Etymology and the European Lexicon

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"Western affinities" of Anatolian

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That some shared features of various IE dialects may reflect contact after the respective dialects had already undergone divergent developments is widely acknowledged, and there has been much discussion of the position of subgroups such as Germanic and Albanian and of the true relationship of Italic and Celtic or of Baltic and Slavic. However, the growing popularity of the view that Anatolian was the first subgroup to become isolated from the rest of the PIE speech community (by whatever label one expresses this) has somehow led to a widespread neglect of this possibility for Anatolian. Only a strict and quite unrealistic version of the Stammbaum model precludes that Anatolian, after sufficient isolation not to have shared in a few common innovations of the rest of the IE languages, subsequently came into contact with other subgroups. I will re-examine for Anatolian the issue of putative shared, non-trivial innovations with and borrowings from Italic, Celtic, and Germanic, following upon the excellent but almost totally ignored study of Jaan Puhvel 1994.

1. Premises

Most conceptions of the Stammbaum model allow for the effects of language contact after initial divergence. See e.g. Ringe, Warnow and Taylor (2002: 111) on the position of Germanic within Indo-European:

…the hypothesis that Germanic was originally a near sister of Balto-Slavic and Indo-Iranian…we are led to posit an episode of intensive language contact between Germanic and the western languages well before the known periods of intensive contact with Celtic that have been established by earlier researchers.

Those who do not accept Balto-Slavic or Italo-Celtic as unitary proto-languages explain the many shared (especially innovative) features as due to prehistoric contact after the formation of the respective distinct proto-languages (Baltic and Slavic, Italic and Celtic). See e.g. Watkins (1966: 39) on the shared thematic gen. sg. -i: "we must conclude that the community of -i in Italic and Celtic is attributable to early contact, rather than to an original unity."

Such a possibility is almost universally ignored or excluded for Anatolian. Post-divergence contact is mostly limited to shallow effects of Anatolian on only dialectal Greek (NB: not on Proto-Greek): e.g. Puhvel (1991a: 13–20) on East Ionic -σκε- iteratives from Hittite, Watkins (2000: 3) on the "Pindaric schema" from Anatolian, and Oettinger (2002: esp. 99–100) on Greek psilosis as due to Lydian influence.

There has been one marked exception. Puhvel (1994) argued for Anatolian as a western dialect sharing features with Italic, Celtic, and Germanic (plus or minus Greek and Baltic). However, his paper was both initially and subsequently universally (but wrongly) ignored. The apparent cause is the supposed position of Anatolian as the first subgroup to become isolated from PIE. But such early isolation in no way precludes shared post-divergence contact effects any more than it does for any other subgroup. One should note in particular that "core IE" innovations not shared by Anatolian are now widely regarded as relatively modest in scope: see e.g. Oettinger 1986: 24–25 and Rieken 2009. An "Indo-Hittite" model in the sense
of Sturtevant or of Lehrman 1998 is now a distinctly minority viewpoint. Therefore it seems appropriate for a conference on the European lexicon, to revisit the question and to review the evidence. Please note one divergence from Puhvel (1994: 317 et passim): I will leave aside the further question of Tocharian as also being a possible “western” dialect.

2. Putative shared features of Anatolian and Italic, Celtic, and Germanic (± Greek & Baltic)

I begin with a critical review of proposed lexical isoglosses shared uniquely by Anatolian with various western dialects of Indo-European. The list does not purport to be exhaustive and is necessarily subjective – other scholars would add further examples and omit some given here and also differ in their ranking of the probability of the respective etymologies.

### 2.1 Lexical root equations (the first five including Greek)

1. *(h₁)el- 'eel': Hitt. iluy-anka- 'eel-snake', Grk. ἕγχ-έλυς '(snake-)eel', Lat. angū-ilī)a '(snake-)eel', PGmc. 'ēla- 'eel' (Katz 1998).  
2. *(h₂el- 'dry': Hitt. ḫat- 'dry up', Grk. ἄζω 'idem', Lat. ōstus 'empty, void', OHG wuosti 'empty' (revising Puhvel 1992: 6–8).  
5. *spend- 'libate': Hitt. šipand-/išpant- 'libate; consecrate', Grk. ζύπνω 'libate', Lat. spondeō 'pledge'.

