

**АВТОРСЬКИЙ ПОГЛЯД
НА АКТУАЛЬНІ ЛІНГВІСТИЧНІ ПИТАННЯ**

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**DESQUAMATION MECHANISM OF THE GOTHIC
PRETERITE-PRESENT VERB ORIGIN**

Abstract. *The article describes the attempt to process reconstruction which caused the formation of the preterite-present verb subgroup in the Gothic language. The reconstruction was based on the primary supposition of relationship and correlation of the preterite-present subgroup and the group of the strong verbs. That relationship is understood as the reconstruction of ablaut fragments belonging to the strong verbs, preterite with the further reflection of ablaut fragments in the preterite-present verbs, presence. The preterite-present verbs were separated into the individual subgroup involving the mechanism of desquamation. It is recognized as a gradual, multi-stage exfoliation, come off in layers of preterite-present verbs-to-be from the strong verb corpus.*

The desquamation was understood as an integrated phenomenon which got definite outlines owing to the fact that the quality parameters were introduced. They gave the opportunity of desquamation describing using the quantitative indices. They permitted to describe desquamation in an objective way. The manifestation of desquamation features is associated with the degree of feature displayed. The quantitative parameter is recognized as penetrance. The opposite parameter is understood as a degree of feature lack. It is recognized as expressiveness. Both of them (penetrance and expressiveness) outline borders within which desquamation features exist and function; they act as self correlates. The desquamation descriptive precision becomes higher after the introduction of supplementary quantitative parameters. Mutual relations between strong and preterite-present verbs can be calculated with the number of ligaments.

They form the notion of ligamentation. From another point of view, the number of calculated ligaments helps to describe ligamentation as menodentated or bidentated. In particular, a bidentated ligamentation may be classified as homogeneous or heterogeneous, taking into consideration nature of ligaments.

The system of quantitative parameter usage enables to subdivide Gothic preterite-present verbs into two quasi-groups. The first quasi-group contains verbs have definite correlations with the strong verbs of certain ablaut classes. The second one grasps verbs having obscure correlations with the certain ablaut classes. Obscure correlations demonstrate very indefinite connection with two ablaut classes simultaneously. It indicates the intermediate location of three preterite-present verbs (the second quasi-group) between two ablaut classes. That oscillation between two ablaut classes complicated the process of desquamation. The desquamation is connected with translocation, which designates the process when the verb desquamated from the corpus of strong verbs is shifted into the system of preterite-present verb parameters.

Tendencies fixed in the system of quantitative parameters are connected with the Gothic language, and may be used for further Common-Germanic generalization. It looks promising to research the preterite-present verbs in the North-Germanic and West-Germanic areas with finding out their difference, similarity, and individual specification.

Keywords: *ablaut class, desquamation, ligamentation, penetrance, preterite-present verb, translocation.*

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ДЕСКВАМАЦІЙНИЙ МЕХАНІЗМ ПОХОДЖЕННЯ ГОТСЬКИХ ПРЕТЕРИТО-ПРЕЗЕНТНИХ ДІЄСЛІВ

***Анотація.** У статті описано спробу реконструювати процеси, які призвели до формування претерито-презентних дієслів у готській мові. Реконструкція базувалася на початковому припущенні щодо спорідненості претерито-презентної підгрупи з корпусом сильних дієслів. Спорідненість визначалася фактом відтворення елементів аблауту у претеритальних формах сильних дієслів у презентних формах претерито-презентних дієслів. В основі виокремлення претерито-презентних дієслів лежить механізм десквамації, який розуміється як градуальне, багатостадійне, поступове відшарування майбутніх претерито-презентних дієслів від корпусу сильних дієслів.*

Десквамація була визначена як інтегроване явище, що отримало чіткі обриси завдяки інтродукції кількісних параметрів, які уможливили здійснення десквамаційної дескрипції, спираючись на кількісні показники, що окреслюють десквамаційні ознаки. Цей кількісний параметр визначається як пенетрантність. Ступінь відсутності ознаки описується кількісним параметром, що визначається як експресивність. Обидва параметри (пенетрантність та експресивність) чітко окреслюють межі, в яких проявляються десквамаційні ознаки, а також вони є взаємними корелянтами. Ступінь точності опису десквамації значно підвищується шляхом інтродукції додаткових кількісних параметрів. Взаємозв'язок між сильним і відповідним претерито-презентним дієсловом кількісно обраховується числом лігаментів, які формують поняття лігаментації. З іншого боку, кількість виявлених лігаментів дозволяє описати лігаментацію як монодентатну або бідентатну. Водночас, бідентатна лігаментація може бути визначена як гомогенна або гетерогенна, виходячи з природи лігаментів.

Застосування системи кількісних параметрів дозволяє розмежувати готські претерито-презентні дієслова на дві квазігрупи. Перша квазігрупа сформована претерито-презентними дієсловами, що мають чітку співвіднесеність із сильними дієсловами певних рядів аблаута. Друга квазігрупа містить дієслова, що виявляють ознаки

співвіднесеності з конкретним рядом аблаута, що затемнені нечіткими, суперечливими ознаками. Вони демонструють невизначену спорідненість одночасно з двома рядами аблаута. Це може свідчити про проміжну дислокацію зазначених трьох претерито-презентних дієслів між двома рядами аблаута. Ця оциляція між двома рядами аблаута ускладнила процес десквамації. На процес десквамації наклалося явище транслокації, яке зумовлене перенесенням десквамованого дієслова у систему претерито-презентних параметрів.

