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La Revue Hittite et Asiatique publie des articles touchant l'histoire, l'archéologie, la linguistique et les civilisations de l'Asie Mineure ancienne. Elle donne une bibliographie et des comptes rendus critiques d'ouvrages concernant ce champ de recherches.

Les auteurs sont priés d'envoyer leurs manuscrits dactylographiés au Rédacteur, M. E. LAROCHE, Professeur à l'Université, 5, rue Grandidier, Strasbourg.

A Note on the Linguistic Form of Hittite "sheep"

It has been generally held for some time that the Sumerogram UDU "sheep" has its phonetic equivalent in ^{UDU}*iyant-*,¹⁾ though the phonetic complements of UDU (e.g. nom. sg. UDU-*is*) do not corroborate this idea. The form *iyant-* would be the participle of *iya-* "to go".²⁾ Yet, objections to this have already been raised by E. Benveniste.³⁾ In a few remarks, I shall attempt here to reinterpret the linguistic form of Hittite "sheep".

A suffix *-ant-* is used, among other things, to extend the stems of nouns without noteworthy change of meaning: *hameshant-*: *hamesha-* "spring (season)", *gimmant-*: *gim-* "winter", *mayant-*: *mayā-* "a man in his prime", *nepisant-*: *nepis-* "sky", *suppalant-*: *suppal-* "livestock", *zenant-*: *zena-* "fall (season)", etc. When appended to *i-*-stem and *u-*-stem nouns, the suffix appears consistently as *-yant-* and *-want-*: *sankunniyant-*: *sankunni-* "priest", *utneyant-*: *utne-* "country"; *welkuwant-*: *welku-* "grass".

If we read now UDU-*iyant-* instead of ^{UDU}*iyant-*, we may analyze: ideogram UDU with Hitt. complement *-i-* + suffix *-(y)ant-*; thus UDU-*i-yant-*. This would imply that the Hitt. word behind UDU-*i-* would have to be an *i-*-stem. This would tie in with other occurrences of UDU with Hitt. complements: nom. sg. UDU-*is*, acc. pl. UDU-*us*.

Knowing that UDU-*i-* would have to be an *i-*-stem noun, we might be able to supply the phonetic reading for UDU. Indeed, the closest relative of Hittite, Luwian, denotes "sheep" with an *i-*-stem noun: *hawi-*. If we now remember that **taruwant-*: *taru-* "wood" was supplied from the comparison GIS³-*ruwant-*: *taru-*, we may now tentatively read UDU-*iyant-*: UDU-*i-* (nom. sg. UDU-*is*, acc. pl. UDU-*us*): Luw. *hawi-* as **hawiyant-*: **hawi-* (nom. sg. **hawis*, acc. pl. **hawius*).

Whereas the reading *hawi-, *hawiyant- is, of course, of an experimental nature, the reinterpretation of UDUiyant- as UDU-iyant- is reasonably certain. This correlates with the hesitations expressed earlier by E. Benveniste on the subject of UDUiyant-.

1. H. Ehelolf, *ZA NF* 9.179 fn. 1 (1935). Otherwise A. Goetze, ap. Sturtevant, *Chrest.* 123 (Philadelphia, 1935).
2. H. Pedersen, *Hitt. und IE* § 93 (Copenhagen, 1938).
3. E. Benveniste, *Hitt. et IE* 12 (Paris, 1962).

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