

advisable for foreigners to be very attentive in choosing slang in their speech in English to avoid causing offence.

Thus, slang may be classified according to the place of slangisms in the semantic system of the vocabulary; the sphere of usage; special word structure; its functioning and stylistic peculiarities. Although it should be noted that there does not exist any universal classification of slang which would take into account all important parameters of this vocabulary layer.

The perspectives of further research are seen in the study of the main ways of enrichment of slang vocabulary in modern English, of the peculiarities of functioning of slangisms in different types of discourse as well as in different regional variants of English, of the main ways of translation of modern English slangisms into Ukrainian.

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УДК: 811.1’22-115

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ICONIC ROOTS IN PROTO-INDO-EUROPEAN: FORMS MIMING MEANINGS

The paper examines types of iconicity found in different structures of Proto-Indo-European roots. It is hypothesized that the phonetic structures of basic forms, variants of PIE roots and stems are manipulated to mime structures in the external world, express particular meanings in the protolanguage, and motivate the semantic continuants of PIE etymons in daughter languages.

Key words: alternation, a/symmetrical pattern, etymon, extension, iconicity, lengthening, Proto-Indo-European, protolanguage, reflex, root, shortening.

Козлова Т. О. Іконічні корені в індоєвропейській прамові: форми, що імітують значення. У статті висувається гіпотеза про іконічність коренів індоєвропейської прамови. Наведено найпродуктивніші моделі структури і.е. коренів. Аналізуються приклади зовнішньомовної іконічності, обумовленої намаганням мовців встановити подібність між об’єктом номінації та найменуванням. З’ясовано, що іконічність і.е. етимонів вплинула на напрямки семантичного розвитку рефлексів у дочірніх мовах.

Ключові слова: а/симетрична структура, коренева альтернатива, етимон, іконічність, індоєвропейський, корінь, подовження голосної, розширення кореня, прамова, рефлекс, скорочення голосної.

Козлова Т. О. Иконические корни в индоевропейском праязыке: формы, имитирующие значения. В статье выдвигается гипотеза об иконичности корней индоевропейского праязыка. Представлены продуктивные модели структуры и.е. корней. Анализируются случаи внешнеязыковой иконичности, обусловленной стремлением говорящих к установлению сходства между объектом номинации и наименованием. Результаты анализа показали, что иконичность и.е. етимонов оказала влияние на направления семантической рефлексии в дочерних языках.

Ключевые слова: а/симметричная структура, внутрикорневая альтернатива, долгий гласный, иконичность, индоевропейский, корень, короткий гласный, праязык, расширение корня, рефлекс, етимон.

1. Introduction. In the history of languages mimesis was significant at earlier stages of the evolutionary trajectory [Klima and Bellugi 1979, p. 67-84; Donald 1991, p. 201-236; Sadowski 2000;

2009; Газов-Гинзберг 1965]. However, its role is gradually decreasing with the historical drive from iconic to arbitrary encoding [Nöth 1990, p. 109]

The cooperative work of etymologists with comparative linguists (E. Benveniste, T. Gamkrelidze, V. Ivanov, V. Levitsky, A. Liberman, M. Makovsky, C. Watkins to name a few) will help to reveal naturalness in historically older languages and discover iconic devices that mirror archaic concepts. It is especially advantageous to use the material of reconstructed Proto-Indo-European considered as the preceding invariant that gave rise to a whole number of attested diversified branches.

With respect to iconicity, etymologies may explain the “stochastic nature of language” [Маковский 2007, с. 185; Никитин 2007, с. 363], or how phonetic changes and variations direct semantic development in language units [Левицкий 2008; Liberman 2008, с. 46-61; Козлова 2012].

The purpose of this paper is to discover iconicity in PIE roots and find out about the ways by which the phonetic and morphological structures of basic forms, variants of PIE roots and stems are manipulated to mime structures in the external world, express particular meanings in the protolanguage, and motivate the semantic continuants of PIE etymons in daughter languages.

