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## **Class struggle: Problems of noun classification in Proto-Indo-European**

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The reconstruction of noun classification in Proto-Indo-European is difficult. Anatolian, which is usually regarded as the basalmost branch of the family, displays a two-way distinction between animate and inanimate nouns, while a “classical” system with three lexical genders must be reconstructed for the rest of the family. Both systems exhibit puzzling complications and apparent inconsistencies; opinions vary as to which of them (if either) reflects the Proto-Indo-European state of affairs. The present paper tries to evaluate the competing scenarios of the earliest history of Indo-European noun classification in the light of internal evidence as well as typological considerations. Apart from gender and animateness in nouns (and the corresponding patterns of grammatical agreement involving adjectives and pronouns), it also discusses the interdependence between these categories and Proto-Indo-European noun quantification — itself a complicated system, in which collective and possibly singulative forms co-existed with the “traditional” grammatical numbers (singular, dual and plural).