

Dissertation / Disertační práce

Dita Frantíková

“Aspects of Hittite nominal *i*-stems” / “Aspekty hettitských nominálních *i*-kmenů”

Advisor review / Recenze vedoucího práce

Ronald Kim

Dita Frantíková's dissertation is a thorough and up-to-date study of two of the most important nominal classes in the Hittite language, the *āi*-stems and the “core” or primary *i*-stems. Although relatively short and oriented for the most part more to Hittitologists and scholars of ancient Anatolia than to Indo-Europeanists, it marks an important achievement in Hittite studies due to the author's philological expertise, comprehensive evaluation of the scholarly literature, attention to neighboring languages, and above all sound judgment. It therefore qualifies without question for the granting of a Ph.D. from the Faculty of Arts of Charles University.

After a one-page introduction, Part 1 briefly presents the class of *i*-stems in Proto-Indo-European and the other older Indo-European languages and the distribution and properties of *i*- and *āi*-stems in Hittite. Part 2, the heart of the dissertation, presents a lemmatized corpus of all identifiable core *i*-stems and *āi*-stems, organized by part of speech (noun, adjective) and gender (common, neuter). For each entry, the author gives a table with examples of attested case/number forms, followed by sections on stem formation and inflection, discussion of etymological proposals, and references to the main scholarly literature of Hittite. Part 3 investigates the implications for Indo-European of the Hittite data, of which the author concludes that “very few nouns and adjectives...are inherited or even derived” from Proto-Indo-European (PIE). The etymology of most of the nouns is unknown, and of those with probable Indo-European etymologies, the *i*-stem is confined to Hittite for all but one, the noun *arki*- ‘testicle’. The situation for adjectives is slightly less negative, but there too the possibly inherited *i*-stems may be secondary to *o*-stems, which the author treats in some detail with reference to recent discussions of PIE nominal derivation. Finally, the *āi*-stems too, even those with PIE root etymologies, are almost entirely innovations of Hittite; their precise prehistory remains uncertain, with the author citing several possibilities.

Most of the author's conclusions are unsurprising, but previous discussions of these Hittite nominal classes were outdated with respect to data and/or PIE reconstructions. A major strength of the analyses presented here, as noted by both reviewers, is the discussion of contacts with neighboring languages of the Ancient Near East, as several of the Hittite nouns are likely to be borrowings. I second the opinion of the reviewers that the dissertation deserves to be published as a small monograph, subject to correction of the few remaining errors and expansion of the first and last chapters.