

controllasse il rame cipriota a detrimento di Hatti, per costringere quest'ultimo a lasciar libere le esportazioni di stagno (p. 266); oppure che l'intesa egizio-mitannica assegnasse il controllo di Sumura all'Egitto e di Qadesh a Mitanni per una sorta di reciproco ricatto, Sumura controllando l'arrivo di rame cipriota in Levante e Qadesh la via dello stagno attraverso la Siria (p. 269). Se non è fanta-storia questa, cos'altro lo è?

L'autore, egittologo, appare piuttosto egittofilo, il che è ben comprensibile. L'Egitto è buono, e preferisce procurarsi lo stagno con mezzi pacifici, ma purtroppo i regni asiatici, anch'essi consumatori di bronzo, erano "naturellement portés au conflit par leur culture et la géographie", trattandosi di "groupements territoriaux et politiques hétéroclites" (p. 264). L'Egitto è vittorioso, e la battuta d'arresto di Qadesh non è che un piccolo incidente di percorso (p. 274): ma allora perché montare quel colossale programma celebrativo e giustificativo come Ramses ritenne di dover fare? Il fatto è che il nostro autore si fa spesso e volentieri catturare dalla propaganda egiziana, prendendo per buoni i vari *topoi* delle iscrizioni celebrative: i nemici progettano d'invasione l'Egitto quando Tuthmosi III va a batterli a Megiddo (p. 81); l'esercito hittita a Qadesh è una coalizione eterogenea e venale (211); Ramses vince da solo (pp. 224-225), e riesce a respingere il nemico (ma non era lui l'attaccante e invasore?) e costringerlo a una tregua (p. 228). Il fatto è che una lettura delle fonti richiede non solo una preparazione filologica, ma anche un approccio semiologico, del testo come messaggio (coi suoi scopi e i suoi codici) e non come miniera di notizie.

Ci sono anche varie inesattezze, piccoli equivoci, nell'uso delle fonti asiatiche, ma questo è del tutto perdonabile ad un egittologo. La selezione bibliografica è ristretta, come è giusto per un libro piuttosto divulgativo; si citano ossessivamente Helck (*Beziehungen*), Redford (*Egypt, Canaan and Israel*), Freu (*Histoire du Mitanni*), e Bryce (*Kingdom of the Hittites*); ma mai ad esempio Murnane, *Road to Qadesh* (che sarebbe appropriato a p. 196) o *Texts from the Amarna Period in Egypt* (a p. 146: "Les sources égyptiennes hiéroglyphiques [in età amarniana], notamment historiques, sont pour ainsi dire inexistantes"). Tutto sommato un buon lavoro, che raggiunge il suo scopo, perché il lettore ignaro vi imparerà molto, mentre lo specialista sarà facilmente in grado di scartare da sé quel che non regge.

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Harry A. HOFFNER Jr. – H. Craig MELCHERT, *A Grammar of the Hittite Language*. Languages of the Ancient Near East, 1. Winona Lake (Indiana), Eisenbrauns, 2008. Part 1: *Reference Grammar*. xxii-468 p., CD-ROM. 18,1 × 26. \$59.50. — Part 2: *Tutorial*. vi-75 p. 18 × 26. \$22.50.

What is known about the Hittite language has greatly increased over the past forty years thanks to the work of scholars. The now well-established periodization of its development in three phases, Old, Middle, and New Hittite, and the discovery of new deposits of tablets, archives, and libraries at Maşat Höyük, Ortaköy,

