

# Langobard and Anglo-Saxon Place Names: A Comparison

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## Abstract

It is already well known that the Langobards left almost sixty types of place names which are widespread in many regions of the Italian peninsula, e.g. *Aldio*, *Aramo*, *Braida*, *Cafaggio/Gaggio*, *Fara*, *Gagno*, *Péscia*, *Stodigarda*, *Sala*, etc. These names are obviously of Germanic origin. All these place names belong to a very old layer of the Germanic common language and give an important contribution to our knowledge of Langobard culture. The Langobards arrived in Italy in the 6th century and left no written document in their language; we have an idea of the Langobard language only through many Italian place names, a number of family names and many words of Langobard origin, which are well preserved in Italian dialects and in standard Italian. Comparison with other documented Old Germanic languages, such as Anglo-Saxon dialects and particularly with place names of Anglo-Saxon origin, helps to improve the information about the significance and motivation of Langobard place names, which have been well documented in Italy since the 8th century.

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I would like to begin by defining my terms of reference: I shall use throughout the English noun *Langobards* and its corresponding adjective *Langobard*, since *Lombards* and *lombard* are normally used to translate the ethnics *Lombardi* and *lombardo*, terms which nowadays refer to the modern inhabitants of *Lombardia* (Pellegrini *et al.* 1990: 359), the wealthy northern region of Italy which has as its capital the city of Milan. The term *Langobards*, instead, indicates the agglomerate of tribes that descended upon Italy in the 6th century, occupying in time the whole peninsula, which indeed became known as *Langobardia*.

Modern day *Lombards* can no longer be identified with the medieval Germanic population from which they take their name, because they occupy only a small part of what was originally *Langobardia*. What is more, a thousand years have passed, during which existing Langobard elements have been assimilated and metabolized by pre-existing populations and their cultures, leading to considerable changes.

It will be more useful, therefore, to use a terminology that separates the *Langobards* of the Middle Ages from today's *Lombards*, even though, for reasons which this is neither the time or place to go into, they still preserve the ethnic.

Let me just add for good measure that in the late Middle Ages the English *Lombard* signified 'banker', as in the name of *Lombard Street* in the City of London (Room 1992: 103).

The Langobards arrived in Italy in the year 568, together with splinter groups from other ethnic populations. Little by little they spread throughout the whole peninsula, starting in Friuli, then turning south-west and occupying the whole of Northern Italy as far as Turin, Bologna and Genoa. Their occupation of the rest of Italy took two different routes: one along the Adriatic coast, in the course of which they gave rise to the Duchy of Spoleto and the

larger Duchy of Benevento; the other route was along the western, Tyrrhenian coast, and led to the conquest of the whole of Tuscia (the name of the mediaeval Tuscany) almost as far as Rome. Rome itself, and Naples, along with Ravenna, at least for some time, Sicily and Sardinia were untouched by the invading tribes; it is still uncertain whether or not the Langobards ever reached Corsica (Jarnut 1995, Menis 1990, Pohl-Erhard 2005, Ausenda *et al.* 2009).

As far as we know, the Langobards came from western Germany, and belonged to the mix of ethnic groups that occupied central and western Europe, and from which were born the languages and cultures of the English, the Germans, Dutch, Frisian and so on.

According to some experts, the Langobards originated in Scandinavia. What is certain is that around the 1st century AD, they were settled on the banks of the river Elbe, and therefore in proximity to the Angles and the Saxons. They later migrated south, through what is today eastern Germany, Hungary, Austria, sticking close to the so-called southern Germans, in particular the Baiuvari, but bringing with them groups of Saxons and eastern Germans. Eventually they settled in Italy (Jarnut 1982).

Apart from a few words in legal documents drawn up in Latin, the Langobards have left no written records of their language. All the same, they have left significant linguistic and cultural traces, for example, in the language and culture of Italy. Through these, and with cross-reference to other Germanic languages, we are able to reconstruct, at least in part, the Langobard language and culture (Bruckner 1895, Gamillscheg 1935, Sabatini 1963-1964, Arcamone 1994, Morlicchio *et al.* 2000-).

