

LUCIEN VAN BEEK, LUK HUITINK

Ancient Greek

Morphology – Part 1: Derivation



Universiteit
Leiden



Roadmap

- Derivation
 - Morphological Type
 - Roots and Suffixes
 - Ablaut
 - The 'Caland System'

Morphological Type

- Greek is a **fusional** language (some agglutination)
 - E.g. in verbs, -ω = 1st person, singular, active voice, non-past tense
- Greek morphology is **flexional**
 - Verbs ending in -ω (thematic) vs. -μι (athematic)
- Main morphological device: **suffixation** (some prefixation)
 - **Ablaut** (this presentation: derivation)
 - **Reduplication** (part 4: verb)

Roots and Suffixes

- **Root:** most basic form conveying (some) lexical meaning.
 - γλυκ- ‘sweet’
- **Stem** = root + suffix(es); more precise semantic / syntactic meaning
 - γλυκ-ύ-ς ‘sweet’
 - τὸ γλεῦκ-ος ‘sweet wine’
 - γλυκ-αίν-ω ‘sweeten’
 - Flexional endings usually attached to a *suffixed* stem

Roots and Suffixes

- **Root:** most basic form conveying (some) lexical meaning.
 - γλυκ- ‘sweet’
- **Stem** = root + suffix(es); more precise semantic / syntactic meaning
 - γλυκ-ύ-ς ‘sweet’
 - τὸ γλεῦκ-ος ‘sweet wine’ **Ablaut**
 - γλυκ-αίν-ω ‘sweeten’
 - Flexional endings usually attached to a *suffixed* stem

Ablaut / Apophony

- **Ablaut:** usually in combination with other morphological markers

lengthened e-grade

πα-τήρ 'father'

lengthened o-grade

ἀ-πά-τωρ 'fatherless'

full e-grade

acc. πα-τέρ-α

full o-grade

acc. ἀ-πά-τορ-α

zero-grade

gen. πα-τρ-ός

- contrast, without ablaut

σω-τήρ 'saviour'

acc. σω-τήρ-α

gen. σω-τήρ-ος

Derivation

- Productive suffixes: two examples

- **Result nouns** (*nomina rei actae*) to transitive verbs: root plus -μα :
 - πλάσμα ‘dough’ (πλάττω ‘knead, shape’, root πλαθ-)
 - πράγμα ‘deed; thing’ (πράττω ‘accomplish’, root πράγ-)

- **Adjectival abstracts**: add -της to adj. stem
 - πικρότης ‘bitterness’ (πικρός)
 - βραδυτής ‘slowness’ (βραδύς)

Derivation

- Deletion of base-final -o- and -α/η- before vowel-initial suffixes

δόλος 'ruse'

> δόλ-ιος 'wily'

> δολ-ερός 'wily'

> δολό-εις -εσσα -εν, *gen.* -εντος 'wily' (*-went-)

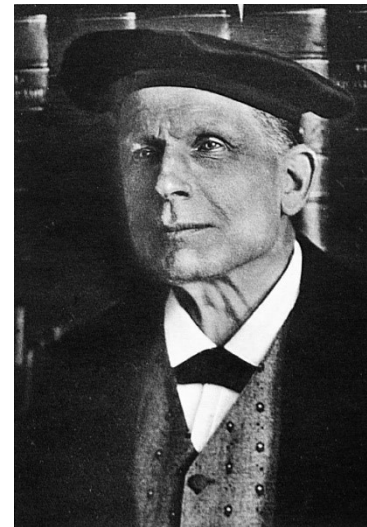
The 'Caland System'

- 'Caland system': suffix substitution in compounds
 - Avestan:
 - *dərəzi.raθa-* 'with firm chariot' vs.
 - *dərəzra-* 'firm'



The 'Caland System'

- 'Caland system': suffix substitution in compounds
 - Homeric Greek:
 - πυκλῆ-μήδης 'of cunning counsel' vs.
 - πυκνός 'dense, cunning'



The ‘Caland System’

- **‘Caland system’**: **suffix substitution** in compounds
 - πυκι-μήδης ‘of cunning counsel’ vs. πυκνός ‘dense; cunning’
- suffix substitution in other derivations:
 - ἡδ-ύς ‘pleasant, tasty’
 - ἡδ-ίων (comp.), ἡδ-ιστος (superl.)
 - τὸ ἡδ-ος ‘pleasure, advantage’, μελι-ηδ-ής ‘honey-sweet’

The ‘Caland System’

- **‘Caland system’: suffix substitution** in compounds
 - πυκι-μήδης ‘of cunning counsel’ vs. πυκνός ‘dense; cunning’
- suffix substitution in other derivations:
 - ἡδ-**ύς** ‘pleasant, tasty’
 - ἡδ-**ίων** (comp.), ἡδ-**ιστος** (superl.)
 - τὸ ἡδ-**ος** ‘pleasure, advantage’, μελι-ηδ-**ής** ‘honey-sweet’
 - ἡδ**ω** ‘to please, give delight’

Prefixes

- Prefixes turn nouns into compounds (> Morphology, Part 2)
- Examples of exocentric compounds

ἀ- 'un-'

σθένος 'force' (n.) > ἀ-σθενής 'weak' (adj.)

δυσ- 'bad-'

μένος 'spirit, energy' (n.) > δυσ-μενής 'hostile' (adj.)

εὖ- 'good-, fair-'

πύργος 'rampart' (m.) > εὖπυργος 'with good ramparts' (adj.)

