



Universiteit
Leiden
The Netherlands

Studies in Armenian etymology : with special emphasis on dialects and culture Indo-European heritage

Martirosyan, H.

Citation

Martirosyan, H. (2008, February 13). *Studies in Armenian etymology : with special emphasis on dialects and culture Indo-European heritage*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/12604>

Version: Not Applicable (or Unknown)

License: [Licence agreement concerning inclusion of doctoral thesis in the Institutional Repository of the University of Leiden](#)

Downloaded from: <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/12604>

Note: To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

STUDIES IN ARMENIAN ETYMOLOGY
WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON DIALECTS AND CULTURE
INDO-EUROPEAN HERITAGE

HRACH MARTIROSYAN

**STUDIES IN ARMENIAN ETYMOLOGY
WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON DIALECTS AND CULTURE
INDO-EUROPEAN HERITAGE**

PROEFSCHRIFT

**TER VERKRIJGING VAN
DE GRAAD VAN DOCTOR AAN DE UNIVERSITEIT LEIDEN,
OP GEZAG VAN RECTOR MAGNIFICUS
PROF.MR. P.F. VAN DER HEIJDEN,
VOLGENS BESLUIT VAN HET COLLEGE VOOR PROMOTIES
TE VERDEDIGEN OP WOENSDAG 13 FEBRUARI 2008**

KLOKKE 15.00 UUR

door

Hrach Martirosyan

**geboren te Kirovakan (Vanajor),
in 1964**

Promotiecommissie

promotor: Prof.dr. J.J.S. Weitenberg
referent: Dr.habil. J. Dum-Tragut (University of Salzburg)
leden: Prof.dr. A.M. Lubotsky
Prof.dr. F.H.H. Kortlandt
Dr. U. Bläsing

To my Trinity:

my mother, Zhenya Martirosyan (Simonyan)

my wife, Satenik Gharagozyan

my daughter, Tsovinar Martirosyan

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am indebted to my colleagues from the Department of Comparative Linguistics at Leiden University for discussions of various issues and etymologies: Robert Beekes, Michiel de Vaan, Tijmen Pronk, Rick Derksen, Alwin Kloekhorst, Lucien van Beek, Guus Kroonen, Michael Peyrot, Johnny Cheung, Peter Schrijver. Special thanks are due to Michiel de Vaan, who has read large parts of the earlier drafts of this book, for his detailed valuable comments. My special gratitude goes out to Leonid Kulikov, Slava Chirikba and Armen Petrosyan not only for endless discussions and valuable comments but also for their sincere friendship and consistent assistance in many respects.

My special thanks go to Tijmen Pronk and Leonid Kulikov who helped me to prepare the manuscript of this book and to solve many technical problems. I am also very grateful to all who helped me to obtain the relevant literature and references, Karen Amirxanyan, Arpik Martirosyan, Tatev Martirosyan, Anush Martirosyan, Marine Torosyan, Tork Dalalyan, and especially Rafayel Martirosyan, who introduced me into the wonderful world of books. I am very much indebted to Samvel Martirosyan without whom I would not be able to come to the Netherlands. I also express my deep gratitude to Anush Martirosyan and Leonid Kulikov for their endless patience in assisting me in computer problems.

For the chapter 3.5.2 (on wolf, hyena, and ass and related issues) I received funding support from the Knights of Vartan FAS to whom I express my deep gratitude.

Finally, my deepest gratitude goes to my wife, Satenik, for her unfailing encouragement, assistance in every respect, and endless love and patience.

It goes without saying that I take full responsibility for possible mistakes and misprints.

CONTENTS

Acknowledgements

Contents

INTRODUCTION

PART I

ARMENIAN ETYMOLOGIES: INDO-EUROPEAN HERITAGE

PART II

EVALUATION AND OUTLOOK

A. Armenian dialects

- 1.1 Preliminaries: treatment of archaic features in dialects
- 1.2 5th century dialectal words
- 1.3 Dialectal words: new or old?
- 1.4 Textual replacement by dialectal synonyms
- 1.5 Interdialectal loans
- 1.6. "Ašxarhac'oyc'" (Armenian Geography): agreement between historical and dialectal distributions
- 1.7 Further issues on "Ašxarhac'oyc"
- 1.8 Anania Širakac'i
- 1.9 Nersēs Šnorhali (12th cent., Cilicia)
- 1.10 Back loans
- 1.11 Re-borrowings in dialects
- 1.12 Internal etymology
 - 1.12.1 *břinc'*: *břo-/řš- : *břinč'j- 'snowball-tree, guelder rose'
 - 1.12.2 *brut* 'potter'
 - 1.12.3 *ktrem*: *ktir-/ktur- 'to cut'
 - 1.12.4 *xučič*: *xu-xuč, *xox-ič 'scarecrow'
 - 1.12.5 *čkoyt'(n)*: *ckoyt'*: ckik 'the little finger'
 - 1.12.6 *unj*: *ganj* 'bottom', 'store, treasure'

B. *Aspects of Armenian historical grammar*

2.1 PHONOLOGY

- 2.1.1 PIE **e*> Arm. *a*
- 2.1.2 PIE **e*> Arm. *ē* or *i* before sibilants *š*, *ž*
- 2.1.3 PIE **o*> Arm. *a*
- 2.1.4 PIE **pe-*: **po-* > Arm. *he-* : *o-*
- 2.1.5 PIE **Hoi-* or **Hy-* > Arm. *ay-*
- 2.1.6 PIE **j-*> Arm. zero
- 2.1.7 PIE **j-*> Arm. *I-*
- 2.1.8 PIE **y*
- 2.1.9 Nasals
- 2.1.10 PIE **s*> Arm. *h*
- 2.1.11 PIE *-*Ns-*> Arm. -*s*
- 2.1.12 Ruki-rule
- 2.1.13 Loss of intervocalic *-*t-*
- 2.1.14 The absence of palatalization
- 2.1.15 -*P*: -*w*
- 2.1.16 PIE **HV-*
- 2.1.17 Prothetic vowel
 - 2.1.17.1 Preliminaries
 - 2.1.17.2 PIE **h₁le/a-*> Arm. /*V-*
 - 2.1.17.3 PIE **h₃NV-*> PArm. **oNV-*> **(u)m-V'*
 - 2.1.17.4 Prothetic vowel *a*- with a labial vowel in the root
- 2.1.18 PIE **p/t/k*+ **H*
 - 2.1.18.1 **kH*> Arm. *x* vs. **k*> Arm. *k'*
 - 2.1.18.2 **tH* and **pH*
- 2.1.19 PIE *-*uH(s)m*> Arm. -*ukn*
- 2.1.20 PIE *-*CHC-*
- 2.1.21 PArm. **(h)o-*> dial. *fo-*
- 2.1.22 Clusters
 - 2.1.22.1 PIE *-*Tj-*
 - 2.1.22.2 PArm. *-*cj-*> -*č-*, *-*jj-*> -*ž-*
 - 2.1.22.3 PIE **sk-*> Arm. *c'*-, PIE **skH-*> Arm. *š-*
 - 2.1.22.4 PArm. *-*cC-*> -*sC-*
 - 2.1.22.5 PIE (and/or substratum) **sCV-*> Arm. *sV-*

- 2.1.22.6 PIE **dw-* > Arm. *-rk-* or *-k-*
- 2.1.22.7 PIE *-kr̥- > Arm. *-wr-*
- 2.1.22.8 PIE *-In- > Arm. *-I-*
- 2.1.22.9 PIE *-t̥c̥ > Arm. *-c̥*
- 2.1.22.10 PIE *-mp- > Arm. *-m-*
- 2.1.22.11 PIE *-mn > Arm. *-wn*
- 2.1.22.12 PIE *-Ct- > Arm. *-wT*
- 2.1.22.13 PIE *-RC-t- > Arm. *-R(C)t̥-*
- 2.1.23 Assimilation: *-θ... *V_I'-* > - *V_I...* *V_I'-*
- 2.1.24 Dissimilation
 - 2.1.24.1 Grassmann's Law
 - 2.1.24.2 *r...r* > *l...r*
- 2.1.25 Assimilation and dissimilation
- 2.1.26 Metathesis
 - 2.1.26.1 Criteria
 - 2.1.26.2. Stops
 - 2.1.26.3 Nasals, resonants, spirants
 - 2.1.26.4 Vocalic metathesis
 - 2.1.26.5 Metathesis involving a cluster
 - 2.1.26.6 Miscellaneous
- 2.1.27 Anticipation
 - 2.1.27.1 Anticipation of *-i-* (or a palatal element) or metathesis
 - 2.1.27.2 Anticipation of nasal
- 2.1.28 Perseveration
- 2.1.29 Perseveration or anticipation of nasal
- 2.1.30 Epenthesis
 - 2.1.30.1 Epenthetic nasal
 - 2.1.30.2 Epenthetic *-r-*
 - 2.1.30.3 Miscellaneous
- 2.1.31 Epithetic *-t* after sibilants
- 2.1.32 Hiatus, glide
- 2.1.33 Loss
 - 2.1.33.1 Loss of *w* before *r* or loss of intervocalic *w*
 - 2.1.33.2 Loss of the initial vowel or syllable
 - 2.1.33.3 Loss of *r*
- 2.1.34 Haplology

- 2.1.35 Allegro
- 2.1.36 Tabu, euphemism
- 2.1.37 Folk-etymology
- 2.1.38 Semantic differentiation of phonological alternants
- 2.1.39 Ačaryan's Law
 - 2.1.39.1 Ačaryan's Law with *-o-* Łarabał
 - 2.1.39.2 Ačaryan's Law in inlaut

2.2 MORPHOLOGY

- 2.2.1 Case system
 - 2.2.1.1 Vocative
 - 2.2.1.2 Nominitive **-s*
 - 2.2.1.3 Nominitive-accusative: syncretism
 - 2.2.1.4 Genitive
 - 2.2.1.5 Locative
 - 2.2.1.6 Instrumental *-aw*: *-ok'* in Łarabał
 - 2.2.1.7 Accusative pl. *-s*
- 2.2.2 Paradigmatic solution for a phonological or morphological irregularity
 - 2.2.2.1 **s*-stem neuters
 - 2.2.2.2 Other type **s*-stem
 - 2.2.2.3 **n*-stem
 - 2.2.2.4 PIE HD *i*-stem
 - 2.2.2.5 **l*-stems
 - 2.2.2.6 Laryngeal stems
- 2.2.3 Generalization (or relics) of PIE fem. adjectives in **-ih₂-* in Armenian
- 2.2.4 Numerals
 - 2.2.4.1 Stability and replacements
 - 2.2.4.2 Collective numerals
- 2.2.5 Pronouns
- 2.2.6 Verbs
 - 2.2.6.1 **je*-presents
 - 2.2.6.2 Nasal presents

2.3 WORD FORMATION

- 2.3.1 Affixes
- 2.3.2 Reduplication

C. Semantics, culture and etymology

- 3.1 Astral/Celestial world
 - 3.1.1 Starry sky
 - 3.1.2 Pleiades
 - 3.1.3 Milky Way
 - 3.1.4 Orion, Libra, and other asterisms
 - 3.1.4.1 Designations for Orion and Libra
 - 3.1.4.2 Further remarks on Hayk/Orion and related issues
 - 3.1.5 Planets
- 3.2 Purple Sea
- 3.3 Time
 - 3.3.1 Temporal, spatial and processual aspects
 - 3.3.2 Seasons
- 3.4 Geographical terms
 - 3.4.1 'mountain' : 'forest'
 - 3.4.2 'to stream, flow' > 'water(ed), irrigated land' > 'island, river-shore'
- 3.5 Animals
 - 3.5.1 young animals : young branches : child, generation (human, fauna and flora)
 - 3.5.2 'chthonic beasts or insects' : 'pagan, abominable, demon' : 'grandmother, lady'
 - 3.5.2.1 'woman, lady, (grand)mother' : 'insect, snail, frog etc.' : 'demon, spirit'
 - 3.5.2.2 'hyena, wolf, jackal' : 'mule, ass' : 'ape' : 'heathen, abominable, outlaw'
 - 3.5.2.3 To become a wolf
 - 3.5.2.4 'hind, deer' : 'dragon, snake' : 'wolf' : 'devil'
 - 3.5.2.5 'spider' : 'ass'
 - 3.5.2.6 *čr*
 - 3.5.2.7 Lizard : cow-milker/sucker
 - 3.5.2.8 Eels
 - 3.5.2.9 'weasel, mouse, etc.' : 'bride, young woman, etc.'
- 3.6 Plants
- 3.7 Body parts
 - 3.7.1 'ceiling' : 'palate' : 'sky, heaven'

- 3.7.2 'crooked, twisting, bending' > 'a twisting/bending body-part'
- 3.7.3 'calf of leg' : 'fish'
- 3.8 Human world: social aspects etc.
 - 3.8.1 'princess, queen' > 'girl' and vice versa
 - 3.8.2 'share' > 'dowry'
- 3.9 Craft and occupations
 - 3.9.1 'to cut, divide' > 'a division of flock' > 'flock of sheep'
 - 3.9.2 Shin-bone > implement
 - 3.9.3 'weaving, plaiting' : 'multiplicity, abundance'
 - 3.9.4 'plaited, twisted' > 'felloe'
- 3.10 Miscellaneous
- 3.11 Mediterranean-Pontic substratum

D. *Place-names*

- 4.1 Preliminaries
- 4.2 Textual evidence for identifying the appellatives
- 4.3 Synonymic or contrasting place-name variants
- 4.4 'Cattle / pasturing' > 'pastureland' > place-name
- 4.5 Wild animals > place-names
- 4.6 Mountains named as 'dark' or 'black'
- 4.7 Place-name > wind-name
- 4.8 Dialectal place-names as evidence for otherwise unattested dialectal words, forms or meanings
- 4.9 Place-names attested in literature and containing dialectal words or features

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Sources
- Bibliographical abbreviations