



Universiteit
Leiden
The Netherlands

Watañi lāntaṃ: Khotanese and Tumshuqese loanwords in Tocharian

Dragoni, F.

Citation

Dragoni, F. (2022, April 13). *Watañi lāntaṃ: Khotanese and Tumshuqese loanwords in Tocharian*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/3283437>

Version: Publisher's Version

License: [Licence agreement concerning inclusion of doctoral thesis in the Institutional Repository of the University of Leiden](#)

Downloaded from: <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/3283437>

Note: To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

ENGLISH SUMMARY

This dissertation investigates the linguistic contacts between Tocharian A and B and Khotanese and Tumshuqese. Tocharian A and B are two related Indo-European languages once spoken in the north of the Tarim basin, in today's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region in Northwest China. The extant manuscripts can be dated approximately from the 5th to the 10th c. CE. Khotanese and Tumshuqese are two related Eastern Middle Iranian languages once spoken in the south and in the north-west of the Tarim basin. These two languages are known from manuscripts that can be dated from the 5th to the 10th c. CE as well. This study offers the first comprehensive analysis of the Khotanese and Tumshuqese loanwords in Tocharian A and B.

The first chapter contains a short introduction to the research object and the methodology employed. The second chapter, the most extensive part of the dissertation, is devoted to determine a corpus of reliable Khotanese and Tumshuqese loanwords in Tocharian. The discussion of the individual loanwords often involves a fresh examination of the text passages where they occur, as the meanings given in the scientific literature are not always completely reliable. In some cases, the discussion offers lexical insights regarding a variety of neighbouring languages (Chinese, Middle Persian, Parthian, Sogdian, Gāndhārī or Old Uyghur). Of 98 analysed items, 48 are classified as reliable loanwords, 29 as less reliable or doubtful and 19 correspondences are rejected. This corpus becomes the object of a thorough phonological and morphological analysis in the third chapter, where the main phonological correspondences that govern the adaptation of Khotanese and Tumshuqese loanwords in Tocharian are presented and a relative chronology is determined. The fourth chapter analyses the semantic aspects of the loanword corpus and discusses several possible historical interpretations of the contacts between the different languages.

One of the conclusions of this dissertation is that the influence of Khotanese and Tumshuqese on Tocharian was much more extensive than previously thought and it spanned over almost two millennia, from the early Iron Age until the extinction of the four languages at the end of the first millennium CE. In fact, it is possible to distinguish this group of loanwords from the loanwords from Old Steppe Iranian, an unidentified Old Iranian language only known from loanwords into Tocharian, by means of precise sound correspondences. Moreover, the relative chronology of the Khotanese and Tumshuqese loanwords in Tocharian allows a unique glimpse into the linguistic prehistory of the two Eastern Middle Iranian languages.