Method, material and procedure. To find the types of iconicity in PIE units and show how the structure of PIE roots and stems is manipulated in order to express particular meanings in the protolanguage, etymological databases and dictionaries were used to select productive etymons (1400 PIE roots, i.e. about 70% of the reconstructions). The structural analysis of basic forms and their modifications was followed by the semantic analysis of the etymons and their direct reflexes. That enabled further establishing of semantic similarities and dissimilarities between PIE basic forms and root modifications.

In what follows, I will sketch the shapes of reconstructed PIE roots (section 2) and their variants (or modifications) to show the iconic functions present in the a/symmetry of root patterns (section 3), root extension and terminal variation (section 4), lengthening and shortening of the root medial vowel (section 5).

2. PIE prevalent structure and its flexibility. Among all types of PIE root structure, the three-phonemic one (CVC) prevails: CVC (**bher-* “to carry”), CVCC (**kost-* “bone”), CCVC (**ghrebh-* “to seize, reach”), CV(laryngeal)/ CV (**me@-* > *mē-* “to take appropriate measures”), (laryngeal)VC/ VC (**@ed--* > *ed-* “to eat, bite”), CCVCC (**ghrendh-* “to grind”). The flexibility of basic forms is achieved by modifications into vocalic alternations (**per-* > *por-*, *pr-*), consonantal terminal variation (**plak-* > *plag-*), vowel lengthening (**per-* > *pōr*) and shortening (**syū-* > *syu-men-*), clipping (**ghesor-* > *ghesr-*), extension (**per-* > *pres-*), nasalization (**plāk-/plak-* > *plā-n-k-*), suffixation (**plek-* > *plek-to-*), prefixation (**op-* > **co-op-*), metathesis (**deru-* > *dreu-*), reduplication (**der-* > *der-dru-*), and other typical forms.

3. A/symmetry in the structural pattern miming ‘dis/integration’. V. Levitsky [Левицкий 2008: 96-97] applied quantitative analysis to reconstructed units to prove that root templates and their frequencies vary through the main semantic classes ‘divide’, ‘cut’, ‘connect, tie, unite’, ‘bend’, ‘move’, ‘sound’ [Левицкий 2008: 97]. However, he did not go further with his findings and only suggested that the dominance of the patterns might be determined by the euphony of the roots. With his calculations, V. Levitsky did not pay attention to the fact that root frequencies diminish with the increase of consonantal complexity (CVC → CCVCC) and symmetry disturbance around the vocalic centre (CVC → CCVC, CVCC → VC, CV → CCV). I argue that the semantic orientation is mirrored by the structure, and the structural a/symmetry of PIE etymons mimes the syncretism of ‘disintegration’ and ‘integration’ [Kozlova 2013, p. 313 - 316].

The root a/symmetry may also depend on the quality of the consonantal frame. The design of the roots may indicate ‘coherence, consistency, conformity, roundness, wholeness’ in PIEs with identical edges - [C_{VOICED ASPIRATE STOP}-C_{VOICED ASPIRATE STOP}] as in **bhendh-* “to bind”, etc. (Figure 1), **bheugh-* “to bend” (Figure 2).