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1 I am indebted to Benjamin Fortson for calling my attention to several examples I failed to cite in the oral version of this paper. I have not, however, adopted all of his suggestions, and I naturally am solely responsible for the selection offered here.
Thus with Driessen (2003: 301–2), citing further 1976; cf. For ‘weapon’ < šarni(n)-, there is no evidence that the word is Luvian!, OIr *skeu-(bh)- ‘repair, make restitution’, Lat. sacriù ‘to mend; make restitution’ (Puhvel 1994: 322; Kloekhorst 2008: 737). Compare that Hittite (Puhvel 2011: 191–2).

2.2. Word equations and cognates derived from word equations

*ghelh₂-ro- ‘harmful, distressing’ > Hitt. kallar- ‘baneful, unfavourable’ (pace Kloekhorst 2008: 429 et al., there is no evidence that the word is Luvian!), OIr. galar ‘illness, disease’ (neut.), MW galar ‘grief, sorrow’ (masc.). Thus with Driessen (2003: 301–2), citing further cognates in Germanic, Baltic, and Slavic.

*h₂ed(h)- ‘hawthorn’: Hitt. hat-alkiš- (compound ‘hawthorn bush’) and OIr. ad ‘whitethorn’ (Watkins 1993: 246–7).

*konka ‘hangs’ (tr.) > Hitt. kanki, Goth. hahan etc. (with Jasanoff 2003: 72–4). For the phonology see Melchert 1993: 106.


*neh₂(-)s-ro- ‘fearful, respectful’ > Hitt. nahšar- (an adjective contra Puhvel 2007: 13, and base of the noun nahšarâtt- ‘fear, awe’) and OIr. náir ‘modest; shameful’. For the phonology see Melchert 1993: 106.

*h₂im-eh₂- ‘copy, replica’ is the base of Lat. imā-gō ‘copy’ and Hitt. ħimmata- ‘replica, substitute’ < *h₂im₁-h₂-o- (type of rātha- ‘chariot’ < *röt₁-h₂-o- < *röt₁-eh₂ ‘wheel’). Compare Puhvel 1991b: 315 and Kloekhorst 2008: 344.

*kërha₁₃- ‘wheat’ > Hitt. kar-aš /kars/ (archaic neuter s-stem), base of hysterokinetic *kërha₁₃-ès > Lat. Ceres (Schindler, class instruction ca. 1976; cf. KZ 89 [1975] 65; contra all others not from *gêrzd₂-).

*p?d’on-₁u-₁, *d’n-₁q-, ‘fir tree’ > Hitt. tanâu (nom.-acc. generalized from weak stem) and Gmc. *danjō (virtual *d’on-₁-u₁-₁u₁) > OHG tanna (after Neumann 1961: 77–8).


² In the oral version of this paper I also included in this list *teq- ‘cold, ice, represented by Hitt. ega- ‘ice’, OIr. aig ‘ice’, ON jaki ‘ice-löe’ (Puhvel 1984: 258, Kloekhorst 2008: 235). I am grateful to Martin Kümmel for apprising me that this root is also attested in Eastern Iranian and Nuristani: Wäkhi yoz = Sarikoli yoz ‘glacier’ and Kati yūč ‘cold’ (see Morgenstierne 1949: 280 and 1974: 106b, Turner 1966: 601 [10396], and Mallory & Adams 1997: 287a).

I will not dwell on arguments for or against any of the equations listed above (or others), because unfortunately they simply are not probative in trying to demonstrate post-divergence contact between Anatolian and the western dialects. All of them, even those involving word equations, can be interpreted as common retentions that just happen to be preserved in Anatolian and the western dialects. Their restricted distribution is also always open to falsification in the light of new discoveries or identifications in other branches (see footnote 2).

2.3. Putative common innovations

I focus in what follows rather on four cases of word equations or near word equations that for various reasons may arguably represent common innovations in Anatolian and a western dialect rather than shared retentions of a PIE formation. I concede in advance (as implied by the word “arguably”) that they are all less than absolutely compelling. There is not yet a proverbial “smoking gun” to prove post-PIE Anatolian contacts with the west. I cite these cases here in some detail for two reasons: first, because their possible status as innovations has not been previously brought into the discussion; second, because they illustrate in my view the only kind of evidence that can in principle settle the question.