Langobard elements in Italian are found both in the language of everyday speech and in place names. In standard Italian vocabulary there are many words of Langobard origin: the examples that follow have a corresponding form in Modern or Old English: *panca* (G. *Bank*, E. *bench*); *arrostire* (G. *rosten*, E. *roast*), *tana* (G. *Tenne*, E. *den*), *sala* ‘hall, room’ (G. *Saal*, OE *Sele*, Swed. *Sal*), *strisciare* ‘to drag’ (G. *streichen*, E. *to strike*), *palco* ‘stage’ (G. *Balken*, OE *balca*), *aizzare* ‘to instigate’ (G. *hetzen*, *hassen*, OE *hettan*), *lista* ‘strip, list’ (G. *Leiste*, E. *list*), *biacca* ‘ceruse, white lead’ (G. *bleich*, E. *black*, *bleak*), *gualcare* ‘to fill’ (G. *walken*, E. *walk*), etc. (Arcamone 1994, Arcamone 2014: 39-40).

In personal onomastics too, that is, in Italian anthroponymics, a great number of Langobard anthroponyms are found in documents belonging to the Langobard period. Many of these have corresponding forms in the personal names of other Germanic tribes: for example, Lang. *Adelpert* = OE *Æþelþeorht*; Lang. *Arigis* = OE *Heregis*; Lang. *Ansitruda* = OE *Osþryþ*, etc. Many still survive in Italy today as surnames, as in *Aliperti*, *Galderisi*, *Romualdi*, *Rossomandi*, etc. (Arcamone 1985, Arcamone 1985-1986, Arcamone 2014: 40).

The study of Italian place names of Langobard origin can greatly enhance our understanding of not only the language of that population, but also of their cultural, military and political history. A comparison with English toponyms will help us to contextualize and further clarify the linguistic and semantic aspects of these place names, and thus contribute to the scant knowledge of the Langobard language we have already referred to.

Before we proceed to examine the different groups of Italian place names of Langobard origin, let us not forget that in the Langobard language the so-called second sound

shift of both voiced and unvoiced occlusives had taken place, and that there are already traces of the palatal umlaut, as will be seen in some of the following examples.

I shall present groups of Italian place names and compare them with their English equivalents, dividing them along the lines suggested by Margaret Gelling: first into Topographical and Habitative (Gelling 1984: 1) and then into five semantic sub-groups, using the Germanic forms as headwords, arranged alphabetically in each group. The place names are either simple or complex. For my comparisons I am greatly indebted to the two volumes of *English Place-Name Elements* by A.H. Smith (1956), Margaret Gelling's *Place-Names in the Landscape* (1984) and the *Cambridge Dictionary of English Place-Names* by Victor Watts (2004): the abbreviations of counties and geographical regions in the following examples are drawn from these works.

