

**LINGUISTIC NOTES ON
SOME OBSCURE
PREFIXES AND AFFIXES IN
GREEK AND LATIN**

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Linguistic Notes on Some Obscure Prefixes and Affixes in Greek and Latin by Francis J. Crawford(Sigma)

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FRANCIS J. CRAWFORD(SIGMA)

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BY

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Τοσούτον ἄρκῳ σοι σαφηνίσαι μόνον.

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PREFACE.

THE title of this little work sufficiently explains its purport. It does not aim at strictly scientific treatment of its subject according to the canons of any linguistic system at present in vogue. Pezzi's review of the varying conclusions of strict scientists does not encourage an earnest student of philology to put much faith in their glottologic labours; and when he learns that the schools of Curtius and Schleicher, so lately of paramount authority on questions of Greek and Latin etymology, are now pronounced "obsolescent" by an eminent Professor, his faith will be still more weakened. In the judgment of the present writer much progress will not be made in the analysis of Greek and Latin words, so long as the error prevails, that verbal roots are the first elements of language. Another impediment to such analysis is the insufficient application of the Celtic dialects. Nearly two centuries ago Leibnitz pointed out their value in

linguistic research, but it is only of late they have been taken into serious account. The use made of them in this work will, perhaps, be deemed excessive by many, and the results arrived at startling, but, however startling they may appear, they are not hastily put forward, and invite a calm and deliberate investigation. The several parts of the work, which is but the output of subseival hours, have been published at different times, and consequently it labours under the disadvantage of such a mode of publication.

 ERRATA.

- * Page 19, line 12 for Lith read Liðth.
 „ 65, „ 21 „ Γλυχες read Γλυρυς.
 „ 121, „ 7 „ is read au.
 „ 121, „ 15 „ of the read of.
 „ 129, „ 14 „ Huishai read Hushai.
 „ 152, „ 5 „ odbran read odbrann.

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ON
SOME OBSCURE PREFIXES OF COMPOSITION
IN GREEK AND LATIN.

MUTILATED FORMS OF THE PREPOSITION *ὑπό*.

It is proposed to consider in the following pages some obscure prefixes of composition in Greek and Latin, and to begin with some mutilated forms of the Greek preposition *ὑπό*. This preposition, with some of its representatives in other languages, is presented to us by Curtius in his great work on Greek Etymology as follows¹ :—

“*ὑπό, ὑπαί*, under—Skt. *upa* as adv. thither, as prep. with acc. towards, with loc to, on, with instr. with (in the sense of accompanying) Zd. *upa* with acc. to, with loc. over—Lat. *sub, subter*,—Goth. *uf* sub, O. H. G. *oba* super.—Ch. Sl. *pa, po*, secundum, post, *po-du*, sub, Lith. *pa, po*, under, after, with—O. Ir. *fo*, Cymr. *guo*, sub.”
To which others might be added.

To some of these forms we shall presently have occasion to refer. But before entering on our more immediate object, it may not be amiss to observe that it is not always in the oldest languages the most primitive forms are best preserved.

¹ Gr. Et., vol. I., p. 361. Pelle's *Introd.*, p. 82.

Moreover, as Sanskrit has been found of such use to comparative philology by preserving modes of formation, as it were, in their transition state, still "retaining its roots and suffixes and formative machinery in such an unsolidified state that its words can be dissected with an ease unknown in Greek and Latin"—so a somewhat similar state of things, though in a less degree, exists with regard to the Celtic dialects, and in them modes of formation or composition may be recognised and analysed with ease, which may serve to the illustration of other languages.

This being premised, let us in connection with our subject, and as illustrative of it, submit to analysis the Gaelic or Hiberno-Celtic compound

Fo-dúine¹—*a mean man,*

which on examination will be found to consist of two parts, the first being the prefix *fo*, which is used as a preposition, and in those Celtic dialects signifies *under*, whilst the latter part is the Celtic word

Dúine—*a man,*

a term which in its Gaelic representative should be familiar to all readers of the novel *Waverley* as forming the first part of the oft-used Gaelic expression for a *gentleman*, and which in that work is written *duinhè-wassel*—the literal meaning, then, of the whole compound *Fo-dúine* above mentioned would be a *subman*, thence a *mean man*, a *foot-soldier*, &c.

Now the prefix *fo*, which forms the first part in the foregoing compound, and which in the Irish language appears

¹ Note in this and other Irish words the aspiration is represented by a dot over the letters instead of by the usual *h*.