

NANCY S. SMITH

VERB CLASSIFICATION IN DOBROVSKÝ'S LEHRGEBÄUDE DER BÖHMISCHEN SPRACHE (1809, 1819)

In the 1809 edition of his *Ausführliches Lehrgebäude der böhmischen Sprache*, Dobrovský presents a classification with six conjugations, or „forms”, based primarily on the infinitive and secondarily on the first person singular present. A summarized version of the verb classification is presented here. Comments regarding the classification follow the presentation.

I. Form:

Infinitive	-ti:	bjti ¹	znáti	wéztí
Active Participle	-l:	bil	znal	wezl
Passive Participle	-t/-n/-en:	bit	znán	wezen
First sing. pres.	-gi/-m/-u/-i/:	bigi	znám	wezu/steli

A. Present in -gi:

present	act. part.	pass. part.	infín.
1. -gi after vowels i, u, y:			
<i>hnígi</i>	<i>hníl</i>	<i>hnit</i>	<i>hnjti</i>
<i>snugi</i>	<i>snul</i>	<i>snut</i>	<i>snauti</i>
<i>krygi</i>	<i>kryl</i>	<i>kryt</i>	<i>kryti</i>
2. -gi after ě (e):			
<i>směgi se</i>	<i>smál se</i>	...	<i>smáti se</i>
<i>klegi</i>	<i>klel</i>	<i>klen/klet</i>	<i>kléti/kljti</i>
3. -gi after a:			
<i>zragi</i>	<i>zrál</i>	<i>zrán</i>	<i>zráti</i>

B. Present in -m:

1. -ám, -al, -án, -áti			
<i>dbám</i>	<i>dbal</i>	<i>dbán</i>	<i>dbáti</i>
<i>znám</i>	<i>znal</i>	<i>znán</i>	<i>znáti</i>
2. -jm, ěl, ěn, -jti (for -eti)			
<i>čpjm</i>	<i>čpěl</i>	<i>čpěn</i>	<i>čpjti</i>

¹ In presenting the verb classifications Dobrovský's orthography will be followed as closely as possible.

C: Present in -u (-i):1. participles *-al, ěn, (like B. 1.)*

<i>rwu</i>	<i>rwal</i>	<i>rwán</i>	<i>rwáti</i>
<i>steli</i>	<i>stlal</i>	<i>stlán</i>	<i>stláti</i>

2. participles *-ěl, ěn (-el, -en) (like B. 2.)*

<i>wru</i>	<i>wřel</i>	<i>wřen</i>	<i>wřti</i>
<i>chci</i>	<i>chtěl</i>	<i>chtěn</i>	<i>chljti</i>

D. Present in -u:

1. <i>zebe*</i>	<i>záblo</i>	...	<i>zábsti</i>
2. <i>wedu</i>	<i>wedl</i>	<i>weden</i>	<i>wésti</i>
3. <i>wezu</i>	<i>wezl</i>	<i>wezen</i>	<i>wézti</i>
4. <i>střihu</i>	<i>střihl</i>	<i>střižen</i>	<i>střjci</i>

* The verb *zábsti* normally occurs only in the third person singular.**II. Form:**Infinitive: *-nauti*Active participle: *-l* or *-nul*Passive participle: *-en* or *-nut*First sing. pres.: *-u*1. participles *-l, -nut/-en:*

<i>padnu</i>	<i>padl</i>	<i>padnut</i>	<i>padnauti</i>
<i>tisknu</i>	<i>tiskl</i>	<i>tisstěn/ tisknut</i>	<i>tisknauti</i>

2. participles *-nul, -nut:*

a. the stem is an incomplete syllable:

<i>dmu</i>	<i>dmul</i>	<i>dmut</i>	<i>dmauti</i>
------------	-------------	-------------	---------------

b. the stem is „open” (ends in a vowel):

<i>winu</i>	<i>winul</i>	<i>winut</i>	<i>winauti</i>
-------------	--------------	--------------	----------------

