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TEINXSSYAMANAΓXS SYASVEVA  
GAMERCANZ. AΨΨANSXEIYACA  
MEKEIΨAHMANVEIHANA. NIHA  
BAIΨFKAAETAIY. AKSKHAAIST  
AIYEINAIZXSFKAYAIKHTAIS-IN  
TEDEΨHNAHMANONHKAINGA  
NAHABAIΨ: GAHUEMIONΨAN  
AIΨEISGAHBKXΨKCHSIS. GAH  
HTASTANANANANAINSANAIAE  
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GAHSETONBIIANAMANAΓEI-UE  
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NAGAHBKXΨKCHSΨEINAI. GAH

# MOSES KATZ : THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PERFECT IN GOTHIC

April 17, 2019

330 Gatton  
College of  
Business

1:00 pm

How did complex tenses like the English perfect - e.g. "I have eaten" - come about? An examination of Gothic reveals how it could have developed from an expression of passive voice.

The Gothic language is the oldest Germanic language with a large corpus. It is unique because it is the only Germanic language to retain a synthetic passive, an inheritance of the

Indo-European middle voice. This synthetic passive, however, has an incomplete paradigm that includes only present-tense forms. To supplement, two periphrastic passives developed. One links the past passive participle with a form of "to be" and the other with a form of "to become."

I show that variation in the way the periphrases are distributed reveals differences in how they

interpret Greek structures. I do this by utilizing a framework that applies change-of-state semantics to certain entities, including past passive participles in Gothic. Within this framework, I show how the compositionality of tense and event-boundedness provide for the emergence of a result-state perfect.