### Topographical: Watercourses, Rivers

1. *\*agwjō* 'island, holm, holme, well-watered land': It. *Augia, Olgia, Olgiate* (North Italy; Gamillscheg 1935: 63; Pellegrini 1990: 273; Arcamone 2006: 23), G. *Aue* (Bach 1954 II,1: 293; EWDS 1989: 47); = OE *ēg, īeg*, E. *Eye* Herts, Suff, (*Whitn*)*ey-on-Wye* H&W (Smith 1956 I: 147; Gelling 1984: 34-40; Mills 1993: 125; Watts 2004: 222, 675); (see also 2. *\*agwjō*-+-*\*haima*-);
2. *\*baki*- 'stream': It. *Péscia* and many other similar river names (in Tuscany and Umbria, also *Stam-péscia, Pésciola*, etc. (Arcamone 2006: 23; 2014: 53-54), G. *Bach* (Bach 1954 II,1: 96, 277; EWDS 1989: 47), = OE *bece, bæce* 'a stream, a valley' (frequent in the Midlands), E. *Bache* Ch, He, Shrops, *Badge Wo*, *Bach Camp* H&H, *Betch(ton)* Che, (*Sand*)*bach* Che (< OE *Sanbece* a. 1086, Mills 1993: 284) and many more (Smith 1956 I: 23-24; Gelling 1984: 12-13; Watts 2004: 30, 526); (see also 4. *\*staina*-+-*\*baki*-);
3. *\*ga-mundia*- 'a confluence of rivers': It. *Gamògna* (Tuscany, in the Appenines near Marradi), *Gamondio* (now *Castellazzo Bormida*, Alessandria, Piedmont) (Arcamone 2006: 24), G. *Gemünd* (Bach 1954 II,1: 288) = OE (*ge*)*mūðe* 'the mouth of a river where it runs into another', E. *Meeth(e)* D, *The Mythe* Gl, *Mythan* Db, *Mid(ford)* So, *Mit(ford)* Nb, *Mit(ton)* La, *Wo*, *Ye*, *YW*, *My(ton)* YE, YN, *Myt(ton)* Sa (*tūn*) (Smith 1956 II: 47; Gelling 1984: 11; Mills 1993: 237; Watts 2004: 417, 427);
4. *\*staina*-+-*\*baki*- : It. *Stampéscia* (near *Péscia* (see 1.), Tuscany; Arcamone 2006: 23), G. *Steinbach* (Bach 1954 II,1: 298) = OE *stān* 'stone'; *Stan(ford)* Beds, Kent, H&W, etc., *Ston(ea)* 'stone island' CAM (Smith 1956 II: 143-144; Mills 1993: 306, 311; Gelling 1984: 39, 44, 179, 180, etc.; Watts 2004: 580); (see also 2. *\*baki*-).

## Topographical: Environment, Geomorphology

5. \**banki-* ‘shelf, bank’: It. *Panca, Pàncole, Panche* (Gamillscheg 1935: 131; Arcamone 2006: 23; 2014: 53), G. *Bank* (Bach 1954 II,1: 303; EWDS 1989: 58) = OE *benc* “a bench” in a topographical sense (not attested in OE, possibly taken over from *banke*), as a field name element in *Bench(acre)*, (*Grete*)*benche W*’ (Smith 1956 I: 28);

6. \**braidō-* ‘broad open field’: It. dial. *braidā* ‘holding, big kitchen garden, big field’, *Braidā, Brera, Breda, Bra*, etc. (Gamillscheg 1935: 64; Pellegrini 1990: 274; Pellegrini *et al.* 1990: 97; Arcamone 2006: 23), G. *Breite* (Bach 1954 II,1: 260) = OE *brādu/brēdu, brede, brade, brode* “breadth, width”, developed in ME a concrete sense of “broad stretch of land, a broad strip of land, a broad cultivated strip in common field” (see LG *Breede*)’ (Smith 1956 I: 46), E. *Brede* Sussex (< *Brade* a. 1161 Mills 1993: 49), *Bredfield* Suff, often confused with OE *brād* ‘large, spacious, open’, OE *Brādan* > E *Bredon* ‘forest near Malmesbury’, Wiltshire, OE *Brādanford* > E. *Bradford* Wilts, *Brede* ESusx, etc. (Gelling 1984: 67, 68; Watts: 77, 82);

7. \**ga-danja-* ‘beaten earth, dean, valley’: It. *Tana, Ca-tano, Ca-tallo* (<\**Catanulo*), *Tenno* (Arcamone 2006: 24; 2014: 48-49), G. *Tenne* (EWDS 1989: 726) = OE *denu* ‘a valley; a deep wooded vale of a rivulet’, E. *dean, Denton* YW, *Denham* Bk, Sf, very often, *Deanham* Nb, *Denhold* YW; *Denholme* WYorks ‘the water meadow in the valley’; *Debden* Essex ‘the deep valley’ (< OE *Deppedana* a. 1086, Mills 1993: 103), *Dibden* Hants, K, *Dipton* Nb, *Grendon* He, *Meriden* Wa, *Standen* Brk, etc. (Smith 1956 I: 130; Gelling 1984: 97-99; Watts 2004: 181, 186, 262, 409, 568-569);

