

Supervisor's assessment of the Bachelor's thesis by cand.phil. Petr Vlach (ÚSJ):

The Question of Mycenaean Lexical Relics in Ancient Greek

As outlined in the exposé, this thesis discusses the question of possible Mycenaean lexical relics in later Greek. Some words in Ancient Greek show unusual phonological developments for their respective dialects. Thus, they raise the question of interdialectal borrowing. Most of these words, which are attested already in Homer, differ from the expected forms regular for the 'Homerische Kunstsprache', the language of Homeric epics, which mainly consists of Ionic and Aeolic dialect elements. In a number of relevant cases, these words show a treatment characteristic of the so-called strong dialects like Doric. Since Doric is not a part of the Homeric language, these forms must be explained differently.

One of these words is ἵππος 'horse', which is used in all Greek dialects, yet its form does not correspond to the regular development of any of these dialects. Interestingly, the expected form †ἔππος (from Proto-Indo-European **h₁ékwos* = Lat. *equus*) is still reflected in the name of the builder of the Trojan horse Ἐπειός. Another word showing an irregularity is ἀρμόζω 'to join, fit together'. Here the denominative suffix -όζω is an oddity, most likely an archaism, as the productive suffixes for denominatives are -άζω or -ίζω.

These two words are considered to be loanwords from Mycenaean due to the developments of the Mycenaean dialect visible in Linear B – raising of /e/ to /i/ before labial sounds (PIE **h₁ékwos* 'horse' > Myc. *i-qo* = /ikk^uo-/ as prestage of Gk. ἵππος with labialization, cf. **dépas* 'cup' > Myc. *di-pa* vs. Gk. δέπας) and vocalization of syllabic resonants resulting in a vowel /o/ (PIE **h₂ér-(s)m̥* 'assemblage' > Myc. *a-mo* = /ar(h)mo/ 'wheel', pl. *a-mo-ta* 'wheels', Ion.Att. ἄρμα, often pl. ἄρματα 'chariot').

The main group of the words in question consists of words that show an unexpected result of the first compensatory lengthening (**VR_s*, **V_sR* > *V̄R*) for the dialects of the Homeric epics. These words belong either to the sacral space like Διώνυσος 'Dionysus', δῆνεα '(divine) counsels', and post-Homeric κῶμος 'Dionysiac festive procession', to economy like ὄνος 'price', or possibly to specials like ὤμος 'shoulder (also in a dress)', and post-Homeric ζωμός 'sauce, broth'. Their long open vowels η/ω point to the development of the so-called strong dialects (the expected outcome would be the long close vowels ει/ου for

Ionic or gemination of the resonants for Aeolic), and as these dialects do not partake in the Homeric language, the explanation for this development remains unclear.

The solution to this problem offered by G. Dunkel (FS Strunk 1995) is to take these words as loanwords from Mycenaean and to regard Mycenaean as a strong dialect. However, for the limitations of Linear B as a syllabic script, the precise result of the first compensatory lengthening in Mycenaean is not directly recognizable from the written evidence (for the general lack of notation of resonants before consonants and of differentiation of length and opening degree of vowels). Therefore, in each case it has to be checked if there are alternatives available, in order to evaluate for any single item which solution is more plausible.

The complex of possible Mycenaean relics in Homer and in later Greek discussed in this thesis requires orientation towards the Homeric language and the data of the Mycenaean tradition in Linear B. Since this question also involves the morphological and thus also phonological shape of the underlying input forms, which go back a long way in time, a linguistic-historical and etymological evaluation on an Indo-European basis is also necessary.

These requirements have been fulfilled in an excellent manner by cand.phil. Petr Vlach. After an overview of the Homeric language and Mycenaean and its position within the Greek dialects, he discusses the relevant cases with conspicuous features in Homer that have attested Mycenaean counterparts, as well as those cases in Homer and in later Greek that may show an irregular result of the first compensatory lengthening, which are, however, also amenable to other specific explanations in individual cases.

Cand.phil. Petr Vlach has shown that he is familiar with the manifold research in the field of Homeric, Mycenaean and Indo-European. He provides an impressive overview of the word forms in question, taking into account the complex literature and also demonstrating his own independent judgement.

In view of the merits of this work, I propose the highest mark:

1,0 (excellent = výborně)

Prague, 31 August 2021

Dr. Reiner Lipp M.A.

