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# Old Irish

Morphology – Part 3: Verbal Categories and Dimensions



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# Roadmap

- Categories and dimensions of the verb
- Verbal paradigms

## The dimensions and categories of the Old Irish verb

modality	mood	tense/ aspect	grammatical category	voice	rela- tivity	perspec- tivity	depon- ent	depend- ency
realis	indicative	present	present indic.	±	±	±	±	±
		past pf.	preterite	±	±	±	±	±
		past ipf.	imperfect	±	±	±	∅	±
		future	future	±	±	(+) –	±	±
irrealis	conditional	∅	conditional	±	±	(+) –	∅	±
	subjunctive	present	present subj.	±	±	±	±	±
		past	past subj.	±	±	±	∅	±
	imperative	∅	imperative	±	–	–	±	∅

Plus: ‘person & number’, ‘object pronominality’

## Person & Number

- Fusional category
  - 3 persons
  - 2 numbers
- Endings mark subject
- Strictly pro-drop – no subject pronouns possible

## The dimensions and categories of the Old Irish verb

modality	mood	tense/ aspect	grammatical category	voice	rela- tivity	perspec- tivity	depon- ent	depend- ency
realis	indicative	present	present indic.	±	±	±	±	±
		past pf.	preterite	±	±	±	±	±
		past ipf.	imperfect	±	±	±	∅	±
		future	future	±	±	(+) –	±	±
irrealis	conditional	∅	conditional	±	±	(+) –	∅	±
	subjunctive	present	present subj.	±	±	±	±	±
		past	past subj.	±	±	±	∅	±
	imperative	∅	imperative	±	–	–	±	∅

Plus: 'person & number' (pro-drop), 'object pronominality'

## Voice: active and passive

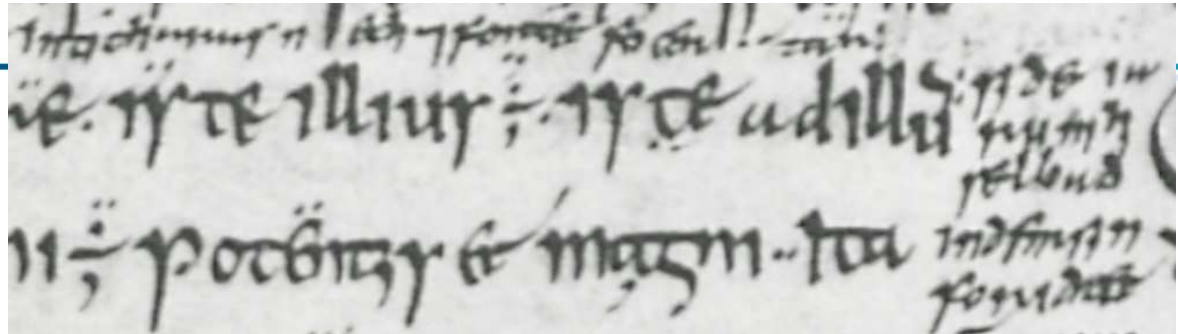
- Active voice
  - Endings for all 6 persons
- Passive voice
  - Endings only for 3<sup>rd</sup> persons
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> singular = impersonal
- Active verbs: active and deponent endings

non-dep.	deponent
<i>car-ait</i> 'they love'	<i>mol-aitir</i> 'they praise'
<i>gád-∅</i> 'I prayed'	<i>mén-ar</i> 'I intended'

## Relativity

- Relative absolute endings for 3sg, 1pl, 3pl simple verbs
- Relative mutation elsewhere
  - Relativity is marked by mutating the stressed part of the compound verb
  - Simple verbs make virtual compounds with *no·*
  - Syntactic and semantic difference between ‘leniting (<sup>RL</sup>)’ and ‘nasalising (<sup>RL</sup>)’ relative clauses
- Class C infixed pronouns, relative mutations marked on the pronouns
- Relative negation with particles *ná·, nád·*; with *nach-* before pronouns
- Relative particle  $-(s)a^N$  added to a preposition in prepositional relative clauses
- Neuter article  $a^{N+RL}$  represents pronominal ‘(all) that which’

## Relativity



*int í charas nech 7 for·tét fo·certar·side íarum hi selbad ind fir·sin forid·tét*

