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Hittite

Phonology – Part 2: Phonological processes

Roadmap

- Changes affecting vowels
- Changes affecting consonants

Changes affecting vowels

- Assimilation
- Elision
- Syncope
- Breaking
- Insertion

Assimilation ?

- *pé/i-di* 'in the place' to be read as /pidi/? **But** *pé-e-di* suggests /pedi/

Elision

- *nu, šu*, and *=mu* plus vowel > *n=, š=, =m=*
 - e.g. **nu=aš > na-aš, *nu=at > na-at*
 - e.g. *kinun=a=m=apa*
 - **but** *takku=an, karū=aš*
- *=ma=uC > =m=uC* e.g. **ienzi=ma=uš > i-en-zi-mu-uš* ‘but they make them’
- *=še/i=apa/ašta > =se/i=pa/šta >* e.g. **nu=šše=apa > nu-uš-še-pa*

Syncope

- **Contraction** of sequences *-(i)ya* and *-(u)wa-* > *-i-* and *-u-*
 - e.g. *ti-in-ti-eš* < *ti-ya-an-te-eš* ‘placed.PTCP.NOM.PL’
 - e.g. *šanḫunta* ‘roasted things’ < *šanḫuwant-*

Breaking or diphthongization

- Original *u* occasionally spelled as <*uwa*>
 - e.g. *paḥḥur* 'fire' also as *paḥḥuwar*

Insertion or anaptyxis

- Some consonant clusters were probably broken by secondary vowels, but this is not always clear from the spelling
 - Insertion of *i/e*: **app-ške-* > *appi/eške-*, **šarnink-ške-* > *šarninki/eške-*
 - Insertion of *u*: **dweni* > **duweni* > *tumēni* ‘we take’
 - Insertion of *a*: *etriyant-* ‘fattened’ > *etaryant-*

Prothesis?

- Words with etymological initial clusters **st-*, **sk-* and **sH-* consistently spelled as *iš-tV-*, *iš-kV-* and *iš-ḫV*
 - e.g. *išḫamai* ‘to sing’ cf. Skt. *sāman-* ‘song, hymn’
 - e.g. *iškalla-* ‘to split’ cf. Lith. *skélti* ‘to split’
 - e.g. *ištark-* ‘to afflict’ cf. Lat. *stercus* ‘excrement’
- What about **labials**? Spelling of *išpant-* ‘night’ and *si-pí-ik-ku-us-ta* ‘pin’ is consistent, but *ši-ip-pa-an-d°* vs. *iš-pa-an-d°* ‘libate’

Changes affecting consonants

- Assimilation
- Dissimilation
- Loss
- Epenthesis

Assimilation (word internal)

- *nš* > *šš* e.g. *taršike-* ‘let’ < **tarn-ške-*
but: *ānši* ‘s/he wipes’
- *tn* > *nn* e.g. *huišwannaš* ‘life.GEN’ < **huišwatnaš*,
nom. *huišwatar* ‘life’
but: *iyatnaš* ‘of abundance’, *ḫat-nu-* ‘make dry’, *utne* ‘land’
- *mn* > *mmn* > *mm* e.g. DAT.PL of ^{NINDA}*šaram(a)n-* (a type of bread)
ša-ra-am-na-aš vs. *ša-ra-am-ma-aš*
but: *ša-ra-am-ma-na-aš*
- Voice assimilation *nt* > *nd*? Does not emerge from spelling *-an-ta-*
and *-an-da-*!

Assimilation (across clitic boundaries)

- $t\check{s} > \check{s}\check{s}$ e.g. *ta-aš-še* 'and it to her/him' < **ta=at=še*
- $n\check{s} > \check{s}\check{s}$ e.g. *na-aš-ša-an* 'and it' < **nu=an=šan*
but MH restored *na-an-ša-an*
- $C=(y)a > CC=a$ e.g. *apāš* 'that one' → *apāšš=a* vs. *apē=ya* 'and those'
- $nm > mm$ e.g. *ad-dam-ma-an* < **attan=man* 'my father'

Dissimilation

- *uw > um* e.g. *tarnum(m)eni* ‘we leave’ < **tarn-uweni*
- *wu > mu* e.g. *idālu-* ‘bad’ > NOM.PL *idālaweš* vs. ACC.PL *idālamuš* < **idalu-wuš*

Long distance assimilation/dissimilation

- **Assimilation:** occurrence of non-etymological *n* preceded by nasal
e.g. *ḫaššannanza* for *ḫaššannaz* ‘from the family’
- **Dissimilation:** $m...n \rightarrow m...l$ e.g. *irmanant-* ‘sick’ > *irmalant-*
 $l...l \rightarrow l...r$ e.g. *ḫapalzil* ‘stew (?)’ > *ḫapalzir*

Deletion

- Sporadic loss of stops in between sonorants
e.g. *ḥinnuzi* for *ḥinganuzi* /hinknutsi/ ‘s/he makes bow’
- Deletion of *š* / *_z* / *ts*/
e.g. *a-ar-zi* for *a-ar-aš-zi* ‘flows’
- Deletion of *ḥ* next to stop
e.g. *idālawatti* for *idālawahṭi* ‘you harm’
- Deletion of *n* / *_ḥ*, *k*, *t*, *w*, *z*
e.g. *ša-a-aḥ* for *ša-an-aḥ* ‘seek!’
- Weakening of *r* / *V_V*, *_C*
e.g. *pé-an* for *peran* ‘before’
e.g. *wagganteš* for *warkanteš* ‘fat ones’

Epenthesis (?)

- 1) Secondary [ns] spelled <nz> e.g. *anzāš* 'us'
- 2) Alternation of <l/rs> and <l/rz> e.g. *maršaštarri-* vs. *marzaštarri-* 'desecration'

➤ What does <z> in 1) and 2) stand for?

- Voice **assimilation**: $s > z /n,l,r_$
- **Epenthesis** of t between the sonorants and s , resulting [ts] spelled with z