Accentuation System of the Verbs with the Suffix *-ėti* in Standard Lithuanian

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In Lithuanian, suffixed verbs can be formed with 9 suffixes: *-uoti, -inti, -(i)oti, -ėti, -auti, -telėti, -inėti, -enti, -yti*. The derivatives with the suffixes *-inėti, -enti* have a fixed stress on the suffix, whereas the derivatives with the suffix *-telėti* are always stressed on the root. The accentuation of the verbs with the remaining 6 suffixes is not settled: cases of both root and suffix accentuation can be found in Standard Lithuanian. The type of accentuation is determined by different morphological and semantic factors: a part of speech of the base word, accentuation paradigm of the base word, metatony, derivational meaning and other factors. The object of this study is the verbs with the suffix *-ėti*, i.e. one of the suffixes showing a variable accentuation pattern, and their accentuation. The main goal of the study is to analyse the reasons behind their variable accentuation and to reveal the accentuation tendencies and the system of their accentuation. The study makes use of the descriptive and comparative methods. The material was collected from the most up-to-date *Dictionaries of Modern Lithuanian Language* ($DŽ_{4,}$ $DŽ_{6e}$). It was also corrected with reference to the resolution of the State Commission of the Lithuanian Language of 2005 on the revision of 3 accentuation norms of the verbs with the suffix *-ėti*. The accentuation types of such verbs in the modern standard language are the following (see Table 1):

Table 1: Accentuation of the Verbs with the suffix *-ėti*

Accentuation type	Number	Percentage
Suffix accentuation	458	88.1
Root accentuation	56	10.8
Double accentuation	6	1.1

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The verbal suffix *-ėti* is the fourth most productive verbal suffix among all verbal suffixes. There are more than 500 verbs with the suffix *-ėti* in Standard Lithuanian. Their accentuation is variable – as shown in Table 1, the majority of such verbs have a stressed suffix, nearly 11% are stressed on the root and 6 verbs show variable accentuation pattern – both root and suffix accentuation variants are approved in the standard language. The accentuation of such verbs is mostly determined by a part of speech of the base word (the verbs with the suffix *-ėti* derived either from nominal words or verbs) and partially the accentuation paradigm of the base word and other morphological and semantic factors.

1. Nominal derivatives with the suffix *-ėti*.

In the Lithuanian language such verbs are formed from adjectives, nouns and numerals. They account for nearly 80% of all the verbs with this suffix used in Standard Lithuanian. The dominant type of accentuation is the suffix type.

1.1. Verbs derived from adjectives. Around 60% of nominal verbs are derived from adjectives. All such verbs with the suffix *-ėti* are stressed on the suffix: *aiškéti* (⇐ *áiškus*), *dažnéti* (⇐ *dãžnas*), *juodéti* (⇐ *júodas*), *silpnéti* (⇐ *silp̃nas*), *švelnéti* (⇐ *švelnùs*) (see Kavaliauskas 2000: 134–135).

1.2. Verbs derived from numerals. There are only two such verbs with the suffix *-ėti* in Lithuanian; they are stressed on the suffix: *dvejéti* (⇐ *dvejì*), *trejéti* (⇐ *trejì*).

