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Hittite

Introduction – Part 2: Writing System, Decipherment

Roadmap

- The cuneiform syllabary
- Origin of the syllabary and adaptation to different languages
- The decipherment of Hittite
- The Hittite cuneiform over time
- Other Anatolian writing systems

What is a syllabary?

Each sign indicates a syllable:

- V *a* 
- VC *an* 
- CV *ni* 
- CVC *pat* 

The Hittite syllabary: signs V and CV

ā	e	i	ú
ba	be	bi	bu
pa	pé	pí	pu
da	de	di	dú
ta	te	ti	tu
ga	ge	gi	gu
ka	ke	ki	ku
qa	-	-	-
ha	he	hi	hu

ra	re	ri	ru
la	le	li	lu
ma	mé	mi	mu
na	né	ni	nu
ya	-	-	-
wa	-	wi	-
ša	še	ši	šu
za	ze	zi	zu

How to write consonant clusters

- Two-consonant clusters can be represented only if word internal ([C]VC-CV[C]) but not if word initial or word final (*CCV[C], *[C]VCC)

VCCV *ar-ta*

CCV *iš-pa-an-ta-aḥ-ḥi / ši-pa-an-ta-aḥ-ḥi /spandahhi/*

VCC *ap-pa-an-za /appants/*

- Three-consonant clusters cannot be represented

Voiced/voiceless stops, geminates

- CV signs mostly have different forms for voiced and voiceless stops, e.g. *ta*  / *da* 
- VC signs have a single form which is not distinctive of voice, e.g. *ap* = *ab* 
- Geminates consonants are spelled double: *ap-pa*, *šar-ra*

Vowels

- Signs for *Ci*, *Ce* are not always distinct:

 = *ki, ke*

BUT:

 *me* vs.  *mi*

- Vowels may be spelled plene:

pa-an-zi / pa-a-an-zi 'they go'

Evolution of the syllabary

	I	II	III	IV	V	
1	★	★	★	★	★	an
2	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	ki
3	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	lu
4	▽	▷	▽	▷	▽	sal
5	▷▷	▷▷	▷▷	▷▷	▷▷	kur
6	▽▷▷	▷▷▷	▷▷▷	▷▷▷	▷▷▷	geme
7	◀	◀	◀	◀	◀	sag
8	◀	◀	◀	◀	◀	ka
9	▽	▷	▷	▷	▷	ninda

Sumerian → borrowed into Akkadian

- a) Old Babylonian → Old Hittite
- b) Old Assyrian → New Assyrian (1st Millennium)

Akkadograms, Sumerograms, determiners

The same sign may indicate different things:

 may be read as:

- the syllable *an* as in *an-da* ‘into’
- the Sumerogram for sky AN or god DINGIR: šiunaš or DINGIR-aš ‘god(GEN)’
- a determiner that precedes names of divinities: ^dTeššub ‘the god Tessub’

 may be read as:

- the syllable *ka* as in *ka-a-aš* ‘this’
- the Sumerogram INIM ‘thing’, ‘word’
- the Akkadogram -KA ‘your’ as in ZI-KA ‘your soul’



The Hittite Bronze Table

Vs. I



- 1 UM-MA ta-ba-ar-na ^mTu-ut-ḥa-a-li-ya LUGAL.GAL LUGAL KUR ^{URU}Ha-at-ti UR.SAG
- 2 DUMU ^mHa-at-tu-ši-li LUGAL.GAL LUGAL KUR ^{URU}Ha-at-ti UR.SAG
- 3 DUMU.DUMU=ŠU ŠA ^mMu-ur-ši-li LUGAL.GAL LUGAL KUR ^{URU}Ha-at-ti UR.SAG
- 4 DUMU.DUMU.DUMU=ŠU ŠA ^mŠu-up-pí-lu-li-u-ma LUGAL.GAL LUGAL KUR ^{URU}Ha-at-ti UR.SA
- 5 ŠA.BAL.BAL ŠA ^mTu-ut- ḥa-li-ya LUGAL.GAL LUGAL KUR ^{URU}Ha-at-ti UR.SAG

