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Hittite

Morphology – Part 1: Introduction and word formation

Roadmap

- Morphological type
- Word classes
- Word formation processes
 - Derivation: affixation and reduplication
 - Compounding

Morphological type?

- Hittite is a **synthetic** and **fusional** language:
- Basic structure: ROOT-(SUFFIX)-ENDING:

zi-nu-šk-anzi

CROSS-SFX-SFX-3PL.PRS

‘he is making (the oxen) cross (the river)’

miy-ann-aš

grow-SFX-GEN.SG

‘of growth’

Word classes

- **Inflected:**
 - Nouns and adjectives
 - Verbs
 - Pronouns
 - Numerals (?)
- **Non-inflected:**
 - Adverbs
 - Conjunctions
 - Negations
 - Particles

Numerals

Numerals are most frequently spelled with logograms. Cardinal numerals from 'one' to 'four' are inflected; except for 'four', they follow the inflection of pronouns.

- 1-*aš* for **sias* 'one'
- 2-*uš* 'two' (cf. ordinal *dān* 'second')
- 3-*eš* for **teres* 'three'
- *miewaš* 'four'

Adverbs

- Non-derived adverbs, e.g. *karū* ‘formerly’, *lammār* ‘instantly’
- Neuter nominative/accusative of adjectives, e.g. *mekki* ‘much’
- Suffixed adverbs, e.g. *ḥaran-* ‘eagle’ → *ḥaran-ili* ‘like an eagle’
- Local adverbs

Local adverbs

Set 1: 'place to which'	Set 2: 'place where'
<i>anda</i> 'into'	<i>andan</i> 'inside'
<i>āppa</i> 'back'	<i>āppan</i> 'behind'
<i>katta</i> 'down'	<i>kattan</i> 'below'
<i>parā</i> 'forth'	<i>pēran</i> 'in front, before'
<i>šarā</i> 'upward'	<i>šer</i> 'above'

→ Preverbs

→ Postpositions

Conjunctions and Negations

- **Non-subordinative:** *nu*, *=ma*, *=(y)a* etc.
- **Subordinative:** *mān* ‘when’, ‘if’, *maḥḥan* ‘when’, ‘as’, *takku* ‘if’, *kuit* ‘because’, etc.

Negation:

- *natta* factual negation, often spelled with the logogram *UL* (Ú-UL)
- *lē* prohibitive

Particles

- Modal particle *man*
- Quotative =*wa(r)*
- Reflexive =*za/-z*
- Local particles =*kan*, =*ašta*, =*an*, =*šan*, =*apa*
- Focus particle =*pat*

Derivation

Hittite features two different derivational strategies:

- **Affixation:** the most frequent derivational strategy. Hittite mostly relies on suffixation, with only two prefixes (limited productivity), there are no productive infixes and circumfixes;
- **Reduplication:** attested both in the nominal and in the verbal domain but not productive in Hittite historical times

Suffix addition vs. suffix substitution

- The most common pattern is suffix **addition**:
e.g. *išpant-* ‘libate’ > *išpant-uzzi-* ‘libation’ > *išpant-uzzi-aššar*
‘libation vessel’
- Traces of a system of suffix **substitution**, with adjectival bases (Caland System):
e.g. *park-u-* ‘high’ / *parg-ašti-* ‘height’ / *park-nu-* ‘make high’ /
park-ešš- ‘become high’

Nominal suffixes

Hittite derivational suffixes: some examples

-*atar* (abstract nouns from verbs, adjectives, nouns)

aku- 'drink' > *akuw-atar* 'drinking'

palḫi- 'wide' > *palḫ-atar* 'width'

anni- 'mother' > *anniy-atar* 'mother-hood'

-*iya-* (adjectives from nouns)

išpant- 'night' > *išpant-iya-* 'nocturnal'

Verbal suffixes

Suffix	Possible base			Function
	NOUNS	ADJECTIVES	VERBS	
<i>-aḫḫ-</i>	+	+	-	factitive
<i>-āi-</i>	+	-	-	denominative
<i>-e-</i>	+	+	-	stative/fientive
<i>-ešš-</i>	+	+	-	fientive
<i>-nu-</i>	+	+	+	causative
<i>-ške/a-, -šša-, -anna/i-</i>	-	-	+	pluractional

Verbal suffixes

- <i>āi</i> -:	<i>lulu</i> - ‘prosperity’	→	<i>luluw-āi</i> - ‘cause to thrive’
- <i>ešš</i> -:	<i>parku</i> - ‘high’	→	<i>park-ešš</i> - ‘become high’
- <i>nu</i> -:	<i>war</i> - ‘burn (intr.)’	→	<i>war-nu</i> - ‘burn (tr.)’
- <i>ške/a</i> -:	<i>anniya</i> - ‘work’	→	<i>anni-ške/a</i> - ‘continue to work’

Prefixes

There are two deictic verbal prefixes: *u-* ‘hither’ and *pe-* ‘thither’ that attach to motion verbs:

- *uda-* ‘carry here’ / *peda-* ‘carry away’
- *unna-* ‘drive here’ / *penna-* ‘drive away’

Reduplication

■ Verbal:

- Full reduplication: *aš-/eš-* ‘sit’ > *aš-aš-/aš-eš-* ‘make sit, settle’
- Partial reduplication:
 - Ce-CVC-: *wek-* ‘ask’ > *wewakk-*, *lelaniya-* ‘become furious’;
 - Ci-CVC-: *titha-* ‘thunders’
 - CV-CVC: *kuer-* ‘cut’ > *kukkur-ške-* ‘mutilate’

■ Nominal:

- Full reduplication: *wantewantema-* ‘lightning’, *ḫaršiharši-* ‘stormy weather’
- Partial reduplication: *titita-* ‘nose’, *tetana-* ‘hair’, *memal-* ‘meal’

Compounding

- Nominal composition is scarcely attested in Hittite:
dāyuga- ‘two-year-old’ (*dā* ‘two’ + *yuga-*)
appašiwatt- ‘future’ (*āppa* ‘after’ + *šiwatt-* ‘day’)
pappanekneš ‘brothers of the same father’ (*pappa-* ‘father’ + *negna-* ‘brother’)
- Multi-word expressions (NB: placement of determinatives!)
GEN+NOUN ^{LÚ}*maniyaḥḥiyaš išḥa-* ‘administrator (lit. lord of the administration)’
PREV+VERB *parā ḥandantār* ‘divine power (lit. ?)’
ADJ+NOUN ^{UZU}*parkui ḥaštai* ‘(cut of meat called) pure bone’