A NOTE ON pecku ‘VIEH, CATTLE’

In her analysis of the Old Prussian declensional system Kaukiene (1995, 17) writes that pecku ‘Vieh, cattle’ is an example of a neuter -u stem noun in the Elbing Vocabulary. Since pecku does not occur in the Elbing Vocabulary a better choice for a neuter -u stem would probably have been alu E 392 ‘mead’. On the other hand in her listing of substantive stems in the catechisms (Kaukiene, 1995, 19) she does not include the -u stems where pecku might have been mentioned. The form pecku is encountered once each in the first two catechisms and three times in the Enchiridion for a total of five times according to Trautmann (1910, 392) and this can be easily checked also in Kortlandt’s (1996) on-line editions of the catechisms. It can also be determined from Kortlandt’s on-line edition of the Elbing Vocabulary that pecku does not occur there.

Curiously enough Kaukiene (1995, 120) does mention the neuter pecku in its one occurrence where it could be considered a dative singular. Mazulis (1981, 390) writes that there are four occurrences of pecku, but (1981, 302) gives only two locations, although in his own text in addition to the two locations listed it can also be found in II 7, III 40, III 53. In the three latter occurrences it would seem to be an accusative singular and would seem to be sufficient evidence for the establishment of a neuter -u stem category for the catechisms.

REFERENCES

Trautmann R., 1910, Die altpreußischen Sprachdenkmäler, Götingen.