VARRO

ON THE LATIN LANGUAGE

BOOKS VIII–X AND FRAGMENTS

Translated by

ROLAND G. KENT

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ON THE LATIN LANGUAGE

BOOKS VIII-X, FRAGMENTS

WITH AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY

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CONTENTS

VARRO

M. TERENTI VARRONIS
DE LINGUA LATINA

LIBER VIII

QUAE DICANTUR CUR NON SIT ANALOGIA LIBER I

I. 1. Quom oratio natura tripertita esset, ut superioribus libris ostendi, cuius prima pars, quemadmodum vocabula rebus essent imposita, secunda, quo pacto de his declinata in discrimina ierint,[1] tertia, ut ea inter se ratione coniuncta sententiam efferant, prima parte exposita de secunda incipiam hinc. Ut propago omnis natura secunda, quod prius illud rectum, unde ea, sic declinata : itaque declinatur in verbis : rectum homo, obliquum hominis, quod declinatum a recto.

§ 1.   [1] *Sciop., for* ierunt.

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§ 1.   [a] That is, bent aside and downward, from the vertical. The Greeks conceived the paradigm of the noun as the upper right quadrant of a circle : the nominative was the vertical radius, and the other cases were radii which ' declined ' to the right, and were therefore called πτώσεις ' fallings,' which the Romans translated literally by *casus*. The *casus rectus* is therefore a contradiction in itself. The Latin verb *de-*

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MARCUS TERENTIUS VARRO'S ON THE LATIN LANGUAGE

BOOK VII ENDS HERE, AND HERE BEGINS

BOOK VIII

ONE BOOK OF ARGUMENTS WHICH ARE ADVANCED AGAINST THE EXISTENCE OF THE PRINCIPLE OF ANALOGY

I. 1. SPEECH is naturally divided into three parts, as I have shown in the previous books : its first part is how names were imposed upon things ; its second, in what way the derivatives of these names have arrived at their differences ; its third, how the words, when united with one another reasoningly, express an idea. Having set forth the first part, I shall from here begin upon the second. As every offshoot is secondary by nature, because that vertical trunk from which it comes is primary, and it is therefore declined *a* : so there is declension in words : *homo* ' man ' is the vertical, *hominis* ' man's ' is the oblique, because it is declined from the vertical.

clinare is used in the meanings ' to decline (a noun),' ' to conjugate (a verb),'' and ' to derive ' in general, as well as ' to bend aside and down ' in a literal physical sense : it therefore offers great difficulties in translating.

VARRO

2. De huiusce⟨modi⟩¹ multiplici natura discrimi‑
num ⟨ca⟩*us*ae² sunt hae, cur et quo et quemadmodum
in loquendo declinata sunt verba. De quibus duo
prima duabus causis percurram breviter, quod et tum,
cum de copia verborum scribam, erit retractandum et
quod de tribus tertium quod est habet suas permultas
ac magnas partes.

II. 3. Declinatio inducta in sermones non solum
Latinos, sed omnium hominum utili et necessaria de
causa : nisi enim ita esset factum, neque di⟨s⟩cere¹
tantum numerum verborum possemus (infinitae enim
sunt naturae in quas ea declinantur) neque quae
didicissemus, ex his, quae inter se rerum cognatio
esset, appareret. At nunc ideo videmus, quod simile
est, quod propagatum : legi ⟨c⟩um ⟨de lego⟩² de‑
clinatum est, duo simul apparent, quodam modo
eadem dici et non eodem tempore factum ; at³ si
verbi gratia alterum horum diceretur Priamus, alterum
*H*ecuba, nullam unitatem adsignificaret, quae ap‑
paret in lego et legi et in Priamus Priamo.

