

Fourth Indo-European Research Colloquium
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“Luwic lengths”

consonantal and vocalic lengthening in the prehistory of Luwian and Lycian

In the (pre)history of the Anatolian languages, the inherited length of both consonants and vowels changed dramatically due to a number of phonetic changes.

In the case of the Luwic languages in particular, two commonly accepted sound laws are responsible for the lengthening of originally short consonants and vowels. On the one hand, Čop's Law (Čop 1970) lengthened certain inherited 'lenis' consonants; on the other hand, there has been a lengthening of accented vowels in open syllables (Melchert 1994: 247). Some examples and details regarding the conditioning of these sound laws are still heavily disputed. For instance, it remains unclear whether PIE mediae were ever affected by Čop's Law (Kloekhorst 2014, 574ff.) and whether the lengthening of accented vowels in open syllables can be attributed to the Proto-Anatolian stage of the languages' prehistory.

In this talk, the evidence and counterevidence for these two sound laws in the Anatolian languages will be analysed (with a special focus on the Cuneiform and Hieroglyphic Luwian data), after which the conditioning and range of these sound laws will be established as precisely as possible. In the end, it will be shown that both sound laws take complimentary inputs and yield the same result on a phonological level. Thus, we are allowed to conceive them as two parts of essentially one general change, which transformed light syllables into heavy ones based on the presence of the accent. This conclusion enables us to capture these two separately proposed sound changes in Luwic historical phonology into one coherent system. Additionally, it provides valuable insights in the nature of the Luwic accent.

Works cited:

- Čop, B. (1970). “Eine luwische orthographisch-phonetische Regel”. *Indogermanische Forschungen* 75: 85-96.
- Kloekhorst, A. (2014). *Accent in Hittite. A Study in Plene Spelling, Consonant Gradation, Clitics and Metrics* (= Studien zu den Boğazköy-Texten 56). Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag.
- Melchert, H.C. (1994). *Anatolian Historical Phonology* (= Leiden Studies in Indo-European 3). Amsterdam-Atlanta: Rodopi.