III. Form:Infinitive: *-ěti, (eti)* *hleděti* *gečeti*Active participle: *-ěl, (-el)* *hleděl* *gečel*Passive participle: *-ěn, (-en)* *hleděn* *gečen*First sing. pres.: *-jm* *hledjm* *gečjm***Note:** The present tense of *háti se (bogjm se)* and *státi (stogjm)* also belong here.**IV. Form:**Infinitive: *-iti* *slawiti* *sauditi*Active participle: *-il* *slawil* *saudil*Passive participle: *-ěn, (-en)* *slawen* *sauzen*First sing. pres.: *-jm* *slawjm* *saudjm***Note:** The present tense in *-i/-iu/-u* instead of *-jm* in this form is archaic, i. e. *prawi* for *prawjm*; *razi*, *razu* for *radjm*; *prossi*, *prossiu* for *prosjm*.

V. Form:

Infinitive: <i>-ati</i>	<i>sypati</i>
Active participle: <i>-al</i>	<i>sypal</i>
Passive participle: <i>-án</i>	<i>sypán</i>
First sing. pres.: <i>-i, (-u), -ám</i>	<i>sypi/syp¹/sypám</i>

Note: Most of the „primitives” of this form have the present in *-ám* as well as *-i*. Many have only *-ám*, few have only *-i*. All iteratives formed with *-jwám/-jwati* or *áwám/-áwáti* have only *-ám* and belong to this form.

Note: In verbs with doublets in first singular present, repeated action or an action of long duration is indicated by the ending *-ám*, whereas the ending *-i* indicates an action of short duration, which in a certain amount of time will be brought to completion. This distinction is not as exact as it used to be because in many verbs the ending *-i* is very seldom used. The stem consonants *d, t, z, h, ch, s,* and *k* mutate before *-i* into *z, c, ž, ž, ss, ss,* and *č* respectively.

VI. Form:

Infinitive: <i>-owati</i>	<i>kupowati</i>
Active participle: <i>-owal</i>	<i>kupowal</i>
Passive participle: <i>-owán</i>	<i>kupowán</i>
First sing. pres.: <i>-ugi</i>	<i>kupugi</i>

Note: These verbs have the endings *-ugi, -owati* after a complete and closed syllable and result in a trisyllabic present tense form. Most all have an iterative meaning and are formed from other parts of speech.

As is evident from the above summary, the main division of the conjugations is made on the basis of the infinitive stem. The main subdivisions are made on the basis of the first person singular present form. Form I has no stem-making suffix in the infinitive, i. e. the infinitive ending *-ti* is added directly to the stem. The first subdivision (A) has present forms in *-gi*, further divided into three groups based on the stem vowel (1. *-i, -u, -y* 2. *-ě/-e* 3. *-a*). The second subdivision (B) has the present in *-m* and two further subdivisions based on the vowel in the ending (1) *-ám*, (2) *-jm*. The third subgroup (C) is based on the ending *-u* (or *-i*) and is subdivided into two groups based on the form of the active participle (1) *rwal*, (2) *wřel*. The final subdivision (D) has first singular present forms only in *-u*. This subclass is further divided into four groups based on the stem final consonant: (1) bilabial stop (p,b), (2) dental stop (*d,t*), (3) sybillant (*s,z*), (4) velar/gutlural (*k,h*).

Form I is the most complex of the six and in the first edition of the *Lehrgebäude...* (1809:115) Dobrovský enumerates at the very beginning the „simplest stem words” usually considered „anomalies” or exceptions (*giti, geti, báti se, djti se*, etc.) and includes them in the first form.