Зафіксовані закономірності та виявлені кількісні параметри стосуються готської мови і слугують матеріалом для спільногерманських узагальнень. Але перспективним вбачається дослідження як у межах північногерманського, так і західногерманського ареалів, де можуть бути виявлені специфічні та спільні ознаки в аспекті формування претерито-презентних дієслів.

Ключові слова: десквамація, лігаментация, пенетрація, претерито-презентне дієслово, ряд аблаута, транслокація.

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The existence of the preterite-present verb subgroup is one of the individual peculiarities distinguishing Old and New Germanic languages from the rest of Indo-European languages. That subgroup is built up with the verbs creating their present tense (presence) involving the form of strong past (preterite). The functioning of that verb subgroup may be explained with the primary type meaning of strong past as the Indo-European perfect. In other Indo-European languages that verb subgroup is reflected in similar or lexically equal verbs. The perfect (resultative type) explains the finished and completed action that has a result in the present time. The perfect gradually losing its type meaning may be transformed into the present tense.

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The preterite-present verb subgroup of all Germanic languages has the main feature; their present tense forms are characterized by the vocalic system past tense [3, p.141]. The origin of the preterite-present verbs is outlined in general sphere and in phonological and morphological aspects, too. There are no attempts to describe and distinguish the stages – steps of preterite present verb subgroup formation in Old Germanic languages. It is the specification of stages – steps, gradation of that verb subgroup separation that is still waiting for its solving and reconstruction. The connection of this problem with theoretical and practical aspects is in the attempt of reconstructing the processes that are in the base of the preterite-present verb formation during the earliest periods of the Germanic languages. It may be the clue for explaining the processes that are in the base of formation, development and functioning the preterite-present verb subgroup in New Germanic languages.

The purpose of the article is to find out and reveal the mechanism of formation which caused the separation of the preterite-present verbs. **The topicality of research** lies in the fact that finding out the formation of certain lexico-grammatical groups is still a difficult task requiring the detailed analysis and vast grasping generalisation. The scientific novelty of the research suggested is in the attempt of finding out the mechanism of the preterite-present verb subgroup formation, the separation of that verb subgroup from the strong Germanic verbs. The mechanism obtains qualitative and quantitative characteristics. **The object of research** is strong, preterite- present and anomalous Old Germanic verbs (on the example of the Gothic language). **The subject of research** is the specification of separation processes of the preterite present verbs in the Gothic language.

Literature review. There was a stable and steady tendency of current time linguistic research when the preterite present verbs were out of linguists' attention as nonperspective and unattractive linguistic phenomenon. The main part of preterite-present verbs was emphasised to have belonged to the lexical group of emotional state verbs, so called *verba sentiendi* in the broad sense. It explains their meaning transformation from the action result in the past to the state

in the present. It is the sphere of spiritual life that the result of the past realised process takes place in the present situation (compare I remembered = I remember; I hated = I hate) [10, p. 72]. That verb subgroup was investigated in a very isolated narrowed way. The main feature emphasised in that subgroup was the morphological peculiarity of the tense forms. In particular, the present tense forms were created according to the patterns of the strong verbs. For example, Gothic *witan* (to know) has the stem of the personal forms, singular indicative mood *wait* (I know, he knows). The personal form of plural, indicative mood is *wit-*, compare *witum* (we know), *witun* (they know). There is a resemblance between the preterite-present verbs and the preterite of strong verbs. They both have the same root vocalisation and the same system of person inflection. These verbs create the preterite and past participle forms according to the patterns of weak verbs, and dental suffix has main forms *-þa-*, *-ta-* [12, p. 165].

The Germanic languages were believed to have very simple and primitive system of type tense, modal and voice positions [3, p. 81]. From the opposite point of view, the Indo-European verb was characterised with the neutral and flexible root, very well-developed paradigm of distinctive verb forms; the verb system was very well developed [11, p. 27]. The Germanic languages being developed on the small and nucleus territory possess common word building models. It explains the restriction of verbs that were involved into the formation of new models in different languages: *be*, *become*, *go*, *should*; sporadically other verbs (*may*, *will*) were involved into the process of grammatical form creation without creating stable constructions [4, p. 82]. According to the vowel gradation in the basic forms the preterite present verbs are divided into several classes based to the patterns of strong verbs. There is a linguistic tradition of the Gothic preterite-present verb division among the I, II, III, IV, VI ablaut classes; two verbs (*mag*, *áih*) are not connected with any ablaut class [14, p. 165–166]. There is a bit different tradition of preterite-present verb grouping with two anomalous verbs *wiljan*, *wisan* [5, p. 103]. Some linguists create the subgroup of anomalous verbs grasping *wiljan*, *wisan* and the reduplication verbs *gaggan* [12, p. 167–168].

The preterite-present verb division according to the ablaut classes of strong Germanic verbs was not the only idea. Some linguists connected the verb *may* with the V ablaut class [6, p. 163]. The same idea is put forward in the present day fundamental reference books, but there is no mentioning of the verbs belonging to the II ablaut class [14, p. 123]. This discrepancy in the classifications of the preterite present verbs shows the absence of the finally formulated idea about these verbs, and, maybe, it is connected with the obscure mechanism of the preterite-present verb origin. These verbs have another feature. Their form of the past tense is of the second origin and related to the type of weak verbs. The second origin is recognised in the infinitive, present and past participles [12, p. 274–275]. The system of weak verbs is likely to have been characterised by the formation of the past tense transparency of the stem components, high productivity of the verb creation categories. These features of the weak verbs may be revealed in the oldest texts of the Gothic language [5, p. 89].

