

Foreword

It is a time-honored tradition to give a motto to each Fachtagung of the Indogermanische Gesellschaft, one which puts a kind of constraint on the subjects discussed, but leaves a certain leeway. The slogan we opted for, “Back to the root”, was a programmatic choice. The (Proto-)Indo-European root is the formal and semantic basis of every (Proto-)Indo-European verbal and nominal stem. Despite the prominence of this root concept (in linguistics ever since Panini and in current standard handbooks of the field today such as the LIV), the properties of roots have received comparatively little in the way of detailed investigation. Our goal for this Fachtagung was to present a first step in this direction and we believe that the papers in this volume have collectively achieved this goal, in that they present a quite diverse, but nevertheless always motto-related collection of papers just like in the proceedings of previous Fachtagungen.

Götz Keydana takes a critical look at the concept of the root itself, and attempts to rehabilitate the Western linguistic tradition, which lacked such a concept. Ignasi-Xavier Adiego focuses on a formal constraint on the PIE root, namely that the end of a root cannot consist of a cluster of two sonorants. H. Craig Melchert discusses apparent lengthened-grade forms from PIE roots of the structure **(C)aC*, and Thomas Steer so-called *Parallelwurzeln* of PIE, i.e. usually two (and rarely even more) roots of basically the same meaning and similar shape.

Four papers deal mainly with formally marked classes of roots from single branches: Bettina Bock and Sabine Ziegler deal with Germanic roots ending in **p* (which seems to derive from PIE **b*); Ronald Kim tackles Tocharian verb roots with a basic root vowel (i.e., not root-final) **a*; Georges-Jean Pinault in his paper “Suffixes from roots: the case of **-b^ho-* and related issues” mostly discusses Tocharian roots ending in *°p*; and Oliver Plötz in his paper on Siebs’ law treats Old Armenian words with roots with initial *p^h*.

Similarly concentrating on single branches, but with a special focus on verbal morphology Davide Bertocci shows how in their capacity as pivot forms the roots of PIE were replaced by more complex stems within Latin verbal morphology, and Miguel Villanueva Svensson takes on the problem of *samprasarana*-ablaut in the Balto-Slavic verb.

Three papers deal with various (especially morphological) aspects of a mostly semantically defined root class, viz. that of adjectival roots: Stefan Höfler’s paper on some of the so-called Caland roots, Rosemarie Lühr’s contribution on what she calls individuation of continuatives, and Alan J. Nussbaum’s take on derivational properties of such roots.

Five contributions take a closer look at specific roots: Máté Ittzés treats the Vedic root *kṛ-* ‘to make, to do’, Jay H. Jasanoff elaborates on the averbo of PIE **g^uhen-* ‘strike, slay’; Elisabeth Rieken and Ilya Yakubovich discuss the PIE root = pronominal stem **al-* as reflected in the Anatolian branch of Indo-European; Nicholas Zair reconstructs a **h₁aq-* ‘perceive’ and

argues that this root was the basis of the PIE noun denoting ‘bird’; and Marina Zorman discusses PIE **deh₃-* ‘give’ as reflected in Hittite *da-* ‘take’.

Two papers are about semantically related roots: Kristina Becker and Theresa Roth treat PIE **derk-* and **spek-* and José Louis García Ramón PIE **ĝ^her-* ‘to enjoy’ and **ĝeus-* ‘to taste’.

Norbert Oettinger’s paper on what formerly was thought to be just one PIE adjectival suffix **-uent-* and which according to him actually reflects two different suffixes, also fits the motto of the Fachtagung since he argues that one of the two was rather derived from a pronominal root. Finally, Guglielmo Inglese and Silvia Luraghi in their contributions on lexical aspect and valency provide the proof that the motto of our Fachtagung also bridged the gap to theoretical linguistic aspects.

The Fachtagung in Vienna would not have been a success without the help of our great team *in situ* who guaranteed smooth operations: Martin Braun, Maria Kleinsasser, Bernhard Koller, Silvia Mattová, Anna Pagé together with our student helpers Margareta Divjak-Mirwald, Maria Käferböck, Bärbel Manske, Dimitri Robl, Natalie Sander, and Gerhard Schuster.

Since tending to the roots is necessary to ensure development and growth, we hope that the Fachtagung together with this volume paths the way for further radical engagement by Indo-European linguistics.

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