Form II is based on an infinitive with stem-making suffix *-nau-*. This form is further divided into two subclasses based on the active participle (1) *-i* or (2) *-nul*. The second subclass is further divided into two sub-

classes (a,b) according to the shape of the stem: (a) stems which are incomplete without the *-nu* suffix, such as *m-nu-l*, and (b) stems which without the suffix *-nu* are open (end in a vowel), such as *mi-nul*. In this edition Dobrovský claims that the deciding factor for the *-nul* versus *-l* distinction is the „melodious sound” of the word. In the (1819) edition he explains this division more exactly: „*-l* for *-nul* occurs when a complete syllable ending in a consonant remains when the *-nu* suffix is removed.” (1819:99)

Form III is distinguished by the stem-making suffix *-ě/-e-* in the infinitive (*hleděti, gečeti*). No subclasses are presented. Dobrovský remarks that the verbs or this form may resemble those of the first form subdivision B.2., but that those verbs are monosyllabic in their present tense forms and participles because their stems do not comprise full syllables. The verbs of the third class are bisyllabic in the present, trisyllabic in the infinitive. He also remarks that the endings *-i* and *-u* in the third form constitute archaic or dialectal usage. These remarks are left out of the second edition.

Verbs of Form IV are distinguished by the infinitival stem-making suffix *-i-* (*slaw-i-ti*). No subdivision of the fourth form is given. Dobrovský points out in the first edition that the endings *-i* (*-u, -iu*) used in place of *-jm* are archaic.

The distinguishing characteristic for verbs of Form V is the infinitival stem-making suffix *-a-* (*syp-a-ti*). Although there are three possible endings in the first person singular present (*-ám, -i, -u*) the verbs are not subdivided because these endings can and do occur simultaneously, that is, some verbs take more than one ending. Dobrovský states in the 1809 edition that the different endings are used to note semantic distinctions, specifically the ending *-ám* indicates repeated actions or an action of long duration, whereas the ending *-i* indicates an action of short duration. These remarks regarding *-ám* versus *-i* are left out of the 1819 edition. Derivatives formed with *-jwám/-jwati* and *-áwám/-áwati* belong in this class.

Verbs of Form VI are distinguished by the stem-making suffix *-owa-* in the infinitive (*kup-owa-ti*), which comes only after a full and closed syllable². The first person singular present tense form takes the ending *-ugi*. Verbs such as *kowati, kugi* do not belong here but in I.A.1 with such verbs as *snugi/snauti*. The infinitive *kauti* is given here as an alternate to *kowati*³. All verbs here are derivatives and Dobrovský gives a lengthy description of possible derivational formations.

As mentioned earlier, a second edition of the *Lehrgebäude...* was published in 1819. A summarized version of the verb classification from that edition is presented here.

² This rule does not work for borrowed words in Modern Czech, for example *konstruovat* does not have a closed syllable before the *-ova-* suffix. See Havránek and Jellíčka (1981:293).

³ *Kouti* for *kowati* is a new form. See Gebauer (1958. III.2.:381).

I. Form

A. First person singular present: -u

Active participle: -l

Passive participle: -en

Infinitive: -ti

present	act. part.	pass. part.	infinitive
1. <i>zebe</i>	<i>záblo</i>	...	<i>zábsti</i>
2. <i>wedu</i>	<i>wedl</i>	<i>weden</i>	<i>wésti</i>
3. <i>wezu</i>	<i>wezl</i>	<i>wezen</i>	<i>wézti</i>
4. <i>střihu</i>	<i>střihl</i>	<i>střižen</i>	<i>střjci</i>

Deviations in Form I.A.:

α. First sing. pres.: -u, -i	<i>rwu</i>	<i>sstigi/sstjm</i>	<i>spjm</i>
Active participle: -al	<i>rwal</i>	<i>scal</i>	<i>spal</i>
Passive participle: -án	<i>rwán</i>	<i>scán</i>	<i>spán</i>
Infinitive: -áti	<i>rwáti</i>	<i>scáti</i>	<i>spáti</i>

Note: to I.A.α: *spáti* and *scáti* deviate in the present tense only

β. First sing. pres.: -u, -i	<i>wru</i>
Active participle: -el	<i>wřel</i>
Passive participle: -en	<i>wřen</i>
Infinitive: -jti for -ěti	<i>wřjti</i>