8. \**haldjō-* ‘a slope, a declivity’: It. *Aldio* (Pisa, Lucca, Tuscany; Arcamone 2006: 24), G. *Halde* (Bach 1954 II,1: 261; EWDS 1989: 288) = OE *helde* (Angl. Kt), *hiede* (WSaxon); *Hilton* DOR (< OE *Eltone* a. 1086, Mills 1993: 172), *Ak-eld* (*āc-*) Nb, *Stockeld* YOW (Smith 1956 I: 242; Gelling 1984: 162; Watts 2004: 5, 305);

9. \**wangjō-* ‘open ground’: It. *Gagno*, OIt. (Guari)*ganghi* (Arcamone 2006: 25), G. *Wang* (Bach 1954 II,1: 96) = OE *wang* “open field, a piece of meadowland”, rare, and in the Danelaw cannot be distinguished from *vangr*’ (Smith 1956 II: 245), E. *Wang(field)* Ha (a field), *Wang(ford)* (Southwold) Sf (ford), (Smith 1956 II: 245; Gelling 1984: 72; Watts 2004: 649) (see also 10. \**warō-*+\**wangjō-*);

10. \**warō-*+\**wangjō-* ‘lands whose use is regulated by a treaty’: It. *Guari(ganghi)* (Pisa, Tuscany; Arcamone 2006: 25) = OE (WSaxon) *wær* ‘an agreement, a compact, a treaty’, *War(land)* WYorks, perhaps (*War*)*ley* (Essex, Smith 1956 II: 237; Watts 2004: 652).

## Habitative: Settlement

11. \**haima-* ‘village’: found only in compounds *-amo*: see *Ar-amo, Gu-amo* (Arcamone 2006: 24), G. *Heim* (Bach 1954 II: *passim*; EWDS 1989: 301) = OE *hām* ‘not used as a simple place name; belongs to the earlier period of the English settlement’ (Smith 1956 I

227): (*East*)ham Ch, Wo, (*Dal*)ham K; (*Shore*)ham K, (*Stud*)ham Bd; ecc. (Smith 1956 I: 228-229); (see also 12. \*agwjō-+-\*haima-, 14. \*sali-+-\*haima and 16. \*harja-+-\*haima-);

12. \*agwjō-+-\*haima- ‘village partly surrounded by water’: It. *Guamo* (< \**Ag-uamo*; Lucca, Tuscany) (Arcamone 1994a; 2006: 24), G. *Auheim* (Hessen) = OE *ēġ(tūn)*, *Ey(ton)* Shrops, H&W (Gelling 1984: 36, 37; Mills 1993: 126; Watts 2004: 222); (see also 1. \*agwjō- and 11. \*haima-);

13. \*sali- ‘a house, a hall’: It. *Sala* (many Italian place names: Gamillscheg 1935: 67; Sabatini 1963-64: 153-159; Pellegrini 1990: 272; Pellegrini *et al.* 1990: 362; Arcamone 2006: 25; 2014: 54-56), G. *Saal* (Bach 1954 II: 97; EWDS 1989: 612) = OE *sele* ‘chiefly found in OE poetry, *Seldon* D, *Selhurst* Sx, *Silbury* W, *Seal(e)* K, Sr, *Sele* Sx, *South Zeal* D’ (Smith 1956 II: 117; Mills 1993: 289, 378 *La Sela*, *Lasele*); Gelling 1984: 221 ‘some modern names as *Seal* KNT, *Seale* SUR, *South Zeal* DEV may be from OE *sele* “hall”’ (Watts 2004: 533 “SEAL Kent ‘The hall’”); (see also 14. \*sali-+-\*haima-);

