The Luwic Ergative

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Introduction

The Anatolian languages are *split ergative* languages: neuter nouns have a special ending when they are the subject of transitive sentences, here in Hittite from the word *tuppi-* ‘tablet’:

\[ \text{mah\=han=t\=a k\=a\=s tuppianza anda wemiyazzi} \]

‘when this tablet reaches you.’

In Hittite, the singular is -anza- (= /-ant\textsuperscript{s}/?), the plural -ante\=s.
Central questions

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2. How can we reconstruct the ‘ergative’ in Proto-Anatolian?
3. How can we account for the ‘ergative’ from an Indo-European perspective?
Synchronic use of the ergative

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2. The ‘ergative’ is actually a derivational suffix -ant-, transforming the word into a common gender noun;
3. The ‘ergative’ is actually an inflectional suffix -ant-, transforming the word into a common gender noun;
4. There is an actual ergative case with endings -anza and -anteš.
Ergative = ablative?

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- An alternation between the endings -az and -anza in the ‘ergative’;
- An indifference with respect to number in the ‘ergative’.

Neither of these happen in Hittite or in the other Anatolian languages (where the ‘ergative’ and ablative are actually distinct), so we may disregard this hypothesis.
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- A semantic value of the suffix \(-ant-\);
- A semantic distribution of its use (for example, animacy rather than morphological gender);
- Occurrence in other cases than just the nominative.
Inflectional suffix vs case

The difference between these proposals is more subtle. In both cases, the ‘ergative’ follows a syntactical/morphological distribution. However, we can tell the difference from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>common nominative</td>
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Hittite also has a personifying/deifying suffix -ant-; Goedegebuure considers this the only use of the suffix in OH.
The Luwic languages

Except from Hittite, we find from the ‘ergative’:

- 1 attestation in Hieroglyphic Luwian;
- 7 attestations in Cuneiform Luwian;
- 2 attestations in Lycian.

Possibly also one attestation in Palaic, but difficult to interpret.
Hieroglyphic Luwian

(“CAELUM”)ti-pa-sa-ti-sa=pa=wa/i=tu-u (“TERRA”)ta-sà-REL+ra/i-ti-sa=ha ||
CAELUM-sa=ha
TERRA-REL+ra/i-sa=ha DEUS-ni-i-zi LIS-tà-ti ||
CUM-ni X-tu
‘The sky, the earth, and the gods of the sky and the earth must ...
... him with ligitation.’

We find the ergative ending -a-ti-sa = /-antis/ with both the neutral word ti-pa-sa ‘sky’ and the common ta-sà-REL+ra/i ‘earth’. Hence the distribution is semantic, so here the suffix has semantic value. Here too it may be a personifying/deifying suffix.
Cuneiform Luwian

Semantic use:
\[ a-a-aš-ša=ti \ e-el-ḫa-a-du \ \underline{tap-pa-ša-an-ti-iš} \ \underline{ti-ya-am-ma-an-ti-iš} \]

‘The sky and the earth must wash their mouths’
Cuneiform Luwian

Grammatical:

\[ [\text{š}] a-a-an-du=(w)a-ta \text{ pár-na-an-ti-in-zi} \]
\[ [\text{ḥ}] u-u-um-ma-ti-iš \text{ ḫa-aš-ša-ni-it-ti-iš} \]
\[ ḫu-wa-ah-ḫur-ša-an-ti-in-zi \text{ ti-ya-am-mi-iš} \]
\[ ta?-ru-ša-an-ti-iš \text{ a}[-du-wa-al-za ú-tar-ša] \]
\[ ḫal-li-iš-ša pa-ra-at-ta-an[-za] \]
\[ pu-wa-ti-il-za [n]a-nu-un-tar-ri-š[a] \]
\[ ir-ḫu-u-wa-aš-ša pa-ri-it-tar-u-wa-a-aš-š[a] \]
\[ u-la-an-ta-al-li-ya-an ḫu-it-w[a-li-ya-an] \]

‘The houses, the pediment, the hearth, ..., the earth, statues, the evil word, sickness, past and present impurity, and ... of animals, mortals and of the living must release them.’
Cuneiform Luwian

Inflectional suffix:

[ ] SAG.DU-aš-ši-iš IGI.ḪI.A-wa-aš-ši-iš GIG-an-te-eš₁₇?
[ ] X tar-pí-i-ta

‘Illness of the head and the eye …’
Lycian

Inflectional suffix / case ending:

\( s=\text{ene} \text{ teset}i\text{: tubeit}i\text{: trm}ml\text{ili} \)
‘and the Lycian oaths will strike him.’

\( s=\text{en}e\text{: teseti}\text{: qanti} \text{: trm}mlijeti \)
‘and the Lycian oaths will seize him.’
Proto-Anatolian

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2. At some point, this suffix was obligatory for neuter subjects in transitive sentences;
3. It lost its semantic value and became an inflectional suffix;
4. It became a proper ergative case.
Why make an ergative?

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3. Neuter nouns were originally precisely those nouns that were inanimate;
4. This distinction was lost in PIE already (*kwekwlos ‘wheel).
In most IE languages (Common IE) neuter words have the same endings in A, S and P position. Based on the previous, we may reconstruct the lack of neuters in A position to PIE:

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<th>CIE</th>
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<td>n.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>*-s</td>
<td>*-m</td>
<td>*-s</td>
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<td>*-s</td>
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In this explanation the lack of A neuters in PIE is a relic from PPIE.
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- It was used to give the ability to put a neuter noun in the A position;
- The lack of neuters in the A position is a relict of the PPIE ergative system.