

Doing justice to PGmc. **aiwa-* ‘marriage; law, right’ The connection to Lat. *iūs* ‘law, right’

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If we accept a semantic development ‘life, lifetime’ → ‘eternal’ → ‘that which is eternally valid’ → ‘law’ (Lühr 2000: 188, Casaretto 2004: 201, Wodtko, Irslinger & Schneider 2008: 281 fn. 10), the possibility of an etymological connection between PGmc. **aiwa-/i-/ō(n)-* ‘marriage; law, right’ (cf. OE *ǣ*, *ǣw* ‘law, religion, marriage’, OFris. *ēwe*, *ē* ‘law’, OS *ēo*, *ēu* ‘law’, OHG *ēwa*, *ēa*, *ēo* ‘law, right, will, contract’ and MHG *ēwe*, *ē* ‘marriage, alliance’) and Lat. *iūs* ‘law, right’ is present (Kuhn 1855: 374, de Vaan 2008: 316–317, Kroonen 2013: 16), although rejected by Wodtko, Irslinger & Schneider 2008: 283 fn. 17). We may ultimately derive both legal terms from 1) the acrostic neuter *u*-stem noun PIE **h₂óǵi-u-* ~ **h₂éǵi-u-* ‘life, lifetime’ reflected in Ved. *áyu-* ‘life, lifetime’, Av. *āiiu-* ‘life, span of a lifetime, time’ and the Greek negation *οὐ* ‘not’ (Wodtko, Irslinger & Schneider 2008: 277, 279) and 2) the proterokinetic *u*-stem adjective derived from that, i.e., PIE **h₂éǵi-u-* ~ **h₂ǵi-éǵi-* reflected in, e.g., Ved. *yóh* ‘well-being (gen.sg.)’, the inflections of which have mixed.

Given this etymological connection, the Indo-Iranian forms built on the adjective **h₂éǵi-u-* ~ **h₂ǵi-éǵi-* seem to provide the missing link between the Germanic and the Latin forms. The Germanic forms would thus most probably constitute a reformation of the original *u*-stem to a thematic stem, i.e., PGmc. **aju-* → **aiw-a-* etc. (Casaretto 2004: 200–201), whereas Old Latin forms such as *iouestod* ‘justly’ (> Lat. *iustō*) point in the direction of an *s*-stem Plt. **jow-os* ~ *jow-es-* ‘oath, law’ > OLat. *ious*, Lat. *iūs* ~ *iūr-*) ‘law, right’ built on the zero-grade form of the adjectival *u*-stem, i.e., PIE **h₂ǵi-éǵi-* → **h₂ǵi-éǵi-os* ~ **h₂ǵi-éǵi-es-* (de Vaan 2008: 316). Alternatively, as pointed out by Sihler (1995: 306), both Ved. *yóh* ‘well-being’ and Lat. *iūs* (OLat. *ious*) ‘law, right’ may be regarded as the nom./acc. of a zero-grade-suffix *s*-stem, i.e., PIE **h₂ǵi-éǵi-s* (weak form: **h₂ǵi-éǵi-es-*). Following Sihler’s line of thought, we may wonder, however, why this type of *s*-stem (with archaic **-s* instead of the generalised innovative **-os* in the strong forms), which is standard with set-roots (PIE **kreuǵ₂-s* > Ved. *kraviṣ-*, Gr. *κρέας* ‘flesh, meat’), is found with an anit-“root” like PIE **h₂ǵi-éǵi-* (Sihler 1995: 307–308). Finally, despite its trivialness, we may also wonder why the semantic development to ‘law, right’ de-scribed above has happened only in Germanic and Latin in two derivationally dissimilar formations.

In this paper, I propose a minor modification of the etymologies of both PGmc. **aiwa-* and Lat. *iūs*. I claim that they ultimately hark back to a compounded root noun PIE **h₂ǵi-éǵi-ǵi-s-* ‘which is eternally true’ (i.e., ‘law, right’) consisting of the zero grade of the root **h₁es-* ‘be’ added to the locative of the *u*-stem PIE **h₂óǵi-u-* ~ **h₂éǵi-u-* ‘life, lifetime’. For the secondary meaning of PIE **h₁es-* ‘be’ as ‘be true’, cf. the participles PIE **h₁is-ént-* ~ **h₁is-nt-* > Ved. *sánt-*, Av. *hant-* ‘being, good, true’ and PIE **h₁is-ónt-* → PGmc. **sanþa-* ‘true’ (Pokorny 2005 [1959]: 341). The full-grade form PIE **h₂ǵi-éǵi-ǵi-s-* would yield Plt. **jowis-*, i.e., a form highly prone to being reinterpreted as an *s*-stem of the set-root type (Plt. **jowis-* → **jow-(o)s* ~ **jow-es-* > Lat. *iūs* ~ *iūr-*), cf. PIE **kréuǵ₂-s* ~ **kréuǵ₂-es-* mentioned above, and through a Dybo’s-Law loss of **h₁* (Zair 2006a, 2006b, 2012: 145–146), the zero-grade variant PIE **h₂ǵi-u-h₁s-* could be what has ultimately yielded OLat. *iusa* (in Paul. *Fest.*, p. 92: *iusa iura*) and the derived verbs *dē-ierāre* ‘take an oath’ and *pei-ierāre* ‘swear falsely’ (< **-iusāre*) mentioned by Weiss (2019: 11 fn. 20). In Germanic, the word-internal **ǵi* would disappear (PIE **h₂ǵi-éǵi-ǵi-s-* > pre-Gmc. **h₂ǵi-éǵi-s-*), and the root-final *s* may have been reinterpreted as the nom.sg. case ending (pre-Gmc. **h₂ǵi-éǵi-s-* → **h₂ǵi-éǵi-s*), giving rise to a new standard root noun pre-Gmc. **h₂ǵi-éǵi-* ~ **h₂ǵi-ǵi-*. PGmc. **aiwa-* may thus constitute a thematicisation (Thöny 2013: 94–99, 124–127) – maybe partly influenced by PGmc. **aiwa-* ‘eternity, age’ or **aiþa-* ‘oath’ – of the pre-Gmc. zero-grade variant **h₂ǵi-ǵi-*. This would both be in accordance with the system of predicting the radical ablaut grade of an inherited root noun in Germanic from its phonotactics (Hansen 2014: 39–40, 2016: 176) and phonologically regular, since Hansen (2014: 166–167, 170, 2015: 66–69, 71–72) has demonstrated the likelihood of a development PIE *#h₂iC-* > *#aiC-*.

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