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Like dust on the Silk Road: an investigation of the earliest Iranian loanwords and of possible BMAC borrowings in Tocharian

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Stellingen

1. An ancient Iranian language, which I suggest to name Old Steppe Iranian, was probably spoken in the second millennium BCE in the eastern Central Asian steppes, and was the source of a number of borrowings into the ancestor of the Tocharian A and B languages.
2. Of all known Iranian languages, Old Steppe Iranian is most closely related to Ossetic, but Old Steppe Iranian is not the direct ancestor of Ossetic.
3. Proto-Tocharian was in contact with speakers of a language related to but not identical to the language of the Bactria-Margiana Archaeological Complex with which Indo-Iranian speakers were in contact.
4. The contacts of Tocharian with the language related to the Bactria-Margiana Archaeological Complex and with Old Steppe Iranian took place outside of the Tarim Basin, where Tocharian was spoken in the historical period.
5. Old Steppe Iranians dominated the Tocharians either militarily or socially or both, as is indicated, among others, by the borrowing of the disjunctive particle 'or' and the military vocabulary.
6. Historical linguistics is an important source of knowledge of the past.
7. Historical linguistics may look speculative to the outside world, but it is a very precise science because of the regularity of sound changes.
8. Sound substitutions in the process of borrowing are as regular as sound correspondences in the diachrony of languages.
9. One needs to constantly go back to the linguistic works of the nineteenth and twentieth century, as they often had a thorough understanding of many of the issues we still face.
10. Sint Maarten is the island version of Belgium.
11. Having a demanding supervisor is sometimes problematic, but it pushes us to look for excellency, and to question every point in order for the result to be the closest to truth as possible.
12. Being a foreigner in the Netherlands is both enriching and painful and makes one truly understand the infinite value of friends and family.