4. Ut in hominibus quaedam sunt agnationes ac¹
gentilitates, sic in verbis : ut enim ab *A*emilio homines
orti *A*emilii ac gentiles, sic ab *A*emilii nomine de‑
clinatae voces in gentilitate nominali : ab eo enim,

§ 2. ¹ *Added by L. Sp.* ² *L. Sp., for* orae.
§ 3. ¹ *Mue., for* dicere ; *cf.* § 5. ² *GS., for* legium *F* ;
cf. declinatum est ab lego *Aug. from B, and last sentence of
this section.* ³ *Mue., for* ut.
§ 4. ¹ *L. Sp., for* ad.

§ 2. ᵃ *Cf.* viii. 9 *in quas.* ᵇ That is, the collective
vocabulary.
§ 3. ᵃ The term ' inflection ' will be convenient oftentimes
to express *declinatio*, including both declension of nouns and
conjugation of verbs.
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2. From the manifold nature of this sort there are these causes of the differences : for what reason, and to what product,[a] and in what way, in speaking, the words are declined. The first two of these I shall pass over briefly, for two reasons : because there will have to be a rehandling of the topics when I write of the stock of words,[b] and because the third of them has numerous and extensive subdivisions of its own.

II. 3. Inflection [a] has been introduced not only into Latin speech, but into the speech of all men, because it is useful and necessary ; for if this system had not developed, we could not learn such a great number of words as we have learned—for the possible forms into which they are inflected are numerically unlimited—nor from those which we should have learned would it be clear what relationship existed between them so far as their meanings were concerned. But as it is, we do see, for the reason that that which is the offshoot bears a similarity to the original : when *legi* ' I have gathered ' is inflected from *lego* ' I gather,' two things are clear at the same time, namely that in some fashion the acts are said to be the same, and yet that their doing did not take place at the same time. But if, for the sake of a word, one of these two related ideas was called *Priamus* and the other *Hecuba*, there would be no indication of the unity of idea which is clear in *lego* and *legi*, and in nominative *Priamus*, dative *Priamo*.

4. As among men there are certain kinships, some through the males, others through the clan, so there are among words. For as from an Aemilius were sprung the men named Aemilius, and the clan-members of the name, so from the name of *Aemilius* were inflected the words in the noun-clan : for from that

quod est impositum recto casu *A*emilius, orta *A*emilii, *A*emilium, *A*emilios, *A*emiliorum et sic reliquae eiusdem quae sunt stirpis.

5. Duo igitur omnino verborum principia, impositio ⟨et declinatio⟩,[1] alterum ut fons, alterum ut rivus. Impositicia nomina esse voluerunt quam paucissima, quo citius ediscere possent, declinata quam plurima, quo facilius omnes quibus ad usum opus esset[2] dicerent.[3]

6. Ad illud genus, quod prius, historia opus est : nisi discendo[1] enim aliter id *non*[2] pervenit ad nos ; ad reliquum genus, quod posterius, ars : ad quam opus est paucis praeceptis quae sunt brevia. Qua enim ratione in uno vocabulo declinare didiceris, in infinito numero nominum uti possis : itaque novis nominibus allatis[3] ⟨in⟩[4] consuetudinem sine dubitatione eorum declinatus statim omnis dicit populus ; etiam novicii servi empti in magna familia cito omnium conservorum ⟨n⟩om⟨i⟩na[5] recto casu accepto in reliquos obliquos declinant.

7. Qui s⟨i⟩[1] non numquam offendunt, non est mirum : et enim ill*i*[2] qui primi nomina imposuerunt rebus fortasse an in quibusdam sint lapsi : voluis⟨se⟩ enim putant⟨ur⟩[3] singularis res notare, ut ex his in multitudine⟨m⟩[4] declinaretur, ab homine homines ;

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§ 5. [1] *Added by L. Sp., V, p.* [2] *Canal, for* essent. [3] *Ed. Veneta, for* dicerentur.

§ 6. [1] *Stephanus, for* descendendo. [2] *For* idum. [3] *For* allatius. [4] *Added by Aug.* [5] *Aug., for* omnes.

