

Re: proof that most etymologies are only fairy-tales

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- *From:* "Peter T. Daniels" <grammatim@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sun, 3 Aug 2008 19:03:18 -0700 (PDT)
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On Aug 3, 9:26 pm, analys...@xxxxxxxxxxxx wrote:

On Aug 3, 6:32 pm, Harlan Messinger

<hmessinger.removet...@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

Duaan Vukoti wrote:

On Aug 3, 6:42 pm, Harlan Messinger
<hmessinger.removet...@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

Duaan Vukoti wrote:

Is there anyone who is able to explain the homonymy of English bear (carry, cause to be born) and bear (omnivorous animal/mammal)? Why and how has it happened?

Because there isn't any reason why it *wouldn't* happen, and both words evolved in unsurprising ways to become, as it happens, homonyms.

And how that "unsurprising way" looked like? Could you be more specific? What bear (carry, cause to be born, bring forth) and bear (animal) have in common?

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Why don't you LOOK THEM UP and find out for yourself if you want to know what they are? If you haven't bothered to look up the details, then you have no basis for disputing them.

Maybe you believe it happened by chance?

Yes.

But what if there is no accidental word-developing within the IE vocabulary?

Who said anything about "accidental word-developing"? What does that even mean?

In French, the words "ou" ("or"), "où" ("where"), "houx" ("holly"), "houe" ("hoe"), and "août" ("August") are all homonyms, derived, respectively, from the non-homonymic words Latin "aut", Latin "ubi", Old High German "hulis", Old High German "houwâ", and Latin "Augustus"..

thats very instructive. Thanks.

But of course I would use something like this to poke holes in the standard PIE model.

I am sure there are no homonyms in any PIE reconstruction – since the

Sheesh, you've never even opened a "dictionary of Indo-European roots" and noticed all the homophonous ones????

neogrammarian principles would prevent two words that sound alike in the parent language from evolving along dfferent paths in the daughter languages.

Very true.

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But nothing prevents them from having taken on different affixes,
surviving with different vowel grades, different accents, etc.