

Isabelle de Meyer

PhD student at *Ghent University* and the *École Pratique des Hautes Études* (Paris)

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Title: **h_x(e)r-t-*

The Proto-Indo-European root **h₂er-* ‘to adapt, to join’ has puzzled a great deal of linguists. This is due to both the fact that its -alleged- derivatives seem to cover discrepant semantic fields and the oddity that there seem to be no convergence between the derivational patterns and the semantic developments. A suitable example forms the following set of *°t*-derivatives:

**-tu-*: Armenian *ard*, *-u* ‘shape, order’, Hittite ^(GIS)*harduppi-* ‘furniture’, Luwian *hartuwa-* ‘posterity’, Vedic *ṛtú-* ‘right moment; rule’, Avestan *ratu-* ‘period’; Greek *ἀρτύς* ‘ordering’, *ἀρτύν* ‘friendship’ Latin *artus*, *-ūs* ‘joint, limb’, Tokharian A *artum* ‘amical’;

**-ti-*: Armenian *ard(ij)*¹ ‘work; deed’, Latin *ars*, *-tis* ‘art, manner’, Sanskrit *ṛtí-* ‘manner’, Old Avestan *arəiti-*, Young Avestan *aši-* ‘reward’;

**-to-*: Vedic *ṛtá-* ‘(adj.) truly; (subst.) truth, accord, order’, Mitanni *arta* Old Persian <art[°]>, Old Avestan *aša* ‘truth’, Latin *artus* ‘close, firm’, Old Norwegian (*ein-*)*arðr* ‘firm’, *arda* ‘nature’ Middle High German *art* ‘nature, origin’, Greek *ἀμαρτή* ‘at once; together’, Lithuanian *ařtas* ‘near (space)’;

**-t(-)*: Armenian *ard(ij)*²: ‘(just) now’; Greek *ἀρτι* ‘just now’, Lithuanian *arti* ‘near (space)’, Old Phrygian *art* ‘near (space)’, Vedic *ṛté* ‘without’, Tokharian A *ārts*, B *artsa* ‘each (time)’.

Indeed, although there seem to be an apparent semantic link between ‘to adapt, to join’ and each of these derivatives, it is notable that words belonging to the distinct domain of morality, time, space and the physical world are intermingled; there is no connection between the suffix and the semantic field. Three causes can be identified to explain this phenomenon. First, not all the words might be derived from the root **h₂er-*, but from -or influenced by- e.g. the root **h₁er-* ‘to go’. Next, some of the words might not have a Proto-Indo-European origin, and are (semantic) creations within the Indo-European daughter languages themselves. Finally, it is possible that this quadripartite suffix division is wrong and that we must reconstruct an original Proto-Indo-European *°t*-stem to which a second suffix e.g. *°-(e)w-* was added, after which it formally intermingled with the primary derivatives in **-tu-*.

In my paper I will first present an overview on the formation of Proto-Indo-European *°t*-stems. Then, I will offer an analysis and a comparison of the above-mentioned words on a semantic, morphologic and typological level. Finally, I will examine how the results might shed a new light on the global issue of the reconstruction of the Proto-Indo-European root **h₂er-*.

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