‘He whom somebody loves and whom he helps, is then cast into the possession of the man who helps him’ (MI. 30c3)

- *charas* = 3sg. abs. rel. of *caraid* ‘to love’, with rel. lenition, expressing object antecedent
- *for·tét* = nasalising rel. [for'dʲe:d] expressing object antecedent
- *forid·tét* = class C 3sg. masc. infixed pronoun with rel. lenition [forið'tʲe:d] expressing subject antecedent



## Perspectivity

- All finite verbs except imperatives can be ‘augmented’
- The augment is
  - Usually preverb *ro-*
  - Sometimes *ad-*, *con-*
  - Suppletive stem

## Perspectivity

- Augmentation changes the perspective under which a verbal action is looked at
- The perspective can be resultative or potential, e.g.
  - *as·beir* ‘says’ vs. *as·robair* ‘can say’
  - *as·bert* ‘said’ vs. *as·rubart* ‘has said’
  - *lod* ‘I went’ vs. *do·cuäd* ‘I have gone’



## Combining stems with endings

stem	primary	suffixless & mixed pret.	secondary	imperative	pret. passive
present	pres. ind.		imperfect	imperative	
subjunctive	pres. subj.		past subj.		
future	future		conditional		
preterite	preterite	preterite			
pret. passive					pret. passive

- **móraid** (W1) ‘to praise’: *móra-*, *móirf-*, *móras-*, *móraith-*
- **gaibid** (S2) ‘to take’: *gaba-*, *géba-*, *gabas-*, *gabath-*
- **do·fich/·dích** (S1) ‘to punish, avenge’: *do·fés-/·diäs-(?)*, *do·fís-/·dís-*, *do·fích-/·dích-*, *do·fecht-/·diächt-*
- **fo·ceird** (S1)/·**cuirethar** (W2b) ‘to put’: *fo·cerr-/·corathar*, *fo·cicherr-/·foicherr-*, *fo·card-/·fachard-(?)*, *fo·cres-/·fachras-(?)*; augm. *ro·lá*, *ro·lá-/·rala-*, *?*, *ro·lás-/·ralas-*, *ro·lath-/·ralath-*

## A simple verb

*scaraid* (W1) 'to separate'

pers.		absolute	conjunct
1sg			
2sg			
3sg			
	rel.		
	pass.		
	pass. rel.		
1pl			
	rel.		
2pl			
3pl			
	rel.		
	pass.		
	pass. rel.		

## A simple verb

pers.		absolute	conjunct
1sg		scaraimm	
2sg		scarai	
3sg		scaraid	
	rel.		
	pass.		
	pass. rel.		
1pl		scarmai	
	rel.		
2pl		scarthae	
3pl		scarait	
	rel.		
	pass.		
	pass. rel.		

*scaraid* (W1) 'to separate'

## A simple verb

pers.		absolute	conjunct
1sg		scaraimm	
2sg		scarai	
3sg		scaraid	
	rel.	scaras	
	pass.		
	pass. rel.		
1pl		scarmai	
	rel.	scarmae	
2pl		scarthae	
3pl		scarait	
	rel.	scartae	
	pass.		
	pass. rel.		

*scaraid* (W1) 'to separate'

## A simple verb

*scaraid* (W1) 'to separate'

pers.		absolute	conjunct
1sg		scaraimm	
2sg		scarai	
3sg		scaraid	
	rel.	scaras	
	pass.	scarthair	
	pass. rel.	scarthar	
1pl		scarmai	
	rel.	scarmae	
2pl		scarthae	
3pl		scarait	
	rel.	scartae	
	pass.	scartair	
	pass. rel.	scartar	



## A simple verb

*scaraid* (W1) 'to separate'

pers.		absolute	conjunct
1sg		scaraimm	·scaraimm
2sg		scarai	·scarai
3sg		scaraid	·scara
	rel.	scaras	—
	pass.	scarthair	·scarthar
	pass. rel.	scarthar	—
1pl		scarmai	·scaram
	rel.	scarmae	—
2pl		scarthae	·scaraid
3pl		scarait	·scarat
	rel.	scartae	—
	pass.	scartair	·scartar
	pass. rel.	scartar	—

