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Watañi lāntaṃ: Khotanese and Tumshuqese loanwords in Tocharian

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Stellingen
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Watañi lāntam
Khotanese and Tumshuqese loanwords in Tocharian

van
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1. As shown by Tremblay's (2005: 444) claim that 'the language with the most durable influence [on Tocharian] is undoubtedly Khotanese (and its kins)', wrong data do not necessarily lead to wrong conclusions. While this claim cannot be justified by his own data, the corpus analysed in this study fully allows the same conclusion to be drawn. (dit proefschrift)
2. Khotanese and Tumshuqese linguistic influence on Tocharian was much more intense than previously suspected: loanwords include not only technical terms (e.g. TB *ṣpakīye* 'suppository'), but also items from the everyday language (e.g. TB *keś* A *kaś* 'number'). (dit proefschrift)
3. We can establish precise phonological and morphological correspondences that set Khotanese and Tumshuqese loanwords apart from loanwords of Old Steppe Iranian origin. (dit proefschrift en Bernard forthc.)
4. Several layers of Khotanese and Tumshuqese loanwords in Tocharian (Proto-Tumshuqese-Khotanese, Pre-Khotanese, Old Khotanese and Late Khotanese) can be distinguished. The relative chronology of the loanwords allows to test existing hypotheses on the historical phonology of Khotanese and Tumshuqese. (dit proefschrift)
5. Accepting the challenge to work side by side with experts of neighbouring languages might surpass the isolation of Khotanese studies (cf. the case of the name of Khotan).
6. It is very difficult to gain enough competence to work with every single Middle Iranian language. However, if one tries to raise his eyes beyond his own research field, it is possible to see more connections than expected.
7. When dealing with language contact among dead languages, the peculiar but somewhat dangerous sport of 'hapax hunting' (Emmerick 2002: 11) may unexpectedly yield quite important results, since less studied and more obscure words often turn out to be unrecognized loanwords.

8. Tocharian and Khotanese are often relegated to the rank of 'exotic curiosities' by many scholars of more established disciplines. However, for the few courageous enough to seriously engage with their intricacies, the reward can be quite significant.
9. When dealing with the lexicography and etymology of fragmentarily attested languages, like Tocharian and Khotanese, philological and linguistic work can hardly be separated from one another.
10. A PhD trajectory with a fixed research plan does not guarantee success: the process is long and, in the end, the results may be different than expected. Therefore, it is advisable to be open for unexpected opportunities.