THE BALTIC VERBAL ROOTS *lV̆g-, *lV̆ź-

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The present paper attempts to shed additional light on a number of etymologies proposed for various Baltic (and related Slavic) verbal bases of the shape *lV̆g-, *lV̆ź-. These include *leg-, *leź-, *lēg-, *lēź-, together with their ablaut derivatives, and reflect a range of meanings, among them 'lie (down); abate, subside (of weather, emotions); thaw; flat; crawl; fall ill'.

Several earlier approaches present *leź-, *lēź-, with their various semantics, as satəm reflexes of the familiar PIE base *legʰ- (LIV² 398 'sich (hin)legen'),[1] while the forms *leg-, *lēg- with a velar reflex are seen as either centum treatments of the same base or (for Slavic) borrowings from Germanic.[2] Other sources, such as IEW, include the forms under several distinct lemmas,[3] sometimes with overlapping semantics.

In an innovative approach, Merlingen (1978) starts from the semantic rather than the formal side. Noting (100) that in etymological dictionaries "allzu oft erscheint semantisch Gleichartiges zerstreut und Ungleichartiges zusammengestellt," he proceeds to regroup the above forms into semantic nests, together with a "Bedeutungsstammbaum" illustrating the development of various extended meanings (103, and in more detail for our set of roots, 53–56). Each semantic nest is provided with a reconstructed base, all of which are taken to derive from a single source of the shape *lV- with various *Wurzelerweiterungen* and a core meaning of 'unten, niedrig, tief'. Nevertheless, formal issues involving length, tone, and ablaut remain, and suggest that it is worth reviewing the *lV̆g-, *lV̆ź- sets, while keeping in mind the "branchings of meaning" (*Bedeutungsverzweigungen*) proposed by Merlingen.

Perhaps the most straightforward of the above sets are the reflexes of the PIE base *legʰ- 'lie (down)', which show a short root vowel in various ablaut grades. The root has centum as well as satəm reflexes in Baltic.[4] A satəm

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[1] Thus PKEŽ III: 70–72, s.v. *līse*.

[2] Thus Vaillant 1966: 146, 182. For a summary and review of the literature, see Toporov 1990: 110–14, s.v. *lasinna*.

[3] For example, IEW 658: *legh-* 'sich legen'; 660: *lēgh-*, *ləgh-* 'am Boden kriechen, niedrig'; 667: *leig-* 'dürftig, Elend; Krankheit, schlechtes Ergehen'; 959–60: **(s)lēg-, *(s)lag-, *(s)leg-* 'schlaff, matt sein'.

[4] An explanation for the well-known fact of centum reflexes in Balto-Slavic may perhaps be found in Kortlandt's hypothesis (2018: 219–31) of an Indo-European substratum–on chronological grounds presumably a centum language–in Baltic and Slavic.

reflex (pointing to *leǵʰ-) with e-grade is weakly attested in Baltic, the East Baltic inherited verb having been replaced by *gul-: Lith. gul̃ti/gulė́ti, Latv. gul̃t/gulêt 'lie down, lie (in bed)'. We apparently have just the LKŽ entry (iš-)lèžti, leñža,[5] lė̃žo 'lie withered, wilted' and Latv. lež(ņ)a 'eine Person, die immer zu liegen liebt, die Schlafmütze' (ME II 455). An o-grade intensive is found in Lith. (iš-, pa-)lažóti 'be bowed down/lodged (of crops)' (PKEŽ III 45), pālažas (i.a.) 'place where grain has been flattened' (LED 678).

Reflecting a lengthened grade derivative with the same semantics is Lith. ložė̃ '(a place with) lodged crops'; the vocalic lengthening here follows the model of žãlias 'green' : žolė̃ 'grass'. In turn, ložė̃ serves as the model for the long vowel of ložė́ti 'be bowed down/lodged (of crops)'. Old Prussian also shows an expected o-grade in its causative lasinna [lazina] 'place, lay, 3 sg.', lassīnnuns ast 'has placed'. While occasionally treated as a remodelled borrowing from Polish łożyć (thus Smoczyński 2005: 218; see Schmid 1958: 221 for history), Mažiulis (PKEŽ III 45), following Schmid (1958: 223), notes that there is no reason to consider it a Slavicism, since the base exists in the native OPr. lasto 'bed' (*laź-tā), a formation parallel to sosto 'bench', Lith. sóstas 'seat': *sēd-. Baltic *laź- is also found in Latv. laža (*laź-i̯ā) 'die Schlafbank, die Bettstelle, das Lager; Lagerung' (ME II 433).

