territories, and only then all the languages of this community (Stryzhak, 1999, p. 15).

In a number of works, V. Petrov argued that the Scythian language is not Iranian (or not only Iranian). The Proclamation of the Scythians by the Iranians was based on a false methodology: by adopting the a priori Iranian hypothesis, the researchers sought for a comparative material for the interpretation of the Scythian gloss and onomastic correspondences only in the languages of the Iranian group (first of all Ossetian). According to V. Petrov, the Scythian was an independent language, one of the eastern group of Indo-European languages, which had a close affinity with the languages of neighboring territories: in the east they were observed in Iran, in the north – in the Baltic and in the south – in Thracian influence.

In the 1940-ies – 1960-ies, as today, most scholars acknowledged the Scythians' Iranian language. In domestic scythology V. Petrov became the first in the studies of the linguistic archaic of the Northern Black Sea coast, casting doubt on the postulate of the Iranian-speaking unity of the Scythians.

The next step that would allow linking the Scythian age with the stages of Slavic ethnogenesis in the concept of a scientist, could be the transitional logic between the Scythians and the Slavs, in particular the Ukrainians, could be the genetic affinity of the Slavic and Baltic languages.

According to V. Petrov, as well as other linguists, the Baltic languages have a special value in the study of prehistoric (pre-writing) stages of the Slavic ethnogenesis. Thus, some linguists consider that Slavic languages originate from the Balto-Slavic community, whose language was close to the West-Baltic languages (Prussian and Yatvyaz). Other researchers adhere to the theory of parallel development of the Slavic and Baltic languages with certain periods of convergence and isolation. V. Petrov himself avoided participating in a general discussion about the existence of a common Baltic-Slavic language, which became particularly active in the 1950-ies – 1960-ies. However, in reality his works on onomastics (mainly from the etymology of hydronyms of Ukraine), he substantiated the idea of the existence of such a language, the oldest common Baltic-Slavic dialects in Ukraine (the Dniester, the Right Bank and the Left Bank of the Dnieper), the existence of the Baltic language element is much south of the Pripyat River.

Although the researcher never pointed out directly, however, much of his argument in favor of the Balto-Slavic linguistic community contradicted the idea of the existence of the ancient Slavic community, from which the Eastern Slavic community, «the cradle of the three fraternal peoples», was singled out. The last thesis, as we know, was one of the main postulates of the Soviet ideology.

The last period of V. Petrov's life was directly connected with the IA of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. His scientific work was also mainly focused on archeology, he participated in excavations, led the detachments of archaeological expeditions. At the same time, during this period, Victor Platonovich actively collaborated with the Institute of Linguistics of O. O. Potebnya, Academy of Sciences of the USSR. V. Petrov also took an active part in the work of the Commission on Toponymy and Onomastics of the USSR (established in 1960) (Nepokupnyi, 2008, p. 428; CSAMLAU, f. 243, c. 191, p. 6–9).

The Canadian Institute for Onomastic Studies in 1967 invited a scientist to attend the IX International Congress of Onomastic Studies (signed by Professor Yar Slavutych, Slavic Linguistic University of Alberta) (CSAMLAU, f. 243, c. 191, p. 26).

In 1965 the Department of Social Sciences of the Academy of Sciences of the Latvian SSR (Academy of Sciences of the LSSR), Institute of Language and Literature of the Academy of Sciences of the LSSR, Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences of the LSSR, historical-philological and geographical faculties of the Latvian State University of P. Stucka, Toponymic Commission of the Moscow Branch of the Geographical Society of the USSR Academy of Sciences were invited to a conference on the toponymy of the northwest zone of the USSR (scheduled for May 1966) (CSAMLAU, f. 243, c. 191, p. 32).

V. Petrov participated in the First Republican Summit on Toponymics and Onomastics in 1962; Scientific session of the section of social sciences of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR in 1963 devoted to the 1 100 anniversary of Slavic writing; VI Ukrainian Slavic Conference in Chernivtsi (Chernivtsi State University) 1964; in September 1965, in the work of the 3rd Republican Onomastic Conference devoted to the questions of hydronymy and hydronymic mapping; conference of 1967 devoted to the problems of Chernyakhiv culture (Lviv).