Some frequent determiners

URU		'city'
DINGIR (d)		'deity'
É		'house'
GIŠ		'wood'
GUD		'bovid'
HUR.SAG		'mountain'
KUR		'land'
LÚ		'man'
MUNUS (f)		'woman', female personal name
NINDA		'bread'
MEŠ		(postposed), plural
DIDLİ.HI.A		(postposed), plural

Decipherment

楔

nu

𠁿𠁾

NINDA-an

nu

BREAD-an

𠁩𠁪𠁫𠁬𠁭𠁮

e-ez-za-at-te-ni

ēzzatteni

𠁩𠁪𠁫𠁬

wa-a-tar-ma

wātar=ma

𠁩𠁪𠁫𠁬𠁭𠁮

e-ku-ut-te-ni

ekutteni



Hittite Cuneiform over time

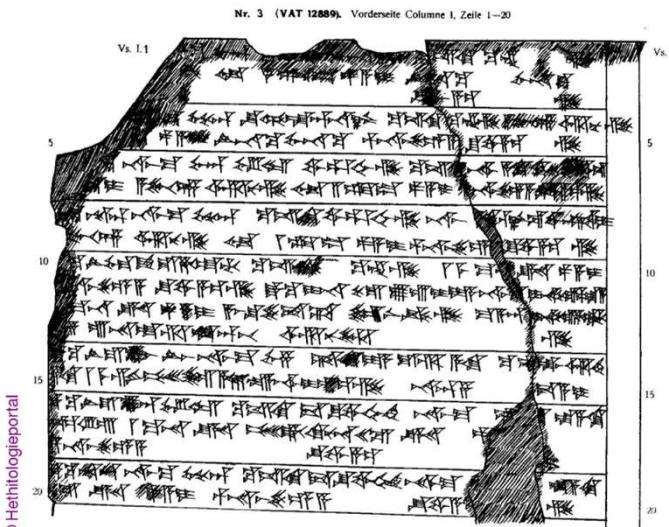
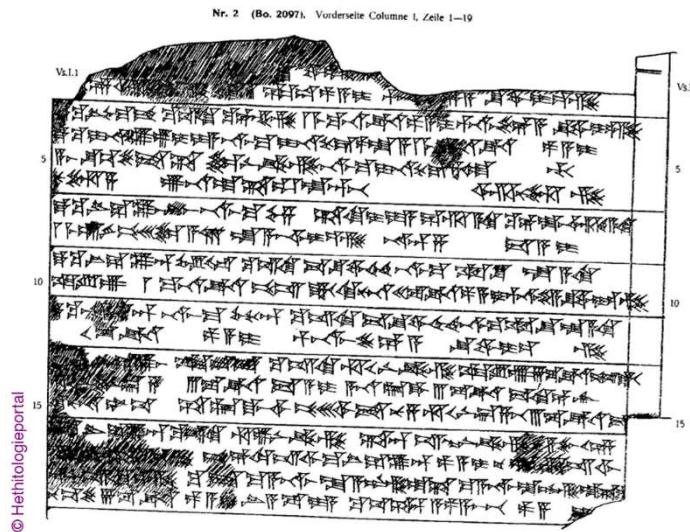
	Old Hittite	New Hittite
GA		 
TA		 
ŠA		 

From Otten & Souček (1969: 34)

Composition and manuscript dating may be different!

The text of the Laws over time

- Hittite Laws: KBo 6.2 (OH/OS) vs. 6.3 (OH/NS)