While the centum treatment of *legʰ- is in fact the only reflex found in Slavic (OCS lešti, lęgǫ 'lie down'; causative ložiti, ložǫ 'place, put down'), it is, like *lež-/laź-, weakly represented in Baltic,[6] which (as noted above) has replaced PIE *legʰ- with an innovative *gul-. Here we find Latv. lagaža/lagača 'das Lager, Bett' (ME II 399) and its diminutive lagažiņa 'кровать, постель', the latter Būga's suggested addition (Būga RR I 454) to the entry *logъ in Berneker's Slavic etymological dictionary (Berneker 1908–13). Matching Slavic **logъ, which includes meanings such as 'ravine, gully; lair, den' (Derksen 2008: 283), Karulis (1992 II 12–13, s.v. palags) proposes a Latvian base *lags 'sleeping place, depression', found in topographic names such as Ladzes, Ladzes pļava, Lagasts, Lagates purvs, Lagažas/Lagažu purvs. Karulis (loc. cit.) would add Latv. palags 'bedsheet' here, but the latter is generally held to be a Slavic borrowing (LED 652, s.v. lagamìnas).[7] Smoczyński (LED 652) also finds the Baltic o-grade *lag- in Lith. lagamìnas '(travelling) chest, trunk, suitcase; (Žem.) 'linen, clothes, one's things (put in a suitcase or thrown on a pile)', ultimately from a participial form *lagamas 'put, put into' to an unattested *lagoti, *laga

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[6] According to Skardžius (RR IV: 688), the centum variant is not found at all in Baltic, just the satəm forms.
[7] Schmid (1958: 227), however, considers Latv. palags to be native.

'go to bed'. Lith. *logà* (~ *lóga*: Kurschat 1876: 269) 'things laid in one place; heap; turn, order, sequence' and Latv. *lãga* (*lãgs*) 'layer; order, sequence' would then represent a lengthened grade of this *lag*- (LED 720–21). Būga (Būga RR I 450), in his additions to the entry *lagoda* in Berneker 1908–13, notes the corresponding verb Lith. *logóti* 'складывать', with the example *Jýnai logója kraĩtį, t. y. kráuna į̃ víeną logą* 'она приводит в порядок своё приданое'.

We now move on to the centum and satəm bases with a long root vowel: *lēź*-, *lēg*-, together with their ablaut alternations. These have occasionally been treated as lengthened grade variants of the corresponding short-vowel bases *leź*-, *leg*-, ultimately to PIE *legʰ*-; Pokorny directly asks "Ist *lēǵh*- eine Variante von *legh*- 'liegen'?" (IEW 660, s.v. 2. *lēǵh*-). According to Vaillant (1966: 145–46), for example, Slavic *lězti*, *lěze*- 'crawl, climb' and OPr. *līse* (*lēź*-) 'crawls' reflect PIE *legʰ*-, with vowel length from an unattested perfect. He adduces as analogous formations Slavic *pad*-, *sēd*-, *ēd*- together with the Lithuanian acute bases *áug*-, *jùng*-, *úod*-, *skíed*-, *bė́g*- (79). But as we now know, the acuted length in these cases results from the operation of Winter's Law. This removes the purported parallels to *lēź*-, where the long vowel now appears to be unmotivated. Unless we wish to invoke an arbitrary lengthened grade here,[8] the only alternative is to establish a distinct etymon, following LIV² 400 *leh₁ǵʰ*- (thus Derksen 2008: 276 and LED 683, s.v. *lẽkštas*). Among the East Baltic cognates here are Latv. *lēzêt, -ẽju* 'langsam, lauernd gehen' (ME II 464); Latv. *lê̦z(e̦)ns* 'flach, eben, nicht steil' (ME II 465), *lê̦ze̦ns²* 'niedrig' (EH I 740); and Lith. *lẽkšnas/lẽkštas* (< *lēž-tas*) 'level, flat'.

