

Petra M. Goedegebuure

In her study of the ancient languages of Anatolia, **Petra Goedegebuure** combines philology and the cultural background of texts with language typology and functional grammar. In doing so, Petra hopes to achieve two main goals. The first one is to describe Hittite and the other languages attested in ancient Anatolia at the level of pragmatics (how language is used in an interactive setting, as opposed to the study of meaning or form). Her second goal is to develop methods for applying modern linguistics to dead languages. Even though modern linguistic approaches are used in Hittitology and other extinct languages, they are usually not tested for their validity. This has led to the problem of linguists rejecting dead languages as an object of study and of philologists rejecting linguistics as a means of study.

In the presentation “The Pragmatic Function Focus in Hittite” (April 16, 2010, Workshop Linguistic Method and Theory and the Languages of the Ancient Near East, Oriental Institute), Petra suggested a framework for how to use functional linguistics for the description and better understanding of extinct languages. She concluded that general linguistic theories could be fruitfully applied to these languages if one uses an onomasiological approach (mapping forms on well-defined functions) based on contextual analysis. This approach is also exemplified in an article on Hittite question words (“Focus Structure and Q-word Questions in Hittite,” *Linguistics* 47/4 [2009]: 945–69). Although the current opinion is that Hittite question words typically occur in clause-initial position, it turned out that Hittite question words could occur anywhere in the clause, depending on how much contrast the speaker wants to express.

Hattic, an isolate non-Indo-European language of Central Anatolia and typologically similar to Northwest Caucasian, was the language of the cult of the Old Hittite Kingdom (ca. 1650–1450). With only twenty bilinguals, some of which are very fragmentary, decipherment of this language proceeds slowly. Petra uses typology and language-contact studies to define the parameters for further grammatical analysis of this important but opaque language, as evidenced by a lecture “The Intricate Dance of Hittite and Hattian,” November 13, 2009, Workshop Language Variation and Change, University of Chicago, and article “The Alignment of Hattian: An Active Language with an Ergative Base,” in *Language in the Ancient Near East*, edited by L. Kogan,

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH

N. Koslova, S. Loesov, and S. Tischenko, pp. 949–82 (Proceedings of the 53^e Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale, Moscow; Babel and Bilbel 4; *Orientalia et Classica* 30; Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2010).

Petra used philology combined with the comparative method to show that the final *-i* of one of the Hittite demonstratives is also present in several Luwian, Palaic, and Lydian demonstratives (“Deictic-emphatic *-i* and the Anatolian demonstratives,” in a festschrift for a colleague [proof stage]).

Petra furthermore participated in the Chicago Hittite Dictionary Project as academic contributor (see separate report), continuing to write the lemma *ser* “on top, above, over, because of” (currently ninety pages).

During winter and spring, Petra taught Elementary Hittite (II and III) and two core classes, Language and the Human (winter, a writing class co-taught with four other faculty from the Department of Linguistics), and Anatolian History (spring).
