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## vít BUBENÍK

## ON THE REMAKING OF THE MIDDLE VOICE IN INDO-IRANIAN

The study of the origins and prehistory of the middle voice in the overall context of the verbal system(s) of Ancient Indo-European languages was in the focus of the attention of Indoeuropeanists from the very beginnings of their discipline. Professor Erhart's activity in this area culminated in his 1989 monograph Das indoeuropäische Verbalsystem, where he also makes a number of observations on later developments in individual branches of IE. The following lines limited to the Indo-Iranian family, are intended to highlight some of the salient aspects of the remaking of the middle voice by means of analytic morphology.

## 1. Synthetic and analytic formations of Middle Indo-Iranian dialects

Early MIA dialects - most notably Ardha-Māgadhī - continued and further developed the OIA synthetic mediopassive morphology by adopting the stem of the passive (in -ya or -ijja) as a base for innovative temporal and participial forms. The present, aorist and the future tense forms are shown in (1):
(1)

| Ardha-Māgadhī | Present | Aorist | Future | Participle |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Active | $k u v v-a i$ | $k u v v-i t(t) h \bar{a}$ | kar-iss-ai | kar-anta |
| Med/Passive | kijj-ai | $k i j j-i t(t) h \bar{a}$ | kijj-ih-ii | kar-ijj-anta |
|  | $(<k r i-y a-t e)$ | $(<* k r i-y-i s ̣ t a)$ | $(<* k r i-y-i s ̣ y a-$ | $(<* k r-i y a-$ |
|  |  |  | te) | māna) |

Also the OIA imperfective mediopassive participle in -māna (kriyamạna) was remodelled by means of the active suffix -anta; later on, in Apabhramsa, the form kar-ijj-anta was reduced to $k$-ijj-anta.

It should also be observed that the singular form of the active aorist displays the suffix of its mediopassive counterpart (<*kurv-is-ta) while the plural form of the active aorist, kar-im-su, developed apparently by methesis from the active form of the sigmatic aorist *kar-is-um > kar-im-su. The uniform suffix -it $(t) h a$ in the singular is indicative of the transition from an earlier overlapping exponence to the agglutinative exponence for voice and aspect. Matters were different in the future where OIA relied only on the mediopassive suffix. In MIA the future was also built on the passive stem and the suffix marked exclusively the person and number; contrast the OIA form lep-sy-a-se „you will taint yourself" with AMg lipp-ih-i-si.

Pali discontinued the mediopassive morphology of the perfect, aorist and future. A number of relic forms appear in the present (bharate „carries for
himself"). As in AMg the OIA passive kri-ya-te is now inflected actively, kar-iy-ati (also kayirati) „is done" (cf. also Buddhist Sanskrit drsyatu „be it regarded", vadhisyam. „I will be slain", vucyāmi „I am told" in Edgerton 1953:182). The passive in the preterite and the future tense is now formed analytically by combining the participles, the PP kata and the gerundive kätabba, respectively, with the copula. The preterite form of the copula, $a h \bar{u}$ ( $<a b h a v a t$ ), is usually omitted, and the construction consisting of the future tense of the copula and the gerundive, kātabba bhavissati „it will be done" possesses also modal meaning ,it should be done". Pertinent examples are provided in (2) and (3):

> evam me sutam
[Mayrhofer 1951:195]
thus=me hear + PP
"Thus it was heard by me"

The passive interpretation of (2) is more likely than the ergative interpretation „Thus I heard". In early MIA the latter would be realized by the active preterite (< aorist) evam assosiṃ (cf. Sanskrit evaṃ aśrauṣam).

