A SEMANTIC STUDY OF THE VERBS OF DOING AND MAKING IN THE INDO-EUROPEAN LANGUAGES. A DISSERTATION

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A semantic study of the verbs of doing and making in the Indo-European languages. A dissertation by Ghen-ichiro Yoshioka

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GHEN-ICHIRO YOSHIOKA

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A SEMANTIC STUDY OF THE VERBS OF DOING AND MAKING IN THE INDO-EUROPEAN LANGUAGES

A DISSERTATION

SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARTS
AND LITERATURE IN CANDIDACY FOR THE DEGREE
OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

(DEPARTMENT OF SANSKRIT AND INDO-EUROPEAN COMPARATIVE PHILOLOGY)

BY
GEN-ICHIRO YOSHIOKA

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I wish to acknowledge my deep indebtedness to Professor Carl Darling Buck, Head of the Department of Sanskrit and Indo-European Comparative Philology in the University of Chicago, under whose supervision this dissertation was written, and to Professor Francis Asbury Wood of the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures in the same University whose criticism and advice have greatly improved this paper. I wish to express my thanks also to those representatives of numerous nationalities resident in Chicago who have constantly furnished me with information, generously and willingly responding to my inquiries.

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INTRODUCTION.

That such a vague, general notion as that of 'do' or 'make' is secondary and rests upon some more specific force, is an assumption demanded by all psychological probability and fully confirmed by linguistic evidence. The purpose of this dissertation is to show what are the various specific forces from which come the verbs of doing and making in the Indo-European languages. Attention is given primarily to the commonest words of this kind in the several languages,—those which are the usual equivalents of English *do* or *make*; and it is hoped that none of these has been overlooked. But words in which such a general meaning is only occasional, the more specific sense being commonly preserved, as well as words which, though not verbs of doing and making in the strictest sense, come very near to this meaning, are equally instructive as showing the possibilities of development in this direction; and many of these have been considered. In this regard, however, it is obviously impossible to aim at completeness, which could be attained only in a study devoted to a single language.

Verbs of doing and making are treated together for the simple reason that it is impossible to keep them apart. It is true that the distinction which exists in English, where *do* refers to an action *per se*, while *make* contains the notion of result, is common to many languages; but the line of demarcation is a vague one, and never quite the same even in languages which have precisely the same pair of words as German and English. Compare *Was macht er? = What is he doing?*

In gathering the material, I have used in the first instance the grammars and lexicons which are accessible to me. But