Formally–but not semantically–matching Slavic *lězti* 'crawl' and its East Baltic cognates is Lithuanian *lė̃žti* (variant *lė́žti*), *lẽžta*[9] (i.e., intransitive/inchoative *lēž-st-a*)*, lẽžo,* glossed by LED (692) as 'subside, ...; let up (of frost); and [with preverb *at*-] ease, abate, subside'. Smoczyński leaves the word without an etymology, but finds "some merit" in a recent proposal by Elwira Kaczyńska (2013 and 2016: 14), who argues that Lith. *lė̃žti* in the meaning 'thaw', with the satəm reflex of a palatovelar, supports a PIE root *leǵ*- 'to trickle, drop, drip, leak, melt etc.'. Kaczyńska's palatovelar base then replace Pokorny's lemma *leg*- 'tröpfeln, sickern, zergehen' (IEW: 657) and point to *leǵ*- alone for the LIV² doublet *leg*-/*leǵ*- 'löst sich auf, schmilzt' <*'zerfließt' (397). In this approach, the core meaning of the Lithuanian verb is taken to be "thaw," deriving from the semantics of "drip, dissolve, melt," for which there is apparently evidence in Celtic and Germanic.

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[8] Thus PKEŽ III: 70–72, s.v. *līse*; and ESSJa 15: 36–37, s.v. *lězti*.

[9] Assuming the primacy of *lė́žti*, with acute vocalism, possibly *métatonie douce* of a -*sta* present (on which see Derksen 1996: 166–68 and Derksen 2011).

But a look at the full semantic nest of *lė̃žti/lė́žti*, where "thaw" represents a peripheral meaning,[10] suggests a different solution. If we turn to the LKŽ, we find *lė̃žti* glossed as 'tilti, rimti [moderate, let up, calm down]', illustrated by Juškevič's *Šaltis lėžta (mažėja)* 'the cold is letting up/abating/subsiding'; *atlė̃žti* 'atsileisti, nurimti, atlyžti [weaken, calm down, die away, thaw]'. The same range of meanings is found in the zero grade formation (LED 692) *(at) lýžti* 'abate, subside (of anger), calm down; . . ., let up (of cold weather, rain); become softened' (glosses adapted from LED). Note further NSB (I 51): *atlýžti, -ta* 'nachlassen, verrauchen (vom Zorn), milder werden'. The simplex *lýžti* is glossed in the LKŽ as (1) 'silpnėti, atsileisti (apie pyktį) [abate, subside (of anger)]', (2) 'mažėti, liautis (apie šaltį) [subside, cease (of cold weather)]', (3) 'netekti noro, pamėgimo (ką daryti) [lose the desire to do something, lose interest in]'. Reflecting similar semantics is the deverbal *ãtlyža* (LKŽ) 'šalčio kritimas, atodrėkis [subsiding of cold weather, thaw]', with the illustration *Lauke jau ãtlyža*, t. y. šaltis atsileidžia [the cold is letting up].

Now our satəm *lė̃žti, lýžti* has a centum-reflex counterpart in a set represented in LED (680) under *ᵒlė́gti*, with the same range of meanings: *atlė́gti, -lė́gsta, -lė́go* 'let up, ease (of cold weather, pain)', with the illustrative footnote *Šaltis jau lė́gsta, t.y. lȳžta, atsileidžia* 'The frost abates'; 'abate, cool (of desire, enthusiasm)', with a derivative *atlėgà* 'thaw'. Compare NSB (I 51) *atlė́gti, -sta*, 'ablassen, nachlassen': *Spėigas atlė́go* 'der Frost hat nachgelassen'. Paralleling the above lengthened zero-grade derivative in (satəm) *atlýžti*, we have the centum analog *atlýgti, -lýgsta, -lýgo* 'become warmer (of weather)', together with its nominal derivatives *atlygà* 'spring thaw', *ãtlaiga* or *atlaigà* 'thaw'. Under the headword *ᵒlė́gti* Smoczyński (SEJL: 640; LED: 680) does not repeat the suggestion (found under *lė̃žti*) of a connection with the satəm forms, but tentatively suggests that **lėg-* is a reflex of PIE **(s)leh₁g-* 'stand still, come to an end', LIV² 565 **sleh₁g-/*sleh₁ǵ-* 'ans Ende kommen' (which does not mention *lė́gti*) = IEW 959 **(s)lēg-, (s)ləg-, (s)leg-* 'schlaff, matt sein (aus 'loslassen')'. Assuming Kaczyńska's proposal for *lė̃žti*, we would be dealing here with two distinct roots, *lė̃žti* (< PIE **leǵ-*, following Kaczyńska) and *lė́gti* (< PIE **(s)leh₁g-*, following Smoczyński) that remarkably happen to share the same ablaut grades and the same semantics.

