Farnah

Indo-Iranian and Indo-European Studies

in Honor of

Sasha Lubotsky
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The Origin of the Hittite \textit{hi}-Conjugation

\textsc{Alwin Kloekhorst}

Ever since I started studying Comparative Indo-European Linguistics in Leiden twenty years ago, Sasha has been an inspiring and dedicated teacher and mentor. I am proud to know that he and his wife Lena regard me as one of their \textit{jongens}, and it is with gratitude for his guidance and loyalty that I dedicate this article to him.\footnote{I thank Lucien van Beek, Michaël Peyrot, and Michiel de Vaan for providing valuable feedback on an earlier draft of this article.}

\section{Background}

It is a descriptive fact that the Hittite verbal system knows in its active voice two conjugations, the so-called \textit{mi-} and \textit{hi-} conjugations, which mainly differ from each other in the set of endings that they use. The origin of the \textit{mi-} conjugation is quite clear: it is generally connected with the present-aorist system of the other Indo-European languages, with, for instance, the present endings \textit{mi-}, \textit{ši-}, \textit{zi} directly corresponding to the PIE primary endings \textit{*-mi}, \textit{*-si}, \textit{*-ti}.\footnote{Although the exact relationship is not always as straightforward as it may seem, cf. Kloekhorst 2017 for a discussion of details of the origin of the \textit{mi-} conjugation.} The origin of the Hittite \textit{hi-} conjugation is fiercely debated, however. Several theories regarding its prehistory have been formulated, two of which are nowadays the most prominent ones, namely the “perfect theory” (most extensively formulated by Eichner 1975) and the “\textit{he-} conjugation theory” (see especially Jasanoff 2003).\footnote{Other theories are the “thematic theory” (which argues that the \textit{hi-} conjugation goes back to the PIE thematic conjugation) and the “middle theory” (which argues that the \textit{hi-} conjugation goes back to the PIE middle). Both theories can easily be dismissed, however: the “thematic theory” because in Hittite the PIE thematic inflection has been transferred to the \textit{mi-} conjugation (cf. the suffixes \textit{-ie/a};\footnote{In his review of Jasanoff 2003, Oettinger (2006) has launched an Indo-Hittite variant of the \textit{he-} conjugation theory, according to which Proto-Indo-Hittite knew a “Proto-Intensivum,” i.e. a present with \textit{*he-} endings, \textit{*o/®}-ablaut, simple or full reduplication, and iterative meaning. According to Oettinger, this category was directly taken over into Anatolian, where it was semantically bleached and therefore dereduplicated (although archaic reduplicated forms were retained to express iterative meaning), and thus yielded the \textit{he-} conjugation. In the prehistory of classic Proto-Indo-European, however, the “Proto-Intensivum” developed into three separate categories, namely (1) the traditional perfect (with a semantic shift from iterative to stative); (2) the reduplicated present of the type \textit{*dhe-} (with transfer to the \textit{mi-} conjugation and loss of iterative meaning); and (3) the intensive of the type \textit{*h2e-} (with transfer to the \textit{mi-} conjugation, but retention of the iterative meaning). Unfortunately, Oettinger does not give many details as to how and why the exact semantic and formal developments would have taken place.} < \textit{*-ie/o-} and \textit{-ške/a};\footnote{In his review of Jasanoff 2003, Oettinger (2006) has launched an Indo-Hittite variant of the \textit{he-} conjugation theory, according to which Proto-Indo-Hittite knew a “Proto-Intensivum,” i.e. a present with \textit{*he-} endings, \textit{*o/®}-ablaut, simple or full reduplication, and iterative meaning. According to Oettinger, this category was directly taken over into Anatolian, where it was semantically bleached and therefore dereduplicated (although archaic reduplicated forms were retained to express iterative meaning), and thus yielded the \textit{he-} conjugation. In the prehistory of classic Proto-Indo-European, however, the “Proto-Intensivum” developed into three separate categories, namely (1) the traditional perfect (with a semantic shift from iterative to stative); (2) the reduplicated present of the type \textit{*dhe-} (with transfer to the \textit{mi-} conjugation and loss of iterative meaning); and (3) the intensive of the type \textit{*h2e-} (with transfer to the \textit{mi-} conjugation, but retention of the iterative meaning). Unfortunately, Oettinger does not give many details as to how and why the exact semantic and formal developments would have taken place.} < \textit{*ške/o-}); and the “\textit{he-} conjugation theory” because in Hittite the PIE middle inflection has been continued as the middle. Cf. Jasanoff 2003:21–7 for a \textit{Forschungsgeschichte} and critical treatments of these theories.}
Both these theories start with the observation that, from a formal point of view, the Hittite hi-conjugation has several matches with the PIE perfect as it has traditionally been reconstructed on the basis of the other IE languages. First, there is a match with regard to the endings. The present endings of the hi-conjugation, 1sg. -h˘h˘i (in the oldest texts -h˘h˘e), 2sg. -tti, and 3sg. -i (in the oldest texts -e), are commonly viewed as being identical to the endings of the “traditional” PIE perfect, to which an *-i has been added: *-h˘2-e-i, *-th˘2-e-i, and *-e-i. The corresponding preterite endings, 1sg. -h˘h˘un and 2sg. -tta, are generally viewed as being identical to the unextended PIE perfect endings *-h˘2-e and *-th˘2-e, respectively. Also the Hittite 3pl. pret. ending -er (which is used in the mi-conjugation as well) is commonly equated with the PIE perfect 3pl. ending *-ēr. Second, there is a match in stem vocalism: the Hittite hi-conjugated verbs all show *o-grade in their strong stem, which is also the ablaut vowel that is found in the root of the singular forms of the perfect, e.g. 3sg. *Ce-CóC-e.

Besides these matches between the Hittite hi-conjugation and the traditional perfect, there are also several mismatches between the two, on both the formal and the semantic side. It is precisely in the explanation of these mismatches that the perfect theory and the h˘2-e-conjugation theory differ from each other. The perfect theory states that the Hittite hi-conjugation derives from the traditional PIE perfect and that the mismatches between the two categories are due to innovations within the prehistory of Anatolian. This contrasts with the h˘2-e-conjugation theory, which derives the hi-conjugation from a hitherto unrecognized PIE category, the so-called h˘2-e-conjugation. Just like the mi-conjugation, the h˘2-e-conjugation would have formed presents and aorists, and the formal resemblance between the h˘2-e-conjugation and the PIE perfect is explained by assuming that in pre-PIE the perfect was in fact a reduplicated present to h˘2-e-conjugated aorists (Jasano off 2003:168–9).

In this article I will discuss the mismatches between the Hittite hi-conjugation and the traditional PIE perfect, and compare how they are accounted for within the two theories. In this way, it will be determined which of the two theories is better at explaining the origin of the hi-conjugation. It will turn out that Eichner’s perfect theory clearly surpasses Jasano’s h˘2-e-conjugation theory, although two points remain in which the perfect theory does not work well either. It will be argued, however, that with two slight adaptations of the perfect theory (one from an Indo-Hittite point of view), a full and convincing account of the origin of the hi-conjugation can be given.

2 Mismatch 1: Ablaut

As was mentioned above as well, virtually all Hittite hi-conjugated verbs show in their strong stem a reflex of the vowel *o, 6 and they thus correspond to the traditional perfect,

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4Note, however, that the Hittite 3sg. pret. -i cannot be equated with the PIE perfect ending *-e, a fact that is acknowledged by both the “perfect theory” and the “h˘2-e-conjugation theory.” Yet, since the Hittite 3sg. pres. ending -i (OH -e) derives from *-e-i, there can be no doubt that pre-Hittite had the ending *-e, too. Cf. Kloekhorst 2008:688, where it is argued that the expected outcome of PIE *-e would have been Hitt. *-ē, and that this is the reason that a new ending was introduced.

5Assuming that *-h˘2-e first yielded *-h˘ha, as is attested in the Luwic languages, to which in Hittite the mi-conjugation ending -un was attached.

6The only exception is the class of factitives in -ah˘h˘-, which seem to show e-grade in their stem: 3sg. pres.act. *ah˘h˘ < *-th˘2-ei.

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which is reconstructed with o-grade in its singular (= strong) stem, too: 3sg. *Ce-CoC-r. In their weak stem, the vast majority of Hittite hi-verbs show a reflex of zero grade in their root, e.g. kânk-/*kank- ‘to hang (something)’ < *kómk-/*k nk-; arai-/*ari- ‘to rise’ < *h₃rû/-*h₃ri-; etc. Their *o/Ø-ablaut is thus identical to the root ablaut as reconstructed for the traditional perfect: *Ce-CoC-ε/*Ce-CC-êr. However, there are also a few Hittite hi-verbs that synchronically show an ablaut that rather seems to reflect earlier *o/e, e.g. šakk-/*šekk- ‘to know’ < *šokh₁/*šekh₁-ç. Since this ablaut is unattested in the perfect of the other IE languages, it forms a mismatch between the Hittite hi-conjugation and the traditional perfect.

Although the *o/e-ablaut as seen in some hi-verbs does not match the ablaut of the traditional perfect, according to Jasanoff (2003:79–86) it does have a counterpart outside of Anatolian, namely in the ablaut of the so-called molô-presentes. These are presents that in some languages show o-grade in their root (e.g. Goth. malān ‘to mill’ < *molH-) and in others e-grade (e.g. OIr. melid ‘to mill’ < *melH-) and which therefore had been reconstructed as having radical o/e-ablaut by Meillet (1916).7 Jasanoff therefore assumes that both the Hittite *o/e-ablauting hi-verbs and the non-Anatolian molô-presents go back to a single category, which he calls the “b₂-e-conjugation”, i.e. a paradigm with radical o/e-ablaut, showing the endings of the perfect, but having a present meaning: 1sg. *molh₁₂-b₂e ‘I grind’ vs. 1pl. *melh₁₂-melH ‘we grind’ (reconstructions according to Jasanoff 2003:71). Both the Hittite hi-verbs showing *o/Ø-ablaut and the traditional perfect, which also shows *o/Ø-ablaut, would ultimately derive from this category through a massive replacement of the e-grade of the weak stem by zero-grade.

Within the perfect theory, the e-grade of the *o/e-ablauting hi-verbs is explained as having an analogical origin, usually as having been generalized from originally reduplicated weak stems. For instance, Eichner (1975:87) states that the *e may originate from forms like *h₁ê-h₁r-êr > êrer ‘they arrived’, whereas Oettinger (1979:114) sees *še-sh₂-g-eh₁-re > šekker ‘they knew’ as the most important source for spread of e-grade in these hi-verbs.

In a recent discussion of all the relevant material, I endorsed the view that in the majority of these verbs the e-grade is indeed analogical (albeit ultimately taken over from mi-conjugating verbs, and not through a reinterpretation of reduplicating syllables) and has replaced an earlier zero-grade, and that in a small group of verbs the seeming e-grade is in fact an epenthetic vowel that arose in original zero-grade stems (Kloekhorst 2012; 2014). This means that all hi-verbs that at the surface seem to show *o/e-ablaut in fact go back to *o/Ø-ablauting paradigms.

We may therefore conclude that, when it comes to ablaut, there is in fact no mismatch between the Hittite hi-conjugation and the traditional perfect after all: all Hittite hi-conjugated verbs originally had an ablaut *o/Ø, which is identical to the ablaut of the traditional perfect. As a consequence, an important pillar underneath the formal aspects of the b₂-conjugation theory has turned out to be non-existent.

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7 Although Meillet did not make explicit the exact distribution of o-grade and e-grade throughout the paradigm, and assumed that zero-grade was also part of the ablaut of such paradigms.
3 Mismatch 2: Reduplication

The classic reconstruction of the perfect category is 3sg. *C₁-e-C₁ôC₂-e vs. 3pl. *C₁-e-C₁-C₂-´er, i.e. showing a reduplication syllable *Ce- that reduplicates the first consonant of the verbal root, followed by an *e. In Hittite, hi-conjugated verbs do not regularly show reduplication, however: their basic structure is *CoC-e/*CC-´er.\(^8\)

In order to explain this mismatch, Eichner (1975:87) argues that the absence of reduplication in Hittite is the result of a massive removal of reduplication syllables by analogy with verbs like “*h₃oh₃ok-/h₃oh₃k-” > Hitt. ʾök(āk)-/akk- ‘to die’, in which the original reduplication syllable was dissolved into the verbal stem by regular sound law.

Jasanoff (2003:15–6) is critical about this assumption, however. He remarks that in almost all non-Anatolian languages that have preserved the perfect, the reduplication was quite well maintained. Only in Germanic was reduplication removed on a large scale, but as Jasanoff rightly remarks, “Late Proto-Germanic was spoken . . . a full two thousand years later than Proto-Anatolian . . . ; yet even here the tenacity of reduplication in the perfect is shown by the survival of nearly two dozen reduplicating strong verbs in Gothic alone (e.g. letan ‘let’, pret. laiöl . . . ). If the hi-conjugation in fact grew out of the perfect, it would have to have given up its reduplication with a precocity unmatched in any other IE language” (2003:16). Jasanoff himself explains the mismatch between the Hittite hi-conjugation and the traditional perfect by assuming instead that the hi-conjugation reflects an original unreduplicated h₂-e-conjugated formation, and that the traditional perfect “originated within PIE as a kind of h₂-e-conjugation reduplicated present,” derived from h₂-e-conjugated root aorists (2003:169).

I agree with Jasanoff’s criticism of the assumption that Hittite massively removed reduplication syllables in a very short amount of time. However, I do not think that the absence of reduplication in the Hittite hi-conjugation is very problematic to the perfect theory, since there are arguments to be made that the perfect originally could have been unreduplicated as well.

The first argument is the PIE verb *uóid-e, *uid-´er ‘to know’, which can be securely reconstructed as having had *o/Ø-ablaut, the endings of the perfect, but no reduplication. Despite the fact that it matches the traditional shape of perfects in only two of the three diagnostic characteristics, *uóid-e is generally seen as an original perfect that is derived from the verbal root *ueid- ‘to see, to find’. Its original meaning would have been ‘to be in the state of having seen/found’, which underwent a specific development into ‘to know’. The remarkable absence of reduplication in *uóid-e, *uid-´er has been explained by some scholars as the result of specific phonetic developments. For instance, Szemerényi (1996:290) states that *uóid-e goes back to an earlier *ue-uóid-e, which “by assimilation led to *uwoid[e] and then, owing to frequent use, to the simplification *uwoid[e].” Winter (1993:482–3) assumes rather that the original form of the perfect was *Cé-CoC-e, *C-CC-mé, i.e. with zero-grade in the reduplication syllable in the plural, and states that “[e]ine Interpretation von *uwidmé als *|widmé|” (a sort of reversed Sievers’ development) has led to loss of the reduplication in the plural

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\(^8\)To be sure, there are some hi-verbs with reduplication, like lilmui-/lilmui- ‘to pour’ (< *li-lh₃u-oi-) or yeuākk- ‘to ask’ (< *yu₃uk-), but in these cases the reduplication syllable probably expresses imperfectivity, and need not be old (cf. Dempsey 2015:331–3). Cf. n. 15, however, for the possibility that the reduplication in these verbs is old after all.
forms. In the singular, original *ue-uóid-e would then analogically have been replaced by "*ue-uóid-e", which was reanalyzed as *|woyde], leading to a loss of reduplication in the entire paradigm. Both explanations require irregular developments or additional assumptions, and are therefore unattractive. Another approach to explain the aberrant shape of *uíóid-e, *uí-ór is taken by Jasano (2003:228–33), who argues that this formation is a neologism that was built within PIE. As a starting point he takes the perfect *ue-uóid-e ‘has seen/found’ (Skt. víveda, Av. vinnāedā), the perfect middle *ue-uídr-ó ‘is visible, is recognized’ (Skt. vividē) and a ‘stative-intransitive present’ *uí-dr-ó ‘is/becomes visible/recognizable’ (not attested as such), which all three would be regularly formed from the root *ueid- ‘to see, to find’. He then assumes that the “stative-intransitive present” *uí-dr-ó undergoes a semantic shift to ‘is known’ (Skt. vidē ‘is known’), which would cause the following four-part analogy:

\[
\begin{align*}
& *ue-uídr-ó ‘is visible, is recognized’ : *uí-dr-ó ‘is known’ \\
& *ue-uídr-e ‘has seen/found’ : X \\
& \rightarrow X = *uídr-e ‘knows’
\end{align*}
\]

This scenario is problematic, however, both semantically and chronologically. First, within Jasano’s analogy, we would rather expect that a newly created *uídr-e would mean ‘has known’, and not ‘knows’. And second, as Jasano himself admits, the perfect middle, which is crucial to his scenario, is generally seen as “a more recent creation than the perfect active” (2003:233).

Instead of trying to explain *uídr-e, *uí-ór as an innovation, it seems clear to me that we have to regard it as an archaic formation. Let us, for instance, look at the synchronic situation in Indo-Iranian. Here the root *ueid- not only forms the unreduplicated formation *uídr-e ‘knows’ (Skt. vēda, Av. vaēdā), but also the reduplicated perfect *ue-uídr-e ‘has seen/found’ (Skt. víveda, Av. vinnāedā). It is clear that the reduplicated perfect functions as the synchronically predictable perfect to the verbal root *ueid- ‘to see, to find’, whereas the unreduplicated formation is unpredictable. Taking Kuryłowicz’s Fourth Law of Analogy—which states that whenever an old (non-analogical) form is kept besides a new (analogue) form, it is the analogical form that takes the basic function, whereas the old form is retained in a secondary function—it seems clear that the synchronically unpredictable form *uídr-e ‘knows’ must be old, and the synchronically predictable form *ue-uídr-e is a newer,
analogue creation. We therefore have to accept that at the pre-PIE time that the original perfect to *ueid- was created (which first meant ‘to be in the state of having seen/found’, but later developed into ‘to know’), reduplication was not yet obligatory for all perfects.

The second argument that may indicate that originally perfects could also be unreduplicated is the fact that the 3pl. ending of the perfect comes in two varieties, namely *-r(s) (Skt. -ur < *-r or *-rs, Av. -ar < *-r) and *-ér (Lat. -ér < *-r + -i, Hitt. -er < *-r). Since *-ér may go back to pre-PIE *-ers (with Szemerényi’s Law; cf. Jasanoff 1994:150; 1997:120) or *-er (with lengthening of *e to *e before a word-final resonant; cf. Kortlandt 1975:85, going back to Wackernagel 1896:66f.), the two endings seem to form an original ablauting pair: zero-grade *-r(s) vs. full grade *-er(s). This situation is reminiscent of the 3pl. ending of the present, for which we find both zero-grade and full-grade variants as well: *-nti and *-enti. The distribution between these two present endings is clear: the full grade ending is found in unreduplicated presents (e.g. *h2s-enti > Skt. sánti ‘they are’) and the zero-grade in reduplicated presents (e.g. *h2d-dh2nti > Skt. dādhati ‘they put’). This may indicate that in the perfect a similar opposition existed, namely unreduplicated *CC-ér vs. reduplicated *Ce-CC-r.

Both arguments imply that in pre-PIE times the perfect had both reduplicated and unreduplicated variants. Unfortunately, it cannot be determined what the exact function of the presence or absence of reduplication was, but if we take the use of reduplication in the present-aorist system as a parallel, we may assume that the reduplication added a certain aspectual nuance to the semantics of the basic, unreduplicated formation. The conclusion that in pre-PIE times the perfect may have had both reduplicated (*Ce-CóC-e) and unreduplicated (*CóC-e) variants is relevant for the prehistory of the Hittite bi-conjugation, especially if we take the Indo-Hittite hypothesis into account. Within this hypothesis, which seems to be getting more and more accepted nowadays, Anatolian is regarded as the first branch to have split off from the mother language, after which the remaining language underwent several innovations before it eventually dispersed into the other IE languages. This means that Proto-Anatolian and “classic” PIE (i.e. the mother language to all IE languages except Anatolian) can be seen as sisters, which both derive from an earlier, “Proto-Indo-Hittite” mother language.

In order to account for the formal mismatch between the “traditional” perfect (*Ce-CóC-e) and the Hittite bi-conjugation (*CóC-e), I therefore propose that the pre-PIE period in which the perfect had both reduplicated and unreduplicated variants (*Ce-CóC-e as well as *CóC-e) must be equated with the Proto-Indo-Hittite layer. We then have to assume that during the development of Proto-Indo-Hittite into Proto-Anatolian the unreduplicated variant of the perfect was generalized, whereas during the development of Proto-

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12This *ue-woid-e was formed possibly not until pre-PIIr. times. However, according to Jasanoff (2003:130), the Lat. perfect vidit ‘I saw’ also reflects the original perfect *ue-woid-/*ue-uid-, with vid- < *wiv- (whereas most scholars assume that Lat. vid- goes back to an original root aorist stem *uid-, cf. LIV 665–6). Whether *ue-woid-e was formed in pre-PIIr. times or was present already in PIE (if Lat. vid- indeed reflects *ui-uid- < *ue-uid-), is irrelevant for the present argument, however: the semantic difference between *ue-woid-e ‘has seen/found’ and *uid-e ‘knows’ clearly indicates that *uid-e was the original form and that *ue-woid-e was a younger, analogical form.

13See the discussion in Frotscher 2012:77–80.


15Although it would be interesting to examine to what extent Hittite reduplicated bi-verbs could reflect original redu-
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Indo-Hittite into “classic” Proto-Indo-European it was the reduplicated variant of the perfect that spread, and in the end affected all perfect formations.\footnote{Except *uóid-e, which had undergone a semantic change from “to be in a state of having seen/perceived” to “to be in a state of knowing”, and therefore had become detached from the verbal root *uīd- ‘to see, to perceive’. It therefore was not regarded as a synchronically derived perfect anymore and did not participate in the generalization of the perfect reduplication.}

If we follow this scenario, we can conclude that, when it comes to reduplication, there is in fact no formal mismatch between the Hittite ḫi-conjugation and the “traditional” perfect: the Hittite unreduplicated formation *CóC-e, *CC-ēr reflects a Proto-Indo-Hittite perfect formation (which in “classic” Proto-Indo-European has only been retained in the paradigm of *uóid-e/*uīd-ēr ‘to know’), which existed next to the reduplicated formation *Ce-CóC-e, *Cé-CC-r (which in “classic” Proto-Indo-European was generalized as the default perfect formation).

4 Mismatch 3: Semantics

The Hittite ḫi-conjugated verbs do not have a specific semantic sphere when compared to the mi-verbs. We find transitive ḫi-verbs (e.g. ḫān-i ‘to draw (liquids)’) as well as intransitive ones (e.g. ḫāt-i ‘to dry up’), some of them denoting an activity (e.g. ḫēkār-i ‘to stab’), some a process (e.g. ḫā(k)-i ‘to die’), and others a state (e.g. ḫēpai-i ‘to be satiated’; cf. Jasanoff 2003:2). The PIE perfect, however, is generally reconstructed as having rather specific semantics, namely as denoting a state that is the result of the completion of an action, e.g. *(le-)lōikʷ-e ‘is absent, is away (because he has left)’. This reconstruction is based on the fact that in the individual daughter languages where the perfect survived, perfects can end up as statives with present tense semantics (which in Greek is the default situation, e.g. λέλοιπε ‘is away’ < *(le-)lōikʷ-e), whereas they also can have undergone a semantic shift in which their resultative aspect has ousted their stative semantics, by which they develop into preterites (e.g. Skt. rireca ‘has left’ < *(le-)lōikʷ-e).

5 Eichner’s explanation of the semantic mismatch

In order to explain this significant mismatch between the ḫi-conjugation and the traditional perfect, Eichner (1975) proposes that the Hittite ḫi-conjugation was created in three consecutive steps, each step causing an influx of a certain group of verbs into the ḫi-conjugation, which in the end causes it to become a semantically heterogeneous category.

5.1 The first and second step

Within Eichner’s scenario, the first step in the creation of the ḫi-conjugation revolves around perfects that have the original, stative meaning. As his main example Eichner uses the Hittite verb šākk-i ‘to know’, which, according to him, derives from the root *se₂h₂g- ‘to search, to follow a trace’ and originally must have meant “ich bin einer Spur nachgegangen und habe in...}
Erfahrung gebracht” (1975:85). Eichner assumes that, in analogy to the mi-conjugation, on the basis of the perfect endings two rows of endings were made, namely a present tense one (consisting of the perfect endings + *-i: *h₂e-i, etc.) and a preterite tense one (consisting of the original perfect endings: *h₂e, etc.). In this way the distinction between šakkhi ‘I know’ and šakhun (< *šakha) ‘I knew’ came into being.

The second step in Eichner’s scenario deals with perfections which already in the mother language had undergone a semantic shift to their resultative aspect and therefore functioned as preriters. In Eichner’s view, these preriters originally had a mi-conjugated counterpart derived from the same verbal root. For instance, the mi-conjugated present *dʰémi ‘I put/am putting’ had two preriters, namely mi-conjugated *dʰé (< *dʰēh₂-m) ‘I put’ and the perfecto-preterite *dʰaíha, which functioned “vielleicht speziell zur Bezeichnung der Konstatierung vergangener Ereignisse” (1975:89), so ‘I have put’. When the functional differentiation between the two preriters was lost, the perfecto-preterite received a new present besides it, which, in analogy to stative perfections like šakkhi < *h₂e-i vs. šakhun < *h₂e, was characterized by the endings *h₂e-i, etc.

Jasano is extremely critical of these two steps. With regard to Eichner’s first step, namely the assumption that original stative perfections received a present in *h₂e-i, etc., besides a preterite in *h₂e, etc., Jasano remarks that “[i]mplicit in Eichner’s account of šakkhi- is the assumption that prior to the addition of the hic et nunc *i, the supposed perfect *[se]-sóh₂g-h₂e meant not only ‘I know’ but also ‘I knew’, and that the introduction of *i served to disambiguate the present and the past readings of the primitive form” (2003:11). According to Jasano, “[t]his assumption can be shown to be incorrect . . . [since] the preterite of the perfect was expressed in late PIE by a securely reconstructible pluperfect, the singular of which was formed by adding the active secondary endings *-m, *-s, *-t to the strong (i.e. normally o-grade) perfect stem . . . [e.g.] Ved. 3 sg. perf. bibháya ‘fears’ : plpf. abibhet ‘feared’; etc.” (ibid.). Jasano states that this system must have been present in the language stage from which Anatolian derives because “one of the early IE languages that retains a reflex of the pluperfect is Hittite itself. The hi-verb wewakk- ‘demand’ (3 sg. pres. wewakki) forms an irregular 3 sg. pret. wewakta in Middle Hittite, suggesting an earlier 3 sg. perf. “*uévók-e(i)” with 3 sg. plpf. “uévók-t, exactly parallel to the Vedic perfect : pluperfect pair bibháya : abibhet” (ibid.). He therefore claims that “even if Eichner’s derivation of pre-Hitt. 1 sg. šákhai from a stative perfect *[se]-sóh₂g-h₂e + i were correct, the corresponding preterite would probably not have been *šákh-ba . . . < *[se]-sóh₂g-h₂e, but *šá(k)i-šu < *[se]-sóh₂g-m” (ibid.).

Jasano’s criticism of Eichner’s account does not hold water, however. First, the Hittite form uévakta, which according to Jasano is “irregular” and therefore must reflect an archaism, is synchronically perfectly normal. Hittite hi-verbs ending in a k do indeed originally show the 3sg. pret. act. ending -şi (e.g. akkišt ‘he died’ (OH)), but in New Hittite texts this ending was replaced by the corresponding mi-ending -tta (e.g. ṣkta ‘he knew’ (NH), šakta ‘he tied’ (NH), ḫamakta ‘he tied’ (NH)). The exact moment of replacement of -şi by -tta cannot be established, since good examples of hi-inflecting verbs ending in k (other than uévakk-) from Middle Hittite texts are lacking. It is therefore perfectly possible that

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17 Nowadays šák-šak- is usually derived from the root *sêkh-, ‘to cut’, but the basic principle remains the same: the stative meaning ‘to know’ apparently was viewed as the result of having completed the action ‘to cut’.

18 The one attestation ag-ga-at ‘he died’ as found in the MH/MS text VBoT 1.24 cannot be used as evidence since
the MH form *ueyakta is a trivial replacement of earlier *ueyakkiiš. There is thus no need to reconstruct it as *ue-woč-t, and *ueyakta cannot therefore be used to claim that the prestige of Anatolian must have had the pluperfect category.

Furthermore, Pooth (2009) has recently, and to my mind convincingly, argued that Proto-Indo-European was a non-tensed language, i.e. a language in which tense was not expressed as a separate category (as in e.g. Mandarin Chinese). In his view, the present/aorist system as it is traditionally reconstructed should be interpreted otherwise. He claims that the primary endings (*-mi, *-si, *-ti, etc.) originally marked progressive aspect (i.e. “ongoing at the time of reference,” cf. Bybee and Dahl 1989:55; Pooth 2009:397), whereas the secondary endings (*-m, *-s, *-t, etc.) marked non-progressive aspect. The semantic distinction between the two sets of ending thus was not one of tense, but rather of aspect.19 According to Pooth, this is the only way in which the non-tensed semantics of the Vedic category injunctive can be explained.20 As a consequence, the category tense as found in all IE languages must have been the result of a grammaticalization that took place in the separate prehistories of (different prestages of) the individual daughter branches. In Anatolian, for instance, the progressive category marked by *-i was reinterpreted as a present/future tense (“ongoing at the time of reference” > “ongoing at the time of speaking”), pushing the non-progressive (without *-i) into the preterite tense. If Pooth’s theory is correct, it would form an extra argument against the assumption that pre-Anatolian must have had pluperfects: the absence of tense in the active category strongly suggests its absence in the perfect category as well.

The implication of these considerations is that the perfect originally was a non-tensed category, and that a form like *[se]-šōgh₂-h₂e originally indeed meant ‘I knew’, ‘I know’ or ‘I will know’ (in all cases as the result of the completion of an action), depending on the context it was used in. It therefore seems perfectly possible to me that when in Anatolian tense was grammaticalized, and in the active the original progressive marker *-i was reinterpreted as a present/future marker, also in the perfect category the *-i was used to mark the present/future tense (*[se]-šōgh₂-h₂e-i > šākhi ‘I know/will know’), whereas the unmarked form was pushed into the function of a preterite (*[se]-šōgh₂-h₂e > *šākha >> šākhun ‘I knew’).

The same then goes for perfects for which the resultative semantics had become the prominent meaning. These originally meant ‘I have completed action X’, ‘I am completing action X’ or ‘I will have completed action X’, depending on the context. With the introduction of tense as a category, the suffix *-i could be attached to convey present/future semantics (e.g. *[h₁e-]-h₁ör-h₂e-i > Hitt. ārhi ‘I arrive, I will arrive’ < *I am completing the action of arriving/I will have completed the action of arriving’), whereas the unmarked form was pushed into the function of a preterite (*[h₁e-]-h₁ör-h₂e > *ārha >> ārhun ‘I arrived’ < *I have completed the action of arriving’).

Within this scenario, both stative perfects and resultative perfects could have undergone

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19Cf. Kloekhorst 2017, where I argue that this system may still be present in some Old Hittite texts.
20Cf. also Kiparsky 2005 for an independent analysis of the Vedic injunctive as a non-tensed category, refuting earlier claims of e.g. Hoffmann 1967.
21Or, rather, *[se]-šōkh₁-h₂e, cf. n. 17.
the grammaticalization of tense at the same time. It therefore becomes unnecessary to assume, as Eichner did, that the creation of present forms of resultative perfects was dependent on the creation of a tense distinction in the stative perfects. This is important, since according to Jasano “the absence of credible word equations linking [Hittite] stative *-hi-verbs to stative perfects [in the other IE languages] is total” (2003:13), and he therefore highly doubts whether enough stative perfects creating a tense distinction between presents in *-h2-e-i and preterites in *-h2-e would have existed so as to trigger the analogical creation of presents in *-h2-e-i besides resultative perfects in *-h2-e as well. Personally, I do not find arguments based on the absence of direct word equations very convincing. For instance, within the group of Hittite nominal diphthong stems (stems ending in -au- and -ai-) there is not a single noun that can be directly equated with nouns from any other IE language. Nevertheless, nobody doubts that this class directly reflects the PIE amphidynamic inflection.\(^2)\) Therefore, the absence of direct word equations of Hittite stative *-hi-verbs with stative perfects from the other IE languages does not preclude deriving this Hittite class from the PIE stative perfect. Be that as it may, within the group of Hittite resultative *-hi-verbs, there are in fact quite a few that can be directly equated with perfects as attested in the other IE languages: Hitt. ārḫun ‘I arrived’ < *h₁ár-h₂-e ~ Skt. āra ‘I have arrived’ < *h₁e-h₁-ār-h₂-e,\(^2^)\) Hitt. ʾšēhḥun ‘I bound’ < *sh₂ōi-h₂-e ~ Skt. śāya ‘he holds bound’ < *śe-sh₂ōi-e (Lubotsky 2011:109); Hitt. ʾispantahḫun ‘I libated, I sacrificed’ < *spōnd-h₂-e ~ OLat. speponti ‘I pledged’ < *spe-spōnd-h₂-e; Hitt. ʾgarāphḫun ‘I devoured’ < *ǵrob₂-h₂-e ~ Skt. jagrābha < *ǵe-ǵrob₂-h₂-e ‘I have seized’; Hitt. ʾyaršḫun ‘I harvested, I wiped’ < *uors-h₂-e ~ Lat. -uorri ‘I swept’ < *[ue]-uors-h₂-e.

All in all, the basic gist of Eichner’s account of the first two steps of the creation of the *-hi-conjugation (which in fact must be viewed as a single step) is fully cogent, especially if we add the recognition that the perfect originally was a non-tensed category.

5.2 Eichner’s third step

The next step in the creation of the Hittite *-hi-conjugation consists, according to Eichner, of the transfer of originally *mi-conjugated verbs to the *-hi-conjugation (1975:96–8). The main reasons why some verbs would undergo such a transfer are, in Eichner’s views, analogical in nature: either some forms of their paradigms were multi-interpretable (e.g. originally *mi-conjugated *tr-né-h₂-m > Hitt. tarnahḫun ‘I let go’, which was reinterpreted as *-hi-conjugated tarna-h₂-mn); or they contained a stem vocalism that matched the vocalism of the *-hi-conjugation (e.g. causative *laŋ₂-ei-o- ‘to make lie down’ > Hitt. lák₁ ‘to knock out (teeth)’; thus also Oettinger 1979:400–1).

Concerning this step, too, Jasanoff is very critical (2003:14–5). With regard to tarnahḫun being reinterpreted as tarna-h₂-mn, Jasanoff states that this “supposed reinterpretation . . . could only have taken place after the specifically Hittite remodeling of the ending *-h2a

\(^{22}\) E.g. nam. lingāi, acc. lingain, gen. linkiša ‘oath’ < *h₂lēŋ₂-a-s, *h₂lēŋ₂-a-m, *h₂lēŋ₂-i-o-s < *h₂lēŋ₂-a-s, cf. Weitenberg 1979.

\(^{23}\) Cf. Kümml 2000:101–5 for the translation of Skt. āra as “bin gelangt” and cf. LIV\(^2\) 238 for this reconstruction. Note that Jasanoff (2003:13) equates Hitt. ār₁ and Skt. ār with Gr. ἀρωρ ‘has arisen, exists’, on the basis of which he states that “the match is purely formal, not semantic.” However, Gr. ἀρωρ reflects *h₂e-ḥ₂-ār-e, and is therefore derived from *h₂e-’to rise’ (LIV\(^2\) 299–300), whereas Hitt. ār₁ and Skt. ār- derive from a different root, namely *h₂e-’to arrive’. 

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to -(h)blyn [whereas] forms like Luv. 3 sg. hallinai ‘hurts’ and the possible Palaic 3 sg. šapawinai ‘purifies’(?) suggest that the hi-conjugation inflection of the type tarna- was a Proto-Anatolian, rather than a purely Hittite, feature” (2003:15). Although this latter part of Jasanoff’s argument may not be decisive,24 I do agree with him that tarna- cannot have been transferred to the hi-conjugation according to the scenario sketched by Eichner: it has in the meantime become clear that the laryngeal in the root *terkH- cannot have been *b₂ (see below for a different view on the prehistory of tarna-; cf. Kloekhorst 2008:845–7).

In the case of verbs that would have been transferred from the mi-conjugation to the hi-conjugation because of their stem vocalism, Jasanoff deems this “incredible” since he “know[s] of no other case in an IE language in which the root vocalism of a morphological class [although Eichner talked about stem vocalism as well, A.K.] was sufficient to trigger a wholesale switch in inflection and stem structure” (2003:14 with n. 29). Yet, such cases do in fact exist. For instance, in the category of Greek nasal presents we see that, for roots ending in *h₂, the outcome is a formation in -vο-/να- < *-νεh₂/-νh₂, whereas for roots ending in *h₁ and *h₃ the expected stems in **-vο-/να- < *-νεh¹/-νh₁ and **-vο-/να- < *-νe₃/-νh₃ have been transferred to the -vο-class (originally consisting of presents formed with the suffix *-νeυ/-νυ-; Rix 1992:210). In other words, when compared with the nasal-infixed verbs to roots in *h₂, the nasal-infixed verbs to roots in *h₁ and *h₃ in Greek have undergone a morphological switch solely on the basis of their stem vocalism. Or take the case of PGerm. *skrīban ‘to write’ (a loanword from Lat. scribere), which originally was a weak verb (cf. ON skrīfār, skrīfāði, skrīfāður), but which in West Germanic was transferred to the first class of strong verbs: MoGerm. schreibt, schrieb, geschrieben, MoDutch schrijft, schreef, geschreven. In Dutch, this analogical development was subsequently extended to a large group of verbs containing the vowel -ij-. Solely on the basis of their root vocalism they were transformed from original weak verbs into strong ones: prijzen ‘to praise’, kwijten ‘to discharge’, wijzen ‘to point (at)’, lijken ‘to seem’, belijden ‘to profess’, etc.25 On the basis of such examples it is clear that Jasanoff’s a priori reluctance to accept a transfer from the mi-conjugation to the hi-conjugation on the basis of root/stem vocalism is unfounded.

Moreover, there are in fact many direct word equations (which otherwise take the lead in Jasanoff’s reasoning) between Hittite hi-verbs and “mi-conjugating” verbs from other IE languages which substantiate Eichner’s claim that stem vocalism was a key factor in transferring originally mi-conjugating verbs to the hi-conjugation.

For instance, the Hittite verb dā- [d/-d- ‘to take’ is generally assumed to derive from the verbal root *deh₂-, which in the other IE languages has the meaning ‘to give’. Although perfects derived from this root exist in Indo-Iranian (Skt. dadaú, GAv. dadā), Greek (δέδοσαι), and Latin (dēdī), it is usually thought that these are secondary creations (cf. LIV 106). It therefore is more attractive to assume a relationship with the root aorist *dēh₃-m as abundantly attested in the IE languages. This would mean that when original 1sg. *dēh₃-m first had yielded *dōʔ-m, it was transferred to the hi-conjugation because of its o-vocalism, yielding *dōʔ-Ha, ultimately giving rise to 1sg. pret. dāhynun and the secondary pres. dāhḫi. Likewise,

24 As pointed out by Jasanoff himself as well (2003:15 n. 31), the interpretation of Luw. hallinai as a nasal-infixed verb is dubious. To my mind, this also holds for the Palaic form he cites. These therefore do not form a sufficient reason to state that the tarna-inflection must have been present in Proto-Anatolian as well.

have semantics like ‘to hit’, ‘to stab’, ‘to dig’ or ‘to grind’, and thus can be viewed as having *malan-Goth.

and zero-grade presents (e.g. *o- seen above as well, this term is used for verbs that show which is generally connected with the verbal root *k¯ank- which would justify an equation with *hengja translate this form as *h¨ı-p¯eh, yielding the Hittite construction was changed into a nominative construction (often intransitive), giving rise to the classical perfect as well for this meaning; for the su-

doing *h¨ıki “to fall over; to be felled’. Because of the etymological connection with the verbal root *kank- ‘to make (something) break’, which would then reflect *h¨ıki ‘to break (intr.)’ (TochA. w¨ah¨at ‘broke (intr.).’). The Hittite meaning ‘to bite’ can therefore be derived from an original causative meaning ‘to make (something) break’, which would justify an equation with *ulo-h¨ı-¨eie/˘o-.

A third group of good word equations exists with the so called mol¨o-present. As we have seen above as well, this term is used for verbs that show e- and zero-grade presents besides e- and zero-grade presents (e.g. *melH- ‘to grind’ with the present formations Lith. m¨al¨i, Goth. malan < *melH- vs. OIr. melid, OCS meljo < *melH- vs. Arm. malem, MW malu < *mlH-). It was pointed out by Stang (1942:40-2) that all verbs belonging to this category have semantics like ‘to hit’, ‘to stab’, ‘to dig’ or ‘to grind’, and thus can be viewed as having an intensive meaning. He therefore proposed that the o-grade presents must be compared

28For scholars who reconstruct the sg. primary thematic ending as *-e, the development of, for instance, sg. *konkiesti to Hitt. k¨anki (virtually from *konkiesti) may seem quite a stretch. Yet, for those who reconstruct this ending as *-e (Watkins 1962:103; Kortlandt 1997:134; Beekes 1995:233), a development from *konkiesti to k¨anki may be easier to imagine. However, since the causative formation *CoC-¨eio- contains three full grades, we may view it as a relatively recent composite. Formally, *CoC-¨eio- looks like a *-io/-io-derivative of a stem *CoCe, which is identical in shape to the original, unreduplicated sg. perfect form. If we paraphrase the perfect form *CoCe as ‘there is a certain state that he has come into’, the causative *CoC-¨eio- may be paraphrased as ‘to make that there is a certain state that he has come into’ (cf. Lubotsky 1980:109 for this meaning; for the suffix -io/-io-, cf. Hitt. iie/a– ‘to do, to make’). It then becomes attractive to assume that originally the form *CoCe could be used in two constructions, namely one with a dative subject, meaning ‘to John there is a certain state that he has come into’, and one with an accompanying ablative/instrumental, meaning ‘there is a certain state that he has come into, caused by John’. We may then further assume that the former construction was changed into a nominative construction (often intransitive), giving rise to the classical perfect as well as Hittite bi-conjugated verbs. The latter would then either have been changed into a construction with the *-io/-io-suffix, yielding the classic causatives of the shape *CoC-¨eio-, or was changed into a transitive nominative construction, yielding the Hittite bi-verbs of the type k¨ank-. If this latter step is correct, the form k¨anki can be seen as directly reflecting *k¨ank-e. See Kortlandt 2010a:375, 377 for a similar derivation of causatives from original perfects. See now also Jasanoff forthcoming for a similar view on the original formations used with a form like *k¨ank-e, but with different chronology and consequences.
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with the Sanskrit intensive formation of the type jangbhati ‘kills violently’ < *gaḏeh-en-gaḏhi < *gaḏhí (o-grade assured by the non-palatalization of the preceding *gaḏ; cf. Hiertsche 1963:157 for a similar view), whereas the e-grade variants reflect the normal athematic present (comparable to Skt. bhati, abhati ‘to kill’ < *gaḏén-ti, *gaḏhi-n-enti). This analysis is clearly superior to other interpretations of the molō-presents since it explains at once both the formal and the semantic characteristics of these verbs.** Within the Hittite ḫi-conjugation, there are several verbs that can be directly equated with molō-presents in other IE languages. It is therefore attractive to interpret these as original dereduplicated intensives that because of the o-grade in their root were transferred to the ḫi-conjugation. Examples are: mantle/*mallow- ‘to grind’ (≈ Lith. malit < *molH- vs. OIr. melid < *melH-) and padde/*padde- ‘to dig’ (≈ Lat. fodiō ‘to dig’, OCS bodq ‘to pierce’ < *θ̣deθ̣b2- vs. Lith. bediū ‘to pierce, to dig’ < *θ̣deθ̣čθ̣b2-), and probably mald./*malde- ‘to recite, to make a vow’ (≈ Lith. maldaū ‘to ask, to implore’, OCS molq ‘to ask, to pray’ < *molḍ- vs. Lith. meldziū ‘to ask, to pray’ < *melḍ̣-). To my mind, the ḫi-conjugated reduplicated imperfective mozilla- ‘to wish, to ask for’ must also go back to an original mi-conjugated intensive, *u-ne-nok-ti (besides unreduplicated *uek-ti > Hitt. yeek-zi ‘to wish, to ask for’).

A transfer from the mi-conjugation to the ḫi-conjugation because of stem vocalism could also explain nasal-infixed verbs like šunna-1 ‘to fill’ and tarna-1 ‘to let (go)’, if these verbal roots had a root-final *b2. They would then show a development of *C-n-ČH-m(i) > *Cnó?-m(i), after which a transfer to *Cnó?-ba(i) took place, ultimately yielding Hitt. šunnabhi, šunnahunu and tarnabhi, tarnabhu. Since the color of the laryngeals in these verbs cannot be independently determined, however, this scenario is merely an option. A similar scenario could also explain the imperfective suffix -šša-/*sš-. If this suffix reflects *sela-2, we may assume that it originally was “mi-conjugated”, *sela-m(i), but that after the coloration of the stem vowel by the adjacent laryngeal to *só?-m(i) it was transferred to the ḫi-conjugation, yielding *só?-ba(i) > ššabhi, ššahunu.

All in all, we may say that Eichner’s third step in explaining the semantic mismatch between the Hittite ḫi-conjugation and the traditional PIE perfect (which actually is the second step, since Eichner’s first and second step in fact form a single development) is supported by a large number of good word equations, and can therefore be judged as fully cogent as well.

5.3 Jasanoff’s explanation of the semantic mismatch

In his 2003 description of the ḫi-e-conjugation theory, Jasanoff is not very explicit about how the semantic mismatches between the Hittite ḫi-conjugation and the traditional per-
fect came about. The fact that Hittite hi-verbs do not have a specific semantic sphere is simply projected back to the PIE h2e-conjugation category that they are thought to reflect. Jasanoff merely remarks that “no special assumptions are made about the original function of the h2e-series” (2003:59 n. 62). Also when it comes to the relationship between the specifically stative-resultative semantics of the traditional PIE perfect and the postulated non-specific semantics of the original h2e-conjugation, Jasanoff is rather vague. In his view, besides h2e-conjugated presents, PIE also knew h2e-conjugated aorists of the shape *bóudh-e, “which properly denoted entry into a state”: *ływê-e ‘lay down’, *bóoudh-e ‘woke up’, *mââgt-e ‘broke’, etc. (2003:168). He then continues as follows: “[t]he formal relationship of a perfect like *bhebhóûdh-e/*bhebhsûdh- to an aorist like *bûûdh-e/*bhêudh- is exactly comparable to that of a present like dhêdheh₁-/*dhêdhh₁- ‘put’ to an aorist like *dheh₁-/*dhhh₁-. The perfect evidently originated within PIE as a kind of h2e-conjugation reduplicated present, characterized by the same endings and the same ablaut pattern as the h2e-conjugation root aorist on which it was derivationally based” (2003:169). One therefore expects that these reduplicated presents would have the same meaning as their corresponding aorists (entry into a state), but then in the present tense, i.e. ‘lies down’, ‘wakes up’, ‘breaks’, etc. However, as Jasanoff himself points out, these forms do not denote entry into a state but rather the state itself: *lwê-ływê-e ‘lies’, *vwê-vóûdhê-e ‘is awake’, *mê-mââgt-e ‘is broken’, etc. (2003:168). In order to account for this unexpected semantic relationship between these aorists and their corresponding presents, Jasanoff plainly states that “[b]y late PIE the synchronic situation had changed; the perfect had evolved into a separate non-eventive category, distinct from mi- and h2e-conjugation presents alike” (2003:169). No account is given of how this would have happened, and no explanation is offered as to why only reduplicated h2e-conjugation presents (= the ancestors of the traditional perfect) would have developed into stative-resultatives, whereas h2e-conjugated root presents (= the ancestors of the Hittite hi-conjugated presents) remained eventive.32 This absence of a specific explanation within Jasanoff’s 2003 book for the semantic difference between the Hittite hi-conjugation and the “traditional” perfect is quite remarkable, especially when taking into account that Jasanoff’s main criticism of Eichner’s perfect theory (Jasanoff 2003:7–15) concerns exactly its semantic side!

In recent years, Jasanoff seems to have become aware of the problems regarding his explanation of the semantics of the traditional perfect, and in a forthcoming article on the question “what happened to the perfect in Hittite?”, he tries to remedy them by adapting his 2003 account. He now assumes that the perfect was not originally a kind of reduplicated present, but rather “a species of reduplicated aorist” (Jasanoff forthcoming; emphasis his). This would mean that beside the original aorist *bóùdh-e ‘woke up’ an “intensive aorist” bhe-bhóûdh-e ‘woke up completely’ existed, which was formally marked by reduplication. Since “any change-of-state aorist implies the possibility of the state continuing into the present,” this latter form would have later on developed the stative meaning ‘has completely woken up and is now awake’. In Jasanoff’s view, the intensive character of the aorist is important, since “[t]he more definitive a change of state in the recent past, the

32Note that within the h2e-conjugation theory both the h2e-conjugation present and the traditional perfect existed side by side in PIE.
greater the pragmatic likelihood of the state continuing in the present." It is for this reason that this semantic development was grammaticalized for all intensive aorists, thus yielding the reduplicated resultative-stative formation that is called the "perfect." Although this is indeed an improvement on his earlier views, it still heavily depends on the postulation of the conjugated aorists like *bhóudb-e, for which there does not seem to be independent evidence.

5.4 Comparing the two explanations for the semantic mismatch

When we compare the ways in which the two theories explain the semantic mismatch between the Hittite hi-conjugation and the "traditional" perfect, we see that Eichner's perfect theory offers an extensive account that can satisfactorily explain all aspects of the mismatch, whereas Jasanoff in his description of the he-conjugation theory offers no clear vision on the origins of the wide semantic ranges that can be found in the hi-conjugation, and provides an explanation for the semantics of the traditional perfect that relies too heavily on the postulation of a category for which there is no independent evidence.

6 Conclusions

After having discussed the three main mismatches between the Hittite hi-conjugation and the "traditional" PIE perfect, we may conclude that all aspects of the Hittite hi-conjugation can in essence be accounted for by the theory that it is derived from the PIE perfect (as most extensively described by Eichner 1975). Only two adjustments to the perfect theory need to be made, namely (1) that the perfect originally (i.e. in Proto-Indo-Hittite times) had both a reduplicated (*Ce-CóC-e) and an unreduplicated form (*CóC-e, cf. *uóid-e); and (2) that it was a non-tensed category. With these extra assumptions, which are supported by independent evidence, all formal and semantic mismatches between the Hittite hi-conjugation and the traditional perfect can be explained.

The most prominent rival account for the origin of the Hittite hi-conjugation, the he-conjugation theory (most extensively described in Jasanoff 2003) turns out to be no match for the perfect theory: it gives no good explanation for the semantic mismatch between the hi-conjugation and the traditional perfect, and, with regard to formal aspects, takes as a starting point a root ablaut scheme that turns out to have been nonexistent.

We may therefore conclude that the perfect theory, with the two adjustments as proposed here, is the perfect theory for explaining the origin of the Hittite hi-conjugation.

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Kortlandt (2010b) endorses the perfect theory as well. He points out that in some Slavic languages original stative verbs (that have the same semantics as reconstructed for the PIE perfect) can develop "into regular imperfectives and subsequently into transitive verbs" (2010:374), and that this offers a model for the semantic side of the development of the PIE perfect into Hittite. He claims that 35 Hittite hi-verbs can in this way be derived from old perfects. Although I find Kortlandt's line of reasoning attractive, I think that he applies his model too enthusiastically. For instance, in my view, mall(a)-'to grind' and padd(a)-'to dig' are on formal grounds better derived from old intensives than from perfects. Likewise, I see dżi- ‘to take' as reflecting an old root aorist instead of going back to a perfect.
Abbreviations


References


