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Early Latin

Morphology – Part 3: Verbal Inflection

Roadmap

- Affixation (+ ablaut / reduplication)

- Patterns of inflections of verbs (conjugations)

- Stem formation (present, perfect, supine)

- General overview of tense and mood formation

- Aspects of Early Latin variation

Grammatical categories

- Person, number, tense, mood, voice, (non-)finiteness

- Combined to produce vast range of different forms

- 4 standard conjugations, normally distinguished by thematic vowel
  - 1st -ā-re (e.g *laud-ā-re* 'to praise', *cant-ā-re* 'to sing')
  - 2nd -ē-re (e.g. *mon-ē-re* 'to advise')
  - 3rd -ĕ-re (e.g. *leg-ĕ-re* 'to collect', *fac-ĕ-re* 'to make')
  - 4th -ī-re (e.g. *aud-ī-re* 'to listen')

- Several variant forms

  e.g. *ēmorī* (3rd conj.) vs. *ēmorīrī* (4th conj.), both attested in EL

- Main inflectional distinction: stem (present, past, supine)

Present stem

- Normally coincides with verbal root (e.g. *laud-ō* (< *laud-* 'to praise'), *dīcō* (< *dīc-* 'to say')

- Regular affixation: e.g. infix *-n-*, inchoative suffix *-scō* (e.g. *nō-scō*), often not appearing in other stems (e.g. *fundō* (present), *fūdī* (perfect), *noscō* (present) – *nōvī* (perfect)), but in contrast e.g. *iungo* – *iunxi*

- Class of third conjugation verbs with suffix *-ĭ-*, lost in some forms: e.g. present indicative *fac-ĭ-ō* but infinitive *facĕre*

- Forms derived from present stem: indicative present, imperfect and future; subjunctive present and imperfect; present imperative; infinitive, gerund and gerundive, present participle.

Perfect stem

- Derives from an inflectional change to the stem of present, according to one of four different patterns, in order of frequency:
    - affix *-u-* (*-v-*)
    - affix *-s-* (sigmatic perfect)
    - with reduplication
    - with ablaut/apophony

(1) Perfect stem with affix *-u-* (*-v-*)

- Most common type of perfect in Early Latin, and typical trait of Latin verbal inflection (but some possible traces of it in Sanskrit)

- Standard perfect form of verbs of the first conjugation, and also common for verbs of the second and fourth conjugation (e.g. *implē-v-ī*, *audī-v-ī*).

- Root vowel was original short, normally falls before *-u-* (e.g. *mone-ō* (originally *monĕ-*) – *monuī*.

- Also some verbs of the third conjugation have *-u-* perfect (e.g. *noscō – nōvī, linō – lēvī*).

(2) Sigmatic perfect

- Corresponds to ancient Greek sigmatic aorist, well paralleled in other IE languages; e.g. *dīc-ō – dix-ī, serp-ō – serp-s-ī, gerō (< *ges-ō* by rhotacization) – gess-ī*

- Addition of sibilant *-s* often produces a phonological change, such as assimilation or simplification, e.g. *scrīb-ō – scrips-ī, sent-i-ō – sens-ī* etc.

- Most sigmatic perfects are found in verbs of the third conjugation, but there are exceptions (e.g. *lūceo – luxī, maneō – mansī*)

(3) Reduplicated perfect

- Reduplicant: 'prefix' added to verbal stem featuring first consonant(s) of the verbal root followed by the vowel *-e*; e.g. *tendō – te-tendī, dō – dedī*

- Reduplicant vowel at times copied from root vowel; cf. e.g. *currō – cucurrī, mordeō – momordī* (but cf. *memorderit* vs. *momorderit*)

- When originally tonic syllable has short vowel becomes a-tonic after reduplication undergoes weakening; e.g. *cădō – cecĭdī, pariō – peperī*

- Reduplication lost in compounds verbs (e.g. *con-cidī < *con-ce-cidī*), except for disyllabic perfects (e.g. *ad-didī, ad-stitī*), BUT cf. *per-didicī* (not **per-dicī*)

- Mostly found in third conjugation verbs

- Corresponds to reduplication typical of Ancient Greek perfect

(4) Perfect with ablaut

- Ablaut, or apophony: the change or lengthening of root vowel in the creation of a new grammatical form
- Derives from both aorist and perfect forms in PIE
- Normally only quantitative. Cf. e.g. *ĕmō – ēmī*; *lĕgō – lēgī*; *ĕdō – ēdī*
- But in some cases also qualitative, e.g. *ăgō – ēgī*; *faciō – fēci*; *capiō – cēpī*

Some observations

- Few verbs with irregular perfect: e.g. *bibō – bibī, pandō – pandī, vīsō – vīsī*, etc.