The above glosses suggest that the core meaning for the entire formally and semantically related set *lė̃žti, lýžti; lė́gti, lýgti* is "abate, subside, slacken, weaken" (of weather, emotions), with "thaw" a peripheral meaning derived from "subside (of cold weather)." Kaczyńska has seemingly elevated

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[10] The usual root for 'thaw, melt' in Lithuanian is *tir̃p-*, in Latvian *kus-*.

a peripheral meaning of the set *lễžti/léžti* (= *légti*) to a core meaning and assigned it to a lemma (IEW 657 **leg-*) with a different semantic range ("drip, ooze, flow out"), an approach which Jēgers (1966: 9) cautions against: "Außerdem haben die Etymologen ein baltisches Wort in der Regel nur in derjenigen Bedeutung herangezogen, die den Bedeutungen der zu vergleichenden Wörter anderer Sprachen am besten entsprach ..." In sum, if we are to maintain a formal and semantic connection between *lễžti/léžti* and *légti,* with the **lêž-* set representing a satəm doublet of the centum **lég-* set, it follows that both should be assigned to PIE **(s)leh₁g-*, as Smoczyński had suggested for *légti.*

Introducing another complication, the LED lemma *°légti* (680) also includes a *palégti, -légstu, -légau* 'take to one's bed because of illness, fall ill', together with a zero-grade **lig-* of *ligà* 'illness' and a "new *e*-grade" derivative *líegti* 'be bedridden, be confined to bed'. Interestingly, while the nominal derivatives *pãlėgis, palėgỹs, paligỹs* 'confinement to bed' are found in Kurschat 1883: 290, the accompanying verbs are missing. And while the LKŽ does record both *palégti* and *nulégti*, citing Fraenkel LEW, it directs us to *palíegti* and *nulíegti* (headword *líegti*) respectively (see also ALEW, s.v. *ligà*, which characterizes the LKŽ forms with *-lég-* as 'ohne aussagekräftige Belege'). Moreover, among Kurschat's nominal forms, the LKŽ records only *paligỹs* (there is no **palég-*), with the note "see *paliegis*," under which we find *pãliegis, paliegỹs* 'sunki, neišgydoma liga, ilgas sirgimas [severe, incurable disease; lengthy illness]'. Similarly, NSB II 234 records a *nulégti,* which refers us to *nulíegti* '(ganz) erschöpft, müde werden, ermatten' and a *palégti* (III 453), which sends us to *palíegti* 'schwächlich, kränklich werden'*,* but lacks a headword **légti*; there is only *líegti -gstu, -gau* 'schwer krank sein, siechen' (II 31).

The primacy of *lieg-* over *lég-* in the above account casts doubt on the legitimacy of the latter in the sense of 'fall ill', while (as we have seen) *lég-* in the sense of 'abate, subside' is part of a distinct semantic nest which includes *(at)lễžti, (at)lýžti*. In fact, it seems to have escaped scholarly attention that as early as 1930 Kazimieras Būga had identified *°lég-* 'fall ill' as a non-existent form represented in Kurschat's dictionary (1883: 290) as *pãlégis, palégỹs* (Būga RR I 596–97; II 187–88 and 711, in a list of corrupted Lithuanian forms which have appeared in the literature). Kurschat had set off the lemma in square brackets, indicating that he could not guarantee its authenticity. The source of the form, according to Būga, was Mielcke's 1800 revision and substantial expansion of Philipp Ruhig's 1747 dictionary. In Mielcke (repeating entries from Ruhig), we find (I 150–51, s.v. *liggà* 'die Krankheit') *pálégis* 'die

Bettläg[e]rigkeit, lange Krankheit'[11] and a participial form *nulėgęs* (II 336, s.v. *matt*), suggesting a verb *nulėgti*, which happens not to be recorded. Būga notes that Mielcke's *pálėgis* should be transcribed as *pãliegis* and goes on to give several examples of the actually attested *ᵒlíeg-*.