14. \*sali-+-\*haima- in OIt. *Salisciamo* > It. *Salissimo* (Lucca, Tuscany: Arcamone 2006: 25) = E. *Sel(ham)* WSusx has been explained as ‘The sallow copse homestead’ (Smith 1956 II: 117, etc); (see also 11. \*haima- and 13. \*sali-);

15. \*stapala- ‘post’: It. *Stàffoli* (everywhere in Langobard Italy; Gamillscheg 1935: 67; Sabatini 1963-64: 187-195; Pellegrini 1990: 275-76; Pellegrini *et al.* 1990: 367; Arcamone 2006: 25), G. *Stapel* (Bach 1954 II,1: 413; EWDS 1989: 695) = OE *stapol*, E. *Staple* Kent, *Staple(ford)* (many), *Staple(ton)* (many), etc. (Smith 1956 II: 146; Gelling 1984: 69; Mills 1993: 307-308; Watts 2004: 571-572).

## Habitative: Military Organization

16. \*harja-+-\*haima- ‘camp’: *Aramo* (between Lucca and Pistoia in the Apennines), *Ràmini* (< (*A*)*ràmini*, near Pistoia), *Aramengo* (Alessandria, Piedmont) (Arcamone 1997; 2006: 25; 2014: 41), G. *Heer* (EWDS 1989: 299) = OE *here* ‘an army’: ‘In compounds it is frequent with words for roads and the like which were suitable for the passage of an army or words for “army quarters”’ (Smith 1956 I: 244); OE *here-beorg*, *here-wīc*, *Here(ford)* H&H, *Herr(iard)* Hants (Gelling 1984: 50, 69, 71; Mills 1993: 169; Watts 2004: 298-299); (see also 11. \*haima-);

17. \*newja-+-\*wardō- ‘the new ward’: It. *Ni-guarda* (Milano; Arcamone 2006: 25), G. *Neue Warte* (am Inn) (Bach 1954 II,1: 396) = OE *nīwe* ‘new’ very frequent in compounds, but with other stems in E., *New(ark)* Cambs, *New(bold)* Midlands, *New(brough)* ‘new fortification’, *New(ton)* very common (Smith 1956 II: 50-51 ‘it is mostly used with words for buildings’; Mills 1993: 240-242; Watts 2004: 432-39); (see also 22. \*wardō-);

18. \**stōða*-+\**gardō*- ‘a horse enclosure’: OIt. *Stuthi-garda*, Cremona a. 1126 (> *Scottigarda*), *Ston-garda* Bergamo a.1263, etc. (Gamillscheg 1935: 67, 162; Pellegrini 1990: 276; Arcamone 2006: 24), G. *Stuttgart* (Bach 1954 II,1: 318) = OE *stōd* ‘a stud, a herd of horses’, E. *Stod(fald)* ‘a stud-fold, a horse enclosure’, *Stod(fold)* L, Bd, Du, *Stut(fall)* Castle K, *Stud(ham)* ‘enclosure where horses are bred’ Beds, *Stud(ley)* ‘clearing used for a stud of horses, stud pasture’ Warw, Wilts, N.Yorks (Smith 1956 II: 157; Gelling 1984: 206; Mills 1993: 315; Watts 2004: 577, 587);

19. \**wardō*- ‘watch, ward, protection’: It. *Guardia* (everywhere), *Garda* (Lago di), *Gardone*; (Gamillscheg 1935: 68; Sabatini 1963-64: 164-165; Pellegrini 1990: 276; Arcamone 2006: 24, 25), G. *Warte* (Bach 1954 II,1: 396; EWDS 1989: 777) = OE *weard* ‘ward, district’, *Warden* ‘watch hill’ (< OE *weard+dūn*) L, Kent, Northants, Beds, *Wardle* (< OE *weard+hyll*) Ches, GMan, *Ward(low)* Derby, Staffs, *Wardy (Hill)* (< OE *weard+ēg*) ‘look-out island’ (Smith 1956 II: 247; Gelling 1984: 171; Mills 1993: 345; Watts 2004: 650-651); (see also 20. \**wardō*-+\**stalla*-);