1.3. Verbs derived from nouns. The majority of such verbs with the suffix *-ėti* are stressed on the suffix; they are formed from all 4 noun accentuation paradigms: *angléti* (⇐ *ánglas* 1), *bobéti* (⇐ *bóba* 1), *beždžionéti* (⇐ *beždžiõnė* 2), *protéti* (⇐ *prõtas* 2), *daiktéti* (⇐ *dáiktas* 3), *varškéti* (⇐ *varškẽ* 3), *ledéti* (⇐ *lẽdas* 4), *žoléti* (⇐ *žolẽ* 4) (see Kavaliauskas 2000: 136–137). Several verbs derived from nouns do not obey the existing accentuation system – they are stressed on the root in Standard Lithuanian: *áuklėti* (⇐ *áuklė*), *kémpėti* (⇐ *kémpė*), *kérpėti* (⇐ *kérpė*), *pléinėti* (⇐ *pléinės*), *šérpėti* (⇐ *šérpė*). The base nouns of such verbs belong to 1 accentuation paradigm – it is most likely that this morphological factor determines their root accentuation. There used to be more cases of such root accentuation in the Lithuanian language (*kálkėti*, *mólėti*, *sáulėti,* etc); they can also be found in different Lithuanian dialects (see Kavaliauskas 2000: 138–140; Pakerys 2002: 429–430). 3 variants of accentuation of such verbs are recorded in the Normative Dictionaries ($DŽ_{4,}$ $DŽ_{6e}$) (by specifying suffix accentuation type as the principal one): *kauléti* and *káulėti* (⇐ *káulas*), *seiléti* and *séilėti* (⇐ *séilės*), *stembéti* and *stémbėti* (⇐ *stémbas*) (see Kavaliauskas 2000: 140). In 2005 the State Commission of the Lithuanian Language approved a suffix accentuation variant of other 3 verbs derived from nouns, which could previously be stressed on the root only: *įsitéisėti* and *įsiteisėti* (⇐ *téisė*) *máurėti* and *maurėti* (⇐ *mauraĩ, máurus*), *várputėti* and *varputėti* (⇐ *várputis*) (see Kavaliauskas 2005: 121–122). The verbs with the suffix *-ėti* derived from nouns show clear tendencies of narrowing the domain of root accentuation and expanding the domain of suffix accentuation.

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2. Verbal derivatives with the suffix *-ėti*.

There are few such verbs in Standard Lithuanian – they account for approximately 20% of all the verbs with this suffix. Such verbs are stressed either on the root or on the suffix (see Table 2):

Table 2: Accentuation of verbal derivatives with the suffix *–ėti*

Accentuation type	Number	Percentage
Suffix accentuation	57	55.3
Root accentuation	46	44.7

A specific type of accentuation is determined by different semantic, phonetic and morphological factors.

2.1. Root accentuation verbs. The majority of the verbs with the suffix *-ėti* derived from two-syllable verbs are stressed on the root and have an acute accent: *álkėti* (⇐ *álkti*), *griáudėti* (⇐ *griáudė*), *lűžėti* (⇐ *lűžti*), *véngėti* (⇐ *véngti*) (see Kavaliauskas, 2000, 142–146). In some cases, their derivation is characterised by root vowel gradation; nevertheless, the stress on the root and the acute accent are preserved: *áižėti* (⇐ *ìžti*), *bráizgėti* (⇐ *brìzga*), *triáušėti* (⇐ *triùšti*). The verbs with a suffix *-ėti* variant *-dėti*, which also show the tendencies of root vowel gradation, are stressed on the root as well: *érdėti* (⇐ *ìrti*), *skéldėti* (⇐ *skìlti*), *svérdėti* (⇐ *svìrti*). All such verbs have a common derivational meaning: a slow gradual action performed with exertion (see Jakaitienė, 1968, 40). The derivational meaning is combined with the acute accent highlighting it. Hence, a regular acute metatony is characteristic of the derivatives formed from circumflex root verbs (a circumflex of the base word is replaced by an acute accent in the derivative): *álpėti* (⇐ *alpti*), *dáužėti* (⇐ *daũžti*), *léipėti* (⇐ *leĩpti*), *mérdėti* (⇐ *miřti*), *siáutėti* (⇐ *siaũtė*), *űžėti* (⇐ *ũžti*) (see Derksen 1996: 354–356; Jakaitienė 1968: 39; Jakaitienė 1973: 10; Kavaliauskas 2000: 143–144; Pakerys 2002: 410–412; Stundžia 2009: 217).

2.2. Suffix accentuation verbs. More than half (55.3%) of verbal derivatives with the suffix *-ėti* are stressed on the suffix. Such accentuation pattern is determined by semantic, phonetic and morphological factors.

