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Woudhuizen, Fred C. 2019: *Etruscan as a Colonial Luwian Language: The Comprehensive Version* (series: Publications of the Henri Frankfort Foundation, vol. 16), Amsterdam, Dutch Archaeological and Historical Society. 708 pp., incl. 42 figs. ISBN 978-90-72067-21-4 (freely available on line on www.talanta.nl).

Etruscan is, with more than 10.000 inscriptions in sum, one of the major languages in the Mediterranean region which still defies a proper understanding, certainly in so far as texts of some length are concerned. The reason for this fact is that the underlying principles of the Etruscan language, its grammar so to say, up to the present day remain unclear for the lack of a valid and verifiable relationship to a better known language.

In the present book, which provides an overview of my work in the field since 1980, it will be tried to show that the proper key to our understanding of the Etruscan language is formed by its etymological relationship to the Luwian dialects of southwest Asia Minor, viz. Luwian hieroglyphic, Lycian, and Lydian. To this aim, the grammatical paradigms are meticulously built up from scratch by working from the most elementary inscriptions on portable objects and from graves to the longer texts. In order to keep the risk of haphazard identifications to a minimum, the longer texts in their turn are treated by starting with those providing the most reliable data, namely the bilinguals, and continuing with those which for their repetitive nature offer a highly transparent structure, and so on. On every level, then, the results from our analysis are correlated to the relevant evidence from the given Luwian dialects.

The present book, which basically consists of a reworking of my monograph entitled *Etruscan as a Colonial Luwian Language*, which appeared as IBK Sonderheft 128 in 2008, also includes a word for word translation of the longest Etruscan text, the *Liber linteus*, which also appeared separately as IBK NF Band 5 in 2013. Work on the *Liber linteus* - written in ink on linen secondarily cut into strips in order to be used for the mummification of a 40 year old Egyptian lady, the mummy having been acquired by the museum of Zagreb already in the 19th century AD - , profited to a great deal from recent studies by Bouke van der Meer (2007) and Valentina

Belfiore (2010), in which it is decisively pointed out that the parts of the text which have been preserved or are plausibly emendable on the basis of the repetitive nature of the text provide us with reliable working material.

Further included in the present compilation are the texts which I treated in *Talanta* 42-43 (2010-2011) 215-234, entailing some 30 phrases. If we allow for the fact that the *Liber linteus* presents us with some 380 phrases and the other texts treated amount to some 200 phrases, this brings us to the total amount of more than 600 phrases. For comparison, the total amount of translatable phrases in Luwian hieroglyphic, the largest *compendium*, is little more than 1500.

The etymological relationship of Etruscan with the Luwian dialects of southwest Asia Minor, Luwian hieroglyphic, Lycian, and Lydian, turns out to be particularly effective in the heart and core of the language, its grammar, typified, like that of its Indo-European Anatolian counterparts, by introductory particles with enclitic forms of the pronoun of the 3rd person attached to them. These comparisons are so detailed and intricate, that after almost 40 years of hard labor I am confident to finally say: “Je tiens mon affaire!”. But it is, of course, up to the scholarly world to pass final judgment in this matter.

Even though the Luwian parent language provides vital clues for our understanding of Etruscan, it must be realized that as a colonial offshoot in an Italian milieu Etruscan became subject to strong Italic and Celtic substrate influences alongside similarly strong adstrate influences from Greek and Phoenician. Accordingly, Etruscan is not identical to any of the given Luwian dialects of Asia Minor but to be identified as a Luwian dialect *sui generis*.