

THE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE MYSTERIOUS HETTIC SCRIPT

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Abstract:

The article discusses the mysterious writing and diplomacy of the Hittite state, which had a rich archive of sources on the history of the Ancient East.

Keywords: Hittites, writing, cuneiform, Hama stones, diplomatic relations, Hattusili III, Bosphorus, Qoratepa.

SIRLI XETT YOZUVINING TARIXIY AHAMIYATI

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Annotatsiya:

Maqolada Qadimgi Sharq tarixiga oid manbalar haqida boy arxivga ega bo'lgan Xett davlatining sirli yozuvi va diplomatiyasi haqida so'z boradi.

Kalit so'zlar: Xetlar, yozuv, mixxat, Hama toshlari, diplomatik munosabatlar, Xattusuli III, Bo'g'ozqoya, Qoratepa.

Introduction

Writing is a system of written symbols or images adopted in a particular language and serving as a means of communication between people. It is known that one of the greatest and most important achievements of human genius is the discovery of writing. Writing is the literal beginning of the cultural development of human society, one of the most important factors in the long and complex process of gradual improvement of mankind. According to data, writing appeared much later than language, that is, if the sound language arose about 400-500 thousand years ago, then writing appeared 4-5 thousand years ago¹.

One of these scripts was the Hittite script. The first script of the Hittites was hieroglyphic. The Hittites developed this script from a pictographic script. This script, in turn, was created independently of the Egyptians. There are 3 periods in the history of the Hittite language: the ancient period (18th-16th centuries BC), the medieval period (15th-early 14th centuries BC) and the modern period (mid-14th century BC-13th century BC). Most of the texts that have come down to us belong to the New Kingdom period. Historical sources indicate that the Hittites mastered cuneiform writing. Cuneiform was originally the writing of state courts, and state contracts, various documents related to state administration, were engraved on silver, iron and

¹ Yuldoshev I., U. Sharipova Fundamentals of Linguistics Tashkent 2007, 23 pages.



lead tablets. The Hittites had another unique script, which is the art of stone engraving. Each character is written with such great precision and accuracy that the inscription becomes a true work of art.

The oldest monument of Hittite writing is the inscription of King Anittas, who began the list of twenty-nine Hittite kings with his own name. The first find on which the Hittite script was written was the "Hama Stones". There were four of these stones in total, and they were found in the market square of the Syrian city of Hama. Three of the stones were mounted on the wall. The fourth was laid out in the square. According to the local population, the fourth stone found in the center of the square was considered to have "healing" powers.

There was also a belief that if a person suffering from gout lay on it for a while, "he would recover instantly."

Hittite written monuments are found in various places in ancient Asia, far from each other. This helped the British orientalist A. Sayce to conclude that the Hittites were not a small tribe of Northern Syria, as scholars had thought, but a large nation. During archaeological excavations in Syria, statues with inscriptions similar to the Hama stones were found. Such inscriptions were found in relief on the shoulders and sides of the lion that decorated the gate of the city of Marash in Turkey. Unique statues of gods were found in a rock-cut temple 150 km from Ankara. A symbol appears repeatedly on the statues, which A. Sayce believes is an ideogram representing the concept of god.



In 1905, during archaeological excavations in the Bogazkoya district of Syria, the state archive of the Hittite king was discovered here. Many clay tablets with Hittite inscriptions were found. The inscriptions on some of the tablets found were in the Akkadian language, and at that time the secret of Akkadian cuneiform was being deciphered.

Then it became known that the expedition was near the ancient capital of the Hittite state. It was here that the stone tablet that excited everyone was found. There is a stone tablet on which is written the treaty of "Eternal Peace and Friendship" concluded between the Egyptian pharaoh and the Hittite king Hattusili III. The Egyptian version of this inscription was engraved in the Amore Palace in Thebes. This inscription dates back to 1296 BC, when the armies of the ancient Egyptian pharaoh Ramses II and the Hittite king Hattusili III clashed near the city of Kadesh in the Orontes River Valley.

The forces of the two sides were equal in this battle, and in 1280 BC, an agreement was concluded between the two states. Ramses II married the daughter of the Hittite king as proof of the



agreement.

By the beginning of the 20th century, scholars had a sufficient number of Hittite written monuments at their disposal. Now they can be read. The Hittite script played a similar role for its time to the Latin alphabet in medieval Europe, and, like the ancient Latin alphabet, was used to write many ancient languages.

Since the principle of reading cuneiform was known, it seemed that the problem of deciphering it was only to determine the features of the Hittite language. To understand the Hittite texts, it was only necessary to determine the structure of the language and its grammatical forms. Reading the cuneiform and hieroglyphic versions of the Hittite script is associated with the name of the Czech scholar B. Grozny. He first began by reading the collection of Hittite laws. At first, reading and understanding the Hittite texts was very difficult.

Now the only way out was to draw logical conclusions and determine the structure of the language by comparing signs. B. Grozny very quickly mastered the grammatical structure of the language, which surprised the scientist by turning out to be an Indo-European language, not a Semitic one, like many ancient languages of Central Asia. The scientist was able to determine the meaning of many Hittite words based on the essence of the whole sentence. Thus, he had a good knowledge of the Indo-European language. B. Grozny managed to unravel the mystery of the Hittite cuneiform, the oldest of this family. If previously the poems of Homer and the Indian epic "Rigveda", dating back to the middle of the 2nd millennium BC, were considered the oldest texts in the Indo-European languages, then the reading of the Hittite texts took scientists centuries, that is, from the 1st to the 2nd millennium BC. BC helps to look back to the 18th century.

Based on the cuneiform tablets found in Bogazkaya, there are not many, but there are tablets that differ from the Hittite language, but are neither Indo-European nor Semitic. This new language, discovered by B. Grozny, was called the Hittite language. When the Hittites entered Asia Minor, tribes called the Hattites lived here. This can also be found in the inscriptions of "King Anittaz", which are considered an ancient monument of Hittite writing.

In 1947, German professor G. Bossert found quite long texts written partly in Hittite hieroglyphs and partly in the Phoenician language on a hill called Kara Tepe in southwestern Turkey. Along with two different hieroglyphic texts, three Phoenician inscriptions were inscribed on the stone, and they were able to determine that the texts mention King Azitavant. Professor G. Bossert, after hearing the Turkish legend of the "Lion Stone", found this stone on a rock at the top of the mountain after a long search.

The Hittite writing consisted of 350-400 characters. The Hittites stretched a cloth over a wooden board and covered it with lime. They wrote with pens and stones. Since they mainly used wood for writing, most of their written monuments have not reached us. Even those that did exist have not been fully deciphered. The Hittites disappeared from the scene of history two and a half thousand years ago. However, the cultural traditions of the Hittites were preserved for a long time among the peoples living in the southern regions. Hittite writings written in hieroglyphs, dating back to the 10th - 8th centuries BC, were found in this region.

In conclusion, it should be said that writing first appeared 6-7 thousand years ago, including in Asia Minor. We can take the Hittite script as an example. The Hittite script was originally pictographic, and as a result of its development, it was improved.



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