

MIGUEL VILLANUEVA SVENSSON

Vilnius University
miguel.villanueva@flf.vu.lt

Zero-grade denominative nasal and *sta*-presents in Baltic

The Northern Indo-European languages (Germanic, Baltic and Slavic) share a productive class of anticausative-inchoative verbs whose most salient morphological feature is a nasal present (which in Baltic stands in complementary distribution with *sta*-presents). One of the main functions of this class is to form fientive denominatives from nouns and adjectives. In Old Norse and, to a lesser degree, in Slavic the denominative verb presents zero grade of the root even when derived from full-grade nominals. This is an obvious (and fairly interesting) archaism, whereas the apophonic invariance of Gothic or Baltic is an easily understood innovation. Nevertheless, one can reasonably expect the Baltic languages to preserve at least a handful of more or less hidden archaic zero-grade denominatives. This paper will be devoted to present and discuss evidence pointing in this direction.