

Pavia Indo-European Summer School (September 2013)

Introduction to Albanian

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Day 2: *Archaisms in Albanian*

1. Evidence of a 3-way distinction in the gutturals (= dorsals/tectals): PIE palatal stops *k' g' g'h, velar stops *k g gh, and labiovelar stops *k^w g^w g^wh:

thom 'I say' < *k'ē-mi (cf. Old Persian *θā-tiy* 'he says')

kohë 'time' < *kēsk'a (cf. OCS *časъ* 'hour')

sorrë 'blackbird' < *k^wērsnā (cf. Sanskrit *kṛṣṇa-* 'black')

2. the use of a prefix *e- in past tenses (the “augment”, found overtly in Greek, Armenian, and Indo-Iranian): no *overt* augment in Alb (e.g. *pa* 's/he saw', *dha* 's/he gave', *mori* 's/he took'), but perhaps traces of augment, covertly:
 - a. via spirant outcome of *d in 'gave', an otherwise intervocalic outcome (thus < augmented root aorist *e-də-t (or thematic aorist *e-dH₃-e-t), not an unaugmented *də-t (or *dH₃-e-t))
 - b. analysis of past *mori* (where *o* points to *ē) vs. present *marr* as *me-r-nu- in present (with -rr- < *-rn-, cf. Grk ἄρῃναι 'take') vs. *me-e- r- in past (with augment to get vowel length via contraction)

3. Others:

- a. modal vs. nonmodal negation distinction (Alb *mos* vs. *s' / nuk* ~ μή vs. οὐ; so also in Indo-Iranian (e.g. Sanskrit and Avestan *mā* vs. *na*), Armenian (*mi* vs. *oč'*), Anatolian (e.g. Hittite *lā* vs. *natta*), and Italo-Celtic (e.g. Latin *nē* vs. *non*))
- b. specific form of the modal negator, containing *meH₁ (Alb *mos* (< PIE *meH₁-k^wid) ~ μή < PIE *meH₁))
- c. present/aorist suppletion (e.g. 'bring' *bie / prur-* (Geg: *prun-*) ~ φέρω / ἐνεργα- < PIE *bher- / *pro-Hnek-; NB: suppletion involving the same roots is found in Old Irish: present *do beir* 'brings' (< *bher-) has suppletive past (perfect) *ro'ucc*, with -ucc < *Hnek-.
- d. special endings for mediopassive in present system, e.g. 'seem':

dukem	φαίνομαι
dukesh	φαίνη (< *φαίνεσαι)
duket	φαίνεται etc.

- for evidence of this feature as PIE, cf. its occurrence in Indo-Iranian (e.g. Skt. *labhe / labhase / labhate* ('take') etc.) and Germanic (e.g. Gothic *baírada / baíraza / baírada*)

(+ more to come another day regarding negation)