

SILVIA LURAGHI, GUGLIELMO INGLESE

# Hittite

Syntax – Part 6: Complex sentences and subordination

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# Roadmap

- Direct questions
- Subordination
- Complement clauses
- Adverbial clauses
- Relative clauses

## Direct questions

- **Yes/No questions** → intonation

(1) ŠEŠ-YA=za                      *malāši*  
brother=1SG.POSS=REFL approve.PRS.2SG  
'Are you agreed, my brother?' (KUB 14.3 iii 62)

- **Wh-questions** → *ku-* pronoun/conjunction

(2) *ḥāš*                      *nu*              ***kuez***      *uwaši*  
open.IMP.2SG    CONN    INT.ABL    come.PRS.2SG  
'Open!' 'Where are you coming from?' (KBo 21.22 22)

## Subordination in Hittite

- At an early stage no complement clauses (paratactic structures)
- Adverbial clauses mostly preposed (postposed: *kuit*, *kuitman*)
- No purpose clauses (only infinitives)
- Relative clauses mostly co-relative
- Verb of subordinate clause = verb of main clause

## Complement clauses

**Reported speech:** the particle =*wa(r)*

*nu=mu*      *memir*      *paiueni=war=an=kan*      *kuennumeni*

CONN=1SG.DAT    speak.PST.3PL    go.PRS.1PL=QUOT=3SG.ACC=PTC    kill.PRS.1PL

‘They told me: we shall (go) kill him.’ (KBo 6.29 ii 24-26)

## Complement clauses

- Use of *kuit* as a complementizer with verbs of knowledge, perception, and communication (but not with verbs of speech!):

*maḥḥan=ma* LÚ<sup>MEŠ</sup> URU *Aššur auēr* URU<sup>DIDLI.ḪI.A</sup> BÀD=*kan kuit*  
when=CONN men(PL) A. see.PST.3PL city(PL) wall=PTC COMP

*zahḥiyaz katta daškeuwan teḥḥun*  
battle.ABL down take.PLUR.SUP put.PST.1SG

‘But when the Assyrians saw that I had begun to take the fortified cities in battle.’  
(KBo 4.4 iv 28–29)

## Adverbial clauses

- Conditional *takku* (OH), *mān* (NH)
- Temporal *mān* (OH), *maḥḥan* (NH)
- Temporal *kuitman* pre- or postposed
- Causal *kuit*

## Conditional clauses - *takku*

***takku*** LÚ.ULÙ<sup>LU</sup>-aš    ELLAM-aš    KIR<sub>14</sub>=šet                    *kuiški*    *waki*  
if            man.GEN            free.GEN    nose(N)=3SG.POSS.ACC.N INDF.NOM    bite.PRS.3SG  
'If someone bites the nose of a free man.' (KBo 6.2 i 24)



## Conditional clauses - *mān*

*mān*=*wa*=*mu*    1-*an*    DUMU-KA    *paišti*    *man*=*war*=*aš*=*mu*  
if=QUOT=1SG.DAT    one.ACC    son=2SG.POSS    give.PRS.2SG    PTC=QUOT=3SG.NOM=1SG.DAT  
LÚ *MUTI-YA*    *kišari*

husband=1SG.POSS    become.PRS.3SG.MID

‘If you were to give me one of your sons, he would become my husband.’ (KBo 5.6 iii  
12-13)

## Temporal - *mān*

*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)

## Temporal - *maḥḥan*

*maḥḥan*=*ma=za* ABU-YA                    <sup>m</sup>*Muršiliš*    DINGIR<sup>LIM</sup>    *kišat*  
when=CONN=REFL father=1SG.POSS    M.NOM            god            become.PST.3SG.MID

ŠEŠ-YA=*ma=za=kan*                    <sup>m</sup>NIR.GÁL ANA    GIŠGU.ZA    ABI=ŠU  
brother=1SG.POSS=CONN=REFL=PTC M.            to            throne            father=3SG.POSS

