

GERD CARLING

# Tocharian

Introduction – Part 2



## BMAC loans in Tocharian (and other languages)

TB *išcem*\* ‘clay, brick’, also in TB *iščake* < \**iščäke* and A \**išäk* (based on Uigh. *išič*, *išič* ‘clay, brick’) < CT \**is't'äkæ* corresponds to Indo-Iranian, e.g., Vedic *iṣṭakā*- ‘brick’, Old Pers. *išti*, Mod. Pers. *xišt* ‘brick’.

TB *šecake* A *šišäk* ‘lion’ and Skt. *siṃha*- (also *siṃhaka*-) ‘lion’, Mod. Ch. *suānní*, Mid. Ch. \**swan*+*NEi*, Old Chin. \**soo*[*n,r*]+*Nee* (GSR 46d+873o (873#)) Tib. *se.n-ge* ‘lion’ vs. Mod. Chin. *shīzǐ*, Mid. Ch. \**srij*+*tsiX*, Old. Chin. \**srij*+*tsə*-? (GSR 559a (559#) 964a) ‘lion’.

TB *kercapo* ‘donkey, ass’ and Skt. *gardabhá*- ‘donkey, ass’ < \**gord(h)ebho*-, taking place before the merger of Indo-Eur. \**a*, \**e*, \**o* > \**a* in Indo-Iranian.

## Turkic loans in Tocharian

TA *kanak* B *kenek* ‘cotton cloth’ < Common Toch. \**kænæk*, obviously a Turkish borrowing, cf. Chor. *kcynyk* ‘silk fabric’.

TB *pärseri*\* ‘flea’ as borrowed from Turkic also seems convincing, cf. Tat. *börče*, Kum. *bürče* ‘id.’

A *kattum*, *hkhātum* ‘lady, princess’, from Uigh. *χatun*, *qatun*, *xa:tun* ‘queen, wife, lady’ (ATG:336a), also present in Khot. *hąttuna*, *khattunä*.

## Tocharian loans in Chinese

The most certain borrowing from Tocharian to Chinese is the word for ‘honey’, Toch. B *mīt*, *mit* < *\*myit* < *\*m'ät* < Indo-Eur. *\*médhu-* ‘honey, mead’ (IEW:707), Mod. Ch. *mì*, Mid. Ch. *\*mjit*, Old. Ch. *\*mit* (GSR 405r) ‘honey’. The Middle Chinese reconstruction corresponds precisely to Common Toch. *\*myit*.

## Tocharian loans from Old Chinese

Toch. AB *klu* ‘rice’ was borrowed from Old Chinese: Mod. Ch. *dào*, Mid. Ch. *\*dawX*, Old Chin. *\*C-luu-?* ‘rice, rice-paddy’ (GSR 1078). In Middle Chinese, the initial cluster OChin. *\*gl-* was simplified to *d-*.

The derivation of Toch. B *rapaññe* ‘of the last month of the year’ (LP 12 a2 *rapaññe memne ikäm-wine* ‘on the second day of the month rapaññe’), an adjective formed on a noun *\*rāp*, from Old Chinese: Mod. Ch. *là*, Mid. Ch. *\*lap*, Old Ch. *\*raap* (GSR 637j) ‘winter sacrifice’. It is likely that an earlier meaning of the Chinese word is reflected in Tocharian.

Toch. A *ri* B *rīye* < Common Toch. *\*riye* matches the Old Chinese reconstruction of Mod. Ch. *lí*, Mid. Ch. *\*liX*, Old Ch. *\*rǎ-?* (GSR 978a) ‘walled city’. The word may also be a Tocharian loan in Old Chinese.