## A compound verb

pers.		deuterotonic	prototonic
1sg		do·gníu	·dénu
2sg		do·gní	·dénai
3sg		do·gní	·dénai
	pass.	do·gníther	·déntar
1pl		do·gniäm	·dénam
2pl		do·gniïd	·dénaid
3pl		do·gniät	·dénat
	pass.	do·gníter	·déntar

*do·gní* (H2) 'to do'

# Full paradigm of a compound verb

Present Indicative			Imperfect			Present subjunctive			Past subjunctive		
pers.	deuterotonic	prototonic	pers.	deuterotonic	prototonic	pers.	deuterotonic	prototonic	pers.	deuterotonic	prototonic
1sg	do·gníu	·dénu	1sg	do·gníinn	·dénainn	1sg	do·gnéu	·dén	1sg	do·gneinn	·dénainn
2sg	do·gní	·dénai	2sg	do·gnítha	·dénta	2sg	do·gné	·dénæ	2sg	do·gnetha	·dénta
3sg	do·gní	·dénai	3sg	do·gníth	·dénad	3sg	do·gné	·déna	3sg	do·gneth	·dénad
pass.	do·gníther	·déntar	pass.	do·gníthe	·déntæ	pass.	do·gnether	·déntar	pass.	do·gnethe	·déntæ
1pl	do·gniäm	·dénam	1pl	do·gnímmis	·dénmis	1pl	do·gnem	·dénam	1pl	do·gnemmis	·dénmais
2pl	do·gníid	·dénaid	2pl	do·gníthe	·dénte	2pl	do·gneid	·dénaid	2pl	do·gnethe	·dénte
3pl	do·gniät	·dénat	3pl	do·gnítis	·déntis	3pl	do·gnet	·dénat	3pl	do·gnetis	·déntais
pass.	do·gníter	·déntar	pass.	do·gnítis	·déntis	pass.	do·gneter	·dénatar	pass.	do·gnetis	·déntais

Imperative		Preterite			Future			Conditional		
pers.		pers.	deuterotonic	prototonic	pers.	deuterotonic	prototonic	pers.	deuterotonic	prototonic
1sg	dénu	1sg	do·génus	·dignius	1sg	do·gén	·digén	1sg	do·génainn	·digninn
2sg	dénæ	2sg	do·génais	·dignis	2sg	do·génæ	·digne	2sg	do·génta	·digenta
3sg	dénad	3sg	do·génai	·digni	3sg	do·géna	·digne	3sg	do·génad	·digned
pass.	déntar	pass.	do·gníth	·dénad	pass.	do·géntar	·digentar	pass.	do·génte	·digente
1pl	dénam	1pl	do·génsam	·digensam	1pl	do·génam	·dignem	1pl	do·génmais	·digenmis
2pl	dénaid	2pl	do·génsaid	·digensaid	2pl	do·génaid	·dignid	2pl	do·génte	·digénte
3pl	dénat	3pl	do·génsat	·digensat	3pl	do·génat	·dignet	3pl	do·géntais	·digéntis
pass.	dénaiter	pass.	do·gnítha	·dénta	pass.	do·génatar	·digniter	pass.	do·géntais	·digéntis

pers.	Present Indicative		pers.	Present Indicative Augmented		pers.	Imperative		pers.	Imperfect		pers.	Imperfect Augmented	
1sg	do-gníu	·dénu	1sg	do-rónu	·dernu	1sg	dénu	1sg	do-gníinn	·dénainn	1sg	do-rónainn	·dernainn	
2sg	do-gní	·dénai	2sg	do-rónai	·dernai	2sg	dénae	2sg	do-gnítha	·dénta	2sg	do-rónta	·dernatha	
3sg	do-gní	·dénai	3sg	do-rónai	·dernai	3sg	dénad	3sg	do-gníth	·dénad	3sg	do-rónad	·dernad	
pass.	do-gníther	·déntar	pass.	do-róinter	·dernathar	pass.	déntar	pass.	do-gníthe	·déntae	pass.	do-rónte	·dernathe	
1pl	do-gníäm	·dénam	1pl	do-rónam	·dernam	1pl	dénam	1pl	do-gnímmis	·dénmis	1pl	do-rónaimmis	·dernaimmis	
2pl	do-gníid	·dénaid	2pl	do-rónaid	·dernaaid	2pl	dénaid	2pl	do-gníthe	·dénte	2pl	do-rónte	·dernathe	
3pl	do-gníät	·dénat	3pl	do-rónat	·dernat	3pl	dénat	3pl	do-gnítis	·déntis	3pl	do-rónaitis	·dernaitis	
pass.	do-gníter	·déntar	pass.	do-róinter	·dernatar	pass.	dénaiter	pass.	do-gnítis	·déntis	pass.	do-rónaitis	·dernaitis	

