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LITHUANIAN *žōdis* “WORD”¹

Lithuanian *žōdis* “word, speech, information, language” and the denominative verb *žōstu*, *žōdau*, *žōsti* “to say” are derivatives of the verb *žandū*, *žadaũ*, *žāsti* “to speak”. The same ablaut grade appears in the words *žādas* “speech, voice, promise; consciousness”, *žadū* : *žadēti* “to promise”, *pra-žastis* “attribute”. The Latvian verb *zadināt* “to debate, speak low; ridicule; accuse” is the only cognate that has been cited thus far (Smoczyński 2007, 791, 770; LEW 2, 1283f., 1321f.; ME 4, 679).

But promising external cognates do exist; they are knowable in Greek γηθέω, Doric γᾱθέω “to rejoice, be glad” and Tocharian AB *kātk-* “to rejoice, be glad; give pleasure, make glad”, *kācke* “joy, happiness”, B *katkauña/o* “joy” (Adams 1999, 150, 138; Carling 2009, 109, 111) < **ǵə₂dʰ-sk-*. The Baltic, Greek and Tocharian forms are derivable from **ǵeH₂dʰ-* : **ǵə₂dʰ-* (cf. LIV 184; Adams 1999, l.c.). The semantic difference has an analogy e.g. in Vedic *nāndati* “rejoices, delights, is pleased, is glad”, *ā-nandā-* m. “pleasure, delight, joy” (RV), *nānda-* m. “joy, delight, happiness” (AV) : *nādati* “sounds, thunders, roars, cries” (AV), Old Avestan *nadant-* “crying”, Khotanese *nāyai* “sound” (LIV 448; Cheung 2007, 276f.) – see Buck 1949, 1103f.; Charpentier 1916, 229–231. Cf. also two Czech verbs *jásat* and *výskat*, both meaning “to cry with joy”.

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