

Titel: Categories of conjugational morphemes, [whitfield] 015-0240

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.Professor V. Whitfield opened his talk on a felicitous note occasioned by Meillet's flirtation with the English verb "to love". It was up to us to determine what should be the glossed attitude towards "love" he said, the text of Meillet's discussion on the characteristics of the verb is as follows; A. Meillet, *Linguistique historique et linguistique générale*, p. 100, . The same word can serve both as a noun and as a verb in languages where the role of the word in the sentence is not to be ascertained from its form (morphological form); the English word love has an idea of procedure and demonstrates at the same time that the identity of form does not cause confusion between the category of the noun and that of the verb. The same radical elements form nouns and verbs in languages whose words have complex formation. One and the same Indo-European or Semitic root is a common element to verbal and nominal forms in such cases one may speak of verbal roots because such a root as the Latin *ag-* forms the Latin verb *ago*, likewise such nouns as *actus* or *actio* which evoke the notion of process can be functionally associated by associating them with their (verbal) forms, These roots, however, are neither verbal nor nominal; they form part of the word which indicates the element of meaning common to both the verb and the noun. In this way we can visualise how the same linguistic unit can appear under its nominal and its verbal aspect just as in the case of the words which can be either nouns or verbs. A "verbal root" in the languages which use morphological flexion is capable of being both a noun and a verb just as in the languages which are free of all flexion. naturally this can not be said to have definite consequences for the way in which Indo-European or Semitic roots have been historically constituted but at least it is probable that roots are the remains of words which were capable of being nouns or verbs according to use such as occurs in the case of the English word love or as in many Chinese words