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LOAN-WORDS IN MYCENEAN GREEK

D) This work contains a table of all common substantives suspected to be loan-words in Mycenaean Greek, following the tables of the Mycenaean lexical stock established by Antonín Bartoněk. The table contains both words attested in later Greek dialects, and words that do not find continuation in Greek and whose meaning has not been clearly established. For some of these substantives a connection with an Indo-European root can be proposed, but for the majority of them this connection has not yet been made and a meaning can only be determined through the context. This suggests they are potential loan-words. For all the words in the following list, the reading in the Linear B tablets is sure.

The classification has been made according to semantic criteria. This means that neither variants of spelling (e.g. di-pte-ra, di-pte-ra₃), nor declension variations (e.g. su-qo-ta, su-qo-ta-o), nor derivatives (e.g. di-pte-ra-po-ro) have been taken into account, because they do not alter the fact that the denoted thing existed. That is why the same lexical item appears only once on the list. Depending on localization, variants have been taken into account, e.g. di-pte-ra is attested once in Pylos, as well as di-pte-ra₃, and di-pte-ra-po-ro is attested once in Knossos and several times in Pylos. After the basic entry, "*diptera*," the abbreviation Pk follows, where capital P stands for several times attested in Pylos and small k stands for a single testimony in Knossos, even though this concrete form does not respond to the exact localization. The classification intends to clarify the geographical distribution of the individual expression, and not the appearance of the linguistic form. (For that purpose see Bartoněk, 1992).

Both groups of substantives, that is both the ones that find continuation in alphabetical Greek and those that do not find it, can be distributed into the following semantic classes:

1. names of plants or plant product
2. names of animals
3. furniture and household items

4. weapons
5. cloth and textile materials
6. materials other than textiles
7. decorative objects or pieces
8. occupational names or titles
9. agricultural and administrative terms
10. vehicles or parts of them
11. other non classifiable items
12. obscure words without semantic specification

In the case of derivatives, the classification has been made according to the fundamental morphological component, that is Myc. a-pe-ne-wo "animals that draw the cart" appears under "vehicles" in group 10 and not under "names of animals" in group 2. In the case of compounds (and derivatives when possible), the element that does not belong to the group under which the word has been classified appears in brackets. For instance, Myc. su-(qo-ta-o) in group 2.

As explained before, capital **P** stands for several repetitions of Pylos, small **p** for only a single testimony in Pylos and so on. **Med** stands for "Mediterranean", **Sem** represents "Semitic", and **IE** an unidentified Indo-European language. The alphabetical Greek form appears in nominative. This is not the literal transcription of the Mycenaean form, but the testimony of a parallel later form.

In the case of Mycenaean Greek, we can consider two groups of loan-words: 1) Words that have an African or a Semitic origin and those that come from other Indo-European languages, but for which there are reasons to suppose that they are not Greek. This group also includes "Minoan" words. 2) Words that can be generally classified as "Mediterranean", since they are attested in Greek, the languages of Ancient Italy, or any other non Indo-European language spoken at the Mediterranean basin, without being a loan-word from any of these languages. We consider also "Mediterranean" those words which are only attested in Greek and are supposed to belong to a pre-Greek substrate.

Therefore we assume, generally speaking, two different dates for the borrowing. Words belonging to the second group should have entered Greek at the time of the Indo-Europeanization of Greece, as well as some of those words from other **IE** languages, whose speakers the Greeks had contact with, on their way to Greece. The rest of the loan-words (that is, the African and Semitic ones, as well as the Minoan and the **IE** words of languages of peoples with whom the Achaeans had contact in the time of their expansion in the Mediterranean, but not before) must have entered the Greek language about 500 years later, when Greek overtook the Minoan empire and its role in the trade in the Aegean area.

The Minoan should therefore be considered as a double source for loan-words into Greek: on the one hand, the Minoan words themselves, and on the other hand, the Semitic and African words that, because of historic and economical facts, entered the Greek language through Minoan.

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The list show a total of 179 substantives. Of these substantives 83 have a continuation in alphabetical Greek and 96 are attested only in Linear B. Bartoněk has established the lexical stock of Mycenaean Greek up to 1992 in ca. 1800 morphologic classifiable words. About 1000 expressions of these are proper names. Only remaining ca. 800 are expressions of common, non-onomastical character. Of these 800 units, 655 are substantives. In this way we obtain a 27.34% of borrowed substantives in Linear B texts.

