

Re: Linear A tablet Hagia Triada 95

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.lang/2004-07/2894.html>

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Date: 07/24/04

Date: 24 Jul 2004 00:21:29 -0700

"Peter T. Daniels" <grammatim@worldnet.att.net> wrote in message news:<4100F06D.4F13@worldnet.att.net>...

> > *The r and l case is not yet closed. Upon leaving the library where*
> > *I type my messages I knew what I should have replied. Here it comes.*
> >
> > *Consider biology. The eye had been "invented" about 17 (seventeen)*
> > *times independently, whereupon each eye evolved further, branching*
> > *off the taxonomic bush. Now if two similar eyes occur at a close*
> > *taxonomic range they have a common origin, but if there is a large*
> > *taxonomix distance between them they are independent biological*
> > *inventions of the same or very similar structures (to put it simply).*
> > *The l and r convergence (whatever the correct biological term may*
> > *be) presumably is the phenotype of a micro-evolutionary genetic*
> > *shift that may well have occured at several places, and seems to*
> > *have occured at least twice, in Syria, and in Japan. Seen through*
> > *the eyes of a taxonomist, the Syrian and Minoan phenotypes must*
> > *in all probability have a common origin, whereas the Japanese*
> > *phenotype represents an independent genetic shift of the same kind.*
> > *(Hope I made myself halfways understandable.)*
>
> *So you think persons of Japanese heritage "can't" distinguish r and l*
> *because there's something unusual about their vocal tract?*
>
> *Perhaps you've never met a Japanese-American. Persons of Japanese*
> *heritage whose native language is English have no trouble with r and l.*

An ex of mine can make the tip of her tongue vibrate as long as she wishes, her mouth open, looks very funny. I envied her, for I absolutely can't. Her l and r are close, mine are very different sounds, and so I assumed that the dwellers of Ebla in around 2300 BC and the Japanese who fixed their languages and scripts might have been especially capable rhotacists, as that friend of mine