*ešat*

sit.PST.3SG.MID

‘When my father Mursili became a god (i.e. died), my brother Muwatalli sat on his father’s throne.’ (KUB 1.1 i 22-23)

## Temporal - *kuitman*

- (1) *kuitman witti mēani ari ta É-i=ši*  
while year.DAT extent.DAT arrive.PRS.3SG CONN house.DAT=3SG.POSS.DAT  
*SAG.KI-za ḥarzi*  
in.front.of hold.PRS.3SG

‘While a year’s time goes by, he preserves (it) intact in his house.’ (KBo 25.5 ii 4 + i 33)

- (2) *nu È-ri=ši anniškizzi kuitmān=aš*  
CONN house.DAT=3SG.POSS.DAT substitute.PLUR.PRS.3sg until=3SG.NOM  
*lāzziatta*  
be\_good.PRS.3SG.MID

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

## Causal

*kedaš=ma ANA KUR.KUR<sup>HI.A</sup> LUGAL<sup>URU</sup> Ḫatti **kuit** UL kuiški*

DEM.DAT.PL=CONN to country(PL) king *H.* because NEG INDF.NOM

*panza ešta nu=ššan šer šakuwantariyanun*

go.PTCP.NOM be.PST.3SG CONN=PTC over remain.PST.1SG

‘Since no Hittite king had been in those countries (before), I remained up there for some time.’ (KBo 5.8 i 37-38)

## Relative clauses – Correlatives

GIŠSUKUR<sup>HI.A</sup>=*ma* ù GIŠPA<sup>HI.A</sup> *que* *ḫarkanzi*

spear(PL.N)=CONN and scepter(PL.N) REL.ACC.PL.N have.PRS.3PL

*nu=šmaš=at=kan* 1-*aš* <sup>LÚ</sup>MEŠEDI *arḫa dāi*

CONN=3PL.DAT=3PL.ACC.N=PTC one.NOM guard away take.PRS.3SG

‘But which spears and scepters they hold, one guard takes these away from them.’ (KBo 4.9 rev. v 3-5)

## Relative clauses – Correlatives

#<sup>a</sup> *mMaraššantaš=ma kuit TUPU ḫarzi*  
M.NOM=CONN REL.ACC.N tablet(N) have.PRS.3SG

#<sup>b</sup> *n=at uizzi mān udai*  
CONN=3SG.ACC.N go.PRS.3SG if bring.PRS.3SG

#<sup>c</sup> *n=at le dattari*  
CONN=3SG.ACC.N NEG take.PRS.3SG.MID

'If Marantassas brings here the tablet he has, do not take it away (from him)'.  
(*Bronzetafel* ii 2-3)

## Relative clauses – Free relatives

<i>paprezzi</i>	<i>kuiš</i>	3	GÍN	KÙ.BABBAR	<i>pāi</i>
be_impure.PRS.3SG	REL.NOM	3	shekel	silver	give.PRS.3SG

‘(The one) who is impure gives three shekels of silver.’ (KBo 6.2 i 57)



## Relative clauses – Postposed restrictive

*natta apūn GEŠTIN-an piēr LUGAL-uš kuin aušta*

NEG DEM.ACC wine.ACC give.PST.3PL king.NOM REL.ACC see.PST.2SG

‘They did not give (me) that wine that you, the King, saw.’ (KBo 3.34 ii 5-6)

## Relative clauses – Postposed appositive

*nu=za      <sup>d</sup>Kumarbiš      GALGA-tar      ZI-ni      katta      daškizzi*  
CONN=REFL    Kumarbi.NOM    windsom.ACC    mind.DAT    with      take-PLUR-PRS.3SG

*UD<sup>KAM</sup>-an    **kuiš**      LÚ      ḪUL-an    šallanuškizzi*  
day.ACC      REL.NOM    man    evil.ACC    raise-PLUR-PRS.3SG

‘Kumarbi takes wisdom into his mind, (he) who raises the day as an evil being.’

(KUB 33.98 i 4-5)