V. Petrov was acknowledged as an authority on the historical onomastics of Ukraine and the Balto-Slavic linguistic connections. He helped and advised beginner scientists, repeatedly acted as a reviewer of the scientific works on the identified issues for scientific institutions and publishing houses (Nepokupnyi, 2008, p. 428). V. Petrov highly appreciated the potential and achievements of Ukrainian scholars. Thus, in the review of the manuscript of the

monograph of A. P. Nepokupnyi «Baltic Elements in the Geographical Names of Ukraine» (1967), its higher scientific level was noted in comparison with the recognized work of V. N. Toporov and O. N. Trubachov «Linguistic analysis of hydronyms of the Upper Dnieper» (1962). The last lacked a generalizing collection of Lithuanian hydronyms. Instead, the work of A. P. Nepokupnyi provided a greater reliability of the results, offered the methodology for studying the Baltic word-formation types and the exclusion of homonymous coincidences. According to V. Petrov, the work of A. P. Nepokupnyi should have been widely recognized among specialists of the USSR and foreign Slavists (CSAMLAU, f. 1297, c. 648).

As already noted, the close connection with the linguistic studies of the Balto-Slavic connections in the scientific work of V. Petrov was given by archeology.

The publication of archaeological sources and research on the monuments of Zarubintsy and Chernyakhiv cultures was very important for solving in the future the scientific problems related to the study of historical processes in the territory of Ukraine at the end of the 1st millennium BC. e. – the first half of the 1st millennium BC. e. – ethnic belongings of the carriers of these cultures, their role in the ethnogenesis of the Slavs, problems of early history of the Slavs, chronological issues and changes in archeological cultures, etc. Also, V. Petrov, one of the first, drew attention to the time gap between the monuments of Chernyakhiv culture and Kyiv Rus, and therefore believed that the search for monuments of the intermediate type is an actual task of the archeology.

Separately, we can highlight the historiographical character work of V. Petrov: published, devoted to the work of A. A. Shakhmatov and A. I. Sobolevsky (Petrov, 1968a); archival «Ethnogenetics and Onomastics for the 1950's (1917 – 1957)» (SAIA NASU, f. 16, c. 149). They demonstrate a high level of scholar's reflection on the evolution of the conceptual foundations of ethnogenetic research.

The views of V. Petrov, expressed in a wide range of publications on the study of the Balto-Slavic language, historical, cultural connections, were generalized in his monographs (Petrov, 1968b; 1968c; 1972) and the abstract of the dissertation (Petrov, 1966).

The materials on the personal archive of the scientist «The Origin of the Slavs and the Problem of the Balto-Slavic Unity» by the scholar's personal archive (typewritten, 98 pp.) (SAIA NASU, f. 16, c. 260) testify to the thorough preparatory work on this problem.

It was important for V. Petrov that in the Baltic languages there were features (lexical fund, morphological structure), which were already lost in the Slavic languages. This opened up the opportunities to get closer to reproducing the early stages of Slavic ethnogenesis.

However, for the completeness of the reconstruction of ethnogenetic processes, there was not enough important link – a complete dictionary of the Prussian (Old Prussian) language. This is one of the dead Baltic languages of the Western group. The Prussian language was spoken in the south-eastern Baltic, east of the Vistula River. At the beginning of the XVIIth century the Prussian language disappeared, and the descendants of the Prussians switched to German. The monuments of the Prussian language include: the Elbing German-Prussian Dictionary (1400) (about 800 words); The Prussian-German Dictionary of the Dominican Monk Simon Grunau (1470 – 1530/1537) (about 100 words); three catechisms translated from German (1545 – 1561); two lines of the poem of the middle of the XIVth century. The information is also obtained using toponymy and anthroponymy, from some of the Prussian words that have been preserved in the dialects of the German, Polish and Lithuanian languages. All sights reflect the German, but earlier Polish influences, so the actual Prussian language functions to a certain extent in a distorted form.

V. Petrov spent a great deal of work on the study, reconstruction of primary lexical and grammatical forms, the creation of the dictionary of the Prussian language. It can be assumed that the first substantive attempts, namely the establishment of the Prussian and German tongues, took place during the years of the scientist's stay in occupied Ukraine and post-war Germany.

As V. Petrov himself argued in his personal correspondence, the constant scientific interest in the Prussian language began in 1956, after the mastery of the Scythian language (CSAMLAU, f. 243, c. 153, p. 100, 145–146). The services of the researcher were the best library funds of Moscow, later Kiev. Work on the dictionary of the Prussian language continued until the last years of the life of the scientist and was the basis of his works on linguistics, onomastics, ethnogenesis.

However, the project to create a dictionary of the Prussian language was incomplete in connection with the death of V. Petrov. The proof of the fact that the Ukrainian scientist was on the brink of that time historical linguistics is the five-volume dictionary of Prussia – «Prussian language. Dictionary», which was published by the famous Moscow linguist V. Toporov in 1975 – 1990.

