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Killing to qualify:

The underprivileged assassins of *Eyrbyggja saga*

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Appendix: Lexical fieldsⁱ

Entries appearing in *Eyrbyggja saga* are set in bold

Denominations I – “slaves”

A clear distinction has to be drawn between the two classes of workers on a medieval Icelandic farm: between those who were free and those who were not, between servants and slavesⁱⁱ. Translators of saga texts (especially Germansⁱⁱⁱ) often have been pretty creative in finding replacements or synonyms particularly for *þræll* which actually does mean “slave”:

þræll	(unfree) [male] servant, slave; (pej.) rogue, thief
þræla	to call s-o. a <i>þræll</i>
þræladráp	slaying of a <i>þræll</i>
þrælaefni/þrælsefni	s-o. seeming to be a <i>þræll</i> by his character
þrælafólk	(all of the) <i>þrælar</i>
þrælahús	servants' hall
þrælatala	(<i>hafa e-n í þrælatölu</i> :) to treat s-o. as a <i>þræll</i>
þrælaverk/þrælverk	slave work
þrælaætt	(<i>vera þrælaættar</i> :) to descend from <i>þrælar</i>
þrælbaugr	fine to be paid among slaves ^{iv}

ⁱ On Icelandic place names connected with *þrælar* and poor people cf. SVAVAR SIGMUNDSSON 1976, especially pp. 50–53.

ⁱⁱ “Serf”/„Leibeigener“/„Höriger“ do not apply here as these are phenomena of a feudal system, nor can “bond(s)man/-woman” be used synonymously; Icelandic *þrælar* often appear like “items” and “merchandise” in a classic-antique manner. For a comparison and history of “Slavery and servitude in medieval European society” (outside Northern Europe) cf. KARRAS 1988, pp. 5–39.

ⁱⁱⁱ Cf. WILDE-STOCKMEYER 1978, pp. 9f.

^{iv} *KGSB*. I, 113 (p. 202), *Baugatal*.

þrælborinn	unfree by descend
þrældómr	slavery
þrælka	to enslave (<i>hann hefir alla menn þrælkat ok áþját</i>) ^v
þrælkan	enslavement, suppression; slavery (<i>leiða e-n í ánauð ok þrælkan</i>)
þræll fastr á fótum	unfree, local bound servant
þrælligr/þræsligr	s-th. suiting a slave (<i>þræsligt verk</i>)
þrælmenni	a servile person; rogue
þrælsásjóna	the look of a slave
þrælskjöld	compensation to be payed for a slain <i>þræll</i>
þrælsjafningi	s-o. (worth) like a <i>þræll</i> (pej.)
þrælskona	a <i>þræll</i> 's wife
þræsliga	cruelly, wicked
þrælsnafn	name of a <i>þræll</i>
þrælsonr	son of a <i>þræll</i> (also pej.)
ánaúð	1. distress, misery, suffering; 2. compulsion, oppression, slavery, bondage; plague
ánaúðarbyrðr	burden of servitude
ánaúðarmaðr	slave, unfree man
ánaúðarstarf	drudgery
ánaúðarverk	labour of bondage
ánaúðarok	yoke of slavery
ánaúðga	to enslave, oppress
ánaúðigr	enslaved, unfree
áþjá	to oppress, hold in slavery
áþján	suppression, tyranny; (pl.) troubles, heavy burdens
áþjánarok	yoke of slavery
þjá	to enslave, oppress
þján	oppression, slavery, bondage
þjáning	need, poverty; suffering
man ^{vi}	1. unfree man, slave; 2. (coll.) servants
mansal	slave trade (<i>mansals-maðr = man</i>)
mansmaðr	slave, unfree man
skálkr	1. servant (poet.); 2. mocker

^v *EGLA*, ch. 3.

^{vi} But also “girl; woman”, cf. *manrúnar* (“love waking runes”) and *mansöngur* (“love poem”).

As for *ambátt*, there exists a significantly smaller variety of compounds; furthermore, it is less clear in denoting an explicitly unfree woman, i. e. a female counterpart to the *þræll*.

ambátt	1. female slave; maid; 2. concubine
ambáttafang	<i>ambáttar</i> 's tussle
ambáttarbarn (-dóttir, -sónr)	an <i>ambátt</i> 's child (daughter, son)
ambáttarlegorð	(illegitimate) intercourse with an <i>ambátt</i>
ambáttarmót	character/appearance of an <i>ambátt</i>
ambáttarþjónusta	an <i>ambátt</i> 's work
<i>þý</i> ^{vii}	bondswoman, female slave; maid
þýbarn	a <i>þý</i> 's child
þýborinn ^{viii}	born by a <i>þý</i> , unfree by descend

