

## **Abstract**

The present study offers a detailed investigation of two important groups of Hittite nominal *i*-stems, namely the *āi*-stems and the so-called "core" *i*-stems. It is divided into three parts. The first part offers an introduction to the problem of *i*-stems in PIE and in Hittite itself. The second part comprises the selected lexemes and provides their attestations, information on their inflection and origin. It strives to present a current picture of the synchronic evidence for the selected groups, which is necessary taking into account the rapid progress in Hittite studies. Preliminary conclusions are also provided for the historical analysis of the individual items. The third part builds upon the information gathered about the individual lexical items to offer new views on the ablaut patterns and origins of the words. Besides providing an overview and useful summary, my goal is to confront some of the generalizations previously made about *i*-stems and offer new solutions, which could also be of a profit to historical linguists outside of Anatolian studies. The major finding of the thesis is the fact that only a very few *i*- and *āi*-stem nouns and adjectives can be considered directly inherited from Proto-Indo-European.