

The accent-ablaut patterns of root nouns: ‘foot’ vs. ‘floor’

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In Kloekhorst 2013 I have argued that the Erlangen model of nominal accent-ablautparadigms (in which four basic paradigms are reconstructed, namely acrostatic, proterokinetic, hysterokinetic and amphikinetic), can be unified with the Leiden model of accent-ablaut paradigms (made most explicit in Beekes 1985) in the sense that both represent different chronological stages within PIE: originally the mother language knew only three patterns, as reconstructed in the Leiden model (static, proterodynamic and hysterodynamic (i.e., according to the so-called *keššar*-pattern)), which through innerparadigmatic regularizations grew to become the full Erlangen model. In a talk at the 2015 Arbeitstagung in Marburg, I argued that we can even go a step further and that the proterodynamic and hysterodynamic paradigms may be viewed as originally forming a single paradigm. This paradigm would have oblique cases both of the shape **CC-éC-C* and of the shape *CC-C-éC*, albeit that on semantic grounds the latter cases could only be used by animate nouns. This eventually gave rise to a split between a paradigm for inanimate nouns (= proterodynamic, where all oblique cases have the shape **CC-éC-C*) and a paradigm for animate nouns (= hysterodynamic, where we find oblique cases both of the shape **CC-éC-C* and of the shape **CC-C-éC*). This would mean that the earliest stage of Proto-Indo-European had only two types of accent-ablaut patterns: a static and a mobile one.

All these considerations have been based on the evidence from suffixed nouns, and I therefore want to discuss in the present paper the evidence from root nouns, in order to see whether they would fit the overall picture as presented above. I will in this talk mainly focus on the reconstruction of the words for ‘foot’ and the word for ‘floor’.

References

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