

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I was 12 years when I got a first serious text analyzing (among other things) Indo-European numerals. It was Adolf Erhart's textbook, *Sanskrt II. Historickosrovnávací mluvnice*, Brno 1971.

In the following years I have always been standing between mathematics and linguistics. I have studied mathematics & physics and taught these subjects 9 years. I could pursue my interest in linguistics only in my free time. And only the 'Velvet revolution' provided me to graduate in doctoral studies in linguistics. More than 25 years after my first acquaintance with comparative-historical Indo-European linguistics mediated by Professor Adolf Erhart the same scholar advises me in my habilitation study of the numerals in Indo-European and 7 language families. I would like to express my deepest thanks him for his stimulation, valuable suggestions and many-sided help.

Without the divine patience and maternal care of Prof. Marie Krčmová, the chief of the Institute of Linguistics of the Faculty of Arts (Masaryk University, Brno), this work would have never been finished. At the same time I am indebted to other colleagues and friends from the Faculty of Arts of Masaryk University and from the Etymological Department of the Czech Academy of Sciences in Brno for their permanent unselfish help. Their names in alphabetical order and without academical titles are: Antonín Bartoněk, Mirek Čejka, Eva Havlová, Tomáš Hlavička, Ilona Janyšková, Helena Karlíková, Eva Pallasová, Petr Peňáz, Martina Sendlerová, Žofie Šarapatková, Ondřej Šefčík, Dan Šlosar, Dušan Šlosar, Pavla Valčáková, Radoslav Večerka, Bohumil Vykypěl.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to consult the problems of numerals with the most prominent specialists: Saharan with Karel Petráček yet before his unexpected death in 1987 and with Norbert Cyffer (Vienna), Nubian with Marianne Bechhaus-Gerst (Cologne), Egyptian with Helmut Satzinger (Vienna) and † Carleton Hodge (Bloomington), Berber with Aleksandr Militarev (Moscow), and generally Afroasiatic with Aaron Dolgopolsky (Haifa) and Andrzej Zaborski (Cracau), Kartvelian with Karl Horst Schmidt (Bonn) and Gábor Takács (Budapest), Uralic with Vladimir Napol'skikh (Iževsk), Altaic with Karl H. Menges (Vienna), Roy Andrew Miller (Honolulu) and Jaroslav Vacek (Prague), Indo-European with Robert S.P. Beekes (Leiden), Vjačeslav V. Ivanov (Moscow) and Johann Knobloch (Bonn).

Special thanks belong to those scholars (in alphabetical order) who helped me especially with inaccessible literature: David Appleyard (London), Giorgio Banti (Roma), Lionel Bender (East Lansing), John D. Bengtson (Minneapolis), Roger Blench (Cambridge), Claude Boisson (Lyon), Allan Bomhard

(Richmond), Bela Brogyanyi (Freiburg), Vermondo Brugnatelli (Udine), Eugene S.L. Chan (Hong Kong), Igor M. Diakonoff (Sankt Petersburg), Georg van Driem (Leiden), Vladimir Dybo (Moscow), Heiner Eichner (Vienna), Harold Fleming (Gloucester), Dick Hayward (London), Irén Hegedüs (Pécs), Bernd Heine (Cologne), † Jörundur Hilmarsson (Reykjavík), Herrmann Jungraithmayr (Frankfurt), Roland Kiessling (Hamburg), Frederik Kortlandt (Leiden), Ľubor Králik (Bratislava), Viktor Krupa (Bratislava), Marcello Lamberti (Trieste), Maarten Mous (Leiden), † Hans G. Mukarovsky (Vienna), Martin Peters (Vienna), Jens E. Rasmussen (Kobenhaven), Károly Rédei (Vienna), Merritt Ruhlen (Palo Alto), Hans-Jürgen Sasse (Cologne), Vitaly Shevoroshkin (Ann Arbor), Paul Sidwell (Melbourne), Riëks Smeets (Leiden), Wojciech Smoczyński (Cracau), Erich Sommerauer (Vienna), Sergej A. Starostin (Moscow), Harry Stroomer (Leiden), Mauro Tosco (Naples), Jaroslav Vacek (Prague), Petr Vavroušek (Prague), Rainer Voigt (Berlin), Klaus Wedekind (Addis Ababa), Evgenij A. Xelimskij (Moscow / Hamburg), Petr Zemánek (Prague), Stefan Zimmer (Bonn).

Without the invaluable help of Professor Jaroslav Vacek, the text would be written in my barbarous English. It is natural, I remain responsible for all mistakes.

Two scholars influenced my study of numerals more than anyone else: † Oswald Szemerényi and Eric Hamp. I feel indebted to them although I have never had the chance to discuss the problem with them.

The greatest thanks belong to my wife Marcela for her support of my study in ways too numerous to mention.

Příbram, March 1, 1998 Václav Blažek