THE SEMANTIC VARIABILITY AND SEMANTIC EQUIVALENTS OF -OSO- AND -LENTO-

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BY

EDWARD W. NICHOLS

A THESIS

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PREFACE.

This dissertation has been slightly altered from its origina form, the principal change being the addition of the section on Semantic Reciprocity. I am indebted to Professor E. P. Morris for the idea which I have endeavored to work out; to Dean Oertel for careful and detailed criticism of the entire paper; to Professor E. W. Hopkins for assistance with the Sanskrit examples; and to Professor C. U. Clark for some valuable suggestions. I take this opportunity of thanking all these gentlemen for their interest and advice.

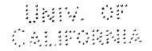
INTRODUCTION.

§ 1.

The purpose of this dissertation is to show (1) that an adjectival termination in Latin may have a wide range of semantic variability, determined primarily by (a) the stem to which it is attached, (b) the noun which the adjective limits; and secondarily (c) by the more remote context; and (2) that there may be a large number of semantic equivalents for such a termination, determined in each instance by the factors (a), (b), and (c) above. Nearly every adjective suffix occurs in several different semantic categories, and each semantic category is represented by a number of suffixes.* If semantic categories (Bedeutungsklassen) are to be established under which suffixes may be subsumed, they must of necessity be large and abstract. But each concrete suffix has its meaning determined largely by the forces mentioned above; hence the necessity for examination of a great number of examples before making any general statement about the semantic value of a termination.

The idea developed in the following pages may be found in Morris, 'Principles and Methods in Latin Syntax' (1901), Chap. IV, and is concisely stated by Brugmann, V. G., II, 1(1906), p. 663: "Die Formantien geben an und für sich kaum mehr als die ganz allgemeine adjektivische Beziehung, die genauere Art. dieser Beziehung ist durch die Bedeutung des Grundworts bestimmt worden. So fallen oft zwei Formen mit demselben Formans wegen verschiedenen Begriffs des Stammnomens verschiedenen Bedeutungsklassen zu. Aber auch darauf kam es an, zu welchem Substantivbegriff das Adjektiv attributiv oder prädikativ in Verbindung trat, und hierdurch kann auch dasselbe Adjektiv als verschiedenen Bedeutungsklassen zugehörig erscheinen, z. B. 'agger niveus' 'ein Damm oder Wall, der aus

^{*} These phenomena parallel those of case-suffixes; vid. Oertel and Morris, Harvard Studies, XVI (1905), p. 85.



Schnee besteht, Schneedamm,' und 'equos niveus' 'ein Pferd, das wie Schnee aussieht, schneeweisses Pferd,' 'lyra eburna' 'Leier aus Elfenbein,' und 'digitus eburnus' 'elfenbeinweisser Finger.'"

§ 2.

The term 'semantic content' applied to suffixes throughout this paper denotes the meaning of a suffix in some particular context. For the general meaning of a suffix which is of course an abstraction, the term 'semantic area' (Gebrauchssphäre) is perhaps as good as any, and will be used in that sense where necessary. The suffix —oso— has a semantic area; in the sense here employed it has no semantic content until placed in a definite context which determines such content.

\$ 3.

The suffixes chosen for investigation are -oso- and -lento-. The results obtained, however, are chiefly based on -oso-. This fact is due partly to the greater frequency of adjectives in -oso-, partly to their wider range of use in individual words. The material for investigation has been gathered from the following authors: Catullus, Caesar, Cicero, Cato, R. R., Comic Fragments (Ribbeck), Horace, Juvenal, Livy, Lucretius, Plautus, Propertius, Quintilian, Sallust, Tacitus, Tibullus, Terence, Tragic Fragments (Ribbeck), Varro, R. R., Vergil, Vitruvius. The mass of examples is so great that it has not been necessary to include any doubtful readings. Over this literature each instance of any adjective in -oso- or -lento- has been examined, and many adjectives in -to-. Adjectives in other terminations have been included only for purposes of illustration; and many examples have been taken from Pliny and Columella, though from these no systematic collection has been made.

