The Indo-European origin of the Burushaski verbal prefixation

Associate Professor Ilija Čašule

I have been studying for almost 30 years the origin and history of the Burushaski language, an isolate spoken in North-West Pakistan and have elucidated its correlation with Indo-European (outside of Indic and Iranian) and the ancient and modern Balkan languages. I will provide a brief introduction on the assessment and reception of my Indo-European hypothesis and its basic contours.

The paper will focus, describe and analyse the system of verbal prefixes and their meanings in Burushaski. They all derive from Indo-European. The most direct correlation is between PIE s-mobile and the Burushaski prefix -s. The complex Burushaski verbal prefixes d- and the Burushaski n-, nu-, ni- and especially the unique verbal prefix l- semantically and in their grammatical function find direct and precise correspondences with very similar IE developments.

[Time permitting] A brief outline will be made of the correspondences in the verbal system and of negation in Burushaski, also of Indo-European origin. A very tentative discussion of possible relics of the IE e-augment in Burushaski is put forward.

I conclude that the verbal prefixation is further firm evidence of the Proto-Indo-European but not Pre-Indo-European affiliation of Burushaski.