

Proto-Indo-European alignment: reasons for a change

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We will discuss a new reconstruction of PIE alignment and its post-PIE change. Within a first short methodological intro, we will catch the traditional model in circular reasoning. Having identified the methodological pitfalls of the comparative model, several reasons — grounded on internal evidence — will be given for why the nominative-accusative model is of very little typological plausibility for the PIE period. We will then turn to a more promising reconstruction of PIE alignment. We will offer more reasons for why the new model is more plausible. After that, the break-down of the PIE alignment and the storyline of the emergence of the IE nominative-accusative alignment will be described in full. Its ultimate trigger will be identified as the reanalysis of the PIE antipassive construction.

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