## Tocharian loans from Early Middle Chinese

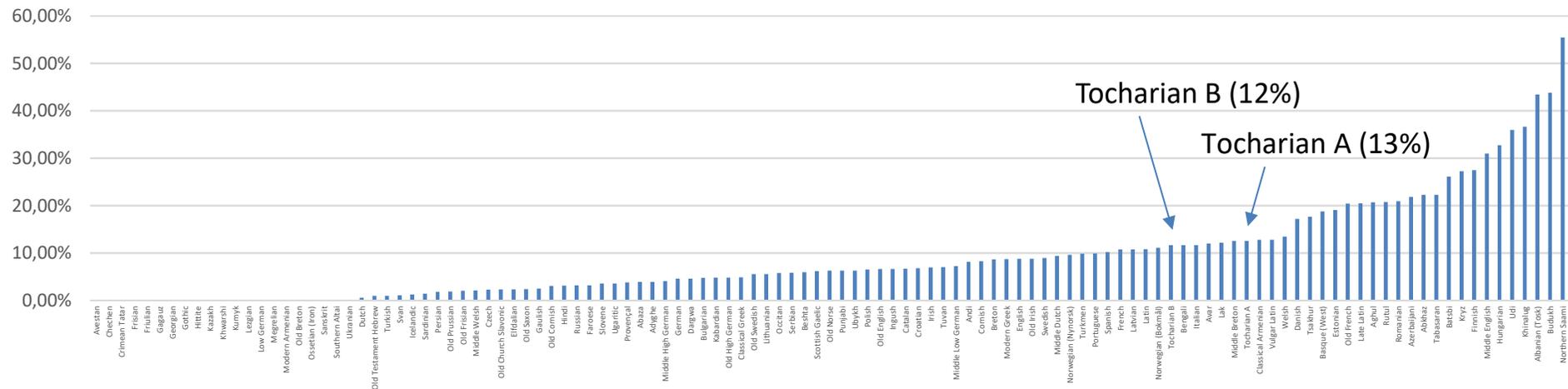
TA *šoštänk* ‘tax collector, banker’ (Skt. *śreṣṭhin-*) corresponds to Niya *šoṭhaṃga* ‘tax collector’, Bactr. *σωταγγο* < \**šoštaṅgV*. A possible source is Mod. Ch. *shōucáng*, Mid. Ch. \**syuw+dzang*, Old. Ch. \**xiw-N-s-(h)raŋ* (GSR 1103a+727g) ‘receive, accept, gather’ + ‘conceal, store’.

TA *ṣukṣ* ‘(smaller) village’, TB *kwaṣo\** ‘village’. Parallel Mod. Ch. *sù*, Mid. Ch. \**sjuwk*, Old Ch. \**suk* (GSR 1029a) ‘lodge, mansion’. Itō & Takashima (1996:401) reconstruct Old Ch. \**sjəkw-s* with a final \*-s (that has a function of localisation and production of nomina actionis etc.).

Toch. A *āñk\** ‘seal, stamp’, Mod. Ch. *yìn*, Mid. Ch. \**ʔjinH*, Old Ch. \**ʔin-s* (GSR 1251f), \**ʔjəŋ* (Takashima) ‘seal, stamp’.

# Amount of borrowing in 100 culture terms (farming, pastoralism, technology, industry, hunting, war)

Percentage of loans by language



## How do we know that Tocharian is Indo-European?

- At least 600 safe, Indo-European core etymologies.
- Indo-European inflectional system is preserved.
- Reconstruction of Pre-, Proto- and Common Tocharian phonological systems.

## THE POSITION OF TOCHARIAN IN THE INDO-EUROPEAN TREE

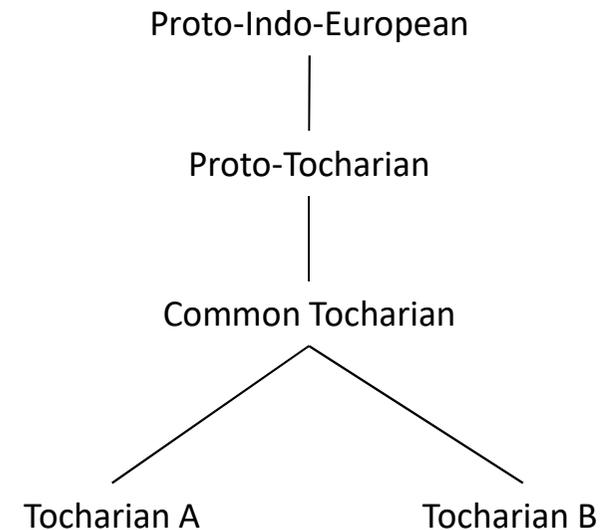
Tocharian forms its own branch.

Second to branch off?

Same status as other branches?

Lexical archaisms.

Phylogenetics.



## Lexical archaisms in Tocharian

Toch. AB *yäp-* ‘enter’, Skt. *yabh-*, Greek *oíphō*, Russ. *ebu* ‘have intercourse’ < PIE \**yebh-* ‘enter’ (LIV:309) The original meaning of the verb is preserved in Tocharian.

TB *kärweñe* ‘stone, rock’, Skt. *grāvan-* ‘stone for pressing out soma’, Welsh *breuan* ‘handmill’, Old Ch. Slav. *žrŭny* ‘handmill’.

TB *śrān-\** ‘(adult) man’ < PIE \**ǵerh<sub>2</sub>-ōn*, Skt. *járant-* ‘old, fragile’, Gr. *géront-* ‘geriatric’, Oss. *zäronđ* ‘old’ < PIE \**ǵerh<sub>2</sub>-* ‘mature, grow’ (LIV:165). The meaning ‘old’, ‘geriatric’ is an innovation of the non-Tocharian languages.