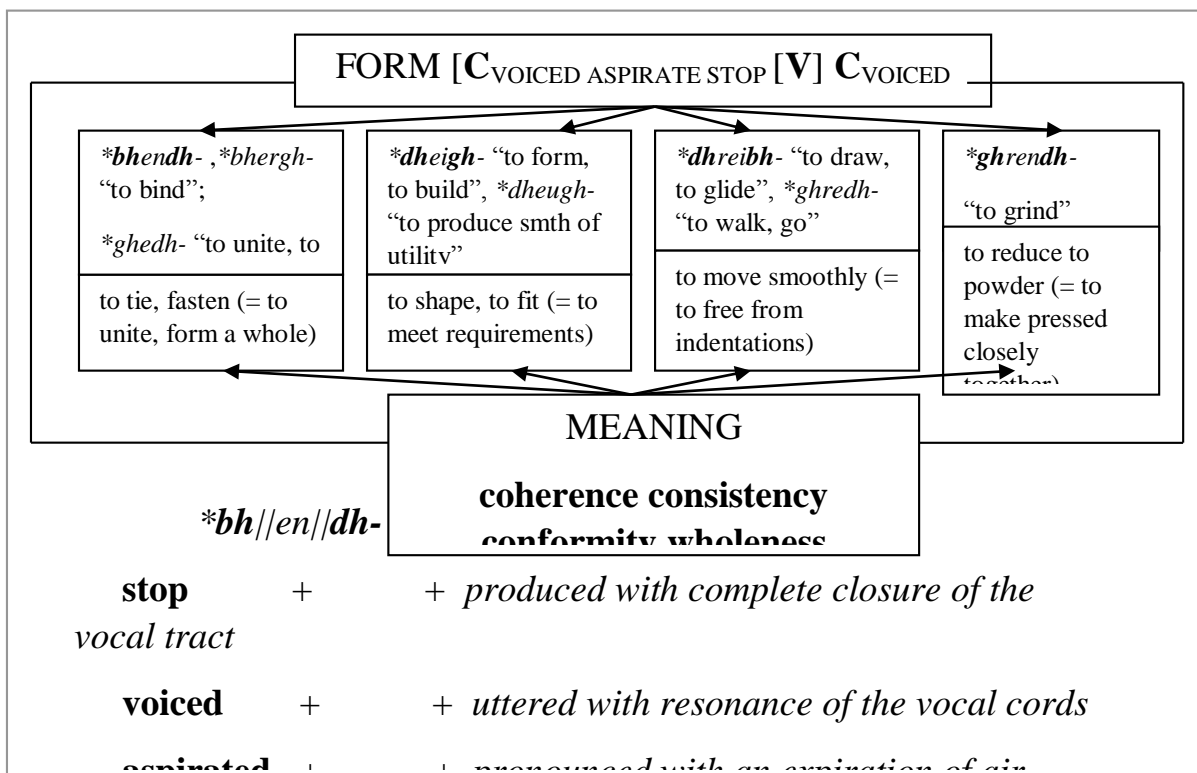


Figure 1. Structural patterns and the iconicity in PIE roots: Dissymmetry of the root initial and root final

In PIEs with a qualitative contrast on the edges - [C VOICED ASPIRATE STOP - C VOICED STOP], the structure may minimize distortion, e.g. ‘propensity to bend’ for **bheug-* “to bend” (Figure 2).

4. Extended structures miming ‘degree of spatial or temporal extension’. The basic form of the root may undergo extension. This results in a content deviating from the semantic etymon. The meaning change would be governed by the properties of the consonantal terminal (Figure 3). For instance, in the articulation of a vocalic core [C SONORANT LIQUID – C GLIDE], the vocal organs move toward or away from articulation of a vowel or consonant and trigger associations with ‘making something long and narrow by folding, pressing, or crushing’, as in **rei-* reflected in Lat. *rīma* ‘crease, furrow’, OIcl. *rein* ‘border line’. The pattern of the basic form contrasts with its extension **reis-* [C SONORANT LIQUID – C CONTINUANT] where the terminal of the root is produced with the vocal tract only partly closed, allowing the breath to pass through and the sound to be prolonged, and may be associated with ‘smth non-terminated’ such as ‘a very long and narrow cut/ opening’ (MHG *rist* ‘plowshare’, Lett. *risums*, *risiēns* ‘crack, slit’, OChSl *rešiti* “loosen”) or ‘smth extremely influenced’, ‘impair’ (OChS *rešiti* ‘loosen’, Skr *riṣyati*, *reṣati* “injures, hurts, disables, damages”).

