

## Re: what is etymology? (linguistics and biology)

---

*Source:* <http://sci.tech--archive.net/Archive/sci.lang/2006-09/msg01112.html>

---

- *From:* "Franz Gnaedinger" <[frgn@xxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:frgn@xxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* 23 Sep 2006 04:13:00 -0700
- 

Life and language, part 1, what is language?  
what is special about human language?  
ideas and insights from 1974/75

Language is the means of getting help, support and understanding from those we depend upon in one way or another --- and every means of getting help, support and understanding may be called language, on whatever level of life it occurs.

What is special about human life? the use of artificial things. What is special about human language? the use of words that name artificial things and make us see a world full of objects: cup, jar, table, floor, wall, window, garden, fence, road, car, pole, flag ... apple, tree, bird, hill, sky, cloud, wind, light, nature, human being, life, body and soul ...

Humans succeeded in building tents, huts and houses, and saw the sky as a giant baldachin, or an overarching vault. If one can form animals in clay, and carve human figurines from wood or stone, one can also name animals and human beings. A statue may be very true to nature and appear most lively, but there will always be something missing when compared with a real human being – what's missing is called life, as if it were a thing of its own. Proportions of a figurine evoke the way organs and members of the living being cooperate, how all elements of life go together, and the word for this cooperation is psyche, soul. Using a band you can tie things together, while the word and joins words, German Bund und (you can find similar words in ancient Greek and in Latin).

Re: what is etymology? (linguistics and biology)

Words are sets, while sentences can be understood as overlapping sets, one of them belonging to the word be. Or sentences can be given as equations, which can then be transformed into more specified objects:

overlapping sets: ball be round  
sentence: The ball is round.  
equation: the ball – is – a round one  
object: the round ball

overlapping sets: ball be rolling  
sentence: The ball rolls.  
equation: the ball – is – a rolling one  
object: the rolling ball

The more things we use, the more specialized our lives become, and the better we have to explain our personal situation before we can hope to get our needs satisfied and our wishes fulfilled. Which is the reason why most of our language describes and explains the world. Nevertheless, all of our language serves needs and wishes.

Regards Franz Gnaedinger [www.seshat.ch](http://www.seshat.ch)

Glossary of the new Magdalenian words, part 47

Some composites:

AC CA ---- an expanse of land with water (ac) sky (ca), possible name of Goebekli Tepe, southeast Anatolia, Urfa region, north of the Syrian Harran plain, 11 600 – 9 500 BP, represented as a lying H, the horizontal bars meaning earth and sky, the small vertical bar meaning rain, falling from the sky and filling the river beds; Latin aqua for water, Indo-European akka for the earth goddess (Pokorny)

CER MAS ---- divine stag (cer) master (mas); may have become Hermaes, messenger of the gods, alter ego of Homer in the Odyssey

CER PIR ---- divine stag (cer) fire (pir), divine

Re: what is etymology? (linguistics and biology)

stag protecting the western horizon where the sun sets, and the eastern horizon where the sun rises from; would have become Cerberos guarding the Underworld with fiery breath

CER AC CLE ---- divine stag (cer) expanse of land with water (ac) judge and protector (cle as lateral association to cre for ruler); would survive in Heracles

SHA CA UR ---- ruler (sha) sky (ca) color (ur); may have become Sseyr, Middle Helladic name of Zeus (Derk Ohlenroth), and English sky. Sky, in Shakespeare's time, meant cloud. Clouds, one may say, rule the heavens. When I pondered this idea last year I saw a big cloud in the shape of the beautiful profile of a bearded Greek god pass my window ...

CA UR MAS DAG ---- sky (ca) color (ur) master (mas) four (dag), ruler of the four (corners of the) heavens; may have become the supreme Persian god Ahura-Mazda

BRA MAN ---- right arm (bra) right hand (man); may have become Brahma who created the world playing his lyra

SHA CA ---- ruler (sha) sky (ca); may have become Hebrew Jahve

ABA BRA ---- father (aba) right arm (bra); may have become Abram, the Lord's right arm, he who carries out the Lord's will

SA RAA ---- downward (sa) ray of light (raa), she on whom falls a ray from the heavens; may have become Sarah

AS RAA ---- upward (as) ray of light (raa); may have become Asherah, the tree of life whose branches, pointing upward, represent heavenly abodes of deities

GHI SHA AC ---- call of a bird (ghi) ruler (sha) sky (ca), supreme ruler of the Guyenne, later of Upper Mesopotamia; may survive in Isaac

SHA AC ---- ruler (sha) expanse of land with

Re: what is etymology? (linguistics and biology)

water (ac), a minor ruler; may have become  
Jacques Jack Ja'aqob Jacob, also sagan  
for the ruler of the province of Judah

AS RAA ) ---- upward (as) ray of light (raa)  
Lord (clicking L); may be the origin of Jacob's  
ladder, the Lord on top of a sun ray, and would  
have become Israel, Jacob's byname

DA PAD ---- away from (da) activity of feet  
(pad); may be the origin of David: delivered  
from the paw of the lion, delivered from the  
paw of the bear, delivered from the hand of  
Goliath ... Consider the increasing size of  
lion, cave bear, and towering warrior in arms.  
David may be an archetypical name, much  
as Arthur from ARC TYR, he who can take it  
up with a cave bear.

