

Máté Ittzés
(Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest)

The root *kṛ* in Vedic

After the short presentation of its etymology (< PIE **(s?)k^her-* and/or **(s)ker-*), the paper will offer a systematic survey of the various (main verb, light verb and auxiliary) uses of the Vedic root *kṛ* 'to make, do etc.', following the semantic approach of E. Schultze-Berndt (2008) concerning generalised actions verbs.

Kṛ is used as a full verb with the lexical meaning 'to create, prepare, produce etc.' and as a factitive copula in the *cvi*-construction (Balles 2006) and in connection with predicative nouns, adjectives and adverbs (Hoffman 1976). Special emphasis will be laid on its use as a light verb in various periphrastic constructions such as the periphrastic causative (Zehnder 2011) and, first of all, *N_{acc}+V* complex predicates either with or without the semantic feature of causativity. Along with *as* (and *bhū*), *kṛ* is also used as an auxiliary in the periphrastic perfect.

I will also point out some evidence in favour of the assumption of a grammaticalization process light verb → auxiliary in the history of the root *kṛ* (against the theoretical position of Butt 2010, according to whom light verbs do not give rise to auxiliaries).

References

- Balles, Irene 2006: *Die altindische Cvi-Konstruktion. Form, Funktion, Ursprung*. Bremen, Hempen.
- Butt, Miriam 2010: The light verb jungle: still hacking away. In Mengistu Amberber – Brett Baker – Mark Harvey (eds.): *Complex Predicates. Cross-linguistic Perspectives on Event Structure*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 48–78.
- Hoffmann, Karl 1976: Zum prädikativen Adverb. In Id.: *Aufsätze zur Indoiranistik*. 2. Bd. Hrsg. von Johanna Narten. Wiesbaden, Reichert, 339–349.
- Schultze-Berndt, Eva 2008: What do “do” verbs do? The semantic diversity of generalised action verbs. In Elisabeth Verhoeven et al. (eds.): *Studies on Grammaticalization*. Berlin–New York, Mouton de Gruyter, 185–207. /Trends in Linguistics Studies and Monographs, 205./
- Zehnder, Thomas 2011: *Das periphrastische Kausativ im Vedischen*. Bremen, Hempen Verlag. /Münchner Forschungen zur historischen Sprachwissenschaft, 12./