The Germanic preterite-present verb subgroup is a restricted, limited lexico-grammatical creation. From the semantic point of view, these verbs may be characterised as verbs of state. The preterite-present verbs have an individual peculiarity in the creation of the present tense paradigm which was the reflection and the very replic of the strong verb preterite. The ablaut patterns of the verb stem in the most part of the preterite-present verbs are the same as in the preterite of the strong verbs. There is the same resemblance between the system of person endings of preterite-present verbs and the preterite endings. There is only one difference for the second person singular in the West-Germanic area. It corresponds to the form of the second person singular of strong preterite in the Gothic-Scandinavian group. The preterite of this verb subgroup is created using the dental suffix with the same phonetic variants that happens in phantasmal verbs of the type such as Gothic *waurkjan* [8, p. 130].

The recognative feature of the Germanic languages is known to be connected and associated with the systemic functional grammatic usage of ablaut (vowel gradation) and the usage of the dental suffix in the system of verb preterite [6, p. 41–42]. The subgroup of

preterite present verbs belongs to the list of linguistic peculiarities associated with the Germanic languages. These verbs are known in the verb system of other Indo-European languages, (compare Gothic *wait-witum*, Sanskrit *vēda* – *vidmá* (I know – we know)). Only the Germanic preterite present verbs were separated into a significantly functional subgroup having specific syntactical and morphological usage of the separated verbs with general modal meaning [6, p. 42]. The history of Germanic languages demonstrates the gradual stage-step development and formation of this verb subgroup systemic functions [17, p. 86]. Having formed the Pan-Germanic subgroup, the preterite-present verbs demonstrated the tendency of creating stable forms. In this aspect the formation of preterite according to the pattern of weak verbs, which was introduced for the preterite present verbs, is a clear and evident example.

The Afrikaans language did not preserve the reflexion of Old Strong verbs as the preterite had been lost completely, and the past participle levelled the vocalisation according to the infinitive pattern. Only a very small group of verbs (modal and auxiliary) preserves the past simple [12, p. 145 (*kan* (be able to) – *kon* (he was able to); *mag* (be able to, want) – *mog* (he was able to, he wanted); *will* (will) – *wou* (would); *moet* (have to, must) – *moes* (he had to)) [14, p. 95]. It testifies to the fact that the past simple tense got a specific stability in the in the system and of preterite-present verbs and is preserved there when in other verb system the past simple tense had disappeared and was substituted with the perfect tense possessing the preterite function. This only exception is known to be out of the general tendency of the development in the sphere of Germanic languages. The Afrikaans language being in non-Germanic polylingual Afrikaans environment is not likely to be the perfect example for illustrating Common Germanic tendencies of development.

Results. The preterite-present verbs demonstrate the tendency of forming functional stable forms in the presence and preterite. This tendency makes the verb in the subgroup autonomous and self-sufficient. The stage-step separation of these preterite-present verbs includes multiple sub-steps (substages), and thus needs gradual and thorough investigation. If we analyse and investigate the root

syllable structure of the preterite-present verbs, it is possible to connect the preterite-present verbs with corresponding ablaut classes of strong verbs.

The preterite present verbs in the presence have the form of strong preterite. The preterite-present verbs in the root of singular form have the vowel that correlates to the second basic form of strong verbs (past, singular) of the corresponding ablaut class. The preterite-present verbs in the root of plural form have the vowel correlating to the third strong verb form (past, plural) of corresponding ablaut class. According to these relations between the preterite-present and strong verbs *Table 1* was made.

Table 1. Parametrical comparison of strong verbs of the first, second, third, fourth and sixth ablaut classes and related preterite-present verbs in the Gothic language

Parameters of the first ablaut class strong verbs			Parameters of the preterite-present verbs		
Ablaut class	Verbs forms	Examples of the verb forms	Reflected fragments of the ablaut class	Examples of verb forms	Verb forms
1	2	3	4	5	6
<i>ī</i>	I form infinitive	<i>leiþan</i> (to go)		<i>witan</i> (to know)	infinitive
<i>ai</i>	II form I person, singular, indicative, past tense	<i>laiþ</i> →	<i>ai</i>	<i>wait</i>	I person, singular, indicative, present tense
<i>i</i>	III form I person, plural, indicative, past tense	<i>liþum</i> →	<i>i</i>	<i>witum</i>	I person, plural, indicative, present tense
<i>i</i>	IV form past participle	<i>liþans</i>			
Parameters of the second ablaut class strong verbs			Parameters of the preterite-present verbs		
1	2	3	4	5	6
<i>iu</i> (<i>ū</i>)	I form infinitive	<i>biugan</i> (to begin) <i>lūkan</i> (to lock)		<i>*dugan</i> (to be fit for)	infinitive