Asia Minor may have been the place where  
Magdalenian met Afro-Asiatic, Magdalenian  
itself being an early northern branch of  
Afro-Asiatic.

Glossary of the new Magdalenian words, part 45

EID EIS, DIE SIE, IDE ISE, EDI ESI, IED IES,  
DEI SEI ---- appearances and reality

EID ---- appearances, images; ancient Greek eidōs  
for appearances, idea, notion, concept, imagination,  
sort, kind, essence, state

EIS ---- reality behind all appearances, ideas and  
notions, idea of all ideas; ancient Greek eis for  
the only one

DIE ---- daylight; Latin dies for day

SIE ---- to see, feel, reason, be; Latin siem sum  
for I am, "cogito ergo sum" (Descartes)

IDE ---- idea; ancient Greek idea for appearance,  
form, shape, sort, kind, essence, state

ISE ---- equal, what different appearances,  
notions, ideas and concepts have in common;  
ancient Greek isos for equal

## Re: what is etymology? (linguistics and biology)

EDI ---- pleasure of looking at appearances and images; ancient Greek hedonae for pleasure (hedonism)

ESI ---- meditating; ancient Greek haesychazo for I am quiet, still, have it peaceful (...)

IED ---- following appearances, notions and ideas; Indo-European iet for to strive, aspire

IES ---- trying to find the basic reality behind the ever changing appearances; Indo-European ies for to boil, bubble, well up, foam (Pokorny), appropriate when one considers the steam produced by many a scientific discussion ...

DEI ---- logical order and sequence; \*dein-caps for by turns (Pokorny)

SEI ---- existence of the basic reality behind all the different appearances, notions, ideas and concepts; Latin sei for sic, it is so

### Glossary of the new Magdalenian words, part 44

DIR SIR, RID RIS, IRD IRS, DRI SRI, RDI RSI, IDR ISR ---- how to cope with adversities and calamities

DIR ---- to look out for signs of adversities and calamities, to face them directly when they occur, which may go along with fear, also to speak about them; Latin dirus for announcing calamities, horrible, dirae for signs that announce harm and calamity, directus for direct, perhaps English fear, French dire (pronounced dir) for to speak, talk

comparative form SIR ---- to warn of adversities and calamities, sometimes in vain, as some people seem to be attracted by danger and risk, while others don't care; Cassandra warned the Trojans in vain, the sirens, ancient Greek seiraen Latin Siren, lured many a sailor into doom, while our sirens warn of an imminent danger

inverse RID ---- to laugh, to laugh a danger away, or to encourage each other laughing; Latin ridere

Re: what is etymology? (linguistics and biology)

for to laugh

comparative form RIS ---- to mock and deride;  
Latin risus for laughter and laughing stock

IRD ---- to be angry; Latin iratus for I am angry

comparative form IRS ---- to be very angry; Latin  
irasco for I am angry

inverse DRI ---- being helpless in the case of  
calamities and adversities, getting hard, harsh,  
bitter, sad; ancient Greek drimys for cutting,  
sharp, stringing, astringent, harsh, bitter (...),  
Latin tristis for sad, afflicted, hurting, harsh,  
unfriendly, gloomy, angry, horrible, dangerous,  
earnest, cold, hard

comparative form SRI ---- wishing to get rid of  
adversities and calamities, to eradicate their  
causes; Latin sario for to weed out (etymology  
unclear says my dictionary)

RDI ---- to cope in a rational way with adversities  
and calamities; Latin ratio for reason, rationalis  
for rational

comparative form RSI ---- to even out emotions  
in order to find a reasonable solutiou and to  
cope in a rational way with dangers, adversities  
and calamities; Latin rasilis for smoth(ed)

inverse IDR ---- to cope with adversities and  
calamities on the basis of knowledge; ancient  
Greek idris for knowing, experienced

comparative form ISR ---- to invoke divine  
knowledge and advice in order to cope with  
adversities and calamities; \*isaros for strong,  
sacred