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Kortlandt, F.H.H.

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FREDERIK KORTLANDT

Comment on W. Winter's paper

Professor Winter claims that IE short vowels before voiced occlusives became long and acute in Balto-Slavic. Elsewhere¹ I have put forward the thesis that the Balto-Slavic acute intonation developed from a laryngeal feature. Gamkrelidze and Ivanov have suggested on typological grounds that the reconstructed IE voiced occlusives were actually glottalic.² It should be noted that these three theories, though seemingly unconnected and formulated without regard to their interrelation, mutually support each other in the sense that every one of them provides the missing link between the other two. If short vowels became acute in the position before a definite set of consonants and the acute intonation developed from a laryngeal feature, the latter feature derives from the consonants. If short vowels became acute before consonants which lost their glottalic feature, the acute intonation derives from the latter feature. If the acute intonation developed from a laryngeal feature and there was a series of glottalic consonants in the mother language, the use of the acute intonation before these consonants at the time when they lost the glottalic feature becomes understandable. Combining the three theories into one I would propose the following development. The proto-language possessed a series of glottalic consonants which were preserved well into the Balto-Slavic period. At a certain stage the feature was transferred from a glottalic consonant to a preceding vowel and the two sets of voiced consonants coalesced. The merger of the feature with the reflex of the IE laryngeals was posterior to Hirt's law because of the broken intonation in Latvian *pēds*, *muōgs*

Notes

1 *Slavic Accentuation*, Lisse 1975, especially chapter 3

2 "Sprachtypologie und die Rekonstruktion der gemeinindogermanischen Verschlusse", *Phonetica* 27 (1973), 150–156