

Prof. Dr. Alfred Toth

Hung. koca “sow, pig”: a Hungarian-Afroasiatic-Indo-European isogloss

1. Traditional (Fenno-Ugric) dictionary trace Hung. koca back to an alleged (yet in no language testified) onomatopoeitic word for alluring pigs (e.g. Benkő et al., Etym. Wb. d. Ung., Budapest 1993, vol. III, p. 763 s.). However, we find the stem *koc- in many languages whose genetical affiliation with Hung. has been showed in EDH (Toth, Hungarian Etymological Dictionary, The Hague/Budapest 2006).

2.1. Sumerian (Hung. koc- ~ Sum. šag-/šah-; zeh-)

šagan (150x: ED IIIb) wr. šagan_x(IGA₂×ANI)^{gan}; šagan; šagan_x(AMA)^{ša} "a designation of pigs; pregnant?"

šah (1117x: ED IIIa, ED IIIb, Old Akkadian, Lagash II, Ur III, Early Old Babylonian, Old Babylonian, 1st millennium, unknown) wr. šah₂; šah "pig" Akk. *šāhû*

ŠAHZEDA, wr. ŠAH.ZE₂.DA; ŠEŠ.DA "a pig" Akk. *šahû api*

zeh, (6x: Old Babylonian) wr. ze₂-eh; zah; zah^{eh} "piglet" Akk. *šahû*

2.2. Akkadian (Sum. šag-/šah-; zeh- ~ Akk. *ḥ(n)z-)

akk. ḥuzīru “pig, swine”

Sumerian borrowings into Akk. are well-known (cf. Heinrich Zimmern, Akk. Fremdwörter, Leipzig 1915). From Akkadian, which is closely related to Rhaetic (cf. Toth, in: Anthropos 103, 2008, pp. 210-216), the word spread into all other Semitic languages.

2.3. Other Semitic languages (Akk. *ḥ(n)z- = Sem. *ḥ(n)z-)

Proto-Semitic : *ḥuzīr “pig, swine”

Arabic : ḥinzīr خنزير “id.”

Syriac : ḥzīrā ܚܙܝܪܐ “id.”

Hebrew : ḥazīr חזיר “id.”

Ugaritic : ḥuzīru “id.”

Ge'ez : ḥanzir “id.”

However, from Semitic, the word has also spread into the Hamitic branch of the (earlier) so-called Hamito-Semitic languages:

2.4. Afroasiatic languages (Sem. *ḥ(n)z- = Afroas. *ḥ(n)z-)

Proto-Afro-Asiatic: *ḥunʒ(-ir)-

Meaning: pig

Semitic: *ḥV(n)zīr- “pig”

Berber: *-gVnduz “piglet”

Western Chadic: *gunVʒ- “wild boar” ~ *gursun- “pig”

Central Chadic: *ḥaʒ-in- “pig” ~ (H)avanʒ(-Vr)- “porcupine”

East Chadic: *ku/inʒ(-u/ir)- “porcupine”, “pig”

Omotic: *guzin/m- 'pig'

Since the Semitic and Indo-European languages are genetically related (Linus Brunner, *Die Gemeinsamkeit des indog. u. sem. Wortschatzes*, Bern 1969), the strong occurrence of our stem in the main IE languages rather points to genetical relationship than to borrowing.

2.5. Indo-European

Proto-IE: *sū-, *sū-k-

Tokharian: B suwo “pig, hog”

Old Indian: sūkará- m. “boar, hog, pig”

Avestan: gen. hū “pig”

Old Greek: hūś, acc. hūñ, gen. hūós m., f. “swine, sow, boar”

Slavic: *svīnъ

Germanic: *sū-, *su-g-ō f., *sug-iō f. “swine, pig”

Latin: sūs, gen. suis f. “swine, pig”; su-bulcus “pig-herder”, su-cerda “faeces of the swine”; suctula f. “piglet”

Celtic: Old Irish socc sáil “sea-mammal”; Middle Irish soc m. “snout of the piglet”,

Cymr hwch m., f. “piglet”

Albanian: thi, pl. thij m. “pig”

Engl. hog itself, which is supposed to be related to the Celtic words, but whose further etymology lies in the dark, is a perfect match with Proto-IE * sū-k-, the next Germanic relative being Germ. grunzen “to grunt” which does not belong, as .e.g Kluge (*Etym. Wb. d. dt. Sprache*, Berlin 2000, s.v.) asserts, to Old Germ.

grunnen ~ Lat. grunnire “id.”, since as in the variation of Sem. *ḡz- ~ *ḡ(n)z-, the -n- is a very common Infix.

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