20. \**wardō*-+\**stalla*- ‘watch-house, watch-tower’: *Guardistallo* (Pisa, Tuscany), *Gua-stalla* (Reggio Emilia, Emilia) (Gamillscheg 1935: 68; Pellegrini 1990: 276; Pellegrini *et al.* 1990: 323; Arcamone 2006: 25) (\**stalla*: Bach 1954 II: 286 nr. 21) = OE *weardsteall* ‘watch-tower’, but no place name; see also OE *weard-setl*, *weard-seld* ‘a watch-house’ > *Wars(hill) Top*, *Wassell*, *Wast(hills) Wo* (Smith 1956 II: 247); (see also 19. \**wardō*-).

## Habitative: Property

21. \**ga-hagja*- ‘a fence, an enclosure’: It. *Cafaggio*, *Cafaggiòlo*, *Gaggio*, *Gaio*, *Gazzo*, etc. very frequent everywhere in Langobard Italy (Gamillscheg 1935: 65, 140; Sabatini 1963-64: 184-186; Pellegrini 1990: 274; Pellegrini *et al.* 1990: 292; Arcamone 2006: 24; 2014: 45-48), G. *Gehege* (Bach 1954 II,1: 380-82; EWDS: 252) = OE (*ge*)*hæg*, (*ge*)*heg*, ME *hay* ‘a fenced-in piece of ground’ (Latinized *haia* ‘a part of a forest fenced off for hunting’), in *Hay-a-Park* N.Yorks (1518 *Haia*), *Hay(don)* So (OE *hægdun*), *Hay(wood)* Staffs, Notts, *Hay He*, etc. (Smith 1956 I: 214-215; Gelling 1984: 229; Mills 1993: 164; Watts 2004: 289-290);

22. \**gardō*- ‘an enclosure, a yard, a court- yard’, see 18. \**stōða*-+\**gardō* (Arcamone 2006: 24) (Bach 1954 II: 375) = OE *geard* ‘a fence, an enclosure, a yard, a court-yard’, *Yar(khill)* H&H (< OE *geardcylle* a. 811, Mills 1993: 375), OE (*Wode*)*hyerd* Bk, E. (*Brom*)*yard* H&H, (*Herr*)*iard* Hants (Mills 1993: 55, 169);

23. \**snaidō*- ‘cut (on the ground, on the trees), border’: It. dial. *sinaita/finaita* ‘boundary’, *Sinaita* (everywhere in Italy; Gamillscheg 1935: 160; Sabatini 1963-1964: 195-198; Pellegrini 1990: 276; Arcamone 2006: 25), G. *Schneide* (Bach 1954 II,2: 178) = OE *snād* “something cut off, a detached piece of land or woodland” recorded only in OD charters place names, except for a single explanatory note [...] *unus singularis silva...quem nos theodisce snad nominamus* and *snæd* “something cut off, a fragment, a detached piece of

ground” (Smith 1956 II: 131); *Snaith* Humbs ‘The detached piece of land’ (ON *sneith* perhaps replacing OE *snæd*), *Sned(ham)* Gl, *Snea(ton)* N.Yorks ‘Settlement on the slope’ < OE *snæd+tūn*; (*Whip*)*snade* ‘Wibba’s detached ground’ Beds (Smith 1956 II: 131; Mills 1993: 356; Watts 2004: 672);

24. *\*þeuðō-+\*baki-* ‘rivus publicus, public watercourse’: It (*Al*)*topascio* < *Teut-pasciu* (Arcamone 2006: 23; Arcamone 2011), G. *Diebach* (< *Deobacis*, Bach 1954 II,1: 108) = OE *þēod* ‘people’, in some compounds it means ‘public’ *\*þēod-herpaþ* ‘public highway’, place names *Thet(ford)* Lincs, *Thet(ford)* (< OE *þēod-ford* ‘the public ford’ Cambs, Norf (Smith 1956 II: 203; late 9th cent., Mills 1993: 324; Gelling 1984: 70; Watts 2004: 607-608); (see also 2. *\*baki-*);