B.	1.	2.
First sing. pres.: -gi	<i>wigi</i>	<i>wěgi</i>
Active participle: -l	<i>wil</i>	<i>wál/wjl</i>
Passive participle: -n, -t	<i>wit</i>	<i>wán/wjn</i>
Infinitive: -ti	<i>wjti</i>	<i>wáti/wjti</i>

I.B.1. Deviating forms:

Forms deviating in the present with -du:

<i>gdu</i>	<i>(sse)</i>	<i>(ssed)</i>	<i>gjt</i>
<i>gedu</i>	<i>gel</i>	<i>get</i>	<i>geti</i>
<i>budu</i>	<i>byl</i>	<i>byt</i>	<i>býti</i>

Forms deviating in the present with -nu, -mu:

<i>gmu</i>	<i>gal</i>	<i>gat</i>	<i>gjt</i>
<i>pnu</i>	<i>pal*</i>	<i>pat*</i>	<i>pjt</i>

Note: After -a- the ending -gi has gone over almost entirely to -m:

<i>dbám</i>	<i>dbal</i>	<i>dbán</i>	<i>dbáti</i>
<i>cpám</i>	<i>cpal</i>	<i>cpán</i>	<i>cpáti</i>

Note: Other verbs deviate similarly only in the present, which belongs to

⁴The modern forms here are *pjal* and *pjat*. There is no apparent reason for Dobrovský to list them as he does.

Form III: *stogjm*, *stál*, *státi* and *hogjm se*, *bál se*, *báti se*.

Note: For *pigi* we have *pjm*, for *nawigi* we have *nawjm*, for *zahigi*, *zahjm*, for *legi*, *lém*. Thus also *smjm* for *směgi* has long been common usage. The other monosyllables in *-jm*, *ěl*, *ěn*, like *djm*, *děl*, *děn*, *djti* correspond to Form III, with the exception of the bisyllabic infinitive, where the *-ě* changes to *-j*.

II. Form

	1.	2.	3.
First sing. pres.: <i>-nu</i>	<i>mnu/mínu</i>	<i>wáznú</i>	<i>táhnú</i>
Active participle: <i>-l</i> , <i>-nul</i>	<i>mnul/minul</i>	<i>wázl</i>	<i>táhl</i>
Passive participle: <i>-en</i> , <i>-nut</i>	<i>mnut/mínut</i>	...	<i>tažen</i>
Infinitive: <i>-nauti</i>	<i>mnauti/minauti</i>	<i>wáznauti</i>	<i>táhnauti</i>

Note to II. 1.: The endings *-nul* and *-nut* occur when the stem syllable is „open”.

Note to II.2.: *-l* for *-nul* occurs when a closed syllable precedes the „throw away” *-nu*.

Note to II. 3.: *-en* for *-nut* is much less common and occurs only where *-h-*, *-ch-*, or *-k-* come before *-nu*.

III. Form

First sing. pres.: <i>-jm</i>	<i>hledjm</i>	<i>gečjm</i>
Active participle: <i>-ěl</i> , (<i>-el</i>)	<i>hleděl</i>	<i>gečel</i>
Passive participle: <i>-ěn</i> , (<i>-en</i>)	<i>hleděn</i>	<i>gečen</i>
Infinitive: <i>-ěti</i> , (<i>-eti</i>)	<i>hleděti</i>	<i>gečeti</i>
Monosyllabic primitives of this Form:		
<i>čpjm</i>	<i>čpěl</i>	<i>čpěn</i>
<i>dljm</i>	<i>dlel</i>	<i>dlen</i>
		<i>čpjti</i>
		<i>dljti</i>

IV. Form

First sing. pres.: <i>-jm</i>	<i>slawjm</i>	<i>honjm</i>
Active participle. <i>-il</i>	<i>slawil</i>	<i>honil</i>
Passive participle: <i>-en/-ěn</i>	<i>slawen</i>	<i>honěn</i>
Infinitive: <i>-iti</i>	<i>slawiti</i>	<i>honiti</i>

