Petra M. Goedegebuure

Petra Goedegebuure sent her camera-ready monograph *The Hittite Demonstratives: Studies in Deixis, Topic and Focus* (Studien zu den Boghazköy-Texten 55; Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz) to the printer, expecting it to appear early in the academic year 2014–15. This monograph consists of two parts: on the use of demonstratives, and on the use of the third person emphatic pronoun. Petra continued the study of this pronoun in “Hittite Noun Phrases in Focus” (*Proceedings of the 24th Annual UCLA Indo-European Conference*, edited by Stephanie Jamison, Craig Melchert, and Brent Vine, pp. 27–45; Bremen: Hempen, 2013), covering territory that was not
part of the book, namely the use of the emphatic pronoun as an adjective. This study added discourse topicality as a factor governing word order, in addition to information structure (the latter covered in the book). In short, in topic-comment clauses the topic precedes the comment, and within the comment the linear position is generally determined by the degree of accessibility of the entities under discussion. Discourse old entities precede discourse new ones, and when all entities are old, the more topical one will precede. Petra was also invited to further explore some aspects of her work on demonstratives, especially the subjective use of demonstratives, in a presentation at a TOPOI workshop (“The Hittite Demonstratives: Subjective Construal of Speech Participants’ Spaces,” July 26, 2014, Workshop Perspectivization in Language: Source-goal Asymmetry in Motion Events, Deixis, and Frames of Reference, Excellence Cluster Topoi. July 25–26, 2014, Berlin, Germany).


Another area of Petra’s research is Luwian. Together with Vincent van Exel, she is revising an article that analyzes how the vesicularity of basalt influences the spatial distribution of Hieroglyphic Luwian signs. Sometimes the scribe avoided vesicular areas, but this has not been recognized in the text editions. Petra and Vincent are now proposing new readings for several Hieroglyphic Luwian texts (“The Medium Matters: The Impact of Basalt Quality on Writing (and Reading) Hieroglyphic Luwian Inscriptions”; accepted after revision for publication in Anatolian Studies).

A final interest of Petra is understanding the concept of body and soul in Hittite culture. This area of research is an offshoot of the Oriental Institute post-doc seminar on Iconoclasm in 2010, organized by Natalie N. May. As a panelist at the Oriental Institute public symposium In Remembrance of Me: Feasting with the Dead in the Ancient Middle East (May 4, 2014), Petra contributed to the discussion about body and soul in the Katumuwa stele.