

29.6. Another term for a major social unit is usually seen in OWelsh *treb* 'house, village', OIrish *treb* 'dwelling' (also in OIrish *atrebaim* 'I dwell'); Oscan *trībūm* 'house', Lat. *trab(ē)s* 'beam, rafter'; Lithu. *trobà* 'house', Latv. *trāba* 'house, hut'; OE *þorp*, OHG *dorf* 'village', Goth. *þaurp* 'field'; from a basic **terab-no-* also Gk. τέραμνον, -ρε- 'house'.

But both form and meaning cause serious difficulties. Pedersen assumed an ablaut-variation *rē*: *rā*: *r*³⁹⁶ but today this is no longer acceptable. Pokorny (1959: 1090) posits **trēb-*, **trōb-*, **tr_hb-* (or **trāb-*), **trb-* 'Balkenbau, Gebäude, Wohnung', but IE **trōb-* should have given Lithu. **truoba*, and *trobà* should derive from IE **trāb-*³⁹⁷; further, if ON *þrep* 'Lattenboden' really belongs with this group, it demands IE **treb-* which is again hard to reconcile with the other forms.

The semantic aspect of the comparisons is also perplexing. If the basic meaning was 'Balkenbau'—surely only assumed because of the Latin *trabs*—then it must have been a long way to 'house', and inconceivably long to 'village'³⁹⁸. More precisely, on the strength of meaning we must distinguish two main groups:

(1) 'dwelling' in τέραμνον, *trībūm*, *trobà*;

(2) 'group of people' in Gmc. **þurpa-*.

The latter requires some clarification.

ON *þorp* means 'hamlet, village' but the derivatives *þyrpast* 'to crowd, throng', *þyrping* 'a crowd, throng' show that the original meaning was 'a crowd, throng'. There can be no doubt that the word belongs with Latin *turba* 'crowd'³⁹⁹; they reflect IE **trbā* and **trbo-*. But the same basic form(s) must be the source of Celtic *treb* from **tribā-* or **tribo-*⁴⁰⁰. The ultimate source will be IE **twrbo-/ā-*, an enlargement of **twer-* 'hurry, hasten' seen in Ind. *tvarate* 'hurries', etc. The development from 'hurrying', 'scurrying' to 'crowd, hamlet' is parallel to that seen in **wik-* from 'going, march, gang' to 'clan'. The words, on the other hand, which denote the 'rafter' and 'house' are to be set aside.

³⁹⁶ Pedersen, Vgl. Gram. der keltischen Sprachen I, 1908, 132. Incidentally, Pedersen omits Lat. *trabs*.

³⁹⁷ See Stang, Vgl. Gram. der baltischen Sprachen, 1966, 47; Kuryłowicz 1968: 296.

³⁹⁸ For a recent attempt to reduce all meanings to a basic 'roden' ('to clear land') see Knobloch, ZfPhonetik 17, 1964, 52. For Gmc. **þurpa-* W. Foerste has assumed (see BzN 2, 1967, 214) a basic meaning 'Viehperch' which developed into 'Vorwerk, Aussenhof, Ausbauhof, Einzelhof', and then into 'Siedlung, Dorf'.

³⁹⁹ This view was first advanced by Meringer, IF 18, 1905-06, 218, and has recently been adopted by Molinari, Memorie dell'Istituto Lombardo 28, 1965, 350.

⁴⁰⁰ If Gaulish *Atrebates* is to be added, then its *-treb-* represents *-trib-*, just as *vergobretus* has *-bre-* for *-bri-*, see Lewis-Pedersen, CCCG 4. Cf. also Guyonvarc'h, Ogam 106 (= Celticum XV), 1967, 389-400; Tovar, Études Celtiques XI/2, 1967, 246 f.