V. Form

First sing. pres.: <i>-i/-u</i> , <i>-ám</i>	<i>sypi/sypu/sypám</i>	<i>djwám</i>
Active participle: <i>-al</i>	<i>sypal</i>	<i>djwal</i>
Passive participle: <i>-án</i>	<i>sypán</i>	<i>djwán</i>
Infinitive: <i>-ati</i>	<i>sypati</i>	<i>djwati</i>

Note: Most of the „primitives” of this form have the present in *-ám* as well as *-i*. Many have only *-ám*, fewer only *-i*.

VI. Form

First sing. pres.: <i>-ugi</i>	<i>bogugi</i>
Active participle: <i>-owal</i>	<i>bogowal</i>
Passive participle: <i>-owán</i>	<i>bogowán</i>
Infinitive: <i>-owati</i>	<i>bogowati</i>

I have mentioned several differences between the 1809 and 1819 editions of the *Lehrgebäude*... Dobrovský himself enumerates some deviations in the later edition in the foreword to the same. He states

„In the current, second edition I have tried to avoid all unnecessary repetitions... The verbs of the first form I have reduced to two analogies, A and B. I have remarked upon the small exceptions to these groups on the spot and consequently I arranged the primitives which were formerly itemized by themselves on page 115 according to analogy” (1819:XIV)

These primitives refer to a list of verbs at the beginning of the explanation of the first form on page 115, which do not fit exactly in to the various subclasses of the first form, but which Dobrovský puts there, anyway. In the second edition these verbs are brought more satisfactorily into the different classes of the system. Dobrovský goes on to inform his readers of other changes, mostly in the order of the material presented and which sections have been reworked. At first glance the classifications presented in the two editions appear similar. But the changes mentioned above are less superficial than they may seem. Dobrovský does change the order of his presentation. He takes verbs previously in the subclass (I.D.)(*zebe, wedu, wezu, střihu*) and puts them into the first subclass (I.A.). He presents *nesu, nésti* (1809:*wezu, wéztí*) as his model and has four sub-subclasses based on the stem final consonant (dental stop, bilabial stop, etc.) just as in the 1809 edition. Dobrovský then presents two deviations to this analogy which correspond to the subgroup (I.C.) and its two subsubgroups (*rwu, wru*) in the 1809 edition. Dobrovský's second subclass (I.B. *wigi, wěgi*) (1819) is the same as the first subclass (I.A. *hnigi, směgi se, zragi*) in the first edition (1809) except that in the second edition many of the verbs treated as irregular (the primitives) in the first edition are fitted into the system. Some of them are presented as deviating forms, for example *gdu, gjti; gedu, geti*, etc. under the sub-subclass (I.B.1. *wigi*) of verbs with the passive participle ending in *-t*. The second sub-subclass (I.B.2. *wěgi*) is determined by a passive participle in *-n*. Here (I.B.) several verbs of the previously uncategorizable group are also found, for example *pěgi, pěti; lagi, láti; děgi, djti*. When the verbs of this subclass are further divided according to the passive participle the three practically meaningless sub-subclasses categorized according to the stem vowel (I.A. 1.*hnigi*, 2.*směgi se*, 3.*zragi*)(1809) are transformed into a more elegant analysis of the data. Previously uncategorizable verbs fall into place. One should also note that the subclass (I.B. *dbám, čpjm*)(1809) is completely dropped in the later edition and the verbs which comprised this subclass are dealt with by other means. The sub-subclass (I.B.1.)(1809), which contains such verbs as *dbám, dbáti; cpám, cpáti*, is explained in a simple note:

„After the stem vowel *-a-* the ending *-gi* has gone over almost entirely to *-m* ... compare Form V...” (1819:97)

and the sub-subclass (I.B.2. *čpjm*)(1809) is similarly explained:

„For *pigi* we have *pjm*, for *nawigi*, *nawjm*, for *zabigi* *zabjm*... also *smym* for *směgi* has long been common. The other monosyllabics in *-jm*, *-ěl*, *-ěn*, like *djm*, *děl*, *děn*, *djti* correspond to Form III with the exception of the bisyllabic infinitive where the *-ě* changes to *-j*” (1819:97).