<i>au</i>	II form I person, singular, indicative, past tense	<i>baug</i> → <i>lauk</i>	<i>au</i>	<i>daug</i>	I person, singular, indicative, present tense
<i>u (aú)</i>	III form I person, plural, indicative, past tense	<i>bugum</i> → <i>lukum</i>	<i>u</i>	<i>*dugum</i>	I person, plural, indicative, present tense
<i>u (aú)</i>	IV from past participle	<i>bugans</i> <i>lukans</i>			
Parameters of the third ablaut class strong verbs			Parameters of the preterite-present verbs		
1	2	3	4	5	6
<i>i (ai)</i>	I form infinitive	<i>bindan</i> (to bind) <i>wairþan</i> (to become)		<i>kunnan</i> (to know) <i>*þairban</i> (to need) <i>ga-doúrsan</i> (dare)	infinitive
<i>a</i>	II form I person, singular, indicative, past tense	<i>band</i> → <i>warþ</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>kann</i> <i>þarf</i> <i>gaders</i>	I person, singular, indicative, present tense
<i>u (aú)</i>	III form I person, plural, indicative, past tense	<i>bundum</i> → <i>waurþum</i>	<i>u</i>	<i>kunnum</i> <i>þairbum</i> <i>gadaúrsum</i>	I person, plural, indicative, present tense
<i>u (aú)</i>	IV from past participle	<i>bundas</i> <i>waurþans</i>			
Parameters of the fourth ablaut class strong verbs			Parameters of the preterite-present verbs		
1	2	3	4	5	6
<i>i (ai)</i>	I form infinitive	<i>niman</i> (to take) <i>bairam</i> (to bear)		<i>skulan</i> (shall) <i>munan</i> (to think, to suppose)	infinitive
<i>a</i>	II form I person, singular, indicative, past tense	<i>nam</i> → <i>bar</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>skal</i> <i>man</i>	I person, singular, indicative, present tense
<i>ē</i>	III form I person, plural, indicative, past tense	<i>nēmum</i> → <i>bērum</i>	<i>u</i>	<i>skulum</i> <i>munum</i>	I person, plural, indicative, present tense

<i>u (aú)</i>	IV from past participle	<i>numans</i> <i>baúrans</i>			
Parameters of the sixth ablaut class strong verbs			Parameters of the preterite-present verbs		
1	2	3	4	5	6
<i>a</i>	I form infinitive	<i>faran</i> (to go)		<i>ga-mōtan</i> (to take place, to be able to) <i>ōgan</i> (to be afraid)	infinitive
<i>ō</i>	II form I person, singular, indicative, past tense	<i>fōr</i> →	<i>ō</i>	<i>gamōt</i> <i>ōg</i>	I person, singular, indicative, present tense
<i>ō</i>	III form I person, plural, indicative, past tense	<i>fōrum</i> →	<i>ō</i>	* <i>ga-mōtum</i> * <i>ōgum</i>	I person, plural, indicative, present tense
<i>a</i>	IV from past participle	<i>farans</i>			

It contains the comparison of five preterite-present verbs with corresponding strong verbs of the first, second, third, fourth, and sixth ablaut classes. All the peculiarities are reflected in Table 1.

A special attention is devoted to the correlation of the second form of strong verbs (the first person, singular, indicative mood, past tense) to the preterite-present verb (the first person, singular, indicative mood, present tense); and the correlation of the third form of strong verbs (the first person, plural, indicative mood, past tense) to the preterite-present verb (the first person, plural, indicative mood, present tense). It is demonstrated in Table 1 that the preterite-present verb *witan* (to know) corresponds to the first ablaut class and has the vowel gradation *ai* : *i*. This paradigm grasps the substantivised past participle *weit* – *wōþ* (witness, witnessed). The root of the verb was used to create the strong verb *in-weitan* (to greet) and the weak verb of the third conjugation *witan* (to observe). These examples show that the main meaning of this verb root was *see, find* [8, p. 77]. Table 1 does not contain the relict preterite-present verb preserved only in the form *lais* (I know) (Phil. 4, 12) [1, p. 146]. That root gave the

Common Germanic causative Gothic *laisjan* (to learn) and the noun *lists* (cunning). The lack of corresponding forms did not give the opportunity to research and compare that verb.

The vowel gradation of the second ablaut class *au : u* takes place in the relict verb *daug* (he is fit for) (the third person, singular) (K. 10, 23) [1, p. 217], which was preserved only in this form. The infinitive is reconstructed in the form of **dugan* [5, p. 79]. This vowel gradation has a shade of convention as the form **dugum* is reconstructed, too. The vowel gradation of the third ablaut class *a : u* takes place in three preterite present verbs. They represent phonetic and spelling correlation *u* (*au*). The preterite-present verb *kunan* has some related words: the adjective (old past participle) *kunþs* (known), and *kunnan* (recognise) (the third weak conjugation) [5, p. 79–80]. The verb **þaurban* has the relative past participle *þaurft* (necessary). The consonant alternations *f : b* in the forms *þarf* : *þaúrbum* is the relict pattern of grammatical alternation in the Gothic language [5, p. 81]. The grammatical alternation as a system was not preserved in the Gothic language. The example given above is connected with the conjugation and has structure [*f* : *b* < *f* : *þ*] [5, p. 135]. The sound *f* in the form *þarf* is not the result of Gothic devoicing when Germanic *þ* takes place at the end of the word as in *giban* : *gaf* (to give), because after *r* the primary *þ* is preserved as *-b-*: compare *swairban* : *swarb* (suffer). The Indo-European root (**dhers-*) happens in other Indo-European languages: Sanskrit *dhatsāti* (he dares), Russian *дерзкий*, Ukrainian *дражнити*, (коза)-*дереза*, Czech *drzky* [5, p. 81]. If the vowel gradation of the first, second, and the third ablaut classes is completely reflected in corresponding forms of the preterite-present verbs, the two preterite-present ones belonging to the fourth ablaut class have the vowel alternation *a : u* instead of expected *a : ē*. Instead of the strong verb preterite there is the normal vowel alternation *a : naught*. This vowel alternation is an ancient archetype. It happens in light roots, with the movement to the sonant. On the contrary, the vowel alternation *a : ē* in the fourth ablaut class of strong verbs was the innovation that was created as a result of different processes connected with the formation of the fourth ablaut class. The witnessed form of past participle *skulds* (guilty) is likely to have been an adjective [7, p. 41].

