

As I have said, the place of these varying and relatively unimportant forms may change with the linguistic group of which the radical may be characteristic. They constitute the desinence of the words in the Aryan languages. A few examples will, I think, be of use as a means of illustrating the above propositions. Here are a few words with an identical radical followed by different desinences.

<i>Latin.</i>	<i>Spanish.</i>	<i>Italian.</i>	<i>English.</i>	<i>French.</i>
Lacón-icus	-ico	-ico	-ic	-ique
Confl-ictus	-icto	-itto	-ict	-it
Prodig-iosus	-ioso	-ioso	-ious	-ieux
Declamat-orius	-orio	-orio	-ory	-oire
Ard-or	-or	-ore	-our	-eur
Barbar-ismus	-ismo	-ismo	-ism	-isme
Confus-io	-ion	-ione	-ion	-ion
Atten-tio	-cion	-zione	-tion	-tion
Paral-ysis	-isis	-isia	-ysis	-ysie
Leg-alis	-al	-ale	-al	-al
Sensib-ilis	-le	-ile	-le	-le
Principal-iter	-mente	-mente	-ly	-ement

This list could, of course, be almost indefinitely extended, especially if we were to make it comprise some words the real root part of which is slightly altered in a few dialects as, for instance, *CONstans*: Italian, *COSTante*; *VIRTus*: French, *VERTu*, etc. Here then we have words the initial part of which is identical in all the languages represented, while the desinence varies with the dialect. It is unnecessary to observe that the essence of the word is contained in the former, the rôle of the latter being simply to differentiate the dialect. My reason for associating the English forms with the above will become more apparent when it is remembered that that idiom, though more generally ranked within the Germanic subdivision of the Aryan linguistic group, nevertheless contains an almost complete vocabulary of Italic or Romance words, from among which all the above are selected. Practically, there are as many Latin words with unchanged radical and desinential forms digested, as it were, and assimilated according to the requirements of the peculiar organism of each dialect.

But the radical part of a word is not always so easily discernible. Its place and characteristics may vary according to the linguistic family—not the particular dialect—to which the word belongs. It is the task of the philologist to discover and locate this radical and, in such cases mere superficial studies would naturally prove inadequate to ensure success, inasmuch as it happens that this immutable element has no fixed place in the structure of words of even the same dialect. Thus in