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The pre-Roman elements of the Sardinian lexicon

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Stellingen

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The pre-Roman elements of the Sardinian lexicon

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aan de Universiteit Leiden door

Cid Swanenvleugel

1. The lexical correspondences between Sardinian and Basque are not the result of the presence of a Vasconic language in pre-Roman Sardinia, but rather of independent contacts with a third, unattested language.
2. There is no need to posit a language related to Berber in pre-Roman Sardinia, independent from the Punic colonial presence.
3. Immediately preceding the Roman conquests, a number of closely related non-Indo-European languages were spoken in the Western Mediterranean.
4. Comparisons of substrate items hypothetically shared between languages must be supported by close formal as well as close semantic similarity, in order to mitigate the partial non-applicability of the Comparative Method.
5. Toponyms cannot reliably be used as evidence for the affiliations of unattested substrate languages, because their semantic opacity significantly increases the risk of chance correspondences.
6. Our poor knowledge of the Etruscan lexicon makes it unlikely that it can ever confidently be identified as constituting a substrate to whatever language.
7. The linguistic history of pre-Indo-European Europe cannot be fully understood without taking into account substrate evidence from the Romance languages, which currently occupy a major section of the European continent.
8. Although the standardization of minority languages can benefit their vitality by facilitating the production of teaching materials, it can also cause loss of linguistic diversity and alienation of the speakers from their native language.
9. The outsourcing of catering services in university buildings to commercial parties leads to a supply of over-priced and unhealthy food, clashing with universities' self-proclaimed efforts to enhance students' well-being.
10. The promotion of viewpoints on multiple, unrelated issues during the same activist demonstrations can create a feeling of "if you are not with us, you are against us", and therefore increase societal polarization.
11. A more centralized and efficient management of international European train routes would make train travel a more realistic alternative to travel by airplane, and as such be an important step in combating climate change.