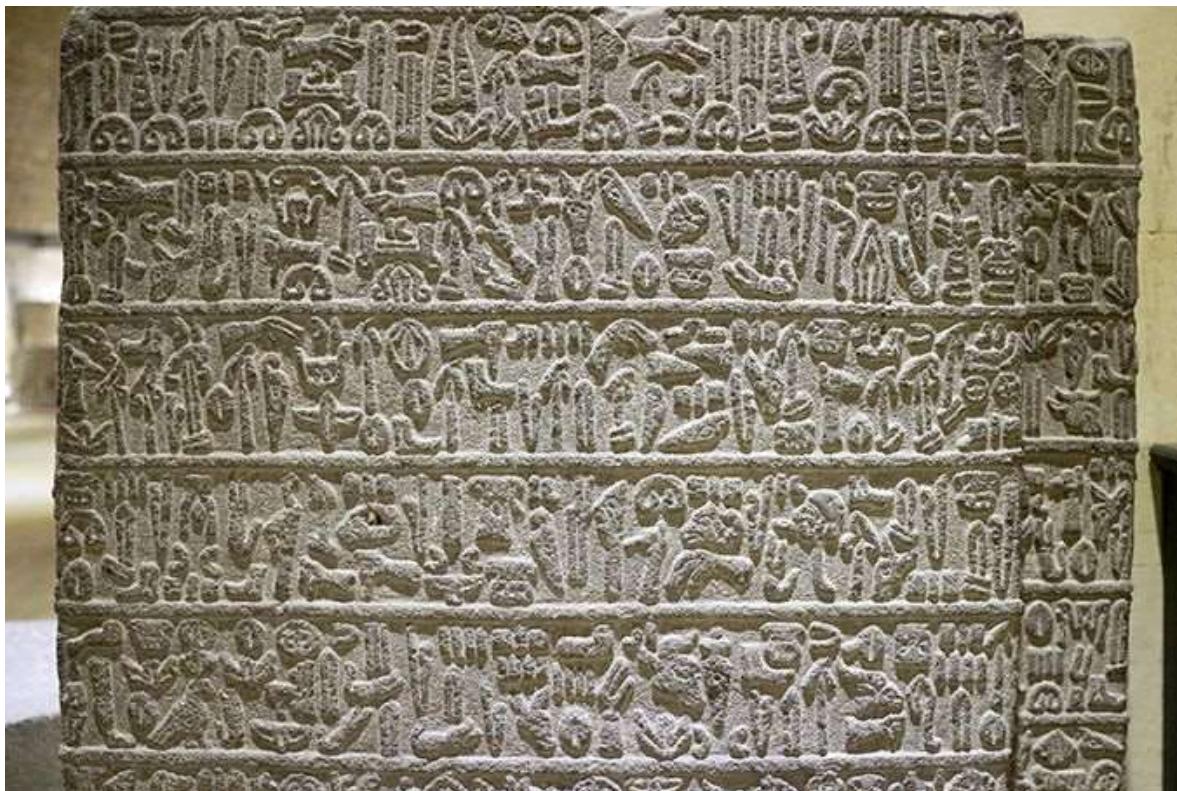
Hittite seals



Hittite – Introduction, Part 2

Other Anatolian Scripts: Hyeroglyphic Luwian

AMPLECTI to embrace	AQUILA eagle	ASINUS donkey/ass	AUDIRE to hear	AVIS bird	AVUS ancestor	BONUS good	BOS cow	MAGNUS DOMINA great lord/king	MALLEUS hammer	MALUS bad	MAUS hand	MONS mountain	OCCIDENS west	OCCULUS eye	
CAELUM heaven	CANUS dog	CAPERE to take	CAPRA goat	CAPUT head	CASTRUM camp	CERVUS stag	CORNU horn	OMNIS all	ORIENS east	OVIS sheep	PANIS bread	PES foot	PES2 foot	PISCUS fish	PONERE to put
CRUS leg	CRUX cross	CUM with	CURRUS chariot	DARE to give	DEUS god	DOMUS house	EGO I	PRAE before	PROPHETA prophet	PUGNUS first	REGIO kingdom	REX king	SARMA Sarruma	SCALPRUM chisel	SOL sun
EQUUS horse	FEMINA woman	FLAMEA flames	FORTIS strong	FRONS forehead	INFANS child	INFRA/SUB below	IRA wrath	STATUA column	SUPER above	THRONUS throne	TONITRUS thunder	UNGULA hoof	URBS city	VAS vase	VINUM wine
IUDEX judge	LEPUS hare	LIBARE to bind	LIBATIO libation	LITUUS staff	LONGUS long	LUNA moon	MAGNUS great								



Lycian alphabet

