

## ON W..GŠNG IN THE 4TH LINE OF THE WEST SIDE OF THE ŠINE-USU INSCRIPTION\*

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The Šine-Ussu Inscription is the most voluminous one with 50 lines among the Uighur inscriptions. Although most parts of this inscription can be well understood, many words and sentences in the south and west sides are not so. These sides are now severely damaged. W..GŠNG in the 4th line of the west side has been differently interpreted by researchers. The author regards 𐰉𐰺𐰽𐰾𐰿𐰺 W..GŠNG as a misreading for 𐰉𐰺𐰽𐰾𐰿𐰺 N..GŠNG, and amends it as 𐰉𐰺𐰽𐰾𐰿𐰺 N[LW]GŠNG *an[lu]γšanīy*, suggesting that the letter groups TKGWYILKA ..... N[LW]GŠNGYWwKiKILms in this line should be read as *taqīyu yīlqa ..... an[lu]γšanīy yoq qīlmiš* “In the Fowl year (= 757), ..... allegedly he (or they) eliminated *Anluγšan* (= An Lushan)”.

*Key words:* accusative case, *An Lushan*, misreading, *Moyun Čor*, Orkhon Turkic, Šine-Ussu Inscription, Uighur inscriptions, Uighur Khaganate.

### 1. Introduction

The Šine-Ussu Inscription is the most voluminous one with 50 lines among the Uighur inscriptions. This inscription was found in 1909 by G. J. Ramstedt in the vicinity of the Mount Örgöötü, the Rivulet Mogoitu, and the Lake Šine-ussu (Figures 1 and 2) (see Ramstedt 1913: 10–11).<sup>1</sup> Like the Tes (750) and Tariat (752–753) inscriptions, the

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<sup>1</sup> Guided by a local man of a *ger* [yurt] near this inscription, we visited the burial mound on the top of the Mount Örgöötü on 1 August 2018. This burial mound was already raided by grave robbers.



Figure 1. The Šine-Ussu Inscription  
(Co-ordinates of the photographing point: 48.54167°N, 102.21278°E)



Figure 2. The burial mound on the top of the Mount Örgöötü  
(Co-ordinates of the photographing point: 48.58639°N, 102.22722°E)





“I heard that he annihilated \*\*\*\*\* clan thoroughly.” (p. 31)

“彼は???一族をひどく滅ぼしたという。” (p. 40)

(10) Mert (2009)

:|XJN↓D)YFY...: (p. 258)

: ....rġ(a)ś(a)ñ(1)ġ ýooq qılm(1)ś : (p. 260)

“..... yok etmiş [allegedly he annihilated].” (p. 262)

(11) User (2009)

[...] *yok kilm(i)ś* : (p. 419)

..... yok kilm(1)ś : (p. 478)

(12) Aydın (2011)

:|XJN↓D)YFY...>: (p. 89)

*o/u .. g's'n'g' yok kılmıś* (p. 89)

“<...> yok etmiş [allegedly he annihilated].” (p. 90)

(13) Ölmez (2012)

: |XJN↓D)YFY... : (p. 285)

: ...*rgasanıg yo'k kılmıś* : (p. 273)

“... yok etmiş [allegedly he annihilated].” (p. 279)

(14) Şirin (2016)

[...] *yok kilm(i)ś* : (p. 551)

: w... *g's'n'g' yok kilm(1)ś* : (p. 654)

### 3. Conclusion

As seen above, the sentence containing the letter group *W...GśNG* has been interpreted differently so far:

1. *w/o .. ys'n'g yoq qilmış*

(1) “he had annihilated ...” (Ramstedt 1913)

(2) “Allegedly he annihilated ....” (Orkun 1936; Aydın 2007, 2011)

(3) (Şirin 2016)

the side of the Tang dynasty or the side of the forces of An–Shi would be a problem. For the movement of the Tang [dynasty] and the Uighur [Khaganate] in the An–Shi Rebellion, see Moriyasu 2002, pp. 130–134. Although Kamalov 2001 also deals with the same theme, one should be careful of some mistakes in the interpretation of historical records.”]

The An–Shi Rebellion is the same as the An Lushan Rebellion. An–Shi refers to An Lushan and Shi Siming 史思明 (703–761).

2. .... *r'ʎasanīy yoq qilmış* “Allegedly he annihilated ....” (Mert 2009; Ölmez 2012)
3. ...*γ yoq qilmış* “I heard that he annihilated a promising\*\*\*\*\*” (Moriyasu 1999)
4. *onč uyuš añīy yoq qilmış* “I heard that he annihilated \*\*\*\*\* clan thoroughly” (Moriyasu *et al.* 2009)
5. ... *yoq qilmis/qilmış*
  - (1) “he annihilated ...” (Malov 1959; Ajdarov 1971)
  - (2) “Allegedly he annihilated ...” (Berta 2004)
  - (3) “... allegedly (he) became nonexistent” (Jeong 2005)
  - (4) (User 2009; Şirin 2016)<sup>9</sup>

*Yoq qil-* is a transitive verb meaning ‘to annihilate, to destroy’. Therefore, the translation of Jeong (2005) is problematic. Moriyasu *et al.* (2009) altered a few letters and read it quite differently, therefore their reading is also problematic.

As a transitive verb, it needs a direct object. The accusative case of a noun functions as a definite direct object (Tekin 1968: 127). The accusative suffixes are *-γ/-g* (on the pure stem and the plural stem of a noun) and *-n* (on the possessive stems) in Orkhon Turkic (Tekin 1968: 127).

The accusative suffix *-γ* is found in this sentence. This *-γ* is the last letter of the first part 𐰉𐰺𐰽𐰾𐰿, i.e. W.GšNG, of the sentence according to Ramstedt, the discoverer and first researcher of this inscription. Thus, the readings without this *-γ* are problematic. There are two completely worn letters between W and G. Therefore, the reading of Berta (2004) is problematic.

The letter 𐰽 is used for both S and š in the Uighur inscriptions. Incidentally, the letter 𐰾, i.e. W, seems to be a misreading for 𐰿, i.e. N, as can be seen in the following two photographs (Figures 3 and 4).

If that is the case, the letter group can be amended as 𐰉𐰽𐰾[𐰾]𐰿, i.e. N[LW]GšNG *an[lu]γšaniy*. Thus, the sentence *an[lu]γšaniy yoq qilmış* “Allegedly he (or they) eliminated *Anluγšan*” makes sense. Then the reading .... *r'ʎasanīy yoq qilmış* of Mert (2009) and Ölmez (2012) is inappropriate.

*Anluγšan* must be the contemporary Turkic (< Chinese) pronunciation of An Lushan 安祿山 (c. 703–757),<sup>10</sup> who was a general in the Tang dynasty (*Tangchao* 唐朝, 618–907) and is known for instigating the An Lushan Rebellion (755–763). As is well known, the Uighurs helped the Tang to fight this rebellion and to drive the rebels away from the Tang capital Chang’an 長安.

<sup>9</sup> User is the same person as Şirin.

<sup>10</sup> The pronunciation of 安祿山 was ʔan ləwkʂa:n in Late Middle Chinese. It is called Anoksan 안녹산 (< Alloksan 안록산 < Anroksan) in Korean and An Rokuzan あんろくざん in Japanese. Considering the vowel *o* of the character 祿 *lù* in Korean and Japanese, it may be more correct to read 𐰉𐰽𐰾[𐰾]𐰿 N[LW]GšNG as *an[lo]γšan*. Cf. the place name *Šantuŋ* in the Tuñuquq, Kül Tegin, and Bilgä Qayan inscriptions (< Chinