

E/O ABLAUT IN GREEK

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LCNY, March 1969

I. Alternation in compounds (see, e.g., Kurylowicz, Apophonie 48-58; Chantraine, Formation des noms 5).

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|------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. patēr | 'father' |
| homopātōr | 'having same father' |
| 2. phrēn | 'spirit' |
| eúphrōn | 'well-spirited one' |
| 3. klōps | 'thief' |
| bóokleps | 'cattle thief' |
| 4. phōr | 'guide' (cf. phērō 'I guide') |
| phlōks | 'flame' (cf. phlégō 'I burn') |
| 5. epíteks | 'bearer' (cf. téksō 'I will beget') |
| katōbleps | 'antelope' (cf. blépō 'I see') |

II. Formulation of rule.

$$1. \left. \begin{array}{l} e \rightarrow o \\ o \rightarrow e \end{array} \right\}$$

$$2. [\alpha \text{ back}] \rightarrow [\alpha \text{back}] / \left[\begin{array}{l} + \text{vocalic} \\ + \text{mid} \end{array} \right]$$

3. Bracketing: ((patēr)_{Ns})_N patēr
 (((homo)(patēr)_{Ns})_{Ns})_N homopātōr
 ((klop)_{Ns})_N klōps
 (((boo)(klop)_{Ns})_{Ns})_N bóokleps

III. Alternation in the verbal paradigm.

O-grade appears only in perfect and pluperfect active (on e-grade in perfect middle, see section V below). But it is just these forms in which the verb root is extended (by reduplication).

1. léloipa 'I have left' (perfect active)
2. léipō 'I leave' (present)
3. éleipsa 'I left' (first aorist)
4. eleíphthēn 'I was left' (first aorist passive)

5. Bracketing: $((le(leip)_{Vs})_{Vs} a)_{Vs}$ léloipa
 $((leip)_{Vs} \bar{o})_{Vs}$ léipō
 $(e(leip)_{Vs} sa)_{Vs}$ éleipsa
 $(e(leip)_{Vs} thēn)_{Vs}$ eleíphthēn

IV. Vowel quality in deverbal nouns.

O-grade appears in 'thematic' nouns, characterized by suffix -o or -ā (ē) which extends the stem. E-grade appears, for example, in neuter result nouns with suffix -mat or -es.

1. tómos, tomé 'cut' (cf. témnō 'I cut')
2. phlégma 'inflammation' (cf. phlégō 'I burn')
- génos 'race' (cf. genēsomai 'I shall become')

3. Bracketing: $((((tem)_{Vs} o)_{Ns} s)_{Ns})_{Ns}$ tómos
 $((phleg)_{Vs} mat)_{Ns}$ phlégma

It would appear that klōps, phlóks, etc. should be given same bracketing as tómos, etc., namely:

- $((((klep)_{Vs})_{Ns} s)_{Ns})_{Ns}$ klōps

The bracketing of bóokleps, epíteks, therefore, must be:

- $((((boo)((klep)_{Vs})_{Ns} s)_{Ns})_{Ns})_{Ns}$ bóokleps

V. Eupreblomata.

1. E-grade in perfect middle, for example léleimmai 'I have remained' has been reintroduced from an historically earlier zero-grade form *lélimmai. Roots which end in a single sonorant show this expected grade, for example éstalmái 'I have gone' vs. stéllō 'I send'. A similar case can be made for first perfect forms such as pépeika 'I have persuaded' beside o-grade second perfect forms such as pépoitha 'I trust' (cf. peíthō 'I persuade'). In general, if zero-grade forms are replaced, they are replaced by e-grade forms.

2. It is possible that o-grade in some derived verbal forms can be explained by our mechanism. Consider, for example:

phébomai	'I flee'
phobéō	'I terrify'
speúdoō	'I urge on'
spoudázō	'I make haste'

Bracketing: ((pheb)_{Vs}omai)_V
 (((pheb)_{Vs}e)_{Vs}ō)_V

3. If a verb form exhibits o-grade in, say, the present, it exhibits o-grade throughout its paradigm, including the perfect. There would seem to be definite limits on the reciprocating cycle.
4. E/O ablaut in affixes probably requires an alternative treatment. There is an obvious solution for the ablaut of the thematic vowel of the verbal conjugation; it is o before nasal affixes, and e elsewhere.
5. Some lexical exceptions exist. For example pépheuga 'I have fled' for *péphouga. Conversely, the nonreduplicating perfect oída 'I know' has o-grade.