The root of the verb *munan* gave the weak verbs: *munan* (remember) (the third weak conjugation), *ufarmunnōns* (forget). There were witnessed forms *aina* – *mundiþa* (shared thought), *ga-mund-s* (memory) [1, p. 217–218]. Final Table 1 verbs correlate with the sixth ablaut class. In fact, there is not the vowel gradation, but the repetition of the root vowel *-ō-*. The causative *ōgjan* (scare) originated from the verb *ga-mōtan* [8, p. 84]. It is reasonable to compare the verb of the sixth ablaut class *agan* (to be afraid of) [8, p. 32]. Causative verbs have the vowel alternation, which is vocalisation *ō* and *a*: *ōgjan* (scare), *usagjan* (scare away) [8, p. 115].

The examples given in Table 1 lead to the conclusion that the preterite-present verbs are genetically related to the strong verbs. The preterite-present verbs are likely to have separated from the corpus of Germanic strong verbs preserving the relation with the strong verbs and simultaneously gaining specific, individual traits. The strong verb corpus is a big and substantial structure of the Gothic language; the preterite-present verbs create a small nucleus subgroup. It gives the opportunity to characterise this phenomenon as **desquamation** – the process of gradual and stage-step separation of the thin layer from the bigger, more substantial corpus. It emphasises the different volumes of the preterite-present verb subgroup and the corpus of strong verbs. If we take into consideration the fact that the preterite-present verbs have preserved some features of the strong verbs in the process of desquamation, it is reasonable to use quantitative description of corresponding features.

As the preterite-present verbs have preserved the features of the strong verbs belonging to the first, second, third, and sixth ablaut classes, and these features are connected with the preservation of the vowel gradation in two forms of the preterite-present verbs, it is reasonable to introduce the term **penetrance**, which means the level of the feature manifestation. It helps to calculate penetrance according to the vowel gradation (*ai* : *i*; *ua* : *u*; *a* : *u*; *ō* : *ō*). For the more precise description it is expedient to introduce the term **expressiveness**, which indicates the level of the feature lack. In its general meaning, it is in the opposition to the penetrance. If the penetrance of the mentioned preterite-present verbs is equal to 2, it means that they all have the double feature of relation to the

corresponding strong verbs. The expressiveness of the same preterite present verbs is equal to 0, as the features of relation are represented in the highest degree (penetrance = 2 and corresponds to expressiveness = 0). Apart from the main subgroup of the preterite-present verbs, there two verbs (*skulan*, *munan*) related to the strong verbs of the fourth ablaut class.

The recognative and individual feature of these two verbs is the vowel alternation *a* : *u* instead of the fourth ablaut class *a* : *ē*. In this case penetrance = expressiveness = 1. Using the quantitative description it is possible to introduce ligamentation which describes the number of relations between preterite-present and strong verbs. When penetrance is equal to 2, it means that there is a double relation (links) between strong and corresponding preterite-present verbs. This double relation (double links) is qualified as double ligament. The single ligament takes place where there is a comparison of the strong verbs belonging to the fourth ablaut class and corresponding preterite-present verbs. In this case of comparison, the penetrance is equal to 1. According to the number of ligaments, which were distinguished and shown in Table 1, ligamentation with two ligaments is recognised as bidentated. Ligamentation with one ligament is recognised as monodentated. The preterite-present verbs represented in Table 1 may be divided into two unequal quasi-groups. The biggest quasi-group grasps the preterite-present verbs having penetrance 2, expressiveness 0, double ligament, bidentated ligamentation. The smaller quasi-group is formed with the preterite-present verbs having penetrance and expressiveness 1, single ligament, monodentated ligamentation. The bidentated ligamentation may be qualified as homogeneous if both ligaments are identical. The homogeneous bidentated ligamentation occurs in the preterite-present verbs related with the strong verbs of the sixth ablaut class. All other bidentated ligamentations belong to the heterogeneous variant, when both ligaments are different. All five preterite-present verbs mentioned above demonstrate evident relation to strong verbs of certain ablaut classes. The Gothic language has three preterite-present verbs, which cannot be connected with any ablaut class. **Table 2** demonstrates the comparison of the preterite-present verb *magan* with the strong verbs of the fifth and seventh ablaut classes.

This verb is believed to belong to the fifth ablaut class. However, this is erroneous, as the fifth ablaut class is characterised with the vowel alternation in the root of the preterite: Germanic *a* : *æo* < Indo-European *o* : *ē*. The fifth ablaut class has some specification in the formation of the preterite, plural, and the past participle. The fifth ablaut class strong verbs have the vowel alternation pattern *giban* < **geban* – *gaf* – *gēbum* < **gæobum* – *gibans*. The vowel alternation pattern Germanic *æo* > Gothic *ē* did not occur in the vowel gradation of the preterite present verbs [5, p.85]. The root structure (light root to noisy) and the vowel alternation in the form present tense, singular (preterite) *a* indicate the belonging of that verb to the fifth ablaut class, but *a* in the plural form and the vowel of past participle contradict this idea.

