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### VIII.—DRAVIDIAN NEGATION.

In spoken English there is a word, commonly doubled to express disapproval or negation, which we may transcribe *a!* or *ā!* (nasalized), writing *!* in accordance with Sweet's notation to mark glottal stoppage.<sup>1</sup> Early Dravidian seems to have had a similar negative. Kui uses it in *a!e* (no), and as a suffix in verbs. The order of the suffixes, with the negation standing first, shows that the negative-stems are older than the tense-stems. In the imperative the vowel of the negation is kept: *sīdū* (give), neg. *sīa!tū*. Otherwise in the present, where the affirmative and the negative have different sets of endings, the negation is reduced to the consonant *!* after a vowel, and may be lost after a consonant: *sīne* (gives), neg. *sī!e*; *sīte* (gave), neg. *sīa!te*; *sīde* (is not), past *sīda!te*. The first mention of Kui *!* seems to occur in Friend-Pereira's Grammar (Calcutta, 1909); it is ignored in the account of Kui given by the Linguistic Survey of India, vol. 4 (Calcutta, 1906).

In Malto the negative is formed with *l*: *bande* (draw), past *bandah*, neg. past *bandlah*; *mene* (be), neg. present *menolah* or *menomalah*. The future may have either the *l*-suffix combined with personal endings, or *mala* following the affirmative forms. The word *mala* (not) is apparently derived from *\*al!a*, with *m* added from *mene*; the *l*-suffix represents stressless *\*al!a*, a verb with the ancient negation, presumably connected with Brâhui *a-*, *al-*, *ar-* (be).

In Kurukh a few verbs take the negative-suffix *l*, but generally the negative is indicated by a word corresponding to Malto *mala*: *mal* or *malā*, with an evidently older variant *mal!ā*.

The consonant *!* has been lost elsewhere in Dravidian, and the negative-suffix appears as a simple vowel, *\*al!a* being represented by Brâhui *alla-* (was not), Kanara *alla*, Tamil *alla*, and Gôndi *halle* with analogic *h*.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Sweet, Sounds of English, § 138 (Oxford, 1908).

<sup>2</sup> American Journal of Philology, vol. 40, p. 82.