The nominal system of the two languages has been met with restrained attention, not least because contrary to the verb, the Tocharian noun seems much more innovative at first glance. Accordingly, not a single monograph has been published recently devoted to the analysis of the Tocharian noun as a whole or to the comparison of the peculiar features of the Tocharian with the PIE nominal system. However, it is all but certain that the ever-growing knowledge of Tocharian and the progress in our understanding of its nominal system will have a great impact on our reconstruction of the PIE noun, which has long been based on the evidence of the more canonical languages like Ancient Greek and Vedic Sanskrit alone.

The aim of the project From Proto-Indo-European to Tocharian – Archaism and Innovation in the Nominal System is to fill this gap and provide an assessment as to what the evidence of Tocharian changes in the traditional reconstruction of the PIE nominal system.

Buddhist manuscript ‘Or.8212/163’ in Tocharian B written in Northern Turkestan

The results of the research project will certainly be an important milestone in the field of Tocharian and Indo-European studies. For Tocharian, it will contribute to our understanding of the Tocharian nominal system and its peculiar features and help to integrate the branch on the phylogenetic tree. For Indo-European studies, the project, covering some of the most pressing questions in the field of nominal morphology, will be an important contribution to the current debate and might lead to a reassessment of the Proto-Indo-European nominal system.