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na hantabbo
not kill+GERVE+NOM
„He will not be killed" ~ ,He should not be killed"
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The rapid decay of mediopassive synthetic forms was precipitated by the raising of mid vowels ( $\bar{e}>e>I, \bar{o}>o>U$, cf. Bubenik 1996: 29-33). The elimination of the crucial phonological contrast between $\bar{e}$ and $i$ available in OIA resulted in the elimination of the morphological contrast between the middle and the active diathesis. Furthermore, even the contrast between the active and the synthetic passive was considerably weakened; given the identity of their suffixes this contrast continued to be carried solely by the shape of the passive stem. This could be identical with its active counterpart (e.g. chijjati meant both „it is split" or "he splits"; but the latter could also be realized by chindati); or it could be differentiated only by the geminate (e.g. labbhati ,it is taken" vs. labhati „he takes"); or, in the case of the roots in nasals by the geminate palatal in the passive vs. the dental nasal in the active (e.g. hañnati "he is killed" vs. „he kills"). The situation was alleviated in the $3^{\text {nd }} \mathrm{Pl}$ by the adoption of the suffix of the perfect -(a)re limited to the mediopassive. All these forms are surveyed in (4):

Páli
Active
Middle
Passive hañ̄̄-ati [haл:atu]
$3^{\text {rd }} \mathrm{Pl}$
hah-anti [hanantr] „they kill"
han-ante [hanantr]
hañ̄n-ante [hap:antr]

- haññ-are [han:art]
"they kill"
"they kill for themselves"
"they are killed"

On the Iranian side the contrast between the active and the mediopassive forms was apparently more viable in that the stem-forming element $-y a$ of the latter category became -ye in late Avestan:

| Active | Indirect reflexive | Verbum sentiendi |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| barai-ti/̄ | yazai-te/̄e | man-ye-te |$\quad$| Passive |
| :--- |
| bar-ye-te |
| (spelled bairiiete) |

The lengthening in the $2^{\text {nd }}$ and $3^{\text {rd }} \mathrm{Sg}$ active suffixes (-eh $\bar{i}$, -aitī vs. middle -ehe, aite) may be understood as an effort to keep these two categories from their phonological merging for the same reason as in Pāli above: x̌̌ayehī (active) „you reign" vs. xšayehe (middle). Nevertheless, phonological erosion of the contrast between / $\bar{e} /$ and $/ i /$ precipitated ultimately their complete merger. As a sign of these things happening, in Iranian - as in Indic - we find mediopassive forms spelled with active suffixes. For instance, the verb man„think", a medium tantum in Gātha-Avestan, appears with the active suffix in late Zoroastrian Liturgy:

| maniia | mananha | humatom |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| think+IMP | mind+INSTR | [Aog 25] |
| "do thou think good thought with thy mind" |  |  |

Other examples, such as hištaiti „stands" ( ~ hištaitē, root stā- ), mairiiāti „stands" (vs. OIA mriyate), yazənti „they are worshipped", were assembled by Kellens (1984:80-81).

Late MIA (Apabhramśa) replaced the active preterite akāsi (< OIA aorist $a k \overline{a r s} a t)$ by the ergative construction tena kiyau. The present passive is continued with further phonological development seen in kar-iy-ati>kar-ijj-ai, later $>k \bar{i} r$-ai or $k$-ijj-ai. In the preterite the copula āsi (< OIA āsīt) continued to be used in conjunction with the PP; in the perfect and the future tense, however, the copula was replaced by the verb „to go": tena kiyau gayau lit. done gone "[it] was done by him" (vs. the ergative construction tena kiyau "he did [it]"). Examples with the auxiliary "to go" in the future tense of the type tena kiyau $j \bar{a}-i s-a i$ lit. done go+FUT+3SG „it will be done by him" are rare. One of them, from Haribhadra's Sanatkumäracarita (of the $12^{\text {th }} \mathrm{c}$.) is presented in (7):

| kaha | maim | ditthau | jäisa | ehu | [Sc 631.8] |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| how | I+INSTR | see+PP | gotF |  |  |
| „How will I be able to see this [city]?، |  |  |  |  |  |

