

Examenstext A: Composite Translation and Line Bibliography

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The following provisional (and intentionally literal) composite translation and selective line bibliography is intended to supplement Sjöberg's original edition of this text in ZA 64 137f., utilizing the since-identified sources listed in Civil's unpublished catalog of Sumerian literature (CT 58 63-65, SpTU 1 146). I have prepared the individual sources for dissemination on the project site for Bilinguals in Late Mesopotamian Scholarship, under the direction of Steve Tinney and Mark Geller.

The following is not intended to be a definitive translation. Where the Sumerian and Akkadian substantially differ, I have entered separate translations.

1. The scribe is to check his son/student (var. ... his son, the lot of ...?)
2. (Sum.) In the assembly of the master scribes, the courtyard of the "house that allocates tablets" (*eduba'a*) (Akk.) In the assembly of the master scribes, the courtyard of the house of tablet(s)
3. (Sum.) Come, my son/student, sit beneath me, come, I will speak to you and you will be the listener (Akk.) Come, my son/student, sit beneath me, come, I will speak to you and you will be the listener
4. (Sum.) From the days of your childhood until your youth you have dwelled in the *eduba'a* (Akk.) From the days of your childhood until your youth you have dwelled in the house of tablet(s)
5. You who learned the scribal art (superficially), (but) you do not know its password/sign
 - *For this connotation of Sumerian *ḡiškim*, see Civil Lambert FS, 109.
6. (the assembly? asks) "What is it that he does not know?"
7. (the teacher says) "What do you know?"
 - *There is a section ruling in SpTU 1, 146 after this line.
8. (Sum.) Come, I shall ask you questions, speak! I shall speak to you so that you(!) will answer (Akk.) Come, I shall ask you questions, speak! Come, I shall speak to you, answer me!
 - *For this line and the verb *ḡeš ... gi₄* (variant to the *inim ... gi₄* of the other sources), see Mirelman and Sallaberger ZA 100, 190.
9. (the student says) Ask me, and I shall speak to you! Speak to me, and I shall answer you!
10. (the teacher says) You cannot answer me!
11. (the student says) Why (can't) I answer you?
12. (Sum.) (the teacher says) Do you(?) know the beginning of the scribal art, the single vertical wedge/triangle, having six (different vocalizations), that it also valid for(?) "it is sixty", its vocalization? (Akk.) Do you know the beginning of the scribal art, the single wedge/triangle, its pronunciation is sixfold, that sixty is valid for(?) the *DIŠ* sign, its "naming" (i.e., vocalization)?
 - *For this line, see Krebern timer ZA 92, 157.
13. (Sum.) What Sumerian have you learned, do you know how to solve its secret? (Akk.) As much as you have learned in Sumerian, do you know how to unravel its secret?

*For this line, see George CUSAS 10, 107, who understands this line to describe Sumerian that was deliberately obscured in scholarly tradition.

14. (Sum.) Do you know how to translate and explicate from Akkadian "above" (i.e., the source language) to Sumerian "below" (i.e., the target language) and vice versa? (Akk.) Do you know how to translate and interpret from Akkadian (above) to Sumerian (below) and vice versa?

*For this line, see Schretter FS Oberhuber, 231-236, Beaulieu ASJ 17, 12 and n. 25, George CUSAS 10, 106-107.

15. Do you know "the substitute", "that which is set transversally", "that which is knotted", and Sumerian that is two or three-(fold in meaning?), not suitable for reconciling (directly) with Akkadian?

*For this and the previous line, lines, see Seminara The Babylonian Science of the Translation and the Ideological Adjustment of the Sumerian Text to the 'Target Culture' (2002), 245.

16. (Sum.) Do you know(?) ..., "complete" (prefix or more specifically prospective u_3 - or conjugation prefix ba -?), "that which is made to go around", "middle" (infixes?), ..., that which does not have ..., tripled .. (Akk.) Do you know(?) "remainder", "excess", "complete" (prefix or more specifically the prefix of anteriority u_3 - or the conjugation prefix ba -?), "that which is made to go around", "middle" (infixes?), $marû$ and $hamtu$ Sumerian tenses, that which does not have ..., tripled ...

*For this line, see Balke JCS 62, 49.

17. (Sum.) Do you know (the independent pronouns + the dative?) for(?) "I", "You", "He", the suffixed graphemes containing the terminative $-eše$ ($-uš$, $-aš$, and $-iš$), ... which are not to be put in order (between) Sumerian and Akkadian (i.e., there are syntactic and morphemic differences between the languages)? (Akk.) Do you know (the independent pronouns) "I", "You", "He", ... "here and there", ... which are to be put in order(?) (between) Sumerian and Akkadian?

*The entries $uš aš iš = a-na i-na$ [KI-TA] occur in NBGT 2, 46-48 (MSL 2, 150).

18. (Sum.) Do you know(?) ..., *emesukud*, *emetina* (vocabulary or grammatical designations?) ... covering up the Akkadian (and) seeing "at the beginning/as the source language" (while) producing(?) "at the end/the target language" (as well as) seeing "at the end/the target language" (while) producing(?) "at the beginning/the source language" (Akk.) Do you know(?) the wax tablet of the scribal art, ... *emesukud*, *emetina* (vocabulary or grammatical designations?) ... covering up Akkadian (and) seeing "at the beginning/the source language" (while) producing(?) "at the end/the target language" (as well as) seeing "at the end/the target language" (while) producing(?) "at the beginning/the source language"

*For the designations *eme-sukud* (or *galam*: the Auslaut evidence is mixed) and *eme-te-na₂*, see MSL SS1, 75 and Civil Lambert FS, 108-109.

19. (Sum.) Do you(?) know the ... normal/correct ..., oblique(?), "changed", "fine/flattened" (signs?), the full sign, the unfinished sign (a specific notation for some sign forms), the inscribed(?) sign, ... the "unchanged" ...? (Akk.) Do you know the normal/correct ..., "changed", oblique(?), "fine/flattened" (signs?), the full sign, the unfinished sign (a specific notation for some sign forms), ..., the unchanged ...?

*The phrase $gu-šum_2 šag_4$ [...] may reflect the technical description of sign inscription $šag_4$... i_3-gub , for which see Gong AOAT 268, 27-29.

20. (Sum) Do you(?) know ... the Sumerian language as that which is juxtaposed to(?) the Akkadian language (Akk.) Do you know Sumerian as the likeness of the Akkadian language?

*For this line, see Seminara, The Babylonian Science of the Translation and the Ideological Adjustment of the Sumerian Text to the 'Target Culture' (2002), 246.

21. (Sum.) Do you(?) know the language of the *nu'eš* functionary, the *išib* functionary, the *gudug/luhša*(?) functionary, to split up/reveal(?) various entries and explain/express (them) ...? (Akk.) Do you know the language of the *nešakku* functionary, the *išippu* functionary, the *pašīšu*(?) functionary, ...?

*For the formulation eme + profession, see Sjöberg AS 20, 167.

22. Do you know ... the skillfully (composed) and manifest(!?) song, ...

23. Do you know how to set in order/do correctly ..., to produce its nature faithfully(?) ...

24. (Sum.) Do you(?) know ..., the song of the *gala* functionary, the song of the *en* functionary/rulership, the song of "that pertaining to the *urun* rubric(?)", the "song of truth", ... the *kirigu rubric*(?) and (the instructions) "recite" and "stop"? (Akk.) Do you know ..., the song of ..., the song of the *gala* functionary, the song of the *en* functionary/rulership, the song of "that pertaining to the *urun* rubric(?)", the song of truth, how to divide them (into) their sections, ..., (how to intone) the "response", (and the instructions) "change" and "stop"

*For this line, see Shehata GBAO 3, 264 n. 1526, 267 n. 1547, 343-344, and 349.

25. (Sum.) Do you(!) know "changed" Akkadian, the language/jargon of the silversmith, the language of the seal cutter, and how to understand their conversation? (Akk.) Do you know "changed" Akkadian, the language of the silversmith, the language of the seal cutter, and how to understand their conversation?

*For this line, see Shehata GBAO 3, 17 n. 51.

26. (Sum.) Do you(!) know the language of conversation, (how to?) proliferate/mix? [words] (i.e., ponder, deliberate?), the language of the ox-driver, the language of the cowherder, the language of the sailor/shipwright, and how to and how to (re)produce their conversation? (Akk.) Do you know the language of conversation, which is mixed into nothingness, the language of the ox-driver, the language of the cowherder, the language of the sailor/shipwright, and how to (re)produce (variant: understand) their conversation?

*For this line see Attinger ELS, 493, 496.

27. (Sum.) Do you(!) know multiplication, reciprocals, coefficients, accounts, inspection, making an inspection(?), ..., making daily assignments, making an inheritance division, and preparing(?) a field (for surveying)? (Akk.) Do you know multiplication, reciprocals, coefficients, balancing accounts, making all kinds of assignments (for daily tasks), dividing up property shares, and delimiting (the boundaries) of a field?

*For this line, see Sjöberg AS 20, 167, 168. The Sumerian probably more originally consisted of reduplicated *a₂-du₃*, with the assumed presence of *du₃-a-bi* = *kala* arising from the resulting combination of signs. The lexeme following *ŠID-du₃* is unintelligible and may reflect a corruption of *si-il-la₂*.

28. (Sum.) Do you(!) know (how to) "twist/squeeze" ..., "running"(?), ... the lyre, *balan̄di*, *harhar* instruments, their vocalized (names), as many as there are? (Akk.) Do you know how to assign according to their names ... the upper part/mounting, the arrangement(?) of the lyre, timbuttu drum, *ḫarḫaru* instrument, and ..., as many names as there are?

*For this line, see Krispjin Akkadica 70, 14, Michalowski Learning Music: Schooling, Apprenticeship, and Gender in Early Mesopotamia (2010), 200.

29. I did not listen to the word of my master, it did not cross over into/turn over in my mind (i.e., influence me)

30. (Sum.) You are the one who did not say "My elder brother (superior in the scribal school) did not find me" (Akk.) You have not said to me "My elder brother (superior in the scribal school) did not show me"

31. What do I(?) know? What should I say to you?

32. (Sum.) What did you(?) do? Why do you(?) ...? (Akk.) What did you do? Why do you sit?

33. You have completed (your) youth, you have reached very old age

34. (Sum.) Like an old [ox], you are not ... for learning (Akk.) Like an old [ox], you are not suitable for teaching

35. (Sum) Like over-ripened grain, you made its day of commission pass (unheeded) (Akk) Like over-ripened grain, you have allowed the appropriate time to pass

*For this line and the Sumerian equivalents to Akkadian ḥamadīru, see Civil Farmer's Instructions, 89.

36. (Sum.) ... on account of your companion, on account of the one who strikes the head(!?) (Akk.) You do not quake on account of the one who is with you, you do not tremble on account of your companion

7. (Sum.) ..., you(!) did not speak with a wise one (Akk.) You do not consult with a clever one, you do not talk with a wise one

38. (Sum.) ... is displeasing to you (Akk.) My speech(?) ... is displeasing to you

39. (Sum.) ... your emergent/bulging(?) eye/face (Akk.) ...

40. ... or(?) a boy

41. (Sum.) How long will you ... (Akk.) How long will you be sated?

42. (Sum.) How long will you be confused? (Akk.) How long will you(!?) play(!)?

*SpTU 1, 146 appears to have SUH₃, not BIR.

43. (Sum.) How long will you approach(?) ...? (Akk.) how will you place/establish ...

44. (Sum.) How long will you ...? (Akk.) How long will you be pale?

45. (Sum.) How long will you ...? (Akk.) How long will you be deaf?

46. (Sum.) How long will you, ... of head-raising? (Akk.) How long will you be heated up(?)?

47. (Sum.) ... you(!) have no fear (i.e., common sense?) (var. ... you? are not strong (with) fear(?)) (Akk.) Dried out one(?) who/of ..., you are not afraid

48. (Sum.) (Possessor) of a head "of uncultivated land"(i.e., hard-headed, empty-headed?), do not listen (Akk.) You are obstinate(?), you do not listen

49. (Sum.) Do not let (your) authority slacken (Akk.) You are strong, you are not weak

50. (Sum.) Here (in the place of discourse?) (there is) examination, you should not lament! (Akk.) This is a (only?) a test, you should not lament!

*For this line, see Attinger ELS, 564 and for lines 50-51, see Jaques AOAT 332, 181. For gu₂-e as a riverain-based spacial designation, see Woods The Deictic Foundations of the Sumerian Language, 163-167, Woods ZA 95, 21, Woods ASJ 22.

51. (Sum.) Do not be one who is afraid(?), do not clear (your) throat (Akk.) Do not continually worry, do not constantly seek (i.e., be restless?)

52. (Sum.) Do not fill your mouth on account of complaints(?) (Akk.) Your mouth is not full of complaints

53. (Sum.) Your are not one who turns your ... to the door (Akk.) Your ear is not turned to the door

*CAD U, 395, emends NA to /ḫeštug/.

54. On account of the scribal art, sit down, so that you are bowed

55. May your heart ponder this night and day

56. The scribal art is a lot of being good, possessing a *lama* spirit, it is bright-eyed, it is the “need of the palace”