- Early Latin system of the perfect not always stable, with variants; e.g. *tetulī* vs. *tulī* (Ennius uses both *tulistī* and *tetulistī)*; for *pangō* three perfect forms attested: *pepigī* (with reduplication, in Plautus and others), *panxī* (sigmatic, in Ennius) and *pēgī* (with ablaut, in Pacuvius).

- Perfect system represents formal melding of two original tense-stems, aorist and perfect; melding also functional and semantic.

- From perfect stem: indicative perfect, pluperfect and future perfect, subjunctive perfect and pluperfect (active); perfect infinitive (active).

Supine stem

- Normally formed by addition of *-t-* to present stem, normally after thematic vowel (but with exceptions); e.g. *fac-ĕ-re – fac-t-um, dīc-ĕ-re – dic-t-um, laud-ā-re – laudā-t-um, mon-ē-re – monĭ-t-um, aud-ī-re – audī-t-um.*

- At times supine appears with suffix *-s-*, by analogy (e.g. *haereō, haesī, haesum*) or phonological change *-t-to-* or *-d-to-* (e.g. *sent-īre, sen-s-us < *sent-t-os; tend-ĕre, ten-s-um* (< *tend-t-um*); BUT more 'standard' forms are also attested (e.g. *tentus*)

- From supine stem: supine and perfect participle, also used in periphrastic passive forms of both indicative and subjunctive, and perfect passive infinitive.

Early Latin Verbal Inflection

ACTIVE	Finite			Non-finite			
	Mood						
Tense	**Indicative**	**Subjunctive**	**Imperative**	**Infinitive**	**Participle**	**Gerund**	**Supine**
Present Stem							
Present	laud-ō	laud-am	laud-ā	laud-āre	laud-ans	laud-andum	
Imperfect	laud-ābam	laud-ārem					
Simple Future	laud-ābō		laud-ātō				
Perfect Stem							
Perfect	laudāv-ī	laudāv-erim		laudāv-isse			
Pluperfect	laudāv-eram	laudāv-issem					
Future Perfect	laudāv-erō						
Supine Stem							laudāt-um
Perfect					laudāt-us		

Paradigm of main verbal forms

ACTIVE					
	1st Conj.	2nd Conj.	3rd Conj.	4th Conj.	*'to be'*
Infinitive	laud-ā-re	mon-ē-re	leg-ĕ-re	aud-ī-re	es-se
Present indicative					
1st singular	laud-ō	mon-eō	leg-(i)-ō	aud-i-ō	sum
2nd singular	laud-ā-s	mon-ē-s	leg-i-s	aud-ī-s	ēs, es
3rd singular	laud-ā-t	mon-ē-t	leg-i-t	aud-ī-t	est
1st plural	laud-ā-mus	mon-ē-mus	leg-i-mus	aud-ī-mus	sumus
2nd plural	laud-ā-tis	mon-ē-tis	leg-i-tis	aud-ī-tis	estis
3rd plural	laud-ā-nt	mon-e-nt	leg-(i)u-nt	aud-i-unt	sunt

(+ variants < shortening of final -V*t*, e.g. *laud-ăt*, established by late 2nd c. BC)

Present subjunctive					
1st singular	laud-em	mon-eō	leg-am	aud-iam	siem, sim
2nd singular	laud-ēs	mon-eās	leg-ās	aud-iās	siēs, sis
3rd singular	laud-ēt	mon-eāt	leg-āt	aud-iāt	siēt, sit
1st plural	laud-ēmus	mon-eāmus	leg-āmus	aud-iāmus	simus
2nd plural	laud-ētis	mon-eātis	leg-ātis	aud-iātis	sitis
3rd plural	laud-ēnt	mon-eant	leg-ant	aud-iant	sient, sint
Future indicative					
1st singular	laud-ābō	mon-ēbō	leg-am	aud-iam	erō
2nd singular	laud-ābās	mon-ēbis	leg-ēs	aud-iēs	eris
3rd singular	laud-ābāt	mon-ēbit	leg-ēt	aud-iēt	erit
1st plural	laud-ābāmus	mon-ēbimus	leg-ēmus	aud-iēmus	erimus
2nd plural	laud-ābātis	mon-ēbitis	leg-ētis	aud-iētis	eritis
3rd plural	laud-ābānt	mon-ēbunt	leg-ent	aud-ient	erunt