The system of the synthetic passive of early MIA (Ardha-Māgadhī) and that of the analytic passive of late MIA (Apabhramśa) are contrasted in (8):
(8)

| Ardha-Māgadhī | Present | Aorist | Future | Perfect |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Synthetic passive | $k$-ijj-ai | $k$-ijj-ithā | $k-i j j-i h-i i$ |  |
| Apabhramśa |  |  |  |  |
| Analytic passive | kiyau (-> erg) | kiyau āsi | kiyau jāisai | kiyau gayau |

On the Iranian side, early Middle Persian possessed synthetic forms in the present/future kun-īhed/kir-ēd „it is (being)/will be made" and the imperfect $a$ -kir-ih „it was made" (cf. Brunner 1977:213). The latter form is actually documented only once (in the inscription of Sābuhr I at Karba-yi Zardušt) and represents a residual imperfect form from Old Iranian (of the type *kir-ya-ta cf. Sanskrit kri-yá-te, imperfect á-kri-ya-ta):

| akirih |  | nām | kirdēr | [KKZ 8] |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| and=my make + IMPF+3SG | name | Kirdēr |  |  |
| „I was titled Kirdē" (lit. m | was b |  | K.) vs. | ective |

In later Middle Persian the analytic passive formations (in the present, perfect and pluperfect) became more and more common. Their synopsis, following Brunner (1977:213) and Sundermann (1989:152), is given in (10):

| Early MP (synthetic passive) (analytic passive) | Present/Future kun-ihēd ~ kirēd | Imperfect a-kir-ih | Perfec | Pluperfect |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | paymōxt hèm | paymōxt būd |
|  |  |  | „I have been |  |
|  |  |  | dressed" | „I had been dressed |
| Late Middle Persian (analytic passive) | kard baw-ēd ,it is (being)/will be made" |  | kard ēstēd „, it has been made" | kard būd/ēstād ,it had been made" |

Unlike in Indic, the perfect in late MP was formed by the auxiliary ēstādan „stand, be"; the pluperfect may be expressed in two ways: by attaching the PP of estādan or that of the copula būdan „be" to the PP of the main verb.

On the Indic side, with the employment of the auxiliary „to go" in the system of voice, the copula was freed for the employment in the system of aspect and tense. Earlier forms of the copula, atthi ,is" (< OIA asti) and āsi ,,was" (< OIA āsit), were replaced by acchai (< OIA rcchati „arises") and ṭhiu (< OIA sthita „stood"), respectively. As in the other IE languages, the two grammatical aspects of Apabhramsa are built on the past and the present participle. The latter may also be replaced by the gerund in -eppi or -eppinu. As
shown in (11), in Apabhramśa texts these two aspect are found only in the present and the past tense:

| Apabhramsa | Perfect | Progressive (aspect) |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Present | PP + Copula | Pres Part + Copula | Gerund +Copula |
| Past | gayau acchai | karantu acchai | kareppi(nu) acchai |
|  | gayau ãsi $\sim$ thiu | karantu acchiu $\sim$ thiu | kareppi(nu) thiu |

The combination of the PP plus the copula is actually inherited from OIA: ägato 'smi ( ~ jagama) „I have come" (Ich bin gekommen) > MIA āgato 'mhi. In OIA with transitive verbs the PP was enlarged by the suffix -vant: aham $k r t a v a n t(M) \sim k r t a v a t \bar{i}(\mathbf{F})$ „I have done" (lit. I am the one who has done).

The progressive aspect in early MIA could be expressed by combining the present participle of the main verb with verbs such as tisthati „stands" and vicarati „walks" (of the type karanto tist!hati „is making"); the habitual aspect by combing the absolutive of the main verb with the verb vattati "becomes". These early 'experiments' were paradigmatized in Apabhramśa as sketched above; in addition to the copula acchai there are also examples with the auxiliary thakkai „stands" (for examples cf. Bubenik 1998:104-111). .

It is of interest to observe that also in late Medieval Sanskrit the auxiliary sthā- „stand" became widely used for the expression of tense. For instance, in Jambhaladatta's Vetālapañcavimśatikā (of the $14^{\text {th }} \mathrm{c}$.) the whole paradigmatic set of analytic expressions exploiting all the possible forms of sth $\bar{a}$ - is available: kurvans tiṣthati „he is doing", kurvans sthäsyati „he will be doing", kurvans atisṭthat „he was doing" (even with the auxiliary in the aorist and perfect!).