Kuşaklı and Kayalıpınar, have called for a revision of the grammar by J. Friedrich, *Hethitisches Elementarbuch*, I. Teil: *Kurzgefaßte Grammatik* (Heidelberg 1960), though it is still a good starting point. In the last few years, in fact, several grammars have been published, some written for beginners, for example, W. H. Held Jr. – W. R. Schmalstieg – J. E. Gertz, *Beginning Hittite* (Columbus, OH 1987) (reviews: C. Justus, “Tools for the study of Hittite”, *Diachronica* 6 [1989] 157-165; A. Garrett, *Language* 67 [1991] 402-403; G. Beckman, *JAOS* 111 [1991] 658-659; N. Oettinger, *HS* 105 [1992] 658-659); S. Zeilfelder, *Hethitisches Übungsbuch* (DTH 9; Dresden 2003); R. Francia, *Lineamenti di grammatica ittita* (Studia Asiana 4; Roma 2005) (review: Z. Simon, *BiOr* 64 [2007] 200-2004); S. Vanséveren, *Nisili. Manuel de Langue Hittite*, I (Lettres Orientales 10; Leuven 2006); of historical nature: S. Luraghi, *Hittite* (Languages of the World, Materials 114; München / New Castle 1997), as well as brief but useful summaries, most notably, C. Watkins, “Hittite”, in: R. D. Woodard (ed.), *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the World's Ancient Languages* (Cambridge 2004) 551-575; E. Rieken, “Hethitisch”, in: M. P. Streck (ed.), *Sprachen des Alten Orients* (Darmstadt 2005) 80-127. All of these works have the advantage of up-to-date bibliographies in respect to Friedrich's grammar, although they certainly do not adequately treat the numerous linguistic, grammatical and syntactical problems of the Hittite language.

The climax of the studies conducted up until now is a recent publication by two of the most renowned scholars in the area of Anatolian linguistics and grammar, Harry A. Hoffner Jr. and H. Craig Melchert. The authors affirm that the *Grammar* was born from material developed by them for didactic purposes to compensate for the shortcomings of Friedrich's now obsolete work. Hoffner's and Melchert's goal is to create a grammar comparable to the Akkadian one by W. von Soden, latest edition 1995.

The work consists of two volumes: the *Reference Grammar* and the *Tutorial*, plus a CD-ROM. The *Grammar* is made up of a preface, where the authors thoroughly explain the genesis and the aim of their work, of a detailed introduction, where the language and all the problems connected to it are illustrated, from the history of decipherment to working methodologies. Thirty-one chapters follow where the phonology (pp. 9-50), the morphology (pp. 51-241), the syntax (pp. 406-428), Sumerian and Akkadian elements (pp. 430-441) are masterfully discussed and, finally, a rich and detailed reference bibliography updated to 2007. Each chapter is divided into paragraphs, topics are introduced making use of graphs and tables where necessary, graphic devices such as underlining, italics and boldface are utilized to highlight from time to time some aspect of the topic being discussed. All of this facilitates the approach to the work, which is also clear from a visual standpoint, and easy to handle because of cross-references to previous or successive sections. The numerous examples from original texts are carefully chosen and of great help for comprehension of the topics discussed. The thoroughness of the treatment of each section, the choice of technical language and the detailed presentation of the elements and theories relative to each topic, place the work at a level that is decidedly superior to what the authors promise. It is doubtful that beginners or those with little knowledge of the Hittite language and of the basic principles of Indo-European linguistics will be able to utilize it to its full advantage. Although presented in a purposefully simple manner, linear and clear, the content itself and its highly scientific nature make the work useful mainly to academics already involved in the study of the language.

The introduction is clear, well written and thorough. In each chapter, the topics are introduced, as far as possible, by a brief discussion about PIE languages and Anatolian; the OS forms, as well as the alternative forms of a word are highlighted, using graphic devices such as boldface and parenthesis. In the introduction to each topic the most credible theories advanced by various scholars are mentioned. For the thematic ones where there is still no common consensus, the authors illustrate the problems and add various conclusions, clearly stating which one they favor (examples: p. 294, § 20.2; p. 325, § 24.33).

The diachronic approach is without a doubt one of the most interesting, original and innovative aspects of this work. In none of the grammars that have been published until now has the diachronic development of the Hittite language been presented in such a clear and rigorous way, topic by topic. The result is that for the first time it has become apparent that Hittite, in its entirety, has undergone remarkable changes from Old to New Hittite in the course of its evolution.

If one small observation of a critical nature may be made concerning a work of such great value, it can certainly only be in form and not in substance. There are some small typographical errors, such as: p. 15, § 1.14 *Mesopotamia*, for *Mesopotamia*; p. 25 § 1.47 *diffentiated*, for *differentiated*; p. 63 § 2.60 *seond*, for *second*; p. 386 § 28.127 *may be be translated* for *may be translated*; p. 400 § 29.39 *occasional* for *occasional*; in the bibliography: p. 444 Dardano, P. 2005 *costutti* for *costrutti*; *de* for the Italian *di* on p. 446 Francia, R. 1997; the same imprecision on p. 452 Hoffner, H. A., Jr. 2007 and p. 462 Pecchioli Daddi, F. 2003; p. 446 García Trabazo, J. V. 2002 *plegaries* for *plegarias*; p. 455 Kloekhorst, A. cited as “forthcoming” and with the incorrect publisher (see p. 452 Hoffner, H. A., Jr. 2007), is in: A. Archi – R. Francia (ed.), *VI Congresso Internazionale di Ittologia Roma, 5-9 settembre 2005* (SMEA 49; Rome 2007) 443-500.

