

ゲルマン語強変化動詞IV, V類の過去複数形をめぐる 考察

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Some Thoughts on the Origin and Development of the Germanic Strong IV and V Preterite Plural Formations

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It is usually thought that the preterite formation of a Germanic strong verb reflects the morphology of the Proto-Indo-European perfect. From this point of view, it is possible to give a straightforward account of the historical development of the preterite forms of the strong I, II, and III verbs. However, the preterite plural formations of the strong IV and V verbs show a lengthened-grade vowel (Proto-Germanic **-ǣ-*) in their radical syllable, which does not appear to correspond to the zero-grade root shape of the PIE perfect plural construction. In order to account for this apparent morphological incongruity, scholars have advanced various proposals. The first part of this paper offers a critical assessment of problems associated with two prevalent theories: 1) morphological conflation of the perfect and the athematic root aorist; 2) development from the perfect, with no other categories directly involved. Thereafter, the investigation aims to demonstrate how a theory that appeals to morphological admixture between the perfect and the imperfect might offer a new and feasible approach to the mystery of the morphophonological properties of the PGmc. strong IV and V verbs.