Denominations Ia – “debt bondage”

løgskuld/-skyld/-skylda	legal debt, duty, bond
løgskuldarmaðr/-kona	bounden debtor, bondsman/-woman
løgskuldr	obliged by law or duty
skuld	1. debt; 2. tax, fee; 3. fault, blame; 4. reason, cause
skuldahjón/-lið	family plus domestic servants
skuldarmaðr/-kona	bounden debtor, bondsman/-woman (<i>ganga í skuld</i>)
skuldfastr	sentenced to be <i>skuldarmaðr</i>
skuldfesta	sentence s.-o. to be <i>skuldarmaðr</i>
skuldfesti	debt slavery

^{vii} *CV.* list *þý* als “1. serf, bondsman; 2. vile, bad people” and *þýr* as “bondswoman”; cf. also *FRITZNER*. The *NO.* refers to *þír* and *þírr* (m./f.).

^{viii} In *Ævi Snorra goða*.

Denominations II – “freedmen”

frelsa	to free, safe, liberate
frelsi	freedom; deliverance; liberation, manumission
frelsingi	freedman
frelsisgjof	the gift of freedom (for a <i>þræll</i>), manumission
frelsisql	the ritual beer a <i>frelsingi</i> had to spend before being freed before the law
frjáls	free
frjálsa	to free, safe, liberate
frjálsan/frjálsi	freedom; deliverance; liberation, manumission
frjálsborinn ^{ix}	free by descend
frjálsgjafi/-gjafa	1. manumitter; 2. freedman/-woman (before spending <i>frelsisql</i>)
frjálslendigr	free tenant
frjálsmannligr	like a free man
leysa	1. to loosen; 2. to release; 3. to bid farewell; 4. to finish, clear up; 5. to disintegrate
leysingi/leysingr	1. freedman; 2. vagabond
leysingja	freedwoman
leysingjabarn	a <i>leysingi</i> 's child
leysingjalega	burial place for <i>leysingjar</i>
lesingjaætt	descent from <i>leysingjar</i>
leysingsaurar (-eyrir)	amount to be paid by the <i>þræll</i> for manumission
leysingserfð	a <i>leysingi</i> 's heritage
leysingskyn	descent from <i>leysingjar</i>

^{ix} In *Ævi Snorra goða*.

Denominations III – “free workers”

While for slavery matters a wide range of expressions can be found, descriptions for free people serving are rather simple; even many of the derivations of *þjónusta* have a christian-liturgic meaning (marked †):

forverk	1. work for s-o. other, help at (farm) work; 2. hay making; 3. ability to work
forverkslítill	ineffective at work
forverksmaður	good hay maker
forverkstið	work time
grið ^x	1. workplace; working assignment (on a farm); 2. peace
griðmaður/-kona (griðka = griðkona)	(free) farm worker
griðtaka	the hiring of workers/servants
heima /heimili	home
heimafólk	farm/domestic community
heima -/heimilismaður/-kona	free/unfree farm worker
hjón	1. married couple; 2. domestic servants
hjónatak	hiring of domestic servants
hjónatal	1. tale of servants; 2. number of servants
hjónaval	(selected) domestic servants
húskarl	1. (free) [male] servant 2. member of the royal court
húskarlalið/-sveit	[all of the] servants in a household
verk	1. work, labour; 2. piece of work; 3. deed
verka	to work, labour
verkafall	failure in doing one's work
verkakaup/-laun	work payment, wage; reward
verkakona	maid
verkalýðr	working people
verkfærr	able to work
verklaginn	skilled, handy
verkmaður	working man
verk(a)nauð	heavy task
verkreki	s-o. doing another one's work
verkstjóri	foreman
verkþræll	(unfree) working man

^x Cf. SEE 1964, 166–173.

vinna	work, labour; to work, labour
vinnufullr	labour-intensive
vinnufærr	able to work
vinnugóðr	hardworking, diligent
vinnuhjón/-fólk	working people
vinnulítill	lazy, ineffective
vinnumaðr	farm worker
(†)þjóna/þjónka	1. to serve; 2. to assist; 3. to fulfil a service; 4. to be useful; 5. to deserve
þjónan/þjónkan	service, serving
þjónanarmaðr	(free) [male] servant
þjónn	(free) [male] servant
(†)þjónunsta	1. service, duty; labour; 2. (christian) divine service
† þjónustubann	excommunication
† þjónustubuðkr/-ker	chalice, communion-cup
† þjónustubundinn	liable for duty/service
† þjónustuembætti	(christian) divine service
þjónustufólk	[all of the] servants in a household
þjónustufullr/-samr	obliging; loyal
† þjónustugerð	(christian) divine servicing
† þjónustugjöf	the partaking of the Lord's supper
þjónustugjöld	gratuity
þjónustukona/-mær/-stulka	[female] servant, maid
þjónustulauss	1. unfit for service; 2. lacking the last sacraments
þjónustumaðr/þjónunarmaðr	[male] servant; vassal, <i>Untertan</i>
þjónustumjúkr	zealous, eager to serve
þjónustumær	maid
þjónustusveinn	young [male] servant, boy
† þjónustutekja	receiving of the sacraments
þjónustuverk	duty work