In the Introduction, on p. 1 note 1, in the list of historical and cultural writings of the Hittites aimed at a wider public, see also A. Ünal, *Hittiter devrinde Anadolu* 1-3 (Istanbul 2002-2005), not to mention the various sections dedicated to these topics in: J. Sasson et al. (ed.), *Civilization of Ancient Near East* (New York 1995); F. Imparati, “La civiltà degli Ittiti: caratteri e problemi”, in: O. Bucci (ed.), *Antichi popoli europei* (Roma 1992) 365-456. On p. 2 § 0.4 besides the statement that Hittite was the most important *administrative* language of the ancient kingdom of Hatti, it should be pointed out that it is also important from a literary perspective, most certainly accompanied by other linguistic expressions (Hattic, Palaic, Luwian, Hurrian) that are represented by far fewer existing documents.

On p. 2 § 0.4 and § 0.6 it should also be pointed out that the documents come from archives as well as from *libraries* from Hattuša. See R. Francia, “Archivi e biblioteche nell'Anatolia del II millennio a.C.”, *Archivi e Cultura* 29 N.S. (1996) 117-138; O. Pedersen, *Archives and Libraries in the Ancient Near East 1500-300 B.C.* (Bethesda, MD 1998); S. Alaura, “Archive und Bibliotheken in Hattuša”, in: G. Wilhelm (ed.), *Akten des IV. Internationalen Kongresses für Hethitologie, Würzburg, 4.-8. Oktober 1999* (StBoT 45; Wiesbaden 2001) 12-26; recently: Th. P. J. van den Hout, “Another View of Hittite Literature”, in: S. de Martino – F. Pecchioli Daddi (ed.), *Anatolia Antica. Studi in Memoria di F. Imparati*, II (Eothen 11; Firenze 2002) 876-878; id., “On the Nature of the Tablet Collections of Hattuša”, *SMEA* 47 (2005) 277-289; id., “Administration in the Reign of Tuthaliya IV and the Later Years of the Hittite Empire”, in: Th. P. J. van den Hout (ed.), *The*

*Life and Times of Hattušili III and Tuthaliya IV. Festschrift J. de Roos* (PIHANS 103; Leiden 2006) 77-106.

In § 0.5, among the Indo-European languages of Anatolia, Pisidian and Sidetic are also to be noted; in note 4, besides “Nesite”, another name given to the Hittite language, is the Italian “eteo”, reminiscent of the Biblical Hittites; p. 5 § 0.13: among the didactic grammars mentioned, those by S. Zeilfelder and S. Vanséveren, cited above, are missing, and are also absent from the general bibliography.

P. 9 § 1.1: When speaking of wax-coated tablets, there is no reference to M. Marazzi’s studies, the last study by him is: “Sigilli, Sigillature e Tavole di Legno: Alcune Considerazioni alla Luce di Nuovi Dati”, in: M. Alparslan – M. Doğan-Alparslan – H. Peker (ed.), *VITA. Festschrift in Honor of B. Dinçol and A. Dinçol* (Ankara 2007) 465-474.

P. 18 § 1.23: The quotation *tuhhuesšar tūh<sup>th</sup>-ša* is from KBo IV 13, II 6-7; regarding the reduplication of nouns, on p. 62 § 2.56, see N. Oettinger, “Skizze zur Funktion der Reduplikation im Hethitischen”, in: S. Alp – A. Süel (ed.), *Acts of the IIIrd International Congress of Hittitology, Çorum September 16-22, 1996* (Ankara 1998) 451-456, cited in the final bibliography.

P. 273<sup>+</sup>: The word order in phrases like *sig sa<sub>5</sub>* does not necessarily reflect the Sumerian one, since *sig* is often accompanied by the phonological complement, therefore one can suppose that it would have been pronounced in Hittite and following Hittite word order (on the pronunciation of logographs in Hittite texts, see on p. 22 § 1.37).