At the same time, in our opinion, the work of V. Petrov in the study of the ancient Prussian language has a certain scientific interest, since his methodological approaches and individual conclusions differed from the point of view of V. Toporov and other scholars, and the problems of the Balto-Slavic linguistic community remain actual.

Preparatory materials for the creation of the Prussian language dictionary are stored in V. Petrov's personal fund at the Scientific Archive of the Institute of Archaeology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, which has more than 300 cases and more than 3 000 photographs and negatives. Today, the fund is a highly sought by scholars, and some documents have been introduced into a scientific circulation. But a significant part of the fund remains unprocessed and not even described, including the research of V. Petrov from the ancient period (SAIA NASU, f. 16, c. 272). These are twelve wooden numbered boxes filled with various records, notes and cards (about 37 400 sheets, manuscript and typewritten).

The exception to them is only one (No. 8, entitled «Resonance»), which contains documents relating to the life path of the researcher, the other eleven contain materials on linguistics. The significant array of documents for the dictionary of the Prussian language is collected in six boxes (Nos. 1, 2, 3, 7, 11, 12). Partly these materials are scattered in other cases.

This source complex consists of a large number of folders with notebooks and individual sheets. Almost all materials are stored without general numbering. The main part of folders are arranged alphabetically. Practically no document has a date of creation.

The cards and notes contain the words of the Prussian language in Latin print, sometimes with a translation into Russian and German. A few words are translated into several foreign languages. In most cases, the transcription of words in square brackets is given. The author from time to time refers to European dictionaries of the second half of the XIXth – the first half of the XXth century. Lots of where links are missing and it is not clear where one or another word is taken.

The notes are often made in German, which V. Petrov knew well. In «historiographic» comments, V. Petrov mostly refers to the editions of J. Endzelin and B. Trautmann.

The comments about language analogies were found. Most often the researcher pays his attention to the coincidence of the Baltic and Slavic forms. At the same time, he records the cases of lack of coincidence and contradictions between the ancient Prussian and other

Baltic forms. Sometimes the author examples analogies and examples from ancient Indian and quotations from ancient classical authors.

The individual materials of the fund (boxes, folders and bundles of folders) are completed by the thematic principle and are probably named by V. Petrov himself: «Spirants» («narrowed consonants, also named as fricative, their articulation contains a very limited opening of the speech channel: f, s»); «Ancient Prussian. Consonants»; «Ancient Prussian. Phonetics. Long vowels»; «Ancient Prussian. Phonetics. Diphthongs», «Ancient Prussian language. Literature»; «Extracts and Notes on Comparative Linguistics».

**Conclusions.** Polydisciplinary studies of V. Petrov from comparative linguistics, onomastics, archaic structures of the Baltic languages, and Balto-Slavic language and historical connections have become an important part of V. Petrov's methodology of ethnogenetic research and schemes of prehistoric stages of the Slavic, first of all, Ukrainian ethnogenesis.

«Theory of the epochs» of V. Petrov went beyond the rigid dogmas of the formation approach, allowed to consider the process of ethnogenesis as discrete, which has its own features within the self-sufficient era. The isolation of the Baltic element in the language of the Scythians and the advancement of the scientific theory of the existence of the Balto-Slavic linguistic community allowed the researcher to trace the connection between the Scythian age and the historical Slavs. Instead, in the theory of Slavic ethnogenesis of V. Petrov there was no place for the concept of «united ancient Russian nationality», which was actively imposed by the official Soviet science.

Many conclusions of V. Petrov of different degrees of generalization and actual interpretations of certain proper names of the rivers of Ukraine as Baltistic ones were refuted already in the late 1960-ies – in the 1970-ies (in the works of O. Trubachev, I. Zheleznyak). But the perspectives of a further study of the scientific heritage of V. Petrov in the field of linguistics and toponymics consist in his methodological approaches, which today have not only a historiographical significance, but a certain research potential also.

It is also necessary to speak about the nonordinary and unappreciated phenomenon of the contribution of V. Petrov to the Scythology in the circle of experts. Waiting for its researchers and works of V. Petrov in the study of the Prussian language. This task goes far beyond purely historical and archaeological science and requires a comprehensive approach involving linguists.

**Acknowledgments.** Sincerely thanks to the employees of the Central State Archives of the Museum of Literature and Arts of Ukraine (Kyiv); Andryeyeva Svitlana – PhD (History), Associate Professor.

**Funding.** The author received no financial support for the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

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*The article was received on January 12, 2019.  
Article was recommended for publishing 24.02.2019.*