

Cultural Contact and Language Contact in Iron Age Syria and Anatolia: a preliminary assessment

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While cultural contacts can be positively inferred based on historical information or archeological findings, the content of historical narratives can be biased, and pots and artefacts can travel more easily than cultures. The linguistic interference phenomena that are attested in the surviving corpora of Iron age Syro-Anatolia (cf. e.g. Yakubovich 2015, Cotticelli and Giusfredi 2017), however, certainly imply positive contacts between the Anatolian cultures (especially the Luvic ones) and the surrounding ones, both on the Semitic side and on the Aegean one. In this contribution, the problem of the contacts between the Anatolian cultures and the neighboring ones will be discussed basing on a general evaluation of the evidence for language contacts identified so far. New observations will be made on problems such as the interference between Luwian and the Semitic languages and cultures during the Iron age, in particular regarding the Luwian/Aramaic interface in the area of Zincirli.

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References: Cotticelli P. and Giusfredi, F. 2017. "Ancient Anatolian languages and language contact: some methodological reflections", paper presented at the Workshop *Beyond Lexicon*, Verona, April 21-22 2017. Yakubovich, I. 2015. "Phoenician and Luwian in Early Iron Age Cilicia", in *Anatolian Studies* 65, pp. 35-53.