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BRIEF NOTES

The Sanskrit passive-stem

Its sign is accented *yá*, added to the root. Since the root was unaccented, its form was the weak one: *bandh, badh-yá-te*. The grammars, in long succession, state that, before added *ya*, the root undergoes changes: thus final *r* becomes *ri*; final *i* becomes *ī*; and so on.

These changes lose the aspect of irregularity, if we consider that the *ya* of the passive, like the *ya* or *īya* of the gerundive, is often dissyllabic, *i-a*, or (with the 'transition-semivowel' or 'disjunctive semivowel') *īya*. Thus *kr-īya-te* becomes *kr-īya-te*; *ci-īya-te* becomes *cīyate*. The *ā*-roots (few in number, but of frequent occurrence) weaken to *ī*: *pā, pīyate*. Thus after the powerful analogy of forms like *pīyate, cīyate*, even roots in *u* show *ū*: *śru, śrūyate*.

To this it may be objected that 'the passive-sign is never resolved into *ia* in the Veda.' So Whitney, *Grammar*, 771g: cf. Edgren, *JAOS* 11, p. iv, Oct. 1878.—'Is the passive *ya* ever resolved into *ia*?' Clearly, in view of the forms like *mriyate, hriyate, dhriyate*, etc., it is no less a begging of the question to answer this question with 'never,' than it is to say that these forms prove that it is so resolved.

Accordingly let us look at the Prākritis and Pāli. (See Pischel's *Prākṛit Gram.*, § 535—; Geiger's *Pāli Gram.*, § 176.) Here are found corresponding forms in abundance which show the formative element *ya* as a true dissyllable: Prākṛit, *gamīadi, gacchīadi, sunīadi, jānīadi, sumarīadi*; Pāli, *sodhīyati (śodh-yate), māriyati, sariyati*, and so on.

The gerundive (it may be added) is simply a verbal adjective. Latin *laudandus* is properly 'laudable,' just as *faciendus* (and *facilis* no less so) is simply 'do-able.' The Sanskrit gerundives 'formed with *ya, tavya, and anīya,*' are better treated all alike as secondary verbal adjectives in *ya* (in the Veda often *i-a*: see Edgren) or *īya*, from different primary verbal substantives: *kār-ya (kār-ia)* from *kāra*; *kartav-ya* from *kartu*; *karaṇ-īya* from *karaṇa*. (Cf. Pischel, § 571; Geiger, § 199.)