II) Table of Loan-words in Mycenaean Greek

Mycenaean	alph. Greek	meaning	place	poss. origin
1. names of plants or their products				
aromol	ἄρωμα	spice	m	
erawa	ἔλαια	olive tree	P K	Med
kadamija	κάρδαμον	lepidium sativum	m	Med
kaneja	κάνεια	made of basketry	p	Sem
karako	γλάχων, βλάχων	mentha pulegium	m	IE/Med
karuwe	κάρυον	nut, boss	p	IE/?
kirita	κριθή	barley	k	IE/Med
ko(i)no	σχοίνος	condiment	p M	Siria
korijadono	κορίανδρον	coriander	P M K	Med
kumino	κύμινον	cumin	M	Sem
kuparo	κύπειρος	Cyperus rotundus	P K	Sem
kuteso	κτύσιος	ebony	P	African
mita	μίνθα	minth	M	Med
maratuwo	μάραθρον	fennel	M	IE/?
ponike	φοίνιξ	date	p	IE/?
rino	λίνον	linon, flax	P K	Med
roiko	ροίσχος	pomegranate	p	
sasama	σήσαμα	sesame seed	M	Sem
serino	σέλινον	celery	m	Med?
sito	σίτος	grain	p m K	
suko	σῦκον	fig	P K	Med
wejewe	ῥίεσ	wine shoots	P k	
wonasi	οἰνάδες	vineyard	k	Med
wono	οἶνον	wine	p	Med
dara[spice	m	
kitano		condiment	k	
2. names of animals or parts of them				
erepa	ἐλέφας	ivory	P K	African
marapi)	μάρη	(under the) legs	p	
sia,ro	σίαλος	fat hog	p	
su(qotao)	συ(βώτης)	swine herd	P	IE?

3. furniture and household items

akea,	ἄγγος	wine jar	p	
asamito	ἀσάμινθος	bath	k	
dipa	δέπας	vessel	P K	
ekamate	ἔγμα	with a support	p	
kararewe	χλαρής	stirrupjar	p k	IE/Med
kati	κηθίς	jug, hydria	p	
kero,	κηρίον	honeycomb	K	Orient
topa	τόρπας	large basket or hamper	p	

atewe		ewer or jug	p	
deuji		jug for oil	k	
dirimijo		vessel for offers	p	
opikewirijeu		tripod cauldron	p	
qerana		ewer or jug	p	IE?
qeto		ewer or jug	p m	IE?
waketa		vessel for offer	k	

4) weapons

ekea	ἔγχος	spears	k	
pakana	πάσγανον	sword or dagger	k	
qisipe	ξίφος	sword	p	IE/Egypt
torake	θώραξ	corslet	P	Med
tokoso(ta)	τοξό(της)	archer	p k	
wao		double axe?	p	Minoan

5) cloth and textile materials

diptera	διφθέρα	a prepared hide, piece of leather	P k	IE/?
kito	χιτών, κιτών	tunic	K	Sem
pawea	φάρος	pieces of cloth	M K	IE?
tira	τίλα	flocks of wool	K	
korota,		tassel, fringe	K	
koura		kind of textile	P K m	
opisirijawe		?	K	
pekoto		textile term	K	
sapa			k m	
tepa		heavy cloth	K p m t	
tomika		descrpt. of textile	K	
tonija		descrpt. of textile	k	
tunano		kind of textile	K	

