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Tocharian

Morphology – Part 3

Roadmap

- 3. Morphology
- 3.3. Inflection
- 3.3.1. Declension
- 3.3.2. Conjugation

3.3.1. Declension

- The main feature of Tocharian declension is a two-level case system.

- The primary cases are nominative, vocative, genitive, and accusative.

- The accusative also functions as the oblique stem on which the secondary cases are built.

- The secondary cases shared by both TA and TB are perlative, comitative, allative, ablative, and locative.

- Additionally, TA has an instrumental and TB a causal.

3.3.1. Declension

- Two-level case system

TB CEToM PK NS 36 and 20 a2

tumeṃ	*candramukheṃ*	*lāntäś*	*weṣṣäṃ*	*oroccu*	*walo*
thereupon	NAME.ACC.SG	king.ALL.SG	say.3SG.PRS.ACT	great.VOC.SG	king.VOC.SG

se	*ñiś*	*araṇemi*	*walo*	*nesau*
this.NOM.SG	I.NOM.SG	NAME.NOM.SG	king.NOM.SG	be.1SG.PRS.ACT

"Thereupon he said to King Candramukha: Great king, this [is] me, I am king Aranemi."

3.3.1. Declension

- Traditionally, inflectional classes of substantives in Tocharian are distinguished based on the plural.
- There are two main classes.
  - neuter (alternans) nom. = acc. TB -*a*, TA -*ø*/-*ā* (class 1-3).
  - non-neuter acc. TB -*ṃ*, TA -*s* with nom. TB and TA -*i*; -*ñ*; -*ø* (class 4-7).

3.3.1. Declension

TB	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	a	*n(m)a*	*nta*	*r*	*i*	*n*	*nt*
nom.sg.	-∅	-∅/-V	-V	-ʲer	-V/-∅	-V	-o/au
acc.sg.	-∅	-∅/-V	-V	-är	-V/∅(ṃ)	-V/-ai	-nt
nom.pl.	-a	-Vn(m)a	-Vnta	-ʲera/-rñ	-(ʲ)i	-Vñ	-ñc
acc.pl.	-a	-Vn(m)a	-Vnta	-ʲera/-rñ	-Vṃ	-Vṃ	-ntäṃ

TB	nom.sg.	acc.sg.	nom.pl.	acc.pl.	Gloss
1 (a)	*pikul*	*pikul*	*pikwala*	*pikwala*	year
2a (na)	*ñem*	*ñem*	*ñemna*	*ñemna*	name
2b (nma)	*cok*	*cok*	*cokanma*	*cokanma*	lamp
3 (nta)	*yarke*	*yarke*	*yärkenta*	*yärkenta*	veneration
4 (r)	*mācer*	*mātär*	*mācera*	*mācera*	mother
5 (i)	*yakwe*	*yakwe*	*yakwi*	*yakweṃ*	horse
6 (n)	*okso*	*oksai*	*oksaiñ*	*oksaiṃ*	ox
7 (nt)	*walo*	*lānt*	*lāñc*	*lāntäṃ*	king

3.3.1. Declension

TA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	a/u	*na*	*nt/u*	*r*	*i*	*n*	*nt*
nom.sg.	-ø	-ø	-ø/V	-ʲar	-ø	-V	-ø
acc.sg.	-ø	-ø	-ø/V	-ʲar	-ø	-V	-nt
nom.pl.	-ā/-u	-äṃ	-nt/-Vntu	-ʲri/-ʲre	-⁽ʲ⁾i	-Vñ	-ṃś
acc.pl.	-ā/-u	-äṃ	-nt/-Vntu	-ʲrä/-ʲres	-äs	-Vs	-ñcäs