§ 7. [1] *Aldus, for* quid. [2] *Aldus, for* illa. [3] *Ellis, for* putant. [4] -dinem *H, for* -dine *F and other codd.*

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§ 7. [a] That is, in the singular.

name which was imposed in the nominative case as *Aemilius* were made *Aemilii, Aemilium, Aemilios, Aemiliorum*, and in this way also all the other words which are of this same line.

5. The origins of words are therefore two in number, and no more : imposition and inflection ; the one is as it were the spring, the other the brook. Men have wished that imposed nouns should be as few as possible, that they might be able to learn them more quickly ; but derivative nouns they have wished to be as numerous as possible, that all might the more easily say those nouns which they needed to use.

6. In connexion with the first class, a historical narrative is necessary, for except by outright learning such words do not reach us ; for the other class, the second, a grammatical treatment is necessary, and for this there is need of a few brief maxims. For the scheme by which you have learned to inflect in the instance of one noun, you can employ in a countless number of nouns : therefore when new nouns have been brought into common use, the whole people at once utters their declined forms without any hesitation. Moreover, those who have freshly become slaves and on purchase become members of a large household, quickly inflect the names of all their fellow-slaves in the oblique cases, provided only they have heard the nominative.

7. If they sometimes make mistakes, it is not astonishing. Even those who first imposed names upon things perhaps made some slips in some instances : for they are supposed to have desired to designate things individually,[a] that from these inflection might be made to indicate plurality, as *homines* ' men ' from *homo* ' man.' They are supposed to have

sic mares liberos voluisse notari, ut ex his feminae declinarentur, ut est ab Terentio Terentia ; sic in recto casu quas imponerent voces, ut illinc essent futurae quo declinarentur : sed haec in omnibus tenere nequisse, quod et una⟨e⟩ et ⟨binae⟩[5] dicuntur scopae, et mas et femina aquila, et recto et obliquo vocabulo vis.

8. Cur haec non tam si⟨n⟩t[1] in culpa quam putant, pleraque solvere non difficile, sed nunc non necesse : non enim qui potuerint adsequi sed qui voluerint, ad hoc quod propositum refert, quod nihilo minus[2] declinari potest ab eo quod imposuerunt[3] scopae scopa-⟨rum⟩,[4] quam si imposuissent scopa, ab eo scopae, sic alia.

III. 9. Causa, inquam, cur eas[1] ab impositis nominibus declinarint, quam ostendi ; sequitur, in quas voluerint[2] declinari aut noluerint, ut generatim ac summatim item informem. Duo enim genera verborum, unum fecundum,[3] quod declinando multas ex se parit disparilis formas, ut est lego legi[4] legam,

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[5] *Mette ;* unae et duae *A. Sp. ;* unae *Mue. ; for* una et.
    § 8. [1] *Aug.,* *with* *B, for* sit. [2] *For* nichilominus.
[3] *For* imposiuerunt. [4] *Reitzenstein, for* scopa.
    § 9. [1] *Laetus, M, for* eam. [2] *Laetus deleted* declinarint *after* voluerint. [3] *Rhol., for* ferundum. [4] *L. Sp., for* legis : *cf.* § 3 *end.*

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[b] The genitive.

desired that male children be designated in such a way that from these the females might be indicated by inflection, as the feminine *Terentia* from the masculine *Terentius*; and that similarly from the names which they set in the nominative case, there might be other forms to which they could arrive by inflection. But they are supposed to have been unable to hold fast to these principles in everything, because the plural form *scopae* denotes either one or two brooms, and *aquila* ' eagle ' denotes both the male and the female, and *vis* ' force ' is used for the nominative and for an oblique case [b] of the word.

8. Why such words are not so much at fault as men think, it is in most instances not hard to explain, but it is not necessary to do so at this time ; for it is not how they have been able to arrive at the words, but how they wished to express themselves, that is of import for the subject which is before us : inasmuch as genitive *scoparum* can be no less easily derived from the plural *scopae* which they did impose on the object as its name, than if they had given it the name *scopa* in the singular, and made the genitive *scopae* from this—and other words likewise.