Table 2. Parametrical comparison of strong verbs of the fifth and seventh ablaut classes with the preterite-present verb *magan* in the Gothic language

Parameters of the fifth ablaut class strong verb			Parameters of the preterite-present verb			Parameters of the seventh ablaut class strong verbs		
Ablaut class	Verb forms	Examples of the verb forms	Reflected fragments of the ablaut class	Examples of the verb forms	Verb forms	Examples of the verb forms	Verb forms	Ablaut class
<i>i</i> (<i>ai</i>)	I form infinitive	<i>giban</i> (to give) <i>saihvan</i> (to look)		<i>magan</i> (may)	infinitive	<i>lētan</i> (to let) <i>saian</i> (to sow)	I form infinitive	<i>ē</i> (<i>ai</i>)
<i>a</i> Germanic <i>a</i> : <i>æo</i> < Indo-European <i>o</i> : <i>ē</i> Germanic <i>æo</i> > Gothic <i>ē</i>	II form I person, singular, indicative, past tense	<i>gaf</i> <i>sahv</i>	<i>a</i> < Indo-European * <i>ǵ</i> < Indo-European * <i>ǵ</i>	<i>mag</i>	I person, singular, indicative, present tense	/æo/ <i>lai</i> – <i>lōt</i> <i>sai</i> – <i>sō</i>	II form I person, singular, indicative, past tense	<i>ō</i>

<i>ē</i>	III form I person, plural, indicative, past tense	<i>gēbum</i> <i>sēhvum</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>magum</i>	I person, plural, indicative, present tense	/əo/ <i>lai</i> – <i>lōtum</i> <i>sai</i> – <i>sōum</i>	III form I person, plural, indicative, past tense	<i>ō</i>
<i>i (ai)</i>	IV from past participle	<i>gibans</i> <i>saihvans</i>				/əo/ <i>lētans</i> <i>saians</i>	IV from past participle	<i>ē (ai)</i>

Maybe, some secondary changes took place, which ruined the primary vowel gradation *mag* – **mōgum* according to the sixth ablaut class. The verb *magan* might have been involved into the preterite-present subgroup. Consequently, during its long process of involvement the unification of vowel gradation took place [15, p. 107). The vowel *-a-* in *mag* is likely to correspond to Indo-European **ə* as a degree of duration and with the reduction degree; and this vowel may be connected with the seventh ablaut class.

The seventh ablaut class is characterised by the vowel alternation in heavy monosyllabic bases *ē/ō* with the degree of reduction (Germanic *a*), compare gradation **ləot-* : **lōt-* : **lat-*, in Gothic *letan* : *lailōt* : *lats*. This verb is believed to be out of the vowel gradation pattern which is the feature of the sixth ablaut class strong verbs. All the forms of that verb do not have vowel gradation. The vowel *-a-* takes place in all stem variants [13, p. 166]. The doubtful belonging of that verb to a definite ablaut class is demonstrated in Table 2. This verb is likely to have been created as a result of desquamation from the substantial corpus of strong verbs. It is problematic to apply the quantitative description to the verb *magan*. If the verb *magan* is compared with the fifth ablaut class, it is evident that its penetrance = expresiveness = 1. There is a singular ligament and monodentated ligamentation. On the other hand, if the relation is associated with the seventh ablaut class, the penetrance equals 20, expressiveness equals 0, there is a double ligament, ligamentation is bidentated and homogeneous. Such a parameter contradiction shows that the process of this preterite-present verb desquamation was very difficult and obscure, but the belonging of that preterite-present verb

to the seventh ablaut class seems to be rather possible. **Table 3** demonstrates the comparison of the preterite-present verb *agan* (*aihan*) with the strong verb of the first ablaut class and the reduplicative strong verb without the ablaut of the first class (it does not belong to the seventh ablaut class). It is reasonable to take into consideration that reduplicative verbs belonging to the class of strong verbs are divided into two quasi-groups. **A** quasi-group grasps the verbs belonging to the seventh ablaut class. **B** quasi-group contains the verbs without any vowel alternation [10, p. 33]. It is a verb belonging to **B** quasi-group that is compared with the preterite-present verb in Table 3. That verb gave the origin of the noun *aihts*, *aigin* (belonging, possession, property), and the weak *gaaiginōn* (appropriate) [10, p. 86]. According to the root diphthong *-ai-*, it would be possible to connect that verb with the first ablaut class, but the absence of vowel alternation which is the characteristic feature of the first ablaut class *ai : i* indicates that this preterite-present verb is connected with the reduplicative verbs without root vowel gradation.

Table 3. Parametrical comparison of the strong verb of the fifth ablaut class *aigan*

Parameters of the fifth ablaut class strong verb			Parameters of the preterite-present verb		Parameters of the reduplicative verb (which does not belong to the seventh ablaut class)			
Ablaut class	Verb forms	Examples of the verb forms	Reflected fragments of the ablaut class	Examples of the verb forms	Verb forms	Examples of the verb forms	Verb forms	Ablaut class
<i>ī</i>	I form infinitive	<i>leiþan</i> (to go)		<i>aigan</i> <i>aihan</i> (to have)	infinitive	<i>haitan</i> (to call (oneself))	I form infinitive	<i>ai</i>
<i>ai</i>	II form I person, singular, indicative, past tense	<i>laiþ</i>	<i>ai</i>	<i>aig</i> <i>aih</i>	I person, singular, indicative, present tense	<i>haihait</i>	II form I person, singular, indicative, past tense	<i>ai</i>

