

Linguistic strategies in filiation formulas

Data from Lycian-Greek bilingual texts

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Among the nearly 200 Lycian inscriptions, a small corpus of Lycian-Greek bilinguals could be singled out that provides several clues on the Lycian cultural environment during the 1st millennium BCE. The issue of the relationships between Lycians and Greeks has received the attention of many scholars, both from a historical and from a linguistic perspective. In order to evaluate the extent of specific language contact phenomena, the present paper analyses the linguistic strategies adopted by the two languages in order to express the genealogy of an individual, by looking into the structures of each language and, at the same time, by comparing the different patterns within the corpus of bilingual texts. More specifically, we will study the Lycian-Greek filiation formulas by focusing on three points: 1) the morphology of the Greek father's name; 2) the use of the word for 'son' or 'daughter'; 3) the presence or lack of Greek definite articles. Such an analysis aims at offering a contribution to the discussion about contact-induced language variation.

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