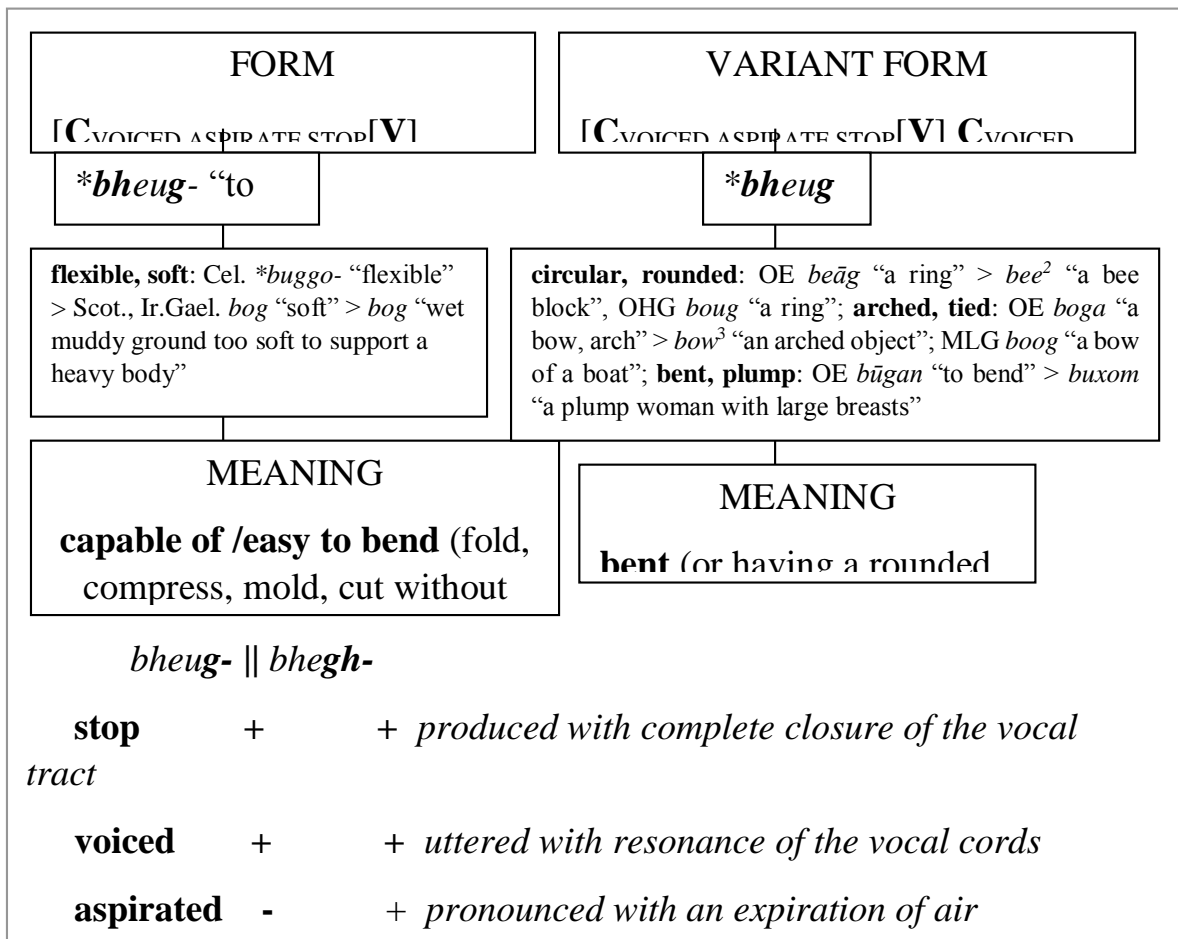


Figure 2. Structural patterns and the iconicity in PIE roots: Asymmetry vs symmetry. Root variation (initial ≠ final VS initial = final)