2.3.1. Hitt. ḫamma = CLuv. imma = HLuv. i-ma /imma/ = Lat. immō

Götze & Pedersen (1934: 77–9) already compared Hitt. ḫamma and Lat. immō, and in Melchert 1985 I presented further arguments that the Hittite and Luvian word means ‘indeed, really’ or ‘rather’, with an overall usage matching precisely that given by Rosén (2003: 171, contra ibid. 179!) for early Latin immō: “…a connector meaning “correction!”…expressing either contradiction and rebuttal or assent and intensification.” I weakened my case by two errors: a false definition of Hittite and Luvian ḫamma as a “focus particle” instead of an asseverative adverb (see the correction in Melchert 2002: 229) and an erroneous reconstruction *id-mō. As argued by Kimball (1999: 299), citing Eichner (Die Sprache 28 [1981] 64), Luvian -mm- is impossible from *-dm-, and ḫamma thus reflects rather acc. sg. *im+mō (compare for *im as a particle Skt. īm). The element *-mō is the Hittite focus conjunction -ma and Lycian me, perhaps < *-moh₂ beside Grk. μᾶ < *-mh₂.

In the oral version of this paper I argued against a shared inheritance from PIE on phonological grounds: PIE had a constraint against surface geminate consonants (see e.g. Mayrhofer 1986: 120). This prohibition included [*-mm-]. As seen by Rasmussen (1999/II: 647), OIr. neim ‘poison’ reflects directly *[ném̥n̥] < */ném-mn̥/, a neuter men-stem ‘gift’ to *nem- ‘allot’ (compare for the sense Germ. Gift). A PIE */imm̥ō/ would thus have appeared as a surface form *[im̥ō], and I claimed that restoration of the geminate was made unlikely by the unanalyzability of the adverb in the prehistory of both Anatolian and Latin: *-mō was productive in Anatolian, but evidence for a stem *e̯im- is limited only to (possibly!) *im in Hittite neuter nom.-acc. sg. iní (Melchert 2008: 368), while an *im is likely in Latin beside is and id, but there is no other trace of *-mō. The same factors make extremely unlikely parallel but independent creations.

However, as Michael Weiss has brought to my attention, the status of the geminate in Latin immō is not so straightforward. The word is attested at least once in an inscription (CIL 2.4.485.2) as imo, and the word scans as two shorts several times in Plautus (Amphitryo 726, Cistellaria 565) and Terence (Heceyra 437): see Lindsay 1968: 256–7. This means that the word must have undergone “iambic shortening” and that the first syllable was short. The oldest Latin form thus appears to be imō, congruent with the putative PIE surface form, and immō 4 This further analysis of *-mō is tangential to the status of *im-mō.
would be a secondary development, whether or not it shows "expressive gemination" (as suggested e.g. by Ernout & Meillet 1959: 310). This explanation is unlikely for Hittite and Luvian, where geminate *mm- is commonplace, but as I conceded (Melchert 2008: 368, note 5), we do not actually know how full a paradigm the pronominal stem *(e)i- had in Proto-Anatolian, so a renewal of *imō as *im-mō cannot be excluded. In any case, the Latin facts seriously weaken my claim that this case must involve a common innovation.

2.3.2. HLuv. REL-ipa /kʷip(p)a/ = Lat. quippe

HLuvian REL-ipa /kʷip(p)a/ means 'indeed, certainly' (Goedegebuure 1998, Melchert 2002, with minor revision by Goedegebuure 2010: 8113) and directly matches in form and function Lat. quippe 'in as much as; indeed, why (asseverative)' < *kʷid-pe 'why then?' (the interrogative sense is preserved in quiippi 'why not?'). Also likely cognate is Greek τίπτε 'why then?' (thus with Schwyzrer 1939: II. 572 contra others). The interrogative base is also seen in Lycian tibe 'or' (Morpurgo Davies 1975: 164). Greek shows that the geminate is post-PIE, so there is no phonological argument against inheritance, but the unique three-way isogloss remains striking, especially since usage as 'why then' represents a grammaticalization of just the neuter nom.-acc. singular plus the particle *-pe (i.e., there is no evidence for a full interrogative paradigm with *-pe). Grammaticalization of a neuter nom.-acc. singular as 'why' is indeed fairly trivial (compare Hitt. kuit 'why?' etc.), but while the use of *-pe is productive in Luvian, it is very limited in Latin (besides quippe only in quispiam and nem-pe), and it appears nowhere else in Greek.5

