ANALYSIS OF THE LATIN VERB,
ILLUSTRATED BY THE FORMS OF THE SANSKRIT

CHARLES H. PARKHURST

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PREFACE.

THE *immediate* aim of this treatise is to familiarize the student with the earlier and later forms of the Latin verb, and the method by which the latter have been corrupted from the former. It is not in the power of the Latin, however, to expound itself. Latin scholarship may state the facts, but it cannot give the philosophy, of Latin formation. The superficial analysis of the verb **amo**, for example, in the first person plural of the present subjunctive active would be, — root, **am**; connecting vowel, **e**; personal ending, **mus**. An acquaintance with Latin, however thorough, will not, without assistance from the cognate languages, discover in that connective **e** a union of **a** with **i**, the former a corruption of **aja**, the affix of conjugation, and the latter, like the iota of the Greek, the modal sign of the optative. We have preferred, therefore, to explain the Latin system of conjugation by reference to the Sanskrit, not at all because the Sanskrit is the progenitor of the Latin, but because it most fully retains the forms belonging to the parent language of the entire Indo-European family, and as such offers to us the proximate original, from which the later Latin derivatives are corrupted.

The *mediate* aim of these pages is to introduce the pupil to the study of Comparative Grammar, — a science which is engaging the energies of the profoundest scholars of Germany, and one which, though failing to satisfy the utilitarian tendencies of the age, is yet rich in promise to the less ambitious few, with whom research and discovery are their own sufficient and abundant reward.

We have not assumed on the part of the student any acquaintance with either the Sanskrit or the Greek. As a necessary consequence, however, of the sisterly relation existing between the Greek and Latin, one familiar with both cannot, we believe, fail to discover in our discussion of the Latin the solution of many problems in Greek formation.

In the preparation of this Manual we have taken as our guide the writings of Professors Bopp and Schleicher. As respects the content of the "Analysis" we lay no claim to originality, its primary object being to give the best approved results of German research, in a form convenient and intelligible to the English reader. Many of the conclusions attained rest rather upon probable than upon demonstrative evidence. Care has been taken in each instance to put these conclusions in no more positive form than that with which they are enunciated by the authorities we follow.

We are happy to acknowledge our indebtedness to Professor Greenough, of Harvard College, for his examination of the manuscript, and for valuable suggestions and criticisms.

Conscious of the imperfection of the work both in form and content, we submit it to the public with the hope that it may not be altogether without its influence in quickening the spirit of linguistic inquiry, and that its perusal may serve to reproduce in the case of some earnest student, something of the pleasure experienced by the author in the course of its preparation.

WILLISTON SEMINARY,
    Feb. 24, 1870.

ANALYSIS OF THE VERB.

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1. The oldest form of a word is called its Root.

2. Roots are of two kinds, Pronominal and Verbal. From pronominal roots are developed pronouns and particles; from verbal roots, verbs and nouns (substantive and adjective).

3. Inflection is the union of pronominal with verbal roots. When so combined as to denote relations of gender, number, and case, the process is termed Declension. When so combined as to denote relations of voice, mood, tense, number, and person, the process is called Conjugation.

4. Etymological analysis is the converse of inflection, and consists in resolving a verb or noun into its ultimate verbal and pronominal elements.

5 The analysis of the verb consists in separating from the root those pronominal accretions which mark distinctions in conjugation, and serve to denote relations of voice, mood, tense, number, and person.

THE LATIN ALPHABET.

NOTE.— As preliminary to the analysis proper, sections **6-49** will be devoted to a consideration of some of the more general euphonic and emphatic changes employed in verbal formation.

(a.) VOWELS.

6. The relative value of the vowels will be best determined by giving to them the sounds with which they are pronounced in the continental languages of Europe: viz., a, as in *father, man;* e, as in *they, met;* i, as in *machine, him;* o, as in *no, not;* u, as in *rule, full.*

7. By comparing these sounds, it will appear that only that of a, i, and u is simple, — i.e., produced by the vocal organs in a single

fixed position; while that of e and o is compound, — i.e., in their production the position of the organs is changed.