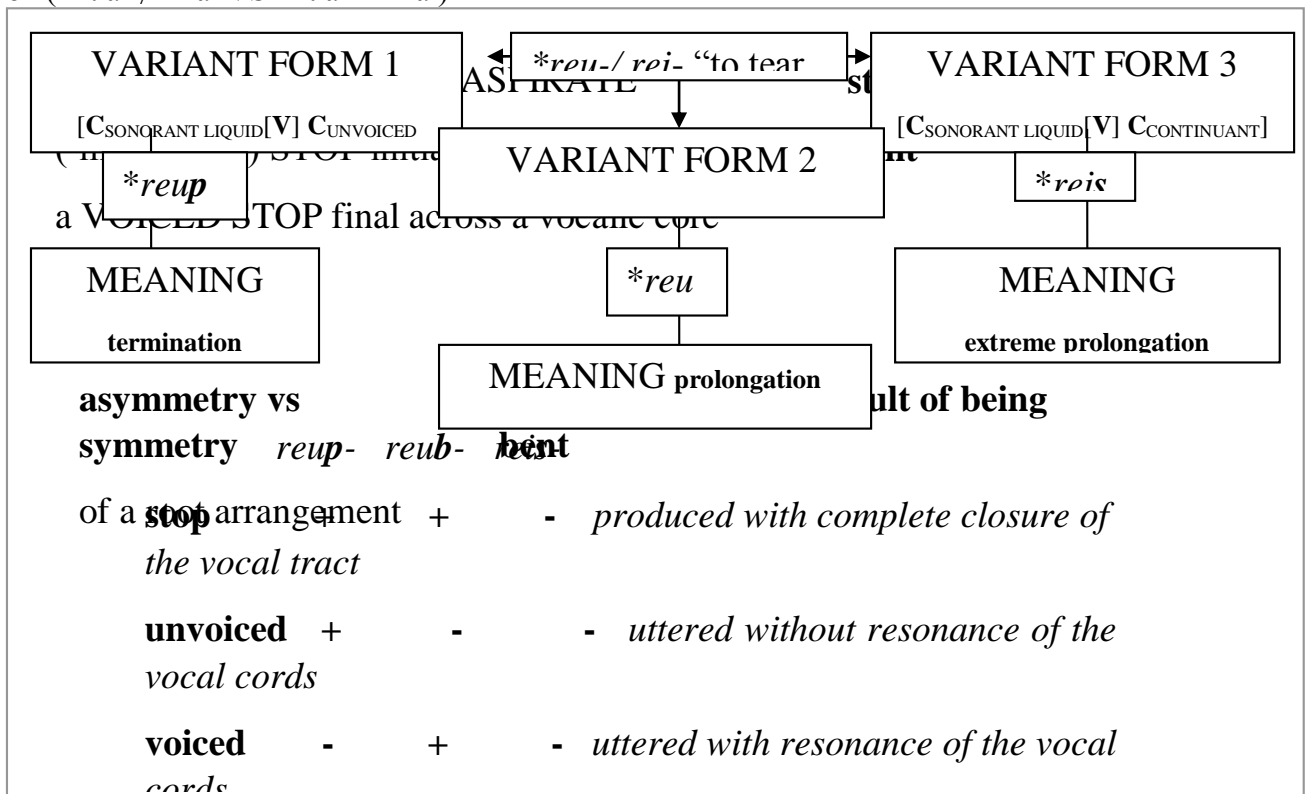


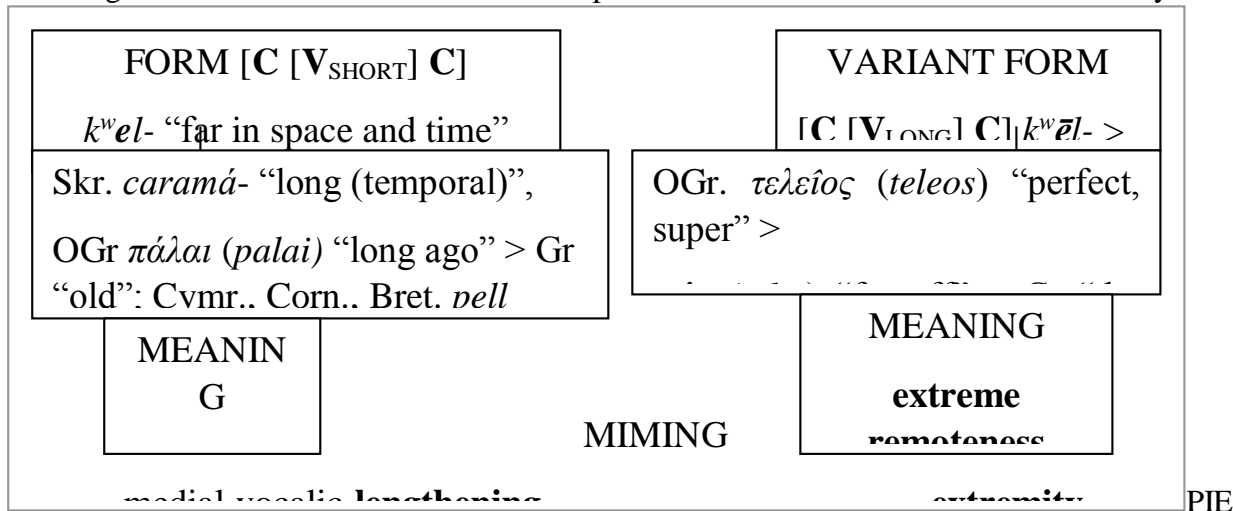
Figure 3. Structural patterns and the iconicity in PIE roots: Asymmetry. Root extension and variation (initial ≠ final 1 vs final 2 vs final 3)