This is a much more elegant solution, and in the case of verbs in *-agi* going over to *-ám* it reflects a general tendency of verbs in the first class to migrate to the fifth.

In Form II (1819) Dobrovský also makes improvements to his system. The first subclass of Form II (II.1. *mnu*, *minu*)(1819) comprises the same verbs as the second subclass (II.2. a. *dmu* and b. *winu*)(1809). These are the verbs of Form II which have active participles in *-nul* and passive participles in *-nut*. In the first edition he presents the verbs of the first subclass (II.1.) in two groups, but the basis for this grouping is not explicitly stated. The criterion appears to be an open stem versus an „incomplete” stem, as mentioned earlier. The second subclass (II.2. *wáznú*) (1819) comprises those verbs whose stem syllable ends in a consonant and thus have *-l* in the active participle, such as *wáznú*, *wázl*. In the second edition this rule is specifically stated. The third subclass (II.3. *táhnú*) is comprised of those verbs which have passive participles in *-en* versus *-nut*. Dobrovský notes that this occurs only when the stem syllable ends in *h*, *ch* or *k*. This subclass would be better classified as a sub-subclass of (II.2. *wáznú*) and in the 1809 edition the last two subclasses are treated as one (II.1. *padnú*). Neither solution is entirely adequate, but the solution in the 1819 edition seems to be an improvement.

Form III in the 1819 edition differs from the 1809 edition only in that those verbs mentioned above as belonging to the subclass (I.B.2. *čpjm*) (1809), monosyllabic primitives with first singular present forms in *-jm*, are classified here (1819) in the third form. This revision results in a much clearer explanation of the data. It also results in one anomaly. These verbs follow the model of Form III in all forms and tenses with the exception of the infinitive where they are bisyllabic and thus, due to historical morphological developments, have *-j* instead of *-ě* preceding the *-ti* ending the infinitive. Thus the infinitival stem-making suffix must be stated here as *-ě(-e-)/-j*. This creates a synchronic anomaly, but is easily explained from a diachronic viewpoint.

The presentation of the Form IV in the two editions does not differ **greatly**. They have the same model verbs, have no subclasses, and long lists of verbs are given in both editions; those in the 1819 edition are somewhat abridged. The presentation of the fifth form is likewise almost identical in the two editions. One change already noted is that certain remarks regarding the status and meaning of the three possible first singular present endings (*-ám*, *-i*, *-u*) are omitted in the 1819 edition. The presentation of the sixth form does not differ significantly from one edition to the next. All verbs of this form are derived and long explanations of the derivations from different parts of speech are presented.

In general it can be said that Dobrovský's is a system based primarily on infinitive forms and secondarily on present forms and finally, where

further distinction is needed, on participial forms as opposed to a system based on stems and model verbs. Later treatments base their classifications on stems rather than on the verb forms themselves.

REFERENCES

- DOBROVSKÝ, J. 1809: Ausführliches Lehrgebäude der böhmischen Sprache. Prague.
DOBROVSKÝ, J. 1819: Lehrgebäude der böhmischen Sprache zum Theil verkürzt, zum Theil umgearbeitet und vermehrt. Prague.
GEBAUER, J. 1958: Historická mluvnice jazyka českého. III. Tvarosloví 2. Časování. Prague.
HAVRÁNEK, B. and Alois Jedlička. 1981: Česká mluvnice. 6th edn. Prague.

Research for this article was supported in part by a grant from the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX), with funds provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the United States Information Agency, and the US Department of State, which administers the Russian, Eurasian, and East European Research Program (Title VIII).

