(Missing) Adjective Agreement in Various Indo-European Languages

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In many handbooks and introductions to PIE one finds the oversimplifying statement that the adjectives inflected like nouns and, as a rule, agree with the controlling noun in case, number and gender (Meier-Brügger 2010: 322). This scheme is traditionally based on the Graeco-Arian model yet is not even fully adequate for these two branches, as even a short glance in a grammar of e. g. Ancient Greek will exemplify (cf. Schwyzer 1990). Other IE languages already in their oldest layers morpho-syntactically treat their adjectives differently which hints at a dynamic and fast changing system with different conditions and restrictions.

But why is there such a broad variation within Indo-European alone from full inflection for any kind of adjectives over simplified paradigms up to basically no morphology at all? How did these features develop over time? Finally, what does that mean for the reconstruction of PIE and the genesis of adjectives within it? Before being able to answer these questions some important work in collecting the material and presenting the complexity of the situation must be done, compare the following examples:

• The *Gruppenflexion* is one of the key characteristics of the two Tocharian dialects A and B. Within a NP in a "secondary case", the suffix-like case marking must be attached to only one element whereas the other constituents show the endings of the *obliquus*:

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TA ponts-ām kapśiññ-äş all-OBL.SG body-ABL.SG 'from the entire body' (THT 638)
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• In Classical Armenian similarly, there is a difference in agreement whether polysyllabic adjectives stand in front of or follow their head noun. In the first case, the adjectives generally are not inflected for case or number (gender was eradicated completely):

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ClArm čšmarit Astuac-oy vs. Astuac-oy čšmarit-ē true God-ABL.SG God-ABL.SG true-ABL.SG 'from the true God' 'from the true God'
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• In Insular Celtic, adjectives usually follow their head noun. The possibility existed to prefix a double handful of monosyllabic adjectives to their head nouns, thus more or less forming a compound. In this case, the adjectives show no sign of agreement, which they would, if used standing free: OIr *cathr-aig il-i* vs. *il cathr-aig*

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city-NOM.PL many-NOM.PL many city-NOM.PL 'many cities' 'many cities'
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• Albanian shows a special deictic element for adjectives (germ. *Gelenkartikel*), which marks attributivity and expresses agreement; the adjective *per se* shows very limited inflectional morphology. This makes it unique among the Indo-European languages, because similar phenomena on the Balkans (such as in Romanian, cf. *om bun* 'good man' vs. *om-ul cel bun* 'the good man') can be shown to behave differently:

In the presentation itself, I shall present a brief overview over the big and highly understudied diversity in adjectival agreement with the controlling noun in various IE languages. The development in the individual branches over time will be modelled on maps, as well as possible genealogical scenarios in the diversion of PIE shall be shown.

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