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Tocharian and Samoyed: on the question of Uralic substrate influence in Tocharian

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Stellingen

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Tocharian and Samoyed: On the question of Uralic substrate influence in Tocharian
Abel Warries

1. The phonological profile of pre-Proto-Tocharian before phonological palatalization had taken place aligns well with pre-Proto-Samoyed in both the consonants and the vowels, and can thus be understood as a transformation of the Proto-Indo-European system under early Samoyed influence (this dissertation, chapter 4).
2. Based on the developments of syncope and epenthesis, the second-syllable accent of Tocharian B is an innovation and an earlier stage of Tocharian should be reconstructed with first-syllable accent instead (this dissertation, chapter 5).
3. The Tocharian participle system aligns with the Samoyed participle system in two significant ways: it mostly consists contextually oriented participles, and it features both a negative participle (the privative) and a future or necessitative participle (the gerundives).
4. The Uralic objective conjugation shares important core features across all the major branches where it is attested, and should thus be reconstructed to Proto-Uralic; its origins lie beyond Proto-Uralic in pre-Proto-Uralic (this dissertation, chapter 8).
5. The concepts of a protolanguage and a pre-protolanguage should be properly delineated in order to keep them useful as theoretical tools.
6. When reconstructing morphological systems, it is useful to contrast expected outcomes and attested outcomes in order to gain further insights into the possible diachronic developments.
7. In a structural comparison of two prehistoric languages, both sides need to be considered as dynamic entities, and the chronology of intermediary stages should be worked out in as much detail as possible; otherwise, results run a great risk of being anachronistic.
8. Great care should be taken when two hypotheses are built upon to test a third, and it is not an advisable undertaking unless the foundations of the first two hypotheses are adequately solid.
9. Ecologically harmful practices such as the extensive use of pesticides, monocultures and the intensive meat and dairy industry urgently need to be reduced for the good of the planet and humanity.
10. In order to stay grounded in an unpredictable world, one should always make time to observe the arrival of birds in spring.