With the unvoiced stop [C_{SONORANT LIQUID} - C_{UNVOICED STOP}], the root final is produced without vibration with complete closure of the vocal tract (**reup-*) and redirects the meaning towards ‘interrupted, broken’ (Lat. *ūsūrpo* ‘interrupt the orderly acquisition of smth’), or ‘break’ OIcl. *rīpr* ‘a crag’.

The voicing of the root terminal (**reub-*) is employed to mime enantiosemic contrast to **reup-*: ‘a long cut or tear’ (Flemish *ripen* “to rip”), ‘obtained by force’ (OE *rēafian* “to plunder” > *reave* “carry out raids in order to plunder; rob”; MLG *roven* ‘to rob’; It. *rubare* “to rob” (< Gmc **raubōn* “to rob”), OE *rīp* “harvest”, Skr. *loptram* “booty”), ‘long and sharp’ (OE *rifter* “sickle”, OHG *rifila/ riffila* “jagged mountain ridge”), ‘repeated’ (Sl. **rubjela* > ORuss. *rubiti* “to chop, hew”).

5. Vocalic length miming ‘maximization/minimization’. Another typical modification of the PIE root is caused by quantitative vocalic alternations of the medial vowel (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Structural patterns and the iconicity in



roots: Quantitative alternation (lengthening vs shortening in a vocalic core)

Thus, vocalic lengthening may be said to mime ‘maximization’. For example, ‘remoteness’ versus ‘extreme remoteness’: [V_{SHORT}] for the basic form **k^wel-²* ‘far in space and time’ > Skr. *caramá-* ‘last; final; western; last time; after (smth)’, *cirá* ‘long (temporal); old (friend); long ago; slow’, *cirantana* ‘old people’, etc.; OGk. *πάλαι* ‘before, long ago’, *πάλαιός* ‘old; ancient’ versus [V_{LONG}] in **k^wēl-* > OGk. *τελείος* ‘perfect; complete; super; irreproachable; omnipotent (the Almighty)’ > Gk. *τελε* ‘far off’ > ‘the very last’, *τελευτή* ‘edge; death’, *τελευτῶ* ‘finish; die’ etc. Conversely, vowel shortening would be an iconic representation of ‘minimization’: [V_{LONG}] in the basic form **sīū-* ‘sew, bind’ > ‘long and thin’ in **sū-dhlā* > Skr. *sūtra* ‘string, thread; filament; apophthegm’ versus [V_{SHORT}] in **sīu-* > ‘very thin’ > Gk. *ύμην* ‘thin skin, sinew; membrane’.

6. Concluding remarks. It is difficult to make firm conclusions about the productivity of iconic devices in PIE, it is notable, however, that many of PIE roots show instances of iconic behaviour. Formal symmetry around the vocalic core can be treated as an iconic representation of ‘indivisible duality, wholeness, cohesion’, whereas the asymmetrically arranged counterparts mime ‘disintegration’. Manipulations with phonetic structures of basic forms and variants turned out to be highly efficient at expressing intuitions and knowledge about fundamental properties of entities: their ability to extend, disintegrate, and continue, on the one hand, and their ability to shrink, accumulate, and integrate, on the other.

Symbols and Abbreviations

- * unattested
- > developed into
- < developed from
- Celt. - Celtic
- Gk. - Greek
- Gmc - Germanic
- Ir.Gael. – Irish Gaelic

It. - Italian
 Lat. – Latin
 Lett. – Lettish
 MHG – Middle High German
 MLG - Middle Low German
 OChSl - Old Church Slavonic
 OE – Old English
 OHG – Old High German
 OIcl. – Old Icelandic
 ORuss. – Old Russian
 PIE- Proto-Indo-European
 Scot. - Scottish
 Skr. - – Sanskrit

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