

QA and BA cuneiform signs in the history of Hittite

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Objectives:

To look into problem of the usage of two rare cuneiform signs (qa- and ba-) in texts, written in Old, Middle and New Hittite language. The main object is to find out how often these signs have been used phonetically in Old Hittite, competing with more common signs pa-, ka-, ga-, in what meaning and in what type of lexics, if such usage is detected. The research is based on the principles of corpus linguistics and is going to eventually cover the absolute majority of the published Hittite texts.

Methods:

For the first stage of our investigation I took all publications of StBoT series. The goal is to scan all texts in the publication including dictionaries and choose all forms of words, where a qa- or ba- cuneiform sign appears. I am going to form a catalog of all such cases. Every time that one of these signs is detected, we form a new line with the following data:
— a form containing the sign,
— lexeme,
— address of the form (e.g. Bo 2741+ (KUB 31.61) i 9),
— period when the tablet has been written down,
— period when the photograph of the text has been created,
— CTH number of the text.
The corpus for the research is planned to include not only Hittite texts, but also Akkadian, Hurrite, Hittish, Luvian, because there might exist a probability of a link between statistical frequency of the phonetically used signs qa-, ba-, on the one hand, and language of the text, on the other.

BA	Лексема	форма	Адрес	Датировка экземпляра	Датировка протографа	СТН
	fappa-	fA-ab-ba-a-aš	Bo 2060+ (KUB 15.17) i 10	NS		585.A
		fA-ab-ba-a-aš	Bo 2459 (KUB 15.16) i 11	NS		585.B
		fA-ab-ba-a	Bo 2628+ (KUB 56.1) i 1	LNS		585.S
		fA-ab-ba-a-ki(an)	Bo 2628+ (KUB 56.1) i 2	LNS		585.S
BA.ÚŠ	BA.UG6	Bo 8303 (KUB 56.3)	NS		585.T	
ŠA.BA	ŠA.BA	Bo 3595+ (KUB 31.51) i 10	NS		585.D	
		Bo 5302 (KUB 15.25) Rs. 26	NS		590	
BA-LA-AṬ	BA-LA-AṬ	Bo 7266+ (KUB 56.6) ii 4	NS		585.E	
		Bo 4148+ (KUB 4.33) ii 4	NS		585.P	
A.AB.BA 'Meer'	A.AB.BA	291/e (KUB 30.43) Rs. III 2'	NS		276.2	
LÚ-BA-RU Schutzbürger	LÚ-BA-RU	Bo 162 (BoT 2.101)	LNS		626.Tq06.III.1.G	
		+AnAr 9140 (KBo 17.74, also as ABoT 1.8+) i 18'	MS		631.1.A	
Labarna-	la-ba-ar-na-aš	Bo 2489+ (KUB 57.63) ii 12	NS		385.10.A	
ambassi	am-ba-aš-ši-iš	Bo 4931+ (KUB 40.102) i 7	NS		628.TI 08.A	
		1779/c (KUB 29.4) III 58	NS		481.A	

QA	Лексема	форма	Адрес	Датировка экземпляра	Датировка протографа	СТН
	tukki- 'to be visible'	tju-ua-qa-a-ri	Bo 2741+ (KUB 31.61) i 9	NS		585.A
	acephala	x-iq-qa-aš	Bo 3795+ ii 2	NS		585.P
	QA-DU 'zusammen mit'	QA-DU	Bo 3034 (KUB 31.54) iv 10	LNS		585.O
		QA-DU	Bo 2412 (KUB 31.56) iv 8	NS		585.N
		QA-DU	Hett. III 5			
		QA-DU	KUB I 1+ 1304/u III 5f			
	kuwatqa 'somehow'	ku]-ua-at-qa	2309/c (KUB 15.25) Vs. 36	MS		396.1.1
	QA-TU 'zu Ende sein'	QA-TI	1648/c (KUB 15.25) Rs. 30	MS		396.1.1
	zik 'you'	zi]-ik-qa	552/u (KBo 55.15) i 6'	NS		389
		zi]-iq-qa	Bo 20 (KBo 3.7) i 23	NS		321.A
	mHuqqana-	mHu-ua-qa-na-a-aš	Bo 2020+ (KBo 5.3) ii 10	NS		42.A

Results:

Up to now I have searched through the files of StBoT 1–5. As to the qa-, so far I found more than 60 signs. As to the ba-, I have met with only about 15 signs. All of them but three are attested in New and Late New Hittite texts, only one of ba- signs and two of qa- signs are attested in Middle Hittite texts.

Conclusions:

For the time being statistical data confirm my hypothesis that sign qa- belongs to the new Hittite period, and sign ba- marks only borrowed lexics.

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