The forms *pálėgis, nulėgęs* of Ruhig and Mielcke in turn reflect a dialectal confusion of *ė / ie* and the parallel back-vowel set *o / uo* occasionally found among writers of East-Prussian Lithuania Minor, with *ė* usually replacing *ie* and *o* for *uo*.[12] Note the following (among many such examples) in Mielcke (I): *Dėweris* (51) 'des Mannes Bruder' for *dieveris*, *Lėpa* (149) 'eine Linde' for *liepa, Lėtuwa* (150) 'Littauen' for *Lietuva, Snėgas* (251) 'der Schnee' for *sniegas*; both *Oßwis* (186) 'der Schwieger-Vater' and (listed separately) *Ůßwis* (308) = *uošvis, Ůda* (305) 'die Haut' for *oda, Ůras* (307) 'das Wetter' for *oras, Ůžot* (309) 'lieber' for *užuot*. Exceptionally, historical *ie* is preserved as such in *Giedmi* (75) 'ich singe', *Diewas* (50) 'Gott', *źiema* (340) 'der Winter' and a few others.

The noun *Palēgis* [i.e., *palėgis*], -*io* 'Bettlägerigkeit, lange Krankheit' is also found in Nesselmann's German-Lithuanian dictionary (1851: 276), which, like Mielcke, lacks the corresponding verbs. Nesselmann's form may in fact conceal a "*paliegis*," since (following the Tilsit dialect), he explicitly replaces *ie* with *ė* (p. x): "... so habe ich alle dorther . . . auf die in Preußisch-Littauen übliche Orthographie reducirt. In dieſer letzteren habe ich mir nur eine Ausmerzung erlaub[t], nämlich die Verbindung ie für den Laut, der ſonſt und gewiß beſſer durch ẽ [i.e., <ė>] ausgedrückt wird ...; da die Verbindung ie zur Bezeichnung dieſes Lautes ganz unnatürlich iſt, außerdem aber auch beide Schreibarten in gedruckten Büchern wie in Handſchriften ſehr häufig vertauſcht werden (man ſchreibt ebenſo oft Dẽw's wie Diew's u. ſ. w.), ſo habe ich durchaus nur ẽ geſchrieben."

Būga (RR II 187–88) faults Leskien for propagating the corrupted (actually dialectal) *palėgis* through his influential *Die Bildung der Nomina im Litauischen* (1891: 288, where we find reference to both Kurschat and Mielcke). The form has since become established in a number of etymological dictionaries, among them IEW 658–59, Berneker 1908–13: 708, Bender 1921: 181, Lehmann 1986: 233, and Fraenkel LEW 350–51, s.v. *(pa)lėgti*. The verbal roots *palėg-, nulėg-* were presumably backformed along the way from *palėgis;* as noted above, they do not appear in Mielcke (except for the

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[11] Note also the proverb, repeated from Ruhig 1747: II 236, "Diewe duok Pávargį, ne Pálėgį" 'God grant [me] poverty, [but] not confinement to bed' (Mielcke II 215, s.v. *Lagerhaftigkeit* [i.e., Bettlägerigkeit]).

[12] Note Kurschat (1870 vii:) "In den mehr westlich liegenden Gegenden, z. B. in der Tilsiter Niederung, gehen die Mischlaute ie und ů ... durchweg in ė und o über." See also Buch 1998: 140, with reference again to the Tilsit dialect.

participle *nulėgęs*), Nesselmann, or Kurschat. And while Fraenkel includes *palėgti, nulėgti* in his etymological dictionary, he does not indicate the source, but it would seem to be NSB's *nu-, pa-légti*, noted above.

From the etymological dictionaries, these forms have at least on one occasion been adduced for linguistic arguments, for example the following apparent exception to Winter's Law (repeated in Kortlandt 2009: 58). Drawing on Fraenkel, Werner Winter (1988: 433, 435, 443) cites *(pa)légti* 'lie (lay) down (433)' and 'put down (443)',[13] *(nu)légti* 'become tired' as counterexamples to his rule that a "Proto-Indo-European sequence of short vowel plus voiced stop was reflected by lengthened vowel plus voiced stop, while short vowel plus aspirate developed into short vowel plus voiced stop" (439). Assuming as cognates Gk. λέχεται 'lies' and OCS *lešti* 'lie down' (both representing PIE *leg^h*–), Winter concludes that Lith. *-légti* "contains an irregular long vowel" (443). But as we have seen, *(pa)légti* is in fact a spurious form.