III. 9. The reason, I say, why they made these inflected forms [a] from the names which they had set upon things, is that which I have shown ; the next point is for me to sketch by classes, but briefly, the forms [a] at which they have wished to arrive by inflection, or have not wished to arrive. For there are two classes of words, one fruitful, which by inflection produces from itself many different forms, as for example *lego* ' I gather,' *legi* ' I have gathered,' *legam* ' I shall

§ 9. [a] Understand *voces* with *eas* and with *quas.*

sic alia, alterum genus sterile, quod ex se parit nihil,[5] ut est et iam[6] vix *cras*[7] magis cur.

10. Quarum rerum usus erat simplex, ⟨simplex⟩[1] ibi etiam vocabuli declinatus, ut in qua domo unus servus, uno servili op*u*st[2] nomine, in qua[3] multi, pluribus. Igitur et in his rebus qu*ae*[4] sunt nomina, quod discrimina vocis plura, propagines plures, et in his rebus quae copulae sunt ac iungunt[5] verba, quod non opus fuit declinari in plura, fere singula sunt : uno enim loro alligare possis vel hominem vel equum vel aliud quod, quicquid est quod cum altero potest colligari. Sic quod dicimus in loquendo " Consul fuit Tullius et Antonius," eodem illo ' et ' omnis binos consules colligere[6] possumus, vel dicam amplius, omnia nomina, atque *a*deo[7] etiam omnia verba, cum fulmentu*m*[8] ex una syllaba illud ' et ' maneat unum. Quare duce natura ⟨factum⟩st,[9] quae imposita essent vocabula rebus, ne ab omnibus his declina*t*us[10] putaremus.[11]

IV. 11. Quorum[1] generum declinationes oriantur, partes orationis sunt duae, ⟨ni⟩si[2] item ut D*i*on in tris diviserimus partes res quae verbis significantur :

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[5] *For* nichil.   [6] *GS., for* etiam.   [7] *L. Sp., for* vixerat; *cf.* vix magis cras *Aug., with B.*

§ 10.   [1] *Added by Sciop.*   [2] servili *L. Sp.,* opust *Sciop., for* seruilio post.   [3] *B, for* quam.   [4] *L. Sp., for* quorum. [5] *Mue., for* iunguntur.   [6] *Aug., for* colligere.   [7] *Sciop., for* ideo.   [8] *Mue., for* fulmen tunc.   [9] *L. Sp., for* si. [10] *Laetus, for* declinandus.   [11] *Fay, for* putarent.

§ 11.   [1] *Laetus, for* quarum.   [2] *Roehrscheidt, for* si.

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[b] The invariable and indeclinable words.

§ 10.   [a] *Cf.* the *Marcipor* ' Marcus' boy,' of earlier times. [b] In 63 B.C. ; the example compliments Cicero, to whom the work is addressed.   [c] That is, we should expect some words to be invariable and uninflected.

gather,' and similarly other words ; and a second class which is barren,[b] which produces nothing from itself, as for example *et* ' and,' *iam* ' now,' *vix* ' hardly,' *cras* ' to-morrow,' *magis* ' more,' *cur* 'why.'

10. In those things whose use was simple, the inflection of the name also was simple ; just as in a house where there is only one slave there is need of only one slave-name,[a] but in a house where there are many slaves there is need of many such names. Therefore also in those things which are names, because the differentiations of the word are several, there are more offshoots, and in those things which are connectives and join words, because there was no need for them to be inflected into several forms, the words generally have but one form : for with one and the same thong you can fasten a man or a horse or anything else, whatever it is, which can be fastened to something else. Thus, for example, we say in our talking, " Tullius *et* ' and ' Antonius were consuls " [b] : with that same *et* we can link together any set of two consuls, or—to put it more strongly—any and all names, and even all words, while all the time that one-syllabled prop-word *et* remains unchanged. Therefore under nature's guidance it has come about that we should not think that there are inflected forms from all these names which have been set upon things.[c]

