

# Internal and External Sandhi as a Diagnostic for the Affixal/Clitic status of Function Morphemes in Tocharian A

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The present paper examines the synchronic morphological status of the so-called secondary case morphemes as well as the set of weak object pronouns in Tocharian A. While these elements have traditionally been referred to as affixes in the literature (already in Sieg et al. (1931)) some of them have also been analyzed as clitics (Carling (2006) and Carling et al. (2009) for the weak pronouns) or as postpositions (Winter (1967) for the instrumental in *yo*). The present study will provide a review of the available evidence relevant to the question of whether these elements are to be treated as affixes or clitics using the diagnostic criteria introduced by Zwicky and Pullum (1983). While each of their criteria will be discussed, the main focus of the study will lie on the kind of morphophonemic alternations that can be triggered by each of the morphemes in question: According to Zwicky and Pullum (1983) only affixes are expected to trigger non-automatic morphophonemic alternations on their host. This criterion has already been used in previous studies to motivate specific analyses of the secondary case morphemes (e.g. Vowel Balance in Winter (1967)). The present study, while following a similar line of argumentation, will include a comprehensive classification of morphophonemic alternations as being the result of lexical or postlexical phonological processes. This will make it possible to independently establish the status of a number of alternations (specifically Vowel Balance and Apocope) as possible diagnostics for the morphological status of the items under study.

The results of this approach allow us to strengthen Winter's claim about the special status of the instrumental morpheme *yo*. It will be shown that the morpheme exclusively participates in phonological alternations that feature in clear cases of external sandhi. Furthermore, using the same diagnostics, the weak pronouns will turn out to clearly favor a treatment as affixes as opposed to enclitics.

## References

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