Adjectives in —oso—, —lento—, and —to— examined are: Actuosus I instance, acerosus, I, aerosus, 2, aestuosus, I3, aerumnosus, II, aluminosus, 2, alsiosus, 3, ambitiosus, 45, (inambitiosus, I), animosus, 3I, annosus, 20, aquosus, 30, araneosus, 5, argillosus, 3, argumentosus, I, artificiosus, 25, aurosus, 2, axitiosus, 2, bellicosus, 24, bellosus, I, belluosus, I, bibosus, I,



bituminosus, 4, bucculentus, I, cadaverosus, I, caenosus, I, calamitosus, 42, caliginosus, 4, callosus, 1, captiosus, 10, cariosus, 2, cerebrosus, 1, cicatricosus, 4, citrosus, 1, clamosus, 3, clivosus, 5, confragosus, 17, contumeliosus, 21, copiosus, 52, corpulentus, 2, cretosus, 5, criminosus, II, cruentus, 107, (incruentus, 24), cuniculosus, 1, curiosus, 22, (percuriosus, 2), damnosus, 36, desidiosus, 4, detrimentosus, 1, dictiosus, 1, dolosus, 11, dumosus, 2, ebriosus, 5, elleborosus, 2, esculentus, 3, exitiosus, 20, fabulosus, 12, facinerosus, 21, factiosus, 10, famosus, 27, fastidiosus, 9, febriculosus, I, fistulosus, I, flagitiosus, I4, (perflagitiosus, I), flexuosus, I, fluctuosus, I, formidolosus, 3I, formosus, 182, fragosus, 3, fraudulentus, 9, frondosus, 12, fructuosus, 47, fruticosus, 3, fucosus, 2, fumosus, 14, furiosus, 63, funestus, 6, generosus, 50, glareosus, 2, globosus, 8, gloriosus, 74, gratiosus, 39, gravedinosus, I, gulosus, I, harenosus, I4, hederosus, I, herbosus, 15, herniosus, 1, honestus, 70, (inhonestus, 8), hircosus I, ieiuniosus, I, ignominiosus, I7, imaginosus, I, impendiosus, I, imperiosus, 20, importuosus, 4, ingeniosus, 54, (peringeniosus, 1), iniuriosus, 6, inlecebrosus, 1, inopiosus, 1, insidiosus, 21, invidiosus, 74, iocosus, 28, iugosus, 2, iuncosus, 1, labeosus, 1, laboriosus, 24, lacertosus, 4, lacrimosus, 10, lapidosus, 9, latebrosus, 8, lacunosus, 3, libidinosus, 32, licentiosus, 1, lienosus, 3, lignosus, 3, limosus, 15, litigiosus, 10, lucrosus, 4, litorosus, 1, luctuosus, 29, (perluctuosus, 1), luculentus, 19, ludosus, 1, luminosus, 2, luscitiosus, 2, lutosus, 4, lotiolentus, 1, lutulentus, 4, luxuriosus, 29, maculosus, 15, malitiosus, 15, mammosus, 3, medicamentosus, 2, mendosus, 10, meticulosus, 2, montosus, 7, monstruosus, 2, morosus, 11, (submorosus, 1), morbosus, 8, muscosus, 6, mulierosus, 4, nebulosus, 9, negotiosus, 10, nemorosus, 10, nervosus, 4, nimbosus, 6, nivosus, 7, nodosus, 9, numerosus, 18, nitrosus, 2, obliviosus, 3, obnoxiosus, 2, obsequiosus, 1, odiosus, 74, (perodiosus, 2, subodiosus, 1) officiosus, 25, (inofficiosus, 2) onerosus, 11, operosus, 28, opiniosus, 1, opulentus, 103, orbitosus, I, otiosus, 70, obstrudulentus, I, palmosus, I, pannosus, 2, paludosus, 2, peculiosus, 1, pecuniosus, 23, perniciosus, 89, pecorosus, I, perfidiosus, I2, pedicosus, I, peminosus, I, periculosus, 95, pilosus, 8, piscosus, 6, pituitosus, 1, pisculentus, 3,