IV. 11. In the word-classes in which inflections may develop, the parts of speech are two, unless, following Dion,[a] we divide into three divisions the ideas which are indicated by words : one division

§ 11. [a] An Academic philosopher of Alexandria, who headed an embassy to Rome in 56 to seek help against the exiled king Ptolemy Auletes, and was there poisoned by the king's agents.

unam³ quae adsignificat casus,⁴ alteram⁵ quae tempora, tertia⟨m⟩⁶ quae neutrum. De his Aristoteles orationis duas partes esse dicit : vocabula et verba, ut homo et equus, et legit et currit.

12. Utriusque generis, et vocabuli et verbi, quaedam priora, quaedam posteriora ; priora ut homo, scribit, posteriora ut doctus et docte : dicitur enim homo doctus et scribit docte. Haec sequitur locus et tempus, quod neque homo nec scribi⟨t⟩¹ potest sine loco et tempore esse, ita ut magis sit locus homini coniunctus, tempus scriptioni.

13. Cum de his nomen sit primum (prius enim nomen est quam verbum temporale et reliqua posterius quam nomen et verbum), prima igitur nomina : quare de eorum declinatione quam de verborum ante dicam.

V. 14. Nomina declinantur aut in earum rerum discrimina, quarum nomina sunt, ut ab Terentius Terenti⟨a⟩,¹ aut in ea⟨s⟩² res extrinsecus, quarum ea nomina non sunt, ut ab equo equiso. In sua discrimina declinantur aut propter ipsius rei naturam de

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³ *B, for* unum.   ⁴ *Laetus, for* capus.   ⁵ *Laetus, B, for* alterum.   ⁶ *Mue., for* tertia.

§ 12.   ¹ *B, H, Laetus, for* scribi.

§ 14.   ¹ *Reitzenstein, for* Terenti ; *cf.* ix. 55, 59.   ² *V, p, Laetus, for* ea.

ᵇ A division into nouns, verbs, and *convinctiones* went back to Aristotle, according to Quintilian, *Inst. Orat.* i. 4. 18 (*cf.* also Priscian, ii. 54. 5 Keil) ; but more detailed classifications of the parts of speech had also been made before Varro's time.   ᶜ *Rhet.* iii. 2 ; but *cf.* preceding note.

§ 12.   ª That is, grammatically subordinate in the phrase.

§ 13.   ª Since *verbum* means both ' word ' in general, and

which indicates also case, a second which indicates also time, a third which indicates neither.[b] Of these, Aristotle [c] says that there are two parts of speech ; nouns, like *homo* ' man ' and *equus* ' horse,' and verbs, like *legit* ' gathers ' and *currit* ' runs.'

12. Of the two kinds, noun and verb, certain words are primary and certain are secondary [a] : primary like *homo* ' man ' and *scribit* ' writes,' and secondary like *doctus* ' learned ' and *docte* ' learnedly,' for we say *homo doctus* ' a learned man ' and *scribit docte* ' writes learnedly.' These ideas are attended by those of place and time, because neither *homo* nor *scribit* can be asserted without the presupposition of place and of time—yet in such a way that place is more closely associated with the idea of the noun *homo*, and time more closely with the act of writing.

13. Since among these the noun is first—for the noun comes ahead of the verb,[a] and the other words stand later relatively to the noun and the verb—the nouns are accordingly first. Therefore I shall speak of the form-variations [b] of nouns before I take up those of verbs.

V. 14. Nouns are varied in form either to show differences in those things of which they are the names, as the woman's name *Terentia* from the man's name *Terentius*, or to denote those things outside, of which they are not the names, as *equiso* ' stable-boy ' from *equus* ' horse.' To show differences in themselves they are varied in form either on account of the nature of the thing itself about which mention is

' verb ' specifically, Varro here writes *verbum temporale* to avoid any ambiguity. [b] *Declinatio* denotes not only declension, but conjugation of verbs, derivation by prefixes and suffixes, and composition.