6) materials other than textiles

kakarea	χαλκός	bronze	P K	IE/?
kuruso	χρυσός	gold	P K	Sem

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kuwano moriwodo	κύανος μόλιβδος	lapis lazuli lead	P k	Ugarit Iberian?
a ₁ kanajo mepo metasewe mira, putoro qaradero		liquid liquid constr. mat. kind of wood constr. mat. material	p p p p p p	
7) decoratives objects or pieces				
kiwo kononipi pasaro	κίων κονονίς ψάλλος	column cross-bar chain	p p k p	IE/? Babylonian IE/?
karo neqasapi seremo (karaapi) soweno wetoro		? decor. on metal decor. on chairs decor. on footstool ?	p k P P k	
8) occupational names or titles				
aketira, (azetirija) arakateja ato(ροφο) dekuto(woko) dijate kerameu poqateu qasireu rapitira, raw(akete) wanaka	ἀσκετρία ήλακατεία άρτο(κόπος) δικτυ(ουργός) ιατήρ κεραμεύς φοιβατεύς βασιλεύς ράπτρια λα(γέτας) ἄναξ	sempstresses spinning women baker net makers physician potter purifier, prophet chief sewing women leader of the people king	P M K t p K t P M p p P m p P K t P K P K P K t	Asia m? Iran/Med Carian/IE IE?
dateweja duma edaeu eqeao eropakeu esareu esereejo ete(domo) karutijejao kasikono keki kijoneusi korete maratewe menua,		ethnic/occup. official ethnic/title occup. clothworker title/M N title/M N occup. occup. sword context troups occup. official official	K K P k p k p K m P k K k P p K p p P K p P K	

okara		coast guards	p k
opikapeewe		supervisor	p
opitinijata		priest	P
otira,		trade	P
padajeu		ethnic	P
padaweu		ethnic	p
paketeja			P
paraketeeu			P
peqota		title?	P
reqonatomo		man trade	p
teqata		man trade	p
teutarakoro		man trade	P
tinijata		title	p
tosamejao		woman trade	p
toteja		woman trade	K
turateu		man trade	P k
tuwasi		man trade	p
udonoi			p
werateja		woman trade	k
werekarata		man trade	P
worokane		man trade	k
zamijo		man trade	k p

9) agricultural and administrative terms

amorama	ἀρμόλαμα	rations	K	IE/?
ekero(qono)	ἐγγηρο(ποινος)	wage earners	P	
koro	χώρος	land	p	
oka	ἀρχή	title of an officer	P	
qeretijo	πλέθρον	mass unit	p	IE/?
epikere		harvest	K	
etonijo		land holding	P	
kama		land holding	K	
opa		contribution	P K	
sapera		contribution in oil	p	
sapida		contribution in oil	p	

10) vehicles or part of them

apenewo	ἀπήνη	animals used to draw carts	p
aqijai		mistake for iijijja?	p
a,kinoo		cart	K
ekatereta			K

11) non classifiables

dapu,ritojo	λαβύρινθος		K	Med
karo	καίρος	fringe	p	IE/?
katurewijai	κανθύλη	saddle bag	p k	Med
kiuroi	κίουρος	baskets	p	Sem

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omopi	οἶμος	with bands	K	IE/
opira,tere	ὀπιραῖσθηρες	hammers	p	
pamako	φάρμακον	medicine, drug	p	IE/?
sapakaterija	σφακτηρία	victims	k	
sapide	σαπίς	boxes	p M	
surate	συλάτηρ	seizer	P	Lydian/IE
turupterija	στρυπτηρία	of alum	P k	IE/?
kidapa		musical instrument	k	

12) obscure words without semantic specification

aretato		k
arowo		p
dokamai		p
eeropajoqerosa		p
eeto		p
ekatejo		K
enereja		K
epizota		K
eredwoe		K
kedojo		p
keketuwoe		p
popoi /		M
poropoi		
porena		P
poroeke		P
potiro		K
rakatera		p
rudea,		p

III) I should summarize briefly the results:

I cannot determine the origin of the majority of the possible loan-words. I assume them to be loan-words because of their lack of convincing Indo-European etymology. I consider some possible Indo-European words to be loan-words because their origin is still not well established. Once the doubt of their Indo-European origin vanishes, one cannot consider them loan-words anymore. We obtain a total of 21 of these words. Most of them are administrative and occupational names.

There are also 15 Semitic, 14 Mediterranean, and 4 other (African, Iberian) loan-words. For some of them there have been two different origins proposed, without a possible choice between them. This means that the list of loan-words is subject to revision.

The Semitic loan-words denote mostly plants, textile and other materials, decorative pieces, and weapons.

Most of the Mediterranean words are name of plants (11 of the 14).

For the majority of the names of plants we can propose an origin because plants are the most independent items of cultural influences. On the other hand,

the administrative and occupational names depend mostly on a certain culture. With the disappearance of the Mycenaean world, these names disappeared, too, and that is why their origin remains still unclear. The high number of loan-words in the field of administration reveals that the Myceneans had to learn their political and social structures from a highly developed culture. There is also a high number of words of uncertain origin in the groups of household items, textile materials, and other materials. This also suggests a manufacturing and trading society in a refined culture.

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