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Hittite

Syntax – Part 5: Word order and discourse structure

Roadmap

- Word order typology
- Initial verbs
- Nominal constituents
- Sentence connectives
- Discourse structure

Word order typology

Greenberg (1963)

- Type I = VSO
- Type II = SVO
- Type III = SOV

→ Hittite is a type III language

Word order typology

- **AN** → *parkuin išnan* ‘pure dough’
- **GN** → ^{URU}*Nešaš LUGAL-uš* ‘the king of Nesa’
- **NPostp** → *kašti piran* ‘(s/he died) of hunger’
- **ReIN** → mostly preposed correlative relatives

Initial verbs and postverbal constituents

#^a *apuš* *ḥantezumni teḥḥi* #^b *weš=a* *namma anda paiwani*
 DEM.ACC.PL porch.DAT put.PRS.1SG 1PL.NOM=CONN again inside go.PRS.1PL

#^c 2 ^d*Ḥantašepuš ḥarwani* **GIŠ-aš** #^d *ḥarkanzi=ma=an* ^d*Ḥantašepēš*
 two H.ACC.PL have.PRS.1PL wood.GEN have.PRS.3PL=CONN=PTC H.NOM.PL

anduhšaš ḥaršarr=a ^{GIŠ}SUKUR^{Hl.A}=*ya* #^e *šakuwa=šmet* *išḥaškanta*
 man.GEN.PL head.ACC.PL=CONJ lance(PL)=CONJ eye(N).NOM.PL=3PL.POS bloody.NOM.PL.N

‘#^a I put those in the front-porch. #^b We go inside again, #^c holding two H. divinities, made of wood. #^d (The H. divinities **hold** human heads as well as spears ; #^e their eyes are bloodstained...’

Initial verbs

#^f *wešanda=ma* *išharwantuš* TÚG^{Hl.A}-*uš* #^g *putaliyantešš=a* #^h *anda=kan*
 wear.PRS.3PL=CONN purple.ACC.PL cloth.ACC.PL bound.PTCP.NOM.PL=CONJ inside=PTC
ḫalinaš *teššummiuš* *tarlipit* *šuwamuš* 2-*ki* *petumeni* #ⁱ *tarueni=ma=at*
 clay.GEN vessel.ACC.PL t.INST full.ACC.PL twice bring.PRS.1PL say.PRS.1PL=CONN=3SG.ACC.N
ešḫar #^l *DUMU.É.GAL-iš* ^d*Ḫantašepan* LUGAL-*iš* *kiššari* *dai*
 blood(N).ACC servant.NOM H.ACC king.DAT hand.DAT put.PRS.3SG

‘...#^f They **are wearing** purple clothes #^g and have high belts. #^h Twice we bring inside the clay vessels full of t. #ⁱ (we **call** it blood); #^l the palace servant puts a H. divinity in the hand of the king.’ (KBo 17.1 i 18’-28’)

Indefinite pronouns, negation

(1) *nu mān kišan **kuiški** memai*
CONN if thus INDF.NOM speak.PRS.3SG
'And if someone speaks as follows.' (KUB 1.4 iii 40)

(2) *luzzi **natta** karpiyezzi*
I.(N).ACC NEG take.PRS.3SG
'He shall not perform the *luzzi-service*.' (KBo 6.2 ii 40)

➤ Mostly immediately preverbal

(3) *kušann=*a* **natta** **kuiški** iēzzi*
price.ACC=CONJ NEG INDF.NOM do.PRS.3SG
'No one pays a wage.' (KBo 6.2 iii 17)

Symmetric coordination

- Enclitic $=(y)a$ 'and' both at NP and sentence level

(1) LUGAL-*i* MUNUS.LUGAL=**ya** 'to the king and the queen'

(2) 'both ... and'

namma=ma=kan KUR ^{URU}*Hapālla* *kuenta=ya* *ŪL*

then=CONN=PTC land *H.* kill.PST.3SG=CONJ NEG

ēpta=ya=at *ŪL*

take.PST.3SG=CONJ=3SG.ACC.N NEG

'But then you neither attacked the land of Hapalla nor seized it.' (KUB 14,1 ii 23)

- Coordinating $=(y)a$ (and **not** adversative $=(m)a!$) geminates the preceding consonants, e.g. *kušann=a* 'and the price.ACC'.

