

# Ugaritic Affiliations

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"Yusuf B Gursey" <ybg@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
<news:1189014105.865358.122310@xx> in thread 'Palestine during/around Jesus' time'

On Sep 5, 12:49 am, Frank Zeeb <nebb...@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

Yusuf B. Gursey (RW believes) wrote:

Peter T. Daniels (RW believes) wrote:

>> You haven't consulted a Ugaritic grammar. Dad was marginal but had a  
>> letter.

> there is still the issue of 3 non-emphatic sibilants for ugaritic but  
> 2 for arabic. "nearly identical" is more correct.

Arabic "dad" is in Ugaritic generally written with "dotted z" (don't

I interpreted "dotted z" as arabic DHa:' . so either Dad or Dha:' is missing.

Digging around, it seems that there 31 characters representing 28 consonants – three for the glottal stop – 'a, 'i and 'u, and two for s<sup>h</sup> (s hacek), namely Unicode U+1038C UGARITIC LETTER SHIN, and a form 'without serpent' that is interchangeable with it. (I wouldn't bet on interchangeability.)

If the standard transliteration is broadly consistent with a 'standard' reconstruction of Proto-Semitic (PSem) – call it a spelling to avoid unnecessary dispute – the coronal consonants seem to match up as follows:

Standard\_transliteration (ASCIIfication) Shortened\_Unicode\_name \*ASCIIified\_PSem

## Ugaritic Affiliations

t (t) to \*t  
d (d) delta \*d  
m (t.) tet \*t.  
o (t\_) thanna \*t\_  
  (d\_) dhal \*d\_  
s (s) samka \*s  
z (z) zeta \*z  
c (s.) sade \*s.  
a (s^, \$) shin \*s^, \*\$ (Competing notations – one character, one Psem phoneme)  
l (l) lamda \*l  
r (r) rasha \*r

Unmatched Proto–Semitic:

\*t\_  
\*l– (voiceless lateral fricative)  
\*l. (emphatic voiceless(?) lateral fricative)

Unmatched Ugaritic:

“(z.) zu  
[, s, (s', s2) ssu (Competing notations. I'm assuming the grave in WWS Table 5.2 is a typo.)

The non–Roman transliteration I've seen offered for zu include Hebrew teth geresh and 8 U+0638 ARABIC LETTER ZAH. I have no examples of its use.

Now, the non–Roman transliterations I've seen offered for ssu include Hebrew sin, underlined Hebrew unpointed shin, and Arabic sin with a grave accent. The example of use offered by Brian E. Colless is in <samk> 'support (spine)'. The closest my meagre resources offer is Hebrew <semek> 'support' spelt with samekh, not sin.

There is a remarkable statement in the Unicode proposal for Ugaritic – 'The letters I, U and SSU were added to the alphabet to support Hurrian'. The authors of the proposal are Michael Everson, Rick McGowan and Kenneth Whistler, but I don't believe any of them is a Semiticist.

I've seen a claim of two mergers from Proto–Semitic to Ugaritic – of \*l– and \*\$ (as in Akkadian but none of Arabic, Hebrew and Aramaic), and of \*s. and \*l. (as in Hebrew but neither Arabic or Aramaic). The example stem for the latter is Psem \*/'ar.l./ 'land' – Ugaritic \_'ars.\_, Hebrew \_'eres.\_, Aramaic \_'ar`\_ (stem form, I presume), Arabic <'rd.> (in various guises). Other examples can be found at <http://www.freeweb.hu/etymological/AEDweb.htm> . That dictionary suggests to me that Ugaritic <z.> corresponds to Arabic <z.>, both transliterated 'dz' there, but I can't confirm the transliteration for Ugaritic.

So, what's wrong with my results? Obviously long study would have given me more information.

Richard.

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