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## The writing culture of ancient Dadān: A description and quantitative analysis of linguistic variation

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## STELLINGEN

behorende bij het proefschrift  
*The writing culture of ancient Dadān*  
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Fokelien Kootstra

1. The main causes behind the linguistic variation attested in the Dadanitic inscriptions are language change and the use of different registers.
2. Interaction between the learned written code of the scribal class and the use of writing by less highly trained individuals shaped the developing written language of the inscriptions.
3. Final triphthongs collapsed in Dadanitic during the period attested in the inscriptions.
4. For the Dadanitic dedicatory inscriptions there was a preference for the use of a special archaic register, different from that of the *zll* inscriptions.
5. The *zll* inscriptions are legal documents concerning land rights.  
*Contra:* Sima, Alexander. 1999. *Die Lihyanischen Inschriften von Al-‘Uḏayb (Saudi Arabien)*. Epigraphische Forschungen Auf Der Arabischen Halbinsel 1. Rahden/Westfahlen: Verlag Maire Leidorf GmbH, (pp. 49-50).  
Stiehl, Ruth. 1971. “Neue Liḥyānische Inschriften Aus Al-‘Uḏaib.” In *Christentum Am Roten Meer*, edited by F. Altheim and R. Stiehl. Vol. 1. Berlin, (pp. 5-7).  
Van den Branden, A. 1969. “Les Inscriptions Lihyanites de R. Stiehl.” *Al-Machriq* 63: 67–79.
6. The interaction between the object and the text is crucial to any investigation of the linguistic variation in an epigraphic corpus.
7. Linguistic and paleographic variation is not only a feature of the Dadanitic material, but can be found in all Ancient North Arabian corpora. There is an increasing amount of digital corpus data and complete surveys available of epigraphic material (such as generated in the landscapes of survival project at Leiden University under the supervision of Prof. Akkermans and Prof. Al-Jallad). This means that the use of quantitative methods will become increasingly important in order to move beyond impressionistic descriptions of what appear, on the surface, to be opaque patterns of variation and to allow us to focus on significant patterns in their distribution.

8. The enigmatic form *ʿwdq*, only attested in two Minaic inscriptions from the oasis of Dadān (JSMIn 145 and JSMIn 166), should be interpreted as a borrowing of the common Dadanitic verb *ʿdq* (from the root  $\sqrt{\text{WDQ}}$ ) ‘to dedicate’, making these inscriptions mixed Minaic/Dadanitic inscriptions written in the Minaic script.

F. Kootstra. 2018. “Scribal practices in contact: two Minaic/Dadanitic mixed texts.” In *Languages, scripts and their uses in ancient North Arabia* (supplement to volume 48 of the Proceedings of the Seminar for Arabian Studies). Edited by M.C.A. Macdonald. Oxford: Archaeopress, 21-30.

9. All language learning, of both spoken and written language, is based on formulaic usage.

10. In case of equal parties 1-3-1 is a safer strategy than 5-out.