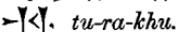


II.

TARKU.

ON the Hittite bilingual the first word is Tarku  according to Mr. Pinches' decipherment.¹ This I have already compared with the Turkic *tarkhan* (Uigur), *targan* (Tchuwash), to which I may now add the Mongolian *darga* or *dargo*, "chief," and the Cossack *turughna* having the same meaning.

The corresponding Hittite sign is the head of a goat or deer, or similar horned animal, which, it is agreed, should have the same sound. In cuneiform we find the ideogram for deer to be , originally perhaps a deer's head, which is syllabically represented by , *da-ra* in Akkadian, and in Assyrian by  *tu-ra-khu*. Probably this word still survives in the Hungarian *zerge*, "antelope," and perhaps it may be connected with the Mongolian *turguñ*, meaning "swift."

I find, however, that Dr. Hommel ("Zeitschrift für Keilschriftforschung," 1, 2), gives the sound *daragh*, as well as *dara*, for the Akkadian of the ideogram, and regards the Assyrian *turakhu* as a loan word of Akkadian origin.² I find, moreover (1, 4), that he has already, in 1884, compared the Hittite Tarku with the Cossack *turughna*, though he does not mention the Turkic and Mongol words.

I have already mentioned that the same word occurs in the Etruscan Tarquin, known in inscriptions as *Tarchi*, *Tarchu*, *Tarchnas*, *Tarcnal*, in proper names (Dennis, "Etruria," 1st edition, vol. ii, p. 41).

It will surely be allowed that the Akkadian word for deer, *darag*, gives a close approximation to the word for "chief" used in so many Altaic languages, so that the deer's head in Akkadian may stand for "chief."

C. R. C.

¹ Preceded by , showing it to be a man's name.

² The head on the Hittite bilingual is usually taken for a goat. In Greek we have *ρᾰγός* for "goat," perhaps not an Aryan word, the common Aryan word being represented by the Sanskrit *agá*. It is also worth notice that in Hungarian *Türkölni* and *Türközni* mean "to butt" like a goat (Bizonfy's "Dictionary"). It occurs also in Esthonian *torkan*, "to thrust," *torgin*, "to pierce," Finnic *turkin*, *turkkän*. It seems, therefore, not improbable that the radical meaning of these words is "that which pierces with its horns," hence stag, goat, &c. Mr. Ball has proposed to compare the Greek *δορκας*, a gazelle.