<i>i</i>	III form I person, plural, indicative, past tense	<i>liþum</i>	<i>ai</i>	<i>aigum</i> <i>aihum</i>	I person, plural, indicative, present tense	<i>haihaitum</i>	III form I person, plural, indicative, past tense	<i>ai</i>
<i>i</i>	IV from past participle	<i>liþans</i>				<i>haitans</i>	IV from past participle	<i>ai</i>

The belonging of *aigan* (*aihan*) to the first ablaut class looks very contradictory (the same situation takes place in *magan*). If this verb is compared with the first ablaut class, it is evident that it has the same penetrance and expressiveness, they equal 1. There is a singular ligament and monodentated ligamentation. If this verb is compared to a reduplicative strong verb without any ablaut, it is possible to see that penetrance equals 2, expressiveness equals 0. It is possible to come across such quantitative parameters as double ligament and bidentated homogeneous ligamentation. Such verb as *magan* demonstrates the vocalisation unification [8, p. 117]. The results of comparison demonstrated Table 3 show that the relation of *aigan* with the first ablaut class looks very doubtful; but very possible relation with the reduplicated strong verbs without any ablaut demonstrates no relation with any ablaut classes. From another point of view, quantitative parameters of *magan* and *aigan* are equal. It indicates the desquamation likelihood of these preterite-present verbs.

The fifth ablaut class includes two verbs. The fifth ablaut class includes two verbs. The first one was preserved only in the form of the third person, singular *ga-nah* (it is enough) and *benah* (to need), it is a non-finite form. The past participle *binauhts*. (I. Cor. 10, 23) [1, p. 158]. This verb is related to the noun *ga-nauiha* (sufficiency, prosperity), the verb *ga-nohjan* (be enough), the adverb *ga-nōh-s* (sufficiently) [14, p. 216]. This verb is used in the Gothic language as non-finite. According to consonant specification, this verb may be associated with the fifth ablaut class (the light base without a sonorant), but the vowel in the Gothic *binauhts* contradicts the formation of the zero degree in the roots of that type [14, p. 202]. It is known that *u* of the zero degree took place in the Germanic

languages in the roots with different structure: compare Gothic *slahan* (to beat) (VI ablaut class) – *slauhts* and structurally related to it *binauhts*. It is very possible that this verb belongs to the fifth ablaut class [14, p. 260]. Unfortunately, that verb was preserved only in separate forms, which do not give the opportunity to restore the whole verb paradigm. That is why the detailed analysis of that verb using the table of comparison is problematic. The analysis based on the restored forms seems obscure and incorrect.

Table 4 represents the comparison of the preterite present verb *wiljan* with two strong verbs of the first and fourth ablaut classes. In the present tense these verbs had the optative mood form with the athematic Indicator *-ī-*; the preterite was formed using the dental suffix like in the patterns of weak verbs. In the Gothic language the optative paradigm occurs regularly [3, p. 118]. In the meaning "I want" in the Gothic language there is the verb *wiljan* in the form of the optative mood of the strong verb, preterite. This verb forms the secondary weak preterite, and the verb may be associated with the preterite-present verb on the conventional basis. If the forms *wiljan*, *wileima* are compared, they look as if they belong to the first ablaut class, especially when the optative mood forms of the verb *witan* are compared. In fact, the Indo-European root did not have the forms **weil* (**wīl*) : **woil* : **wil*, but it was represented with forms **wel* : **wol* : **wl*. Compare Latin *velle* : *volo* : *vult*; Lithuanian *pa-vel-mi* (I permit). These examples indicate that the Germanic root **wil* was developed from the Indo-European **wel* (but not *wil*), and that root may be connected with the fourth ablaut class of the type *stilan* (to steal). The contradiction connected with the combination of the preterite-present root with the suffix and ending of preterite, optative (*wiljan*) is only external. The characteristic suffix of the optative, preterite Germanic *ī* < Indo-European *ī* (**jē*) at first was not restricted only to the system of the past tense. It was ordinary suffix of the athematic optative. It was in opposition to the thematic suffix Germanic *ai* < Indo-European **oi* [17, p. 98].

The optative form *wiljan* is analysed involving the comparison of verb forms in the indicative and the optative mood (Table 4). If *wiljan* is compared with verbs of the first ablaut class, the penetrance and expressiveness equal 1. There is a singular ligament, monodentated ligamentation. If *wiljan* is compared with the verb of the fourth ablaut class, the penetrance = 2, expressiveness = 0, there is double ligament, bidentated homogeneous ligamentation. The verb *wiljan* is likely to be on the borderline between preterite-present and athematic verbs [2, p. 189]. If the data of Tables 2, 3, 4 are compared, it is possible to notice some common tendencies. All these factors give us the ground to separate *magan*, *aigan* (*aihan*), *wiljan* into a formal separate subgroup. This subgroup creates the opposition to the verbs represented in Table 1. These three preterite-present verbs (*magan*, *aigan* (*aihan*), *wiljan*) belong to the subgroup, which cannot be associated with any ablaut class. The preterite-present verbs of that subgroup have identical parameters of penetrance, expressiveness, number of ligaments, the same character of ligamentation. In fact, these verbs are between different ablaut classes. The stronger relation takes place with that ablaut class where there is a bidentated ligamentation.