2.2.1. Suffix accentuation of verbs is determined by a weakened principal derivational meaning – they denote an action performed without exertion: *dirbéti* (⇐ *dìrbti*), *klojéti* (⇐ *klójo*), *rūgéti* (⇐ *rűgti*), *slėgéti* (⇐ *slégti*).

2.2.2. The verbs with a diminutive suffix *-ėti*, which are only used in combination with prefixes in the language, constitute a separate group. Such verbs have a peculiar derivational meaning – "to perform an action to a certain minor degree, to carry out what is expressed by a base verb" (Jakaitienė 1973: 9). The prefix (most commonly *pa-*) and suffix of such verbs are usually used as a common derivational means. They are all stressed on the suffix: *pa-jojéti* (⇐ *jójo, pa-jójo*), *pa-kaléti* (⇐ *kálti, pa-kálti*), *pa-lėkéti* (⇐ *lẽkti, pa-lẽkti*), *pa-šokéti* (⇐ *šókti, pa-šókti*).

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2.2.3. Yet another group constitutes of the verbs with a peculiar root phonetic structure (short vowels *a*, *e*, *i*, *u*). They are always stressed on the suffix: *gižéti* (⇐ *gìžti*), *kitéti* (⇐ *kìto*), *saléti* (⇐ *sálti*). The same accentuation pattern applies to the verbs of similar phonetic root structure, which are derived from nominal words: *judréti* (⇐ *judrùs*), *platéti* (⇐ *platùs*), *peléti* (⇐ *pelaĩ*), *stikléti* (⇐ *stìklas*), *trejéti* (⇐ *trejì*) (see Chapter 1).

3. Verbs with a suffix *-ėti* variant *-elėti*.

The dictionaries of modern Lithuanian include only 2 such verbs: *gaĩvelėtis* and *púoselėti*. They have a stress on the root.

4. Conclusions

The accentuation of verbs with the suffix *-ėti* in Standard Lithuanian is not settled. A specific type of accentuation (stress on the root or stress on the suffix) is mostly determined by a part of speech of the base word and various phonetic, morphological, semantic, derivational factors. The majority of such verbs (88.1%) are stressed on the suffix.

The verbs derived from adjectives and numerals are always stressed on the suffix.

The majority of the verbs derived from nouns are stressed on the suffix. Only several verbs derived from the nouns of 1 accentuation paradigm have a stress on the root. The accentuation of 6 verbs derived from nouns is not settled in the language – both types of accentuation are standardised: suffix and root accentuation.

The majority of the cases of root accentuation can be found in the group of the verbal derivates with the suffix *-ėti*. The common derivational meaning is characteristic of such verbs – an action is performed gradually, with exertion. They all have an acute accent on the stressed root (acute metatony is characteristic of the verbs formed from a circumflex root). All the verbs with a suffix *-ėti* variant *-dėti* are stressed on the root. The verbs, which do not carry the meaning of an action performed with exertion, are stressed on the suffix. The stress on the suffix is also characteristic of the verbs, which have a short root vowel. The verbs with a diminutive suffix *-ėti*, which are used only with prefixes in the language, also have a stress on the suffix.

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Abstract

The accentuation of the fourth most productive verbal suffix *-ėti* in Standard Lithuanian is not settled. A specific type of accentuation (stress on the root or stress on the suffix) is determined by various phonetic, morphological, semantic, derivational factors. The majority of the verbs with the suffix *-ėti* have a stress on the suffix. This is the most popular pattern of accentuation of the verbs with the suffix *-ėti*, which are derived from nominal words. The stress on the root is characteristic of the majority of verbal derivatives with the suffix *-ėti*. Root accentuation verbs can be characterised by acute metatony, which originates due to the peculiarities of derivative semantics. There are also verbs in the standard language, which show variable pattern of accentuation – in such a case both variants of accentuation are recorded in dictionaries: stress on the root and stress on the suffix. In consideration of the requirements of systemisation and the tendencies of actual language usage, in 2005 the State Commission of the Lithuanian Language revised the accentuation norms of certain verbs with the suffix *-ėti*.

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