2.3.3. Lydian nāv = Lat. nam

The Lydian conjunction nāv formally matches Lat. nam < *neh₂m [na:m]. For derivation from an ablative-instrumental instead of a feminine accusative singular see Dunkel 1997: 74-5. The sense of the Lydian word is predictably indeterminate. Latin nam has several uses: affirmative 'certainly', explanatory and causal 'for', but in later Latin also continuative 'then; moreover, further'. The last meaning makes possible a comparison with Hitt. namma 'further, next, then; again' < *nām+mō (Melchert 1992: 37; pace Puhvel 2007: 58; cf. Rosén 2003: 179 on the comparison with imma = immó). More striking is the use of nāv in Lydian to form a generalizing relative: nā-qi- = 'who-, whatever' (Gusmani 1964: 171). One may also note with Gusmani the evidence that nā- is originally separable in this usage: clause-initial nām qid is nā-m qid 'whatever' with enclitic element -m. It is hard to avoid comparison with Latin -nam attached to interrogatives to express surprise or disbelief: quinam 'who, pray?' or 'who on earth?'. In early Latin nam in this usage is also still separable from the interrogative. Ernout & Meillet (1959: 428) even claim a generalizing meaning: "nam enclitique s'ajoute à des pronoms ou à des particules de caractère interrogatif ou indéfini pour en renforcer l'indétermination". Unfortunately, I have thus far found no corroboration for such a use. In the absence of such evidence the question becomes: is the generalizing sense of the Lydian derivable from the actually attested Latin usage?

5 The shared innovation is the creation of the marked interrogative *kʷid-pe 'why then?'. Since it is not even shared by Lycian, the further development in HLuvian and Latin to an asseverative adverb is surely independent (Melchert 2002: 230).
2.3.4. Hitt. kappūwe/a- and Lat. computāre

Hitt. kappūwe/a- ‘count, rally, reckon (with)’ uncannily resembles Lat. computāre ‘count’. As per Puhvel (1997: 71), following Pisani, Lat. putāre primarily meant ‘to cut’: on the one hand notches onto a tally stick, whence ‘count’, and on the other hand plants, whence ‘prune’. Contra Ernout–Meillet (1959: 548) et al., there is no connection with pūrus ‘pure’ etc. For the primary sense ‘cut’, whence ‘divide’, see also Toch. putk- (Melchert 1978: 123 w. refs.). Puhvel, loc. cit., assumes for the Hittite a prefix *kom- plus denominative verb to a noun *puu̯ō- ‘notch, incision’, but more likely is a result noun *pōu̯- ‘count, reckon’ (by cutting marks) suggests a common origin, despite the difference in the formation of the verbal stem. Whether the root *pey- ‘cut, separate, divide’ should be combined with ph2u- ‘strike’, said to be the source of Luvo-Hittite pūwa- ‘crush’, Lat. pāire ‘beat’, and Grk. πάιω ‘strike, smite’ (e.g. Kloekhorst 2008: 684 w. refs.) may be left open (compare LIV?: 481 for a very different account of the Latin and Greek verbs).

3. Conclusions

As already intimated above, none of these examples can be rated as more than suggestive of a shared innovation. In fact, the case for *im-mō as having to be an innovation rather than a shared inheritance is so weak I will not consider it further. I do find two points noteworthy regarding the remaining three. First and most interestingly, all involve Anatolian and specifically Latin (arguably but not assuredly including Greek in the case of *kʷid-pe). While we can only speculate about the possible geographic configuration of early Indo-European dialects after initial divergence, we may wonder whether it is coincidence that the western dialect that putatively shares innovations with Anatolian is the one that in attested times is spatially closer to Anatolian than Celtic, Germanic, or Baltic. Second, two of the examples involve grammaticalization. Whether these particular cases are truly innovations rather than reten
tions remains an open question, but I believe that this is the direction which offers the most promise of finding compelling evidence.

References


6 On Hittite spellings with Cu-u as pointing to *ou see Kloekhorst 2008: 35–60, especially 58–59.
Goedegebuure, Petra. 2010. The Luwian demonstratives of place and manner. In Itamar Singer (ed.), ipamati kistamati pari tumamiti. Luwian and Hittite studies presented to J. David Hawkins on the occasion of his 70th birthday, 76–94. Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv University Institute of Archaeology.