The intermediate between different ablaut classes location of these three preterite-present verbs demonstrates the difficulty of desquamation from the corpus of strong verbs. Maybe, these processes were multi stage-step, and the primary verbs may have changed their verbs belonging to a certain ablaut class, gaining the feature of one class and later gaining the feature of another class. Desquamation which caused the formation of the preterite-present verb group has quantitative description. These quantitative parameters may be used as markers of relative chronology reflecting the stages-steps of the preterite-present verb subcorpus formation. Phonetic transformations indicate that the formation of preterite forms in this subcorpus took place before the stress shift and the first consonant shift, but the preterite is a secondary formation for these verbs. At first, the difference was connected with the fact that the preterite-present verbs did not have in their paradigms the forms of

infinitive and past participle. Apparently, on the initial stage of the Germanic language unity the old verb paradigms were recognised as defective against the overall background. It caused its levelling according to the patterns of regular verbs [16, p. 49]. The verb *magan* is likely to be involved into that subgroup later, but the biggest part of the preterite-present verb subcorpus belongs to the oldest and the most archaic level of the Indo-European word forming system [16, p. 51]. The preterite-present verbs enumerated and analysed in Table 1 have the definite and distinctive relations to the certain ablaut classes; they all underwent the process of desquamation later. Within this subgroup verbs *skulan* and *munan* had been separated earlier. It is indicated by the quantitative parameters: there is only monodentated ligamentation, singular ligament, penetrance and expressiveness = 1. Other verbs preserved more features of relation with corresponding ablaut classes (bidentated ligamentation, double ligament, penetrance = 2, expressiveness = 0). The bidentated ligamentation indicates that some preterite-present verbs were far from the relative ablaut classes.

The monodentated ligamentation shows that the process of desquamation of these verbs happened relatively earlier and these verbs preserved fewer features of relation with corresponding ablaut class with one common feature: every verb has the relation only with one ablaut class. The preterite-present verbs grasped in Tables 2, 3, 4 very have very obscure root structure. The vowel alternations in the roots of these three preterite-present verbs don't permit to connect them with the definite ablaut class. The detailed research of these verbs demonstrates the possibility of them being related with two different ablaut classes simultaneously. These relations but may be different in details, very common in general. The specification of these relations is connected with the fact that these verbs have singular ligament, monodentated ligamentation with one ablaut class, on the one hand, and double ligament, one bidentated ligamentation with another ablaut class, on another. The preterite-present verb is likely to have been connected with one ablaut class and later it gained the relation features with another ablaut class in its long and

continuous process of desquamation. These relation features were created later, that is why they are described with the bidentated ligamentation. Two verbs *aigan*, *magan* had unified vocalisation. In fact, the vocalisation unification caused the levelling of the ablaut class. It proves that the desquamation took place for a long time.

The desquamation caused the levelling of the ablaut class and created the conditions for domination of the monophthong *a* or diphthong *ai*. From another point of view, these verbs have been involved into the system of preterite-present verbs later. The process of oscillation (tilting) is likely to be possible. It happened when the preterite-present verb simultaneously migrated between two ablaut classes and was under the process of desquamation. The long and multistage oscillation caused the gradual leveling of the ablaut class. It leads to the conclusion that *magan*, *aigan* had undergone the desquamation process (which was complicated with oscillation) earlier than the verbs mentioned in Tables 2, 3, 4.

All these facts should be compared with taking into consideration the process of *translocation*.

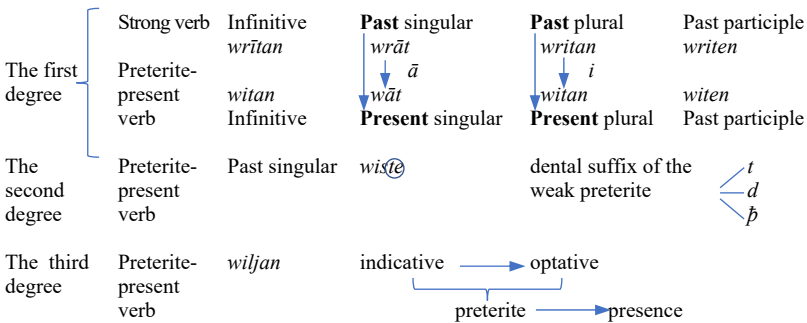


Fig. 1. Translocation degrees of the Gothic preterite-present verbs in the process of their desquamation

The process of translocation is understood as the combination of desquamation with the further movement of the object into a new environment. The translocation as a process consists of separate degrees. The first-degree translocation is recognized as a process of

desquamation when preterite-present verbs-to-be separate from the corpus of strong verbs with the further usage of preterite forms in the meaning of present (movement from the sphere of preterite to the sphere of presence). In a formal way this degree grasps all preterite-present verbs. The translocation of the second degree grasps the desquamation of the preterite – present verbs from the corpus of strong verbs with the following introduction of weak preterite new forms. All the-preterite present verbs are connected with the second degree. The third-degree translocation grasps only the verb *wiljan*. That is a very localised, restricted phenomenon which is connected with the fact that the present tense form of *wiljan* is formed as the preterite optative mood. There is a transmission from the indicative mood form to the optative form with further using its preterite form in the system of presence [17, p. 88]. The most common and general feature of the preterite-present verbs is their preservation of strong verb specification (Fig. 1).

Conclusion. Separation of general and common morphological features of the preterite-present verbs, their comparison with corresponding strong verbs outlined the supposition of forming the verbs in the Gothic language. These integrated processes of qualitative and quantitative characteristics helped to put forward the idea of perioding the formation of that verb subgroup. All these fixed and described from the quantitative and qualitative aspect features are connected with the Gothic language. It looks promising to research the formation of the preterite-present verbs in other Germanic languages, particularly, in the West-Germanic area, where the comparison of Old English, Old Frisian, Old Saxon looks encouraging in the aspect of stage-step development reconstruction of the preterite-present forms.

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