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Tocharian

Phonology – Part 1



Roadmap

- 2. Phonology
 - 2.1. Phonemes
 - 2.1.1. Segments
 - Vowels and Diphthongs
 - Consonants
 - Phonological Processes

2.1.1. Segments of Tocharian A and B

- Vowels

	front	central	back
high	i <i, ī>		u <u, ū>
mid	e <e>	ə [ɨ - ə] <ä, a>	o <o>
low		a [ə - a] <a, ā>	

- Diphthongs Tocharian B

ei <ey>	eu <eu, ew>
əi <ai>	əu <au>
ai <āy>	au <āu>
oy <oy>	ou <ou, ow>

2.1.1. Segments of Tocharian A and B

- Consonants

	labial	dental	alveolar	retroflex	palatal	velar	labiovelar
nasal	m <m>	n <n, ṃ>			ɲ <ñ>	ŋ <ṅ>	
stop	p <p>	t <t>			c <c>	k <k>	k ^w <kw, k _u >
affricate		t ^s <ts>					
fricative			s <s>	ʂ <ṣ>	ç <ś>		
approx					j <y>		w <w>
trill			r <r>				
lateral		l <l>			ʎ <ly>		

2.1.1. Segments of Tocharian A and B

- Phonological Processes: Palatalization Tocharian B

segment	palatalization	examples	
n	ñ	nom.sg. <i>kaum</i> 'day'	nom.pl. <i>kauñi</i>
t	c	3sg.prs. <i>tänmastär</i> 'is born'	3sg.sub. <i>cmētär</i> 'will be born'
k	ś	nom.sg. <i>lyak</i> ,thief'	nom.pl. <i>lyśi</i>
l	ly	3sg.sub. <i>lāmaṃ</i> 'will sit'	3sg.pret. <i>lyama</i> 'sat'
sk	şş	1sg.prs. <i>weskau</i> 'speak'	3sg.prs. <i>weşşäm</i> 'speaks'

2.1.1. Segments of Tocharian A and B

- Phonological Processes: Palatalization Tocharian A

segment	palatalization	examples	
n	ñ	nom.sg. <i>koṃ</i> 'day'	nom.pl. <i>koñi</i>
t	c	3sg.prs. <i>tänmäštär</i> 'is born'	3sg.sub. <i>cmatär</i> 'will be born'
k	ś	nom.sg. <i>lyäk</i> ,thief'	nom.pl. <i>lyśi</i>
l	ly	3sg.sub. <i>lamaş</i> 'will sit'	3sg.pret. <i>lyäm</i> 'sat'

2.1.1. Segments of Tocharian A and B

- Example: Palatalization

TB CETO M PK AS 7E b2

<i>cai</i>	<i>krui</i>	<i>nta</i>	<i>yśāmna</i>	<i>cmentrā</i>	<i>onolmi</i>
this.NOM.PL	if	somehow	among men	born.3PL.SBJV.MID	being.NOM.PL
<i>snaice</i>	<i>ostne</i>	<i>tänmaskentrā</i>	<i>ekñiññesa</i>	<i>meñkīce</i>	
poor.OBL.SG	house.LOC.SG	born.3PL.PRS.MID	possession.PERL.SG	lacking.OBL.SG	

“If these beings will be reborn somehow among humans, they are reborn in a poor house lacking possession.”