Connectives

- Sentence initial: *nu* frequently used as host for P2 clitics.
OH also *ta* and *šu*

(1) *nu=šmaš=at=kan ...*

CONN=3PL.DAT=3SG.ACC.N=PTC

(2) *nu=war=at=za ...*

CONN=QUOT=3SG.ACC.N=REFL

Connectives

- Between main clauses
- Between a preposed subordinate clause and the main clause
- Never between a main clause and a postposed subordinate clause

Connectives – Main clauses

DUMU.NITA^{MEŠ} *āppa* ^{URU}*Nēša* *yanzi* **nu** *ANŠE-in* *nanniyanzi*
son(PL) back N.DIR go.PRS.3PL CONN donkey.ACC drive.PRS.3PL

‘The sons go back to the city of Nesa, and they are driving a donkey.’

(KBo 22.2 rev. 7-8)

Connectives – Subordinate - main clause

mān ^{MUŠEN} *ḥaranan ḥušuwandan appanzi n=an udanzi*
when eagle.ACC live.PTCP.ACC take.PRS.3PL CONN=3SG.ACC bring.PRS.3PL
'When they take the living eagle, then they bring it forth.' (KBo 17.3+ ii 14)

Connectives – Main - subordinate clause

nu È-ri=ši *anniškizzi* *kuitmān=aš*
CONN house.DAT=3SG.DAT substitute-PLUR-PRS.3sg until=3SG.NOM

lāzziatta

become.good.PRS.3SG.MID

‘He shall provide substitution in his house until he recovers.’ (KBo 6.2 i 17-18)

Adversative connective $=(m)a$

- Discontinuity in discourse, backgrounded information, topic shift:

#^a *maḥḥan=ma=za ABU-YA* ^m*Muršiliš* DINGIR^{LIM} *kišat*
 when=CONN=REFL father=1SG.POSS M.NOM god become.PST.3SG.MID

#^b *ŠEŠ-YA=ma=za=kan* ^mNIR.GÁL ANA ^{GIŠ}GU.ZA *ABI-ŠU* *ešat*
 brother=1SG.POSS=CONN=REFL=PTC M. to throne father=3SG.POSS sit.PST.3SG.MID

#^c *ammuk=ma=za* ANA PANI ŠEŠ-YA EN.KARAS *kišḥaḥat*
 1SG.NOM=CONN=REFL to front brother=1SG.POSS chief become.PST.1SG.MID

‘#^a When my father Mursili became a god (i.e. died), #^b my brother Muwatalli sat on his father’s throne #^c while I became army commander in front of my brother...’

Adversative connective =(m)a

#^d KUR UGU=*ya=mu* *maniyahḫanni* *pešta*
land upper=CONJ=1SG.DAT administer.INF give.PST.3SG

#^e *nu* KUR UGU^{Tl} *taparḫa* #^f *piran=ma=at=mu*
CONN land upper rule.PST.1SG before=CONN=3SG.ACC.N=1SG.DAT

^mD.XXX.DU-*aš* DUMU ^m*Zida* *maniyahḫiškī*
A.GEN son Z. administer.PLUR.PST.3SG

'... #^d and he gave me the Upper Country to administrate. #^e So I ruled the country. #^f
Before me Zida's son, Armadatta, had administrated it.' (KUB 1.1 i 22-28)

Adversative connective $=(m)a$

#^a *ABI LUGAL IŠPUR* #^b *š=an* *šara water*
 father king sent CONN=3SG.ACC up bring.PST.3PL

#^c *pidi=šši=ma* ^m*Šarmaššun* *ḫatrait*
 place.DAT=3SG.POSS.DAT=CONN S.ACC write.PST.3SG

#^d *paizzi=ma=aš* *nawi*
 go.PRS.3SG=CONN=3SG.NOM not_yet

‘#^a The king’s father sent (for him); #^b he was taken back; #^c (the king’s father) ordered Sarmassu to take his place, #^d **but** he has not gone yet.’
 (KUB 36.104 obv. 9-13)

‘Focus’ particle =*pat*

- (1) EGIR-*an=ma=aš* *irmaliyattat=pat*
after=CONN=3SG.NOM become.ill.PST.3SG.MID=PTC
‘Later on he also became ill.’ (KBo 3.4 i 5-6)
- (2) *nu=ššan* ^m*Keššiš* *para ANA DAM-ŠU=pat* *IŠME*
CONN=PTC K.NOM toward to wife=3SG.POSS=PTC listened
‘Kessi listened to his wife only.’ (KUB 33.121+ ii 6)
- (3) *ammel=pat=wa=za* GUD-*un dahhi*
1SG.GEN=PTC=QUOT=REFL OX.ACC take.PRS.1SG
‘I will take my own ox.’ (KBo 19.1a iii 67-68)