Denominations IV – «Les misérables»

ánauð	1. distress, misery, suffering; 2. compulsion, oppression, slavery, bondage; plague
fár	little, (pl.) few
fáklæddr	poor clothed, ragged
fátæki	poverty
fátækligr/fátækr	poor, miserable
fátækisfólk/-lið	poor people
fátækt	poverty
fé	1. livestock; 2. property, wealth, money
fébón	asking for money, begging
(verðr) féfátt	to run short of <i>fé</i>
félauss	indigent, needy, poor
féleysi	indigency, poverty
félítill	in need of <i>fé</i> ; s-th. of little value
fésnauðr	moneyless
févani	(<i>vera févani</i> ;) to be in need of <i>fé</i>
fépurfi	needy, poverty-stricken
fépurft	need of <i>fé</i> , poverty
framfærsla	subsidy, “welfare”, charity
framfærslulauss	lacking <i>framfærsla</i> , helpless
framfærslumaðr/-kerling	<i>ómegðamaðr</i> , <i>ómagi</i>
ómagi	person incapable of self-sustenance (e. g. children under 15 and aged people)
ómagaaldr	the typical age of an <i>ómagi</i>
ómagabjörg	care for an <i>ómagi</i>
ómagaeyrir/-fé	an <i>ómagi</i> ’s possessions
ómagaframfærsla	care for an <i>ómagi</i>
ómagafúlga	costs of an <i>ómagi</i>
ómagafærsla	assignment of an <i>ómagi</i> to a caretaker
ómagalauss	having no <i>ómagar</i> to care for
ómagalýsing	the <i>þing</i> ’s deciding about <i>ómagar</i>
ómagamaðr	s-o. in charge of <i>ómagar</i>
ómagamót	forsaking of an <i>ómagi</i>
ómagaskipti	assignment of <i>ómagar</i> within a <i>hreppr</i> ^{xi}
ómagasök	law suit in connection with <i>ómagalýsing</i> ^{xii}
ómagaverk	an <i>ómagi</i> ’s (miscarried) deed

^{xi} A county respectively a land community consisting of at least 20 *bændr*.

^{xii} *KGSB*. II, 130 (p. 11), *Ómaga-bálkr*; *STAD*. 89 (p.1197), *Ómaga-bálkr*: *Lýsing*.

ómegð	1. situation and ranking of an <i>ómagi</i> ; dependance, minority
ómegðamaðr	2. s-o. in need of/receiving subsidies; s-o.'s <i>ómagar</i> s-o. lacking subsistence entirely,
ómegðarþú	s-o. being subsidised by the <i>hreppr</i> alms-house
víl	misery, distress
vílmęgr	s-o. ranking low, miserable person; slave
þrot	destitution
þrotna ^{xiii}	to dwindle, fade away, exhaust
þrotráða/-ráði	pauper, destitute
þrotsmaðr/þrotamaðr	a pauper
þurfa	1. to need; 2. to be in need; 3. to have to
þurfamaðr/þurftarmaðr	s-o. in need, poor person
þurfa(manna)þíund	the tenth for charity, poor-rate
þurfandi	s-o. in need, poor person
þurftargjörf	alms
þurftigr/þurftugr	1. to be in need of s-th.; 2. poor, indigent

^{xiii} Appearing out of this context in *Eyrbyggja saga*: “þrotnir yxnir” (*EYRB.* ch. 34).

Denominations IVa – “vagabonds”

Among the following expressions, *gongumaðr* is the “legal one”,^{xiv} meaning not only a person roaming and begging, but explicitly someone able, yet unwilling to work.^{xv} All others are variations appearing in saga texts:

farandkona (-maðr/-sveinn/-karl)	(roaming) beggar, landloper
flókr	roaming
flökkunarmaðr	vagrant, landloper
gongumaðr (-kona/-sveinn/-karl)	(roaming) beggar, landloper
brautingi	vagrant, landloper
húsgangr	begging from house to house
húsgangsmaðr/-kona	beggar going from house to house
reikunarmaðr	vagrant, roaming beggar
stafkarl/-kerling	beggar
stafkarlalettr	“beggars’ runes”, „ <i>Gaunerzinken</i> “
stafkarlsbúningr/-gervi	a beggar’s appearance
stafkarlsstigr	a beggar’s usual track; vagrancy
umrenningr/umrennandi	vagrant, landloper; (later:) marauder

^{xiv} *KGSB*. I, 82 (p. 140), *þingskapa-þáttur*; *STAD*. 244 (p. 277), *Um fiárleigor*.

^{xv} Cf. GERHOLD 2002, pp. 82ff.

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