In Middle Persian after the loss of the synthetic middle voice morphology the main exponent of the 'experiential' meaning (cf. Andersen 1984) became the auxiliry ēstädan „to stand, be". It corresponds to Indic sthā- which, however, was a temporal auxiliary; a functional counterpart in late MIA was the verb $j \bar{a}$ - „to go" (< OIA $y_{-}$-). The following examples are taken from Ard $\bar{a}$ Wirāz Nämag (ca. $8^{\text {th }}$ c.) and Kārnāmag ī Ardasír (very late MP):


The verb ēstädan „to stand" functions also as an aspecto-temporal auxiliary; contrast bewtween sud éstēnd (present perfect) „they have gone" and sud (hënd) (preterite) ,"they went".

## 2. Analytic realization of the middle voice in New Indo-Iranian languages

At the end of the late MIA period we encounter earliest attempts to compensate for the eliminated category of the middle voice (ãtmanepada) by analytic formations involving two lexical auxiliaries: jānā „to go" with intransitive and transitive verbs and lenā „to take" with transitive verbs. Given the identity of the middle and passive suffixes in OLA the choice of the former auxiliary for both the analytic middle and the passive is understandable. Thus the change of state, such as "he (has) died", expressed by the middle voice aorist amrta in Sanskrit, is realized by combining the PP jäu „gone"(< OIA $j a ̃ t a)$ with the PP of the verb „to die" in Apabhramśa:

| so | $j \bar{a} u$ | jij | тии | [Pc 36.5.9] |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| he | gotPP | PRT | die+PP |  |
| he He (has) died، ${ }^{\text {gotPP }}$ ( PRT die+PP |  |  |  |  |

On the other hand, the PP gau ,gone", belonging to another OLA root (gam) would be used to express the passive voice as in (14):

| so | kälameha | vane | ditthu | gau | [Pc 19.17.5] |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| that | Kälameha | forest+LOC | see+PP | gotPP |  |
| „That Kälameha was seen in the forest" |  |  |  |  |  |

At the end of this line of evolution, in Hindi, we witness the same verb jānā, whose PP is now the suppletive form gayā, functioning as both the auxiliary in the passive construction and a variety of constructions expressing most notably the completive events and changes of statec; cf. examples in (15):


In (15), unlike in Apabhramśa in (13), the auxiliary jānā is combined with
the bare verbal root, not the PP. The same lexical auxiliary may be used to express a completive event; given its intransitive meaning, its choice precludes the use of the ergative construction:

| lark $\bar{a}$ | pūrāa pannā parh | gay $\bar{a}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| boy entire page read |  |  |
| go |  |  |
| The boy read through the entire page" |  |  |

Another category of experiential meaning, such as the indirect reflexive, denoting an action done explicitly for one's own purpose, is expressed by the auxiliary lenä "to take"; given its transitivity, the resulting construction is ergative:
larke=ne pūrā pannā parh liyā

boy+OBL=ERG entire | page |
| :---: |
| read |
| take + PP |

With the auxiliary denā "to give" the meaning would be the reading "for someone else's benefit":
larke=ne pūrā pannā parh diyā boy+OBL=ERG entire page read give + PP "The boy read out the entire page (in the class)"

These two auxiliaries indicate opposite directions of the action are called appropriately 'versive' and 'ablative' by Chatterjee (1988). Another fitting minimal pair is provided by Hook (1979:64), reproduced in (19):


The same contrast in Sanskrit would be expressed by the middle voice imperative kuruṣva vs. its active counterpart kuru; or, in Slavic languages with the morphological category of reflexive verbs, such as Czech, the same contrast would be realized by the reflexive pronoun in the dative si vs. its absence.

