

Dissertation defense

# Dental-aspirate presents in Greek and Indo-European

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## Time and Place:

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Emerson Hall 305, Harvard Yard

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**Abstract:** This dissertation examines the class of Greek presents in  $-\theta\epsilon/o-$  and, by comparison with cognate formations in the other Indo-European daughter languages, attempts to recover the form and function of the dental-aspirate suffix in the protolanguage. The investigation is centered around Greek, because this is the language in which *dh*-presents are most abundantly attested. Chapter 1 reviews the evidence from Greek and demonstrates that Greek verbs bearing this suffix regularly show full grade of the root and are conspicuous for being active but intransitive, especially in the earliest period. Chapter 2 collects and evaluates the scattered evidence for this present type in Indo-Iranian, Italic, Celtic, Armenian and Tocharian. The situation in these languages matches closely that of Greek and in particular confirms that intransitivity was non-trivially associated with presents of this type in the protolanguage. Chapter 3 brings to light new facts about the inflectional properties of *dh*-presents using evidence from Baltic, Slavic and Germanic. These languages suggest that *dh*-presents were athematic in the protolanguage, that they inflected using the  $h_2e$ -conjugation endings and that they showed root ablaut.