With *lėg*– in the sense of "fall ill" removed from consideration, there is no longer a compelling reason to follow Smoczyński (LED 680) in maintaining a connection between *líegti* 'fall ill', together with the associated zero-grade doublet *(su)lìgti* (LKŽ) and noun *ligà* 'illness', and the base *lėg*– 'abate, subside'.[14] Remaining more convincing on both semantic and formal grounds is Bezzenberger's original connection (1878: 332) between *ligà* and Gk. λοιγός 'Verderben, Unheil, Untergang, Tod', supplemented by Alb. *lígë* 'calamity, illness', pointing to a PIE *h_3loig*–: Derksen 2015: 283, s.v. *liegti*.[15]

The analysis presented above leads to these conclusions: formal considerations prevent us from trying to reduce all bases of the shape *lV̆g*-, *lV̆ź* to a PIE etymon *leg^h*– 'lie (down)', as has sometimes been attempted in the literature. At least four formally similar bases are at play here: *leg^h*– (Derksen 2008: 270), *$sleh_1g$*– (LIV² 565) = *$(s)lēg$*– (IEW 959), *$leh_1\acute{g}^h$*– (Derksen 2015: 543),

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[13] Assuming that the base is the same as that of *nulégti*, which Winter also cites, the meaning should be 'fall ill', rather than 'lay down, put down'. Winter is undoubtedly relying here on Fraenkel's distinct *palégti* in the unexpectedly transitive meaning 'niederlegen', but this is a borrowing from East-Prussian German and not an inherited form: Senn 1958. That the stem º*lėg*– is otherwise intransitive is clear from the present-tense formant *-st-*, which marks inchoative/intransitive verbs.

[14] Merlingen 1978: 55 suggests that the meaning 'fall ill' developed within Lithuanian from the sense 'abate, subside', but he is relying here on the spurious *nulégti, palégti* in comparison with *légti* 'sich legen (von Frost oder Schmerz)'. Further, he suggests that the set belongs to the same base as Old Irish *lesc* 'piger', Welsh *llesg* 'infirmus, languidus', but these show a short root vowel (ultimately reflecting *leg^h*-) and are thus incompatible with the acuted length of Lith. *líegti*.

[15] The acuted base of *líegti* reflects Winter's Law; on the development of the zero grade of *ligti, ligà*, see Young 2008: 209–10.

h₃loig- (Derksen 2015: 283), showing both satəm and centum treatments in Baltic and Slavic (with centum reflexes more robust in Slavic) and reflecting the following distinct semantic nests: "lie (down) (*leg^h-)," "abate, subside (of weather, emotions), with an extended meaning 'thaw' (*(s)leh₁g-/*(s) leh₁ǵ-)," "crawl, flat (*leh₁ǵ^h-)," "fall ill, illness (*h₃loig-)." Finally, as Būga has indicated, a base of the shape *lėg-* in the sense of "fall ill" is a spurious form which has unfortunately become established in the etymological literature.

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KOPSAVILKUMS

Baltu verbu saknes *lV̆g-, *lV̆ź-

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Rakstā aplūkotas vairākas etimoloģijas, kas piedāvātas dažādām baltu un slāvu valodu saknēm, kuru modelis ir *lV̆g-, *lV̆ź-, ieskaitot *leg-, *leź-, *lēg-, *lēź-, kā arī atvasinājumus no tām. Autors secina, ka formāli apsvērumi neļauj mēģināt apvienot visas šīs formas līdz etimonam *legʰ- 'gulēt', kā tas dažreiz tiek mēģināts literatūrā. Drīzāk, kā reizēm tiek atzīts, nepieciešami četri formāli līdzīgi etimoni. Daži no tiem rāda gan *satəm*, gan *centum* refleksus baltu un slāvu valodās un atspoguļo četras atšķirīgas semantiskās ligzdas: 1) 'gulēt; mazināt'; 2) 'norimt (par laika apstākļiem, emocijām)' ar tālāku nozīmi 'atkusnis'; 3) 'rāpot, plakans'; un 4) 'saslimt, slimība'. Visbeidzot, kā norādījis Kazimiers Būga, (nu-, pa-) lėg- (infinitīvs (nu-, pa-) lė́gti; atvasināts lietvārds palė́gỹs u. c.) ar nozīmi 'nopietni saslimt; smaga slimība' ir bojāta forma, kas diemžēl tagad ir nostiprinājusies valodniecības literatūrā. Šīs formas, kas izsekojamas bijušās Austrumprūsijas 18. un 19. gadsimta lietuviešu–vācu vārdnīcās, būtu jāpārraksta kā citviet apliecinātā líeg-. Forma ar mainītu saknes vokālismu radusies dažu lietuviešu patskaņu sajaukšanas dēļ izloksnēs, kas reiz runātas šajā reģionā.