

IE **temp-* ‘stretch’: Semantic Shifts and Caland System

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IE **temp-* ‘stretch’ (*LIV*²:626 “spannen, dehnen”) is one of the extended roots to **ten-* ‘stretch’ (**temp-* < **ten-p-*) and shares with the synonymous root **ten(h₂)-* a well-attested semantic shift, i.e. [stretched out] → [thin, long] → [narrow] (see Greek, Vedic, and Latin). This semantic shift finds plenty of attestations in the IE nominal morphology, see subst. ‘bowstring’, ‘sinew’, ‘temple’, ‘time’, ‘defile’, ‘valley’ and adj. ‘swollen’ (Gk., Lat., Lith., Germ.). Additionally, the following isolated semantic shift is attested for Tocharian: *[get into tension], [stretch (with force)] → [(be) strong], [force] → [can, be able to], [ability].

The aim of this talk is twofold. Firstly, it will be showed that Anatolian can be also added to this dossier, and that it shows, together with Greek and Slavonic, a third semantic shift for **temp-*, namely [stretched out] → [blunt/low] → [stupid]. In particular, a new Greco-Anatolian parallel will be presented which may represent semantically as well as morphologically the missing link between all the branches involved in this shift. Secondly, the hypothesis will be put forward that IE **temp-* may belong to the Caland System - for this root indeed several examples from Greek, Anatolian, Latin, Slavonic and Germanic nominal as well as verbal morphology point to this assumption.