## Full paradigm of a compound verb with augmented forms

pers.	Present subjunctive		pers.	Present subjunctive Augmented		pers.	Past subjunctive		pers.	Past subjunctive Augmented	
1sg	do-gnéu	·dén	1sg	do-rón	·dern	1sg	do-gneinn	·dénainn	1sg	do-rónainn	·dernainn
2sg	do-gné	·dénæ	2sg	do-rónæ	·dernaæ	2sg	do-gnetha	·dénta	2sg	do-rónta	·dernta
3sg	do-gné	·déna	3sg	do-róna	·derna	3sg	do-gneth	·dénad	3sg	do-rónad	·dernad
pass.	do-gnether	·déntar	pass.	do-róntar	·derntar	pass.	do-gnethe	·déntæ	pass.	do-rónte	·derntæ
1pl	do-gnem	·dénam	1pl	do-rónam	·dernam	1pl	do-gnemmis	·dénmais	1pl	do-rónmais	·derntmais
2pl	do-gneid	·dénaid	2pl	do-rónaid	·dernaaid	2pl	do-gnethe	·dénte	2pl	do-rónte	·dernte
3pl	do-gnet	·dénat	3pl	do-rónat	·dernat	3pl	do-gnetis	·déntais	3pl	do-róntais	·derntais
pass.	do-gneter	·dénatar	pass.	do-rónatar	·dernaatar	pass.	do-gnetis	·déntais	pass.	do-róntais	·derntais

pers.	Preterite		pers.	Preterite Augmented		pers.	Future		pers.	Future Augmented (?)		pers.	Conditional		pers.	Conditional Augmented	
1sg	do-génus	·dignius	1sg	do-rignius	·dergénus	1sg	do-gén	·digén	1sg	do-rigén	·dergén	1sg	do-génainn	·digninn	1sg	do-rigénainn	·dergénéinn
2sg	do-génais	·dignis	2sg	do-rignis	·dergénis	2sg	do-génae	·digne	2sg	do-rigne	·dergéné	2sg	do-génta	·digenta	2sg	do-rigénta	·dergénta
3sg	do-génai	·digni	3sg	do-rigni	·dergénéi	3sg	do-géna	·digne	3sg	do-rigne	·dergéné	3sg	do-génad	·digned	3sg	do-rigénad	·dergénéad
pass.	do-gníth	·dénad	pass.	do-rónad	·dernad	pass.	do-géntar	·digentar	pass.	do-rigéntar	·dergéntar	pass.	do-génte	·digente	pass.	do-rigénte	·dergénte
1pl	do-génsam	·digensam	1pl	do-rigénsam	·dergénsam	1pl	do-génam	·dignem	1pl	do-rignem	·dergénam	1pl	do-génmais	·digenmis	1pl	do-rigénmais	·dergénmis
2pl	do-génsaid	·digensaid	2pl	do-rigénsaid	·dergénsaid	2pl	do-génaid	·dignid	2pl	do-rignid	·dergénéaid	2pl	do-génte	·digente	2pl	do-rigénte	·dergénte
3pl	do-génsat	·digensat	3pl	do-rigénsat	·dergénsat	3pl	do-génat	·dignet	3pl	do-rignet	·dergénat	3pl	do-géntais	·digentis	3pl	do-rigéntais	·dergéntis
pass.	do-gnítha	·dénta	pass.	do-rónta	·dernta	pass.	do-génatar	·digniter	pass.	do-rigniter	·dergénatar	pass.	do-géntais	·digentis	pass.	do-rigéntais	·dergéntis

## Ad·tlochur indithim dúib!



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