25. *\*walda-* ‘public forest’: It. *Gualdo* with many variants, everywhere and very frequent; (Gamillscheg 1935: 169-170; Sabatini 1963-64: 171-84; Pellegrini 1990: 276; Pellegrini *et al.* 1990: 321; Arcamone 2006: 25; 2014: 52-53), G. *Wald* (Bach 1954 II: *passim*; EWDS 1989: 774) = OE *wald*, *weald* ‘woodland, a large tract of woodland, high forest-land, later cleared’, very frequent in England too: *The Wolds* L (Watts 2004: 692), Nt, (*North*)*wold* Nf, (*Prest*)*wold* Leic, Ye, *The Weald* K-Sx (< OE *Walda* a. 1086, Mills 1993: 349), etc. (Smith 1956 II: 239-42; Gelling 1984: 222-229; Watts 2004: 657, 692).

For other Langobard place names I have so far been unable to find corresponding forms in English, as, for example, for: *Biffa/Ghiffa* < *\*wīpō* ‘sighting stake’, *Lèno*, *Lèvane*, etc. < *\*laihwana-* ‘benefice’, *Parlascio* (< *\*bera-+\*laika-*) ‘place where bears fight’, etc.

This first comparative study of Italian place names of Langobard origin and their corresponding forms in Old or Modern English shows that all Italian place names with a simple single-stem form are sure to have an equivalent in English. Some of these like OE *denu* < *\*ga-danja-*, *ēg* < *\*auwja-*, *hām* < *\*haima-* or *wald* < *\*walda-*, are listed in *The Cambridge Dictionary of English Place-Names* (2004: xliii, xliv, xlv, xlvi) as being those most frequently found in English toponomastics. All the stems examined here belong to the same place and period – that is, almost certainly the period of the great migrations, perhaps even earlier; that is to say that they may form part of the common Germanic lexical stock. Langobard retains more earlier forms than other Germanic languages, as can be seen from the toponyms derived from 2. *\*baki-*, 5. *\*banki-*, 13. *\*sali-*, 9. *\*wangjō-*.

Perhaps English place names have had to compete with Danish ones, which are very similar, being part of the Germanic family, while the Langobard names have remained fossilized, as they were, in Italian toponyms which, as they are of Romance origin, were quite different, and therefore the Langobard place names have preserved their original linguistic form.

Compound place names, too, all correspond, but only on a semantic level. See example number 23: It. *Stuthi-Garda* and E. *Stod-fold*. Only in the case of *Guardistallo* = OE *weardsteall* do we find a morphological correspondence, but not on a level of toponomastic lexis, only on the plane of common lexicon.

I believe that the differences we have seen between Italian place names of Langobard origin and English ones of Anglo-Saxon origin are due to the differing historical circumstances (linguistic, geographical, military, anthropological) that characterized the migration of the two groups, one of which gave rise to English culture, the other to the Langobard.

Comparisons can throw light on both sides, but the significance of the illumination must be judged case by case. For example, we find (Smith 1956 I: 46) that, of the English place names deriving from *\*braidō*, OE *brædu*, only in ME do we see ‘developed a concrete sense of a broad cultivated strip in a common field’. But the Langobards brought this word, with this very meaning, into Italy already in the 6th century; early German has it, so perhaps OE had it too, only that the earliest extant reference is in ME.

The English toponym, *Thetford*, where *Thet-* signifies ‘public’, may corroborate the obscure etymology of the Tuscan toponym (*Altopascio*, which derived from the earlier *Teutpasciu*, recorded as early as the 8th century, where *Teut-* corresponds to English *Teth-*; both derive from Germanic *\*peudō* ‘the people’, in the sense of ‘the state’.

But this is only the beginning: future research will no doubt bring further interesting finds.

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