In Hindi the auxiliary lenā is used above all with 'ingestive' verbs (khānā „to eat", pinā „to drink', etc.) representing physical experience par excellence;
in combination with abstract objects a number of allosemes of the basic physical experience can be distinguished. Nespital (1996:249) characterized len $\bar{a}$ as indicating that the actor performs the action himself, or in his own benefit, or for his own pleasure (i.e. indirect reflexive) or that the actor is at the same the goal of the action (i.e. direct reflexive). In (1997:285) he listed seven allosemes of the compound auxiliary khā lenā,,to take something as food": mār $k h a ̄$ lenā indicates that the actor „allows to be beaten"; in रam khā lenā the actor „swollows his grief willingly" or „by restraining himself"; in dhakke khā len $\vec{a}$ the actor ,,suffers indignities enduringly". With verbs of mental experience, called traditionally verba sentiendi (such as samajhnā „to understand", sîkhnā „to leam", pahcānnā „to recognize", etc.) the use equivocates between jānā and lenā. According to Hook (1979:65) the combination with lena $\bar{a}$ implies 'some measure of conscious effort' while that with jānā implies that 'the mental event occurs as if of itself'. Examine the minimal pair in (20):


In the same vein Nespital (1997:1121-2) distinguishes between kisī kī bātem samajh jānäa „to understand someone's words" and koī bāt samajh lenä „to understand something due to one's experience/prior knowledge").

There is some evidence in our Apabhramśa texts that this analytic stage had already been reached by the end of the late MIA period. In addition to le"take" also $n \bar{i}-$ „take" had a general reflexive sense heralding thus the NLA state of affairs. For instance, the Apabhramśa construction ṇiu älingeppiṇu in

| vijjulañgu | niu <br> Vidyudanga | älingeppinu <br> take + PP <br> embrace+GER |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |$\quad\left[\begin{array}{ll}\text { Pc 25.4.9] }\end{array}\right.$

",The king] embraced Vidyudanga"
achieves the same effect as its Sanskrit counterpart with the verb „to embrace" in the middle voice:
(22) rājā vidyudañgam älingata

In general terms, MIA by losing the mediopassive morphology of OIA did not lose the ability to express the whole range of allosemes of the basic experiential meaning associated with it. What had previously been expressed synthetically came to be realized analytically by means of lexical auxiliaries $j \bar{a} n \bar{a}$,,to go" and lenā „to take".

In Modern Persian (Farsi) an exponent of the mediopassive categories became the auxiliary Kodan „to become", whose original meaning was „to go" (the Old Iranian root syav- "start moving", conjugated in the middle voice, is cognate with Sanskrit cyâv-ate „to move; vanish; fall, drop" and Greek $\sigma \varepsilon$ v́c "to move; chase"). In Farsi the auxiliary šodan functions very much like Hindi $j \bar{a} n \bar{a}$ in the usual array of expressions of experiential meaning: inchoative, inactive (expressing non-controllable psychological and physiological states), reflexive and movements. Representative examples of inchoatives, psych verbs, reflexives and verbs of motion (cf. Shaki 1963: passim) are provided in (23); the first part of the compound is an adjective or a participle:

| motavalled šodan | "to be born" | xüb šodan | "to heal <br> (of wound)" |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| esābī šodan | "to become angry" | moztareb šodan | "to become |
| agitated" |  |  |  |

Mediopassive verbs may also be formed by compounding appropriate nouns with various auxiliaries: tavallod yäftan lit. birth+find „to be born", ta'ajjob kardan lit. amazement+do „to be amazed"; cf. other examples in Lazard (1957: 287-292).