	1st Conjugation	2nd Conj.	3rd Conj.	4th Conj.
Present Stem (e.g. laud-)				
Imperfect indicative	-āba-m, -ābā-s, -ābā-t, -ābā-mus, -ābā-tis, -āba-nt	-ēba-m	-(i)ēba-m	-iēba-m
Imperfect subjunctive	-āre-m, -ārē-s, -ārē-t, -ārē-mus, -ārē-tis, -āre-nt	-ēre-m	-ĕre-m	-īre-m
Imperative present	(only 2nd pers.) -ā, -āte	-ē, -ēte	-ĕ, -ĭte	-ī, -īte
Imperative future	(no 1st) -ātō, ātō, ātōte, -āntō	-ētō	-ĭtō … -ŭntō	-ītō
Present participle	-ans, -antis (as adj. 2nd class)	-ens, -entis	-(i)ens,	-iens
Gerundive (gerund)	-andus, -a, -um (as adj. 1st class) (-andum)	-endus	-(i)endus	-iendus
1st, 2nd 3rd, and 4th Conjugations				
Perfect Stem (e.g. laudāv-)				
Perfect indicative	-ī, -istī, -īt/-it, -imus, -istis, -ērunt (-ēre, -ĕrunt)			
Perfect subjunctive	-erim, -erīs, -erīt, -erimus, -eritis, -erint			
Future perfect	-erō, -eris, -erit, -erimus, -eritis, -erunt			
Pluperfect indicative	-eram, -erās, -erāt, -erāmus, -erātis, -erant			
Pluperfect subjunctive	-issem, -issēs, -issēt, -issēmus, -issētis, -issent			
Supine Stem (e.g. laudat-)				
Supine and future infinitive	-um (acc.), -ū (abl.); -ūrum, -am, -um esse			
Perfect and future participle	-us, -a, -um ; -ūrus, -a, -um			

Personal endings and passive voice

- Regular personal endings (1st sg. *-ō/-m*, 2nd sg. *-s*, 3rd sg. *-t*, 1st pl. *-mus*, 2nd pl. *-tis*, 3rd pl. *-nt*)

- Active forms, listed in tables, have all passive equivalents

- Passive ending of infinitive (1st conj. *laud-ārī*, 2nd *mon-ērī*, 3rd *leg-ī,* 4th *aud-īrī*),

- Passive personal endings (1st sg. *-ōr/-(ŏ)r*, 2nd sg. *-ris/-re*, 3rd sg. *-tur*, 1st pl. *-mur*, 2nd pl. *-minī*, 3rd pl. *-ntur*) substituting the active ones in present stem (e.g. *laudōr, monēbār*, etc.)

- Passive forms of perfect stem formed with perfect participle and forms of *esse*: e.g. perfect indicative *factus sum*, perfect subjunctive *factus sim*, future perfect *factus erō*, perfect infinitive (*factum esse*)

Variant forms

- Variants witnessing porosity between paradigms; e.g. imperfect forms *-ībam* and future forms *-ībō* for verbs of the 4th conjugation (e.g. *scībāt* for *sciebāt*, *scībō* for *sciam*); imperfect *-ībam* standard form in EL; BUT *-ībō* rare).

- Common variants for present subjunctive of *esse*: *siem*, *sies*, *siet* etc; common in both Plautus and Terence, but distribution suggests that they are metrical archaisms.

- Same observations for form *-(r)ier* of the passive infinitive instead of *-(r)ī* (e.g. *amārier*, *monērier*, *agier*, and *audīrier*); forms still well attested in Plautus and Terence, but in both authors the standard forms in *-(r)ī* predominate.

Extra-paradigmatic forms

- Old sigmatic future with -(*s*)*s* morpheme: *faxō* (from *facere*), but also others (e.g. *respexis*, *faxit*, *faxitis* etc.); high register, common in legal texts; c. 120 forms in Plautus vs. 10 in Terence; in main clauses, equivalent to simple future in subordinated to future perfects (e.g. *fēcerō*).

- Sigmatic subjunctive (e.g. *faxim*, *faxīs*, *amāssim*, *amassīs*, *prohibessīs*, *ambissint*); used in prohibitions and subordinate clauses; equivalent present and/or perfect subj.; high register; 106 in Plautus, 12 in Terence, 25 in others.

- Vestiges of infinitive future (e.g. *impetrassere*, *oppugnassere*); high register

- Old optative *duim*, *duīs*, etc.(< *dō*); type *attigās* (< *attingō*); probably derived from old aorist stem; use and function similar to sigmatic subjunctives.

(Other) athematic and irregular verbs

- Rare and athematic mainly/only in the present stem, e.g.:
  - *volō, vīs, vult/volt, volumus, voltis, volunt*
  - *ma(vo)lō, mavīs, mavult, malumus, mavultis, malunt*
  - *eō, īs, īt/it, īmus, ītis, eunt; ībam, ībō etc.*
  - *ferō, fers, fert, ferimus, fertis, ferunt*

- Defective verbs: only perfect stem (*coepī, meminī*)
- Deponent verbs: passive form, active meaning (e.g. *ūtōr, fruōr* etc.)
- Impersonal verbs, e.g. *pigēt, pudēt* etc.