P. 324 § 24.33: The authors prefer to maintain the translation of *CHD* “to proceed to...” for *pai-* and *uwa-* in phraseological construction and not to accept “thereupon”, proposed by Th. P. J. van den Hout, “Studies in the Hittite Phraseological Construction, I. Its Syntactic and Semantic Properties”, in: G. M. Beckman – R. H. Beal – J. G. McMahon (ed.), *Hittite Studies in Honor of Harry A. Hoffner Jr. on the Occasion of his 65<sup>th</sup> Birthday* (Winona Lake, IN 2003) 177-204, cited in note 5 of the same paragraph.

P. 175 § 10.7: V. Cambi’s study should be taken into consideration, “A proposito di aspetto verbale in ittito: il suffisso *-ške/a-*”, *QLL SNS* (Nuova Serie) 3 (2002) 141-162, with conclusions that are different in part to those of the authors.

P. 256 § 16.60: The annotation, “(not spoken)”, for the position of *īwar* before logograms or proper nouns written logographically is disputable; some of these statements come from letters (see also KBo XVIII 48, Vs. 6 e KUB XXI 38, Rs. 2) that were intended for declamation (R. Francia, “Osservazioni sulle strategie linguistiche e stilistiche nelle lettere ittite”, *VO* 13 [2007] 97-99); the authors’ position regarding the pronunciation of logograms has already been mentioned (p. 22 § 1.37).

P. 279 § 18.7: It is better to compare the suffix *-il(a)* to the indeclinable Latin particle *-met* (*ego-met*); see M. Leuman – J. B. Hofmann – A. Szantyr, *Lateinische Grammatik*, Erster Band. *Lateinische Laut- und Formen-Lehre* (München 1977) 464.

P. 290 § 19.6: An interesting study on time expression with particular attention to the adverb *karū* is to be found in V. Cambi, “The Hittite adverb *karū*: ‘early, formerly; already’”, in: K. Jones-Bley – M. E. Huld – A. Della Voipe – M. Robins Dexter (ed.), *Proceedings of the Sixteenth Annual UCLA Indo-European Conference. Los Angeles 5-6, 2004* (Washington, DC, 2005) 219-234.

P. 317 § 24.1-24.26: The aforementioned work by Cambi and her *Tempo e Aspetto in ittito, con particolare riferimento al suffisso -ške/a-* (Alessandria 2007) should be taken into consideration.

P. 346 § 26.24: In the table with forms of negation, one would have expected to find *lē=man* also (see p. 344 § 26.18); p. 357 § 28.16-28.38, it would be better always to write *-z(a)*.

The *Tutorial* is divided into fourteen lessons, with an introduction where the authors explain how to use the volume in tandem with the *Grammar*; there is a general dictionary with words that appear in the texts reproduced, along with the most appropriate definition for the word in the context where it is found (including Luwian, Sumerian and Akkadian words); and finally there is a list of sources from which the excerpts used as examples are quoted in their original form or re-adapted for use.

Unlike the *Grammar*, the *Tutorial* has a markedly didactic purpose and can be used easily, even by beginners (the authors even explain how to study grammatical rules). In order to overcome an evident inequality with the *Grammar*, in the introduction to each lesson the authors summarize the main rules to be learned along with the appropriate references to Volume I. They also suggest study methods and explain how to go about translation. Some exercises in translating Hittite follow, carefully chosen and based on the learner’s level, with appropriate help from the footnotes at the bottom of the page. Each lesson ends with an index of key words found in the exercises with the most suitable definition based on the context. There are three different types of exercises: simple phrases created directly by the authors, phrases taken from Hittite texts and modified for an easier approach, and original phrases quoted directly from Hittite texts. These last two types are indicated by the proper diacritical marks illustrated in the introduction. The *Tutorial*, thanks to its extreme simplicity and didactic clarity, lends itself to independent study, providing that the reader has the necessary linguistic and grammatical background knowledge necessary to understand the much more complex *Grammar*.

The CD-ROM includes both volumes and facilitates study thanks to the presence of cross-references and hyperlinks.

With this work, the authors have given scholars in the field and whoever else wants to approach the study of Hittite, even for simple reference, a fundamental tool which will become indispensable in the years to come, filling a void that had persisted for too long. The enormous work done by Hoffner and Melchert will remain a milestone in this field of study. For all of this, Hittitologists can only express their most heartfelt congratulations and gratitude to the two scholars!

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