

**STUDIES ON
DENOMINATIVE VERBS IN
ENGLISH, INAUGURAL
DISSERTATION**

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Studies on denominative verbs in English, inaugural dissertation by Vilhelm Bladin

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VILHELM BLADIN

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STUDIES
ON
DENOMINATIVE VERBS
IN ENGLISH

INAUGURAL DISSERTATION

BY

VILHELM BLADIN
LIC. PHIL.

BY DUE PERMISSION OF THE PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY OF UPSALA TO BE PUBLICLY
DISCUSSED IN ENGLISH IN LECTURE HALL IX ON THE 27TH OF MAY, 1911,
AT 10 O'CLOCK A. M.

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PREFACE.

For advice and encouragement in the compilation of this treatise I stand indebted to my teachers of philology at the University of Upsala.

To Professor Dr. AXEL ERDMANN I beg to express my thanks for the experienced guidance with which I have been favoured throughout my English studies. It was at the instigation of this esteemed teacher that my study of the subject of Denominative Verbs was undertaken.

To Docent Dr. KARL FREDRIK SUNDÉN, under whom the present work has been completed, I beg to offer this expression of my sincere gratitude for the benefit of his clear-sighted teaching and for some valuable advice, which has been of wide-reaching importance for my work.

To all my kind friends who have supplied me with interesting quotations — particularly Mr. HERMAN BAUMBACH — my thanks are due.

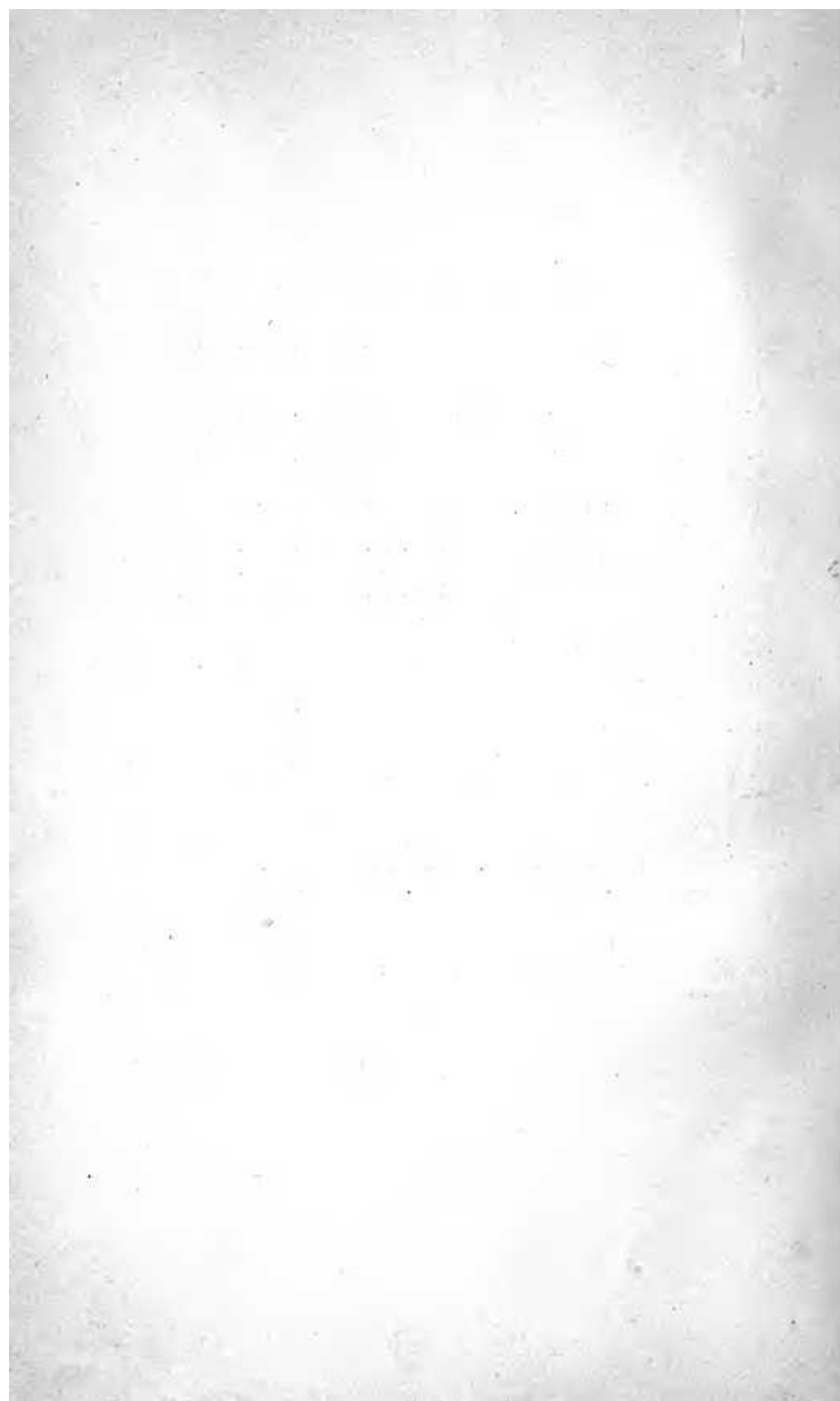
Mr. SYDNEY CHARLESTON, Lector at the University of Upsala, has rendered me kind assistance in revising my English style, and Docent Dr. A. CHR. THORN, of Lund University, has been of much service by assisting me in the proof-reading.
Gefle, May 10th, 1911.

Vilhelm Bladin.

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The abbreviations used are those adopted by the New English Dictionary. See also foot-notes, pp. 84—5.



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Introduction.

The subject of Denominative Verbs in English provides § 1. an immense amount of material for semological research.

Hardly any other Indo-European language can marshal so imposing an array of different semological types of denominative verbs as can English. This language, in fact, approaches the simplicity which we are wont to attribute to Chinese, consisting in the almost absolute liberty to use any word unchanged as any »part of speech«.

Of this wide field of semology only some outlines can be drawn here. The reader has to bear in mind that the only previous works published dealing with a kindred subject are that by Jacobi and those by Thorn, no one of which deals with the English language.

Denominative verbs have always been of considerable § 2. importance in the weak conjugations. Their importance for pre-literary Teutonic is already evident from the fact that their mode of forming the preterite (the »dental» preterite) was transferred to the rest of the weak verbs.

The Gothic denominatives recorded (some of which cannot be clearly distinguished from 'root'-verbs) amount to more than one hundred while a random calculation of OE denominatives gives about one thousand verbs, divided between the principal two weak classes in the proportion of one to two. Thus, more than three hundred verbs can be traced back to pre-literary English, as revealed by their i-umlaut or -an-termination in the infinitive.