

PERFECT FORMS OF THE VERB ΛΕΓΩ

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The Greek language records two alternative perfect forms derived from the verb λέγω ‘to gather, select, count, calculate’, secondarily ‘to speak, call’ (ABRAMOWICZÓWNA 1962: 18; LIDDELL, SCOTT 1996: 1033 f.; MONTANARI 2003: 1171 f.). Some of the forms show the onset εἴλ-, while the others λέλ-:

- ind. perf. II act. εἴλοχα (also in compound verbs with the prefix κατ-, συν-) along with the subsequent λέλεχα or λέλεγα;
- ind. perf. med.-pass. εἴλεγμαι (attested in compounds) along with λέλεγμαι.

The forms λέλεχα, λέλεγα and λέλεγμαι, having the post-Homeric meaning ‘to speak, call’, are universally regarded as historically later than the forms εἴλοχα and εἴλεγμαι which preserve the original meaning ‘to gather’. In terms of morphology, both the groups of the perfect forms indicate the perfect reduplication, consisting in the repetition of the onset consonant of the root extended by the vowel *-e-* before the lexical morpheme. The forms λέλεχα, λέλεγα and λέλεγμαι are therefore assumedly derived from the Proto-Greek archetype *λελεγ-, while the alternative forms εἴλοχα and εἴλεγμαι seem to go back to the possible original *hε-hλεγ- (from the previous *σε-σλεγ-) or *Fε-Fλεγ-.

Linguists derive the Greek verb λέγω from the Indo-European root which is commonly reconstructed in the form *leǵ- ‘to gather / sammeln, auflesen’ (POKORNY 1959: 658; RIX 2001: 397). With regard to this, they assume that the forms including the perfect reduplication *λελεγ- represent the regular and expected development, whereas the alternative forms were derived under the influence of the verb λαμβάνω: perfect εἴληφα (FRISK 1962: 77; CHANTRAINE 1974: 625: „analogique de εἴληφα”; ALONI 2004: 216: „pf. εἴλοχα (forma analogica su εἴληφα)”).

The verb λαμβάνω has two alternative perfect forms as well: ind. perf. II act. εἴληφα (in Attic dialect), εἴλᾱφα (in Doric dialect), the subsequent forms: λελάβηκα (Hdt., Epidauros, Tegea), ind. perf. med.-pass. εἴλημμαι (Attic prose, Ar.), but also λέλημμαι (trag.), λέλαμμαι (Hdt., Hp., Ionian). The dialectal forms (e.g. Gk. Hom. ἔλλαβον, Aegin. ληαβών, Attic ληάβετος and εἴληφα) point