

Historical origins of some features in the Tallic language family

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1 Signum

The signum markers in *Talmit*, a- and i-, were ultimately words meaning 'good' and 'bad' and belonged to the

same marker twice), and i- began to express negation (e.g. *dessena* 'possible', *iḏessena* 'impossible'). The two markers thus became detached from each other. In *Talmit*, however, they just exploded, being applied to all kinds of roots by analogy. So for example, from **plezne* 'hand' were derived: **palezne* 'right hand' (originally probably 'good hand') and *pilezne* 'left hand' (originally probably 'bad hand')¹. A major factor in this development must have been *Talmit*'s very conservative phonology. But although the phonology remained conservative, changes in grammar were very profound.

2 Agglutination of numerals in Talmit

When you are at an airport, 'gate 1', 'gate 2', 'gate 3' (and so on) are perfectly acceptable labels. In *Talmit*, word derivation sometimes functions just like that, by agglutinating a numeral.

In ancient times, the agglutination of **aQ* '1' yielded the singulative and the fusion of a numeral and

3 Development of colour terms in Talmit

5 Affectiveness marking in Kymna

[tentative explanation]

Proto-Tallic had a number of postpositions which were preserved in *Talmit* and further enlarged by compound-