8. The first element of o is a; the second, u: hence we place a + u = o. The first element of e is a; the second, i: hence we place a + i = e. An instance wherein e stands in place of an earlier a + i, will be found, for example, in the present subjunctive of conjugation first; amem for an earlier amaim; amemus for an earlier amaimus.

9. u and its corresponding semi-vowel v are readily exchange-able, as also i and its semi-vowel j. Thus in the perfect of con-jugation second we shall find mon-(e)-vi becoming mon-ui; and in the affix of conjugation second, aj changed successively to ai and e.

10. As in the Sanskrit, so also in the Latin, uv sometimes develops itself out of u; thus fluo becomes in the perfect fluvi, whence fluxi.

11. The weight of a vowel is the fulness of tone with which it is enunciated. The order of vowels from heaviest to lightest, ranked according to their weight, is as follows: a, u, o, e, i. The Latin everywhere exhibits a tendency to pass from a heavier to a lighter.

12. As regards the verb, this tendency is particularly noticeable in the formation of reduplicated perfects. Thus fallo, perfect fe-felli for fa-falli; cano, perfect ce-cini for ca-cani; cado, perfect ce-cidi for ca-cadi. Cecini and cecidi also illustrate another tendency in the formation of reduplicates, that of attenuat-ing the perfect more in its radical than in its reduplicate syllable. Thus in place of ca-cani not ce-ceni, but ce-cini; so ce-cidi instead of ce-cedi, te-tigi for te-tegi.

13. A radical u or o, however, reappears in the perfect, both in its radical and reduplicate syllable. Hence tundo, tu-tudi; posco, po-posci.

14. In like manner verbs in composition often lighten the vowel of the root; e.g., concino for con-cano, assideo for as-sedeo.

15. The tendency of a nasal is to convert the preceding vowel into u; e.g., capiunt for an earlier capiant.

16. The influence of r, or of any two consonants, is often to change the preceding i into e; e.g., amaverunt of the perfect indicative for amavirunt, acceptum for acciptum.

17. A final m or t tends to shorten the preceding vowel; e.g., sī-m becomes sĭm; audiā-m, audiăm; amā-t, amăt; regā-t, regăt.

18. e at the end of a word is usually preferred to ĭ; e.g., in the imperative of conjugation third, lege for the regular legĭ.

(b.) Consonants.

19. The consonants of the Latin are nineteen; seventeen simple, and two, x (= cs) and z (= ds), compound. Consonants produced with a resonance of the vocal cords are termed *sonant*; those produced without such resonance, *surd*.

20. As still farther classified according to the method of their generation, the scheme of the Latin consonants is as follows:—

	PALATALS.	LABIALS.	LINGUALS.
SURDS.	c, k, q, h.	p, f	t, s.
SONANTS.	g, j.	b, v. Nasals. {m,	d. n. } Liquids. l, r. }

21. As a result of inflection, letters sometimes become so combined as to be difficult of pronunciation. The principles according to which such combinations are simplified are called Laws of Euphony. The more general of these which require to be applied in the analysis of the verb are the following:—

22. Before the affix si of the perfect a sonant palatal becomes surd: e.g., aug (augeo) + si = auc + si; reg (rego) + si = rec + si.

23. c, or any other surd palatal converted to c, combines with s to form x, according to 19: e.g., auc + si = auxi; coq + si = coc + si = coxi; veh + si = vec + si = vexi.

24. EXCEPTION. Roots ending in a palatal immediately preceded by l or r drop the palatal before the affix si: e.g., algeo, alsi; mergo, mersi.

25. Before si the labial sonant b is represented by its cognate (vid. **41**, b) surd p: e.g., nubo, nupsi; scribo, scripsi.

26. v, through an intermediate conversion to c, combines with s to form x, after the analogy of palatals: e.g., vivo, viv + si = vic + si = vixi; fluo, fluv + si (vid. **10**) = fluo + si = fluxi.

27. Roots in m optionally insert p before the affix si: e.g., como, com-p-si or comsi; sumo, sum-p-si or sumsi.