TA	nom.sg.	acc.sg.	nom.pl.	acc.pl.	Gloss
1a (a)	p$_u$käl	p$_u$käl	puklā	puklā	year
1b (u)	waṣṭ	waṣṭ	waṣṭu	waṣṭu	house
2 (na)	por	por	poräṃ	poräṃ	fire
3a (nt)	yärk	yärk	yärkant	yärkant	veneration
3b (ntu)	wär	wär	wräntu	wräntu	water
4 (r)	mācar	mācar	mācri	mācräs	mother
5 (i)	tkaṃ	tkaṃ	tkañi	tkañäs	horse
6 (n)	ñkät	ñkät	ñäktañ	ñäktas	god
7 (nt)	wäl	lānt	lāṃś	lāñcäs	king

3.3.1. Declension

▪ Adjectives in Tocharian B in principle have three different stems, masculine, feminine singular, feminine plural.

▪ Like in the substantives, the inflectional classes are traditionally distinguished based on the plural.

3.3.1. Declension

TB	m.				f.		
	nom.sg.	acc.sg.	nom.pl.	acc.pl.	nom.sg.	acc.sg.	nom.acc.pl.
1	-$^{(j)}e$	-$^{(j)}e$	-$^{(j)}i$	-$^{(j)}em$	-$^{(j)}a$	-$^{(j)}ai$	-ana/-ona
2	-V	-Vṃ	-Vñ	-Vṃ	-a	-ai	-na
3	-V	-Vnt	-Vñc	-Vntäṃ	-ntsa	-ntsai	-nta
4	-V	-Vṣ	-Vṣ	-Vṣäṃ	-usa	-usai	-uwa

TB	m.				f.			
	nom.sg.	acc.sg.	nom.pl.	acc.pl.	nom.sg.	acc.sg.	nom.acc.pl.	
1	*oraṣṣe*	-ṣṣe	-ṣṣi	-ṣṣeṃ	-ṣṣa	-ṣṣai	-ṣṣana	woody
2	*orkamo*	-moṃ	-moñ	-moṃ	-mña	-mñai	-mñana	dark
3	*perne*ᵤ	-ent	-eñc	-entäṃ	-entsa	-entsai	-enta	worthy
4	*yāmu*	*yāmoṣ*	*yāmoṣ*	*yāmoṣäṃ*	*yāmusa*	*yāmusai*	*yāmuwa*	done

3.3.1. Conjugation

- Tocharian has four verb stems: present, subjunctive, preterite, and imperative.

- These can each be subdivided into different morphological classes that are mainly distinguished by different stem vowels and suffixes.

- In contrast to the nominal system, ablaut is frequent in the verbal system.

- Infixation and reduplication are rare.

	Present	Subjunctive	Preterite	Imperative
1	root ablaut athem.	root ablaut athem.	root ablaut athem.	-a-
2	them.	them.	reduplicated	-^{j}a-
3	root ablaut TB -e- TA -a-	TB -e- TA -a-	root ablaut -s-	-s-
4	TB -o- TA -a-	-i-	-ṣṣ-	-sk-
5	root ablaut -ā-	root ablaut -ā-	-ññ-	-ññ-
6	-nā-	-nā-	them.	TB -e-
7	nasal infix	-ñ-		
8	root ablaut -s- +them.			
9	TB -sk- +them.	TB -sk- TA -s- +them.		
10	TB -nā/äsk- TA -nā/äs- +them.	TB -näsk- +them.		
11	TB -sa/äsk- TA -sis- +them.	TB -säsk- +them.		
12	root ablaut -ññ- +them.	root ablaut -ññ- +them.		

3.3.1. Conjugation

Prs IV of root TB *krās* 'be angry', CEToM PK NS 29 a1

śuketse   *su*   *krosotär*

sweet.NOM.SG   this.NOM.SG   be angry.3SG.PRS.ACT

"…this sweet one is not angry…"

Prs IX of root TB *krās* 'be angry', CEToM PK AS 7J b2

yoko   *krāsäṣṣäṃ ṣek*

thirst.NOM.SG   vex.3SG.PRS.ACT

"…thirst vexes him continually."