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Verbalization and non-canonical case marking of some irregular verbs in *-ē- in Baltic and Russian

The present paper aims to provide a historical account of the irregular present-stem morphology and the non-canonical alignment of some verbs in *-ē- in Baltic and East Slavic, exemplified by such verbs as Russian *bolet'* / Old Russian *bolĕti* 'to ache', Lithuanian skaudĕti 'to ache' / dial. *sopĕti* 'to ache', *gailĕti* 'to pity', *reikĕti* 'to need', 'have to, must' and Latvian *sāpēt* 'to ache'. Differently from other approaches, an attempt is made to account for both syntactic and morphological irregularities at the same time.

These verbs have been subjected to scrutiny in several works, cf., inter alia, Bjarnadóttir (2015), Holvoet (2009; 2013), Seržant (2013; to appear), Seržant & Bjarnadóttir (2014). Their nominal and late origin has been asserted for many years in the literature (Skardžius 1943; Jakaitienė 1968; contrastingly Kaukienė 1994). While the nominal origin of these verbs seems to be unquestionably clear, none of the aforementioned works provides a historical scenario that would account for the morphosyntactic make-up and the morphological irregularities of the present stem formation of these verbs. The nominal origin in itself does not entail the case assignment patterns and morphological irregularities in the present stem formations and, hence, requires an explanation.

In this paper, an attempt will be made to provide a historical account that would explain both the syntactic alignment and the morphology of these verbs. The typological background is provided by Bricyn et al. (2009).

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