## 3. Back to the synthetic middle voice in European Romani

Lexical auxiliaries may end up as suffixes during the process of their grammaticalization which reduces their phonological material. This process may be observed on the mediopassive auxiliary ov-el „become" (< OIA bhavati) which evolved into the suffix of mediopassive verbs in European Romani: ker- $d$-j-ol „he is born" (lit. he is made) ~ „pretends"; sikh-l-j-ol „he studies" (lit. he is educated). In contemporary Romani dialects the independent verb ovel "become" appears only in two dialectal areas (those spoken in South Balkan and in subdialects of Romungro, Burgenland and North Slovenia, cf. Boretzky 1995:10). In the dialect of the Romas of Wales, as described by Sampson (1926: 215), we find an intermediate state of affairs where the auxiliary av-el "go, become" could appear not only after but also before participles as in (24):

| t'ā | kekār | na'vela | dik'šinō |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| and | ever | not=become+3SG+FUT | seen | ,,and he will never be seen again"

Here the auxiliary is cliticized to the negative particle vs. Slovak Romani dich-ol- $a$,,will appear", where the auxiliary was reduced to a suffix through the process of grammaticalization: *dikh-l=jov-el-a>dičhl'ovela $>$ dičhola.

The verb ov-el „become" goes all the way back to OIA bhav-ati „becomes, is". Romani is remarkable in preserving the consonant $-v$ of the root (lost in Hindi, Gujarati, Sindhi but preserved in Panjabi, Rajasthani and Marwari). On the other hand, the IA languages preserved a reflex of the root-initial $b h$-, namely $h$-, which has been completely lost (and replaced by $j$-) in Romani: (25)

| OIA | Prakrits | Romani | Panjabi | Rajasthani |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| bhav-āmi | $h a v-\bar{a} m i$ | ov-av | $h \overline{o v-\hat{a}}$ | $h v-e \hat{u}$ |

Traces of the cliticization of the verb bhav-ämi to the PP for the purpose of forming the active preterite (paralleling the development of Nia Prakrits) are available in the area of East Hindi in both Medieval and Modern Awadhi dialects (cf. Saksena 1937/1971:248, 253, 260): mare(h)ũ „I struck" < mārē=haũ < märē havāmi. In Lakhīmpurì dialect of Awadhi analytic constructions of the type marā haũ possess the passive meaning „I have been struck". The trajectory of Romani mard'ovav „I am (being) struck" can be reconstructed along these lines: *märid̄̄ hovämi > mardo hovam > mard $(o)=h o v a v>\operatorname{mard}=j o v a v>m a r d '=o v a v$ (the remaining problem is the 'unlawful' change $h>j$ in Romani). Deriving mediopassives by the cliticizing of the verb $o v-e l$,become" is sans pareil in the context of Indic langauges. In a sense Romani - as the only New Indo-Aryan language - went a full circle and restored the OIA dichotomy of parasmaipada and àtmanepada verbs.
On the Iranian side, Pashto also displays effects of the grammaticalization of the auxiliary $k e$ 'dol "become": yāde'dəl „to be remembered" < yād=ke'dəl; pohe'dol „to know" < poh=ke'dol. The same phonological process of the loss of the initial consonant is also observed in the formation of phrasal verbs with ka' vel „to do": yäda' val 'remember' < yäd=ka' val (cf. Shafeev 1964:37). A typological parallel is available from Turkish where the verb et- "to do" and its inchoative counterpart ol- „to become" were cliticized to monosyllabic adjectives and nouns in verbal compounds such as kayd=etmek "to enrol" and kayd=ol(un)mak „to be enrolled"; kayb=etmek „lose" and kayb=olmak „disappear; be/get lost" (cf. Lewis 1967:156).

## ABBREVIATIONS OF PRIMARY LITERATURE

Aog Aogamadaēca
AWN Ardā Wirāz Nāmag
Bk Dhaṇavāla's Bhavisattakahā
Jc Puspadsanta's Jasaharacariu
KAP Kārnämag ì Ardašir i Pāpakān
KKZ Kirdèr KaYba-yi Zardušt inscription
(K. M. JamaspAsa, Wien: OAW, 1982)
(F. Vahman, London: Curzon Press, 1986)
(H. Jacobi, München: BAW, 1918)
(P. L. Vaidya, Karanja, Berar, 1931)
(E. K. Āntiā, Bombay, 1900)
(M.-L. Chaumont, JA CCXLVIII (1960), 339-80).

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