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Title: The transmissional and functional context of the lexical lists from Hattusha and from the contemporaneous traditions in Late-Bronze-Age Syria

Issue Date: 2012-10-18

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Title of the dissertation: 'The transmissional and functional context of the lexical lists from Hattusha and from the contemporaneous traditions in Late-Bronze-Age Syria'

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Date of the defence: 18/10/2012

Propositions relating to the dissertation

- 1 The independent spread of text-related features (length of the compositions, sequence of entries within the composition, configuration of the curriculum) and context-related innovations (paleography, syllabary, orthography) among the textual traditions of the lexical lists in the 13th-century western periphery indicates that these were not (anymore) the primary means of transmitting the basic knowledge and skills of cuneiform writing.
- 2 The lexical lists, dropped out of the function of providing the basic scribal knowledge and separated in their transmission from the transmission of the actual writing system, it is likely that their transmission among the scribal traditions of the 13th-century western periphery (still) strongly relied on oral and memory-based techniques.
- 3 A number of (epigraphic, paleographic, and orthographic) features, such as certain patterns of paleographic or orthographic variance or the use of scribal marks that indicate the partial obliteration of a *vorlage*, strongly suggests that at least some of the lexical tablets as produced in 13th-century Hattusha were the products of writing-based textual transmission. Other features, such as the variance of linguistic formats, nonetheless indicate that the texts were (still) to a certain degree memorized by the scribes.
- 4 A number of (textual, curricular, and orthographic) features, such as the general scarcity of attestation, the total lack of compositions dedicated to the primary stage of scribal education, or the advanced orthographic skills shown by the copying scribes, strongly suggest that the lexical lists as produced in 13th-century Hattusha did not (anymore) serve as a means of primary scribal education, but were a part of an advanced, 'academic' curriculum. Instead, the preservation of local Hittite compositions in often numerous copies suggests that young Hittite apprentice scribes started their scribal career with the copying of local compositions.

Propositions relating to the field of the dissertation

- 5 Some (fossilized) usages of the accusative case in Akkadian, such as to form adverbial expressions, to function as vocative case, or to mark the front member in so-called *damqam-inim* syntagmata, together with common-Semitic evidence point to the existence of former ergative-syntax patterns in Pre-Proto-Semitic.
- 6 In attempting to solve the phonological problems that arise from the *i/e*-ambiguity as inherent to cuneiform writing, Hittite (historical) phonology has hitherto largely disregarded aspects of 'scribal economy'. In fact, choosing between *i*-containing and *e*-containing members of CV/VC-sign dyads, Hittite scribes of the Neo-Hittite period often seem to have simply preferred those members that are graphically less complicated, e.g., <EN> as opposed to <IN> or <EL> as opposed to <IL>.

- 7 The paleographic developments as detected for the Neo-Hittite period, function according to two basic mutually-inversive principles, that are altogether similar to the mechanisms found to account for linguistic change: (1) The simplification/abbreviation ('slurring') of the extant sign forms and (2) the re-elaboration by the integration of 'foreign' sign forms from external scribal traditions.

- 8 Assyriology as dealing with historical spaces of extraordinary length has the great opportunity to particularly address long-term cultural developments. The investigation of such developments requires Assyriology more strongly to adopt cultural-scientific theories and methods along with the traditional historical and philological instruments of research.