THE VOCALIZATION OF THE PHOENICIAN-PUNIC WORD DL

Philip C. Schmitz

The Phoenician-Punic word DL is a preposition generally glossed "with". This description can be made to account for all of its occurrences, although the word (or a set of homographs) may be polyvalent. The etymology and vocalization of Phoenician-Punic DL are unclear. In this brief note I offer a possible answer to the question of vocalization.

Among the royal names cited by Josephus from the Phoenician history of Dios (Ag. Ap. 1.112-25) is Δελαιαστάρτος (Ag. Ap. 1.122). The name puzzled editors as gifted as Niese, who emended to Λεαστάρτος. Emendation of the name is unnecessary, however. The name falls in the class of Phoenician personal names whose first element is a preposition and whose second element is a divine name. A well-known example of this class of names is ΤΒ'L, represented in Gk. Ιθωβαλος, Ιθοβαλος. The name means "Baal is with him".

In the case of Δελαιαστάρτος, the unattested Phoenician spelling would be *DL(Y)STRT. The name's theophoric element is clearly the divine name ΣΤΡΤ, Astarte. The first element is the preposition DL, "with."

The vocalization is difficult to analyze morphologically. Greek Δελαι could represent either /deλai/ or /dele/. The name Πτολεμαίος, spelled in Phoenician PTLMYS/S, indicates a Phoenician interpretation of Gk. αι as a diphthong. Note, however, 'LYYT = Ελειτοα (ΚΑΙ 41.4), where the Phoenician spelling leaves the final 'diphthong' αι unrepresented. This implies an interpretation of αι as е. Neither example is conclusive, and each involves a Phoenician representation of a Greek name rather than the opposite case.

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1 PPG, 179 (§250). The occurrences are: KAI 10.14; 26 A II 6; 80.1; 81.2; 119.2; 161.3; 165.6-7; CIS I 112 a-b; 5510.5-6, 11; 6000 bis 4; NP 61.3 (see KAI, vol. 3, 74-77).
2 C.R. Krahmalkov, Phoenician-Punic Dictionary (OLA 90 = StPhoen 15), Leuven 2000, for example, distinguishes DL II, prep. "without" (KAI 10.14; 26 A II 6), from DL III, conj. "and, also, as well as, together with" (147-148; see also D-L-Y, 148-149). The entry DLHMS (CIS 112 a-b) can be reinterpreted as DL HMS "with Amasis".
5 Benz, op. cit., 73.
In the case of the name Δελαιαστάρτος, the αι probably represents the Phoenician first-person pronominal suffix\(^6\). The name can be glossed “Astarte is with me”.

The etymology of the word must yet be discovered. Like the preposition (IL, the preposition DL is likely to derive from a III-y root\(^7\). The etymon is thereby D-L-Y, but further identification is not yet possible.

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\(^6\) On the morphology, see PPG\(^3\), 182-183 (§254 iii). C.R. Krahmalkov, A Phoenician-Punic Grammar, Leiden 2001, 51 (Form D), 56.

\(^7\) On the pattern, see PPG\(^3\), ibid.; cf. Krahmalkov, ibid., 240 (‘dall).