Workshop: *The verb in Northern Europe: Morphology between syntax and lexicon*

Jenny Larsson (Stockholm University/Uppsala University), Luzius Thöny (University of Bern), Florian Wandl (University of Zurich), Yoko Yamazaki (Stockholm University/University of Zurich)

We invite contributions that deal with topics of Indo-European verbal morphology as it intersects with syntax and the lexicon. The workshop will focus on the Indo-European languages of "Northern European" (cf. Schleicher 1861: 5), and we particularly but not exclusively welcome talks that compare the development of the verbal systems in the Germanic, Baltic and Slavic branches. Papers discussing an individual issue of one of the three branches or other IE languages will be welcome as well, if they are relevant for the main theme of the workshop.

When a linguistic change takes place, it does not happen in isolation, but affects other parts of the language system. As languages are complex adaptive systems, a single change in one area can trigger subsequent changes in other areas, for example, by compensating the loss of a distinctive feature on one level with a new feature on another. In the history of Germanic languages, the loss of inflectional endings in finite verbal forms required a compensation on the syntactic level, i.e. by an increasingly obligatory use of personal pronouns (cf. König et al. 1994: 102, 104). In this workshop we want to look into diachronic interactions between morphology and syntax, on the one hand side, and morphology and lexicon, on the other, within the verbal system of Germanic, Baltic and Slavic languages.

Possible topics include, but are not limited to the following:

1) *Shift of the diathetic system*
In Germanic, Baltic, and Slavic, the active-middle contrast in the inflection was lost (cf. Stang 1966: 308) and their voice system consists of mainly active and passive. The shift involved at least the following two phenomena across the morphology-syntax or morphology-lexicon interfaces:
> 1. The use of the reflexive construction in the middle meaning (cf. Holvoet et al. 2015),
> 2. The development of nasal-infix presents in the middle voice as an intransitive-inchoative verbal category (cf. Gorbachov 2007, Klingenschmitt 2008: 191–193), also known as the anti-causative group (Villanueva Svensson 2011 [2012]).

It can be seen that the (gradual) loss of the contrast of active and middle started to be compensated by a syntactic construction in (1), whereas a lexical group of intransitive-inchoative verbs emerged from some originally middle inflected verbs in the newly arising active-passive system (2). Further phenomena across the morphology-syntax or morphology-lexicon interfaces induced by diathetic changes can also be discussed, e.g, the development of the reflexive construction from a morphotactic perspective (cf. Sommer forthc.); for the introduction of "inagentives" and their impact on the Tocharian diathetic system, cf. Seržant (2014: 1-10).

2) *Long vowel preterits and Narten ablaut*
The origin of verbal formations with a long vowel in the root is a vividly discussed topic of Indo-European studies (cf. Mathiassen 1974, Villanueva Svensson 2011; 2014, Jasanoff 2012, Pronk 2012). Evidence for this ablaut pattern comes from, among other branches, Germanic, Baltic, and Slavic. In the Baltic and Germanic branches, peculiar preterit forms with long-vowel roots, the so-

called long-vowel preterits, are attested (for Baltic, cf. Stang 1942: 191ff.; for Germanic, cf. Bammesberger 1986: 54ff.). This morphological feature of marking preterits with a long vowel root has been expanded to the verbs that take the present stem in *CeC-ia-* in Baltic (cf. Stang, ibid.), while it is limited to only a few isolated aorist forms (OCS 1sg. aor. *ob-rětъ* 'I found', *sъ-rětъ* 'I met') in Slavic (cf. Stang 1942: 53-54, Jasanoff 2012: 127, Villanueva Svensson 2012/2013: 51-52). These different treatments of the long-vowel preterits (or, even one of their alleged origins, namely Narten presents, cf. Weiss 1993: 178ff., Jasanoff 2012; for an alternative view, cf. Pronk 2012: 229ff.) could be investigated from the perspective of interface phenomena.

3) *Shifts between conjugation classes*
A key issue at the intersection of morphology and lexicon is the assignment of inflectional class. Recent work within the branch of Germanic has investigated the question of how and why verbs fluctuate or shift between inflectional classes (cf. Dammel 2011, Marti 2013, 2014). The new studies in this area have opened the possibility of looking at such issues in a broader perspective across multiple branches of Indo-European.

We welcome papers on these and related topics with the aim of gaining more insight into the historical development of the verbal system of Northern European languages from the perspective of interface phenomena.

The theme of the workshop may touch on the long-standing question of whether some similarities between the Germanic, Baltic and Slavic branches should be explained through language contact or shared innovations (cf. Stang 1942, Senn 1970; for an overview, cf. Dini 2005). Furthermore, contact with non-Indo-European languages in Northern Europe may have led to some areal developments across language family borders (cf. Junttila 2015, Seržant 2015, Villanueva-Svensson forthc.). We therefore also welcome contributions on these topics.

The working languages of our workshop are English, French, and German.

Please send abstracts to fachtagung2020@ivs.uzh.ch until 1. December 2019 and mention the workshop and the title of the presentation in the subject of your e-mail.

Keynote speaker: Miguel Villanueva Svensson (Vilnius University)
Title of the keynote: **Northern Indo-European nasal presents – beyond anticausatives and inchoatives**.

Discussant: Ilja Seržant (Leipzig University)

Bibliography

Bammesberger, Alfred. 1986. *Der Aufbau des germanischen Verbalsystems*. Heidelberg.

Dammel, Antje. 2011. *Konjugationsklassenwandel: Prinzipien des Ab-, Um- und Ausbaus verbalflexivischer Allomorphie in germanischen Sprachen*. Berlin.

Dini, Pietro Umberto. 2005. "Slawisch-Baltisch-Germanische Sprachbeziehungen". In: *Reallexikon der germanischen Altertumskunde*. Vol. 29, pp. 59–64, 67–69, 73–78. Berlin.

Gorbachov, Yaroslav. 2007. *Indo-European origins of the nasal inchoative class in Germanic, Baltic and Slavic*. PhD. thesis, Harvard University.

Holvoet, Axel, Marta Crzybowska and Agnieszka Rembiałkowska. 2015. "Middle voice reflexives and argument structure in Baltic". In: Axel Holvoet, et al. (eds.), *Voice and argument structure in Baltic*, pp. 181–209. Amsterdam.

Jasanoff, Jay. 2012. "Long-vowel preterites in Indo-European". In: Craig H. Melchert (ed.), *The Indo-European Verb.* Proceedings of the Conference of the Society for Indo-European Studies, Los Angeles 13–15 September 2010, pp. 127–135. Wiesbaden.

Junttila, Santeri (ed.). 2015. Contacts between the Baltic and Finnic languages. Helsinki.

Klingenschmitt, Gert. 2008. "Erbe und Neuerung bei Akzent und Ablaut in der litauischen Morphologie." In: Saulius Ambrazas et al. (eds.), *Kalbos istorijos ir dialektologijos Problemos* 2, pp. 180–215, Vilnius.

König, Ekkehard and Johan van der Auwera (eds.). 1994. *The Germanic Languages*. London.

Marti, Mirjam. 2013. "Doppelformen von *ēn-* und *ōn-*Verben im Althochdeutschen". In: *NOWELE (North-Western European Language Evolution)*, 66(2): pp. 197–224.

— 2014. "Die schwachen Verben der dritten Klasse im Altfriesischen". In: *Amsterdamer Beiträge zur älteren Germanistik*, 73: pp. 145–184.

Mathiassen, Terje. 1974. *Studien zum slavischen und indoeuropäischen Langvokalismus.* Oslo.

Pronk, T. 2012. "Proto-Indo-European long vowels and Balto-Slavic accentuation". *Baltistica* XLVII(2): pp. 205–247.

Schleicher, August. 1861. *Compendium der vergleichenden Grammatik der indogermanischen Sprachen*. Weimar.

Senn, Alfred. 1970. "Slavic and Baltic linguistic relations". In: Velta Rūķe-Draviņa (ed.), *Donum Balticum*, pp. 485–494. Stockholm.

Seržant, Ilja A. 2014. *Das Kausativ im Tocharischen.* München.

— 2015. "Dative experiencer constructions as a Circum-Baltic isogloss". In: P. Arkadiev, A. Holvoet, B. Wiemer (eds.), *Contemporary Approaches to Baltic Linguistics*, pp. 325-348. Berlin.

Sommer, Florian. Forthcoming. "Das litauische Reflexivum und das indogermanische Wort: Skizze einer Typologie". To appear in *Historische Sprachforschung*.

Stang, Christian. 1942. *Das slavische und baltische Verbum*. Oslo.

— 1966. *Vergleichende Grammatik der baltischen Sprachen*. Oslo.

Villanueva Svensson, Miguel. 2011. "Indo-European long vowels in Balto-Slavic", *Baltistica* XLVI(1): pp. 5–38.

— 2011 [2012]. "Anticausative-inchoative verbs in the northern Indo-European languages". *Historische Sprachforschung* 124: pp. 33–58.

— 2012/2013. "On the origin of the Greek type νωμάω". *Die Sprache* 50 (1): pp. 44–62.

— 2014. "Tone variation in the Baltic *ia*-presents". *Indogermanische Forschungen*, 119(1): pp. 227–249.

— Forthcoming. "The Infinitive in Baltic and Balto-Slavic". To appear in *Baltistica*.

Weiss, Michael. 1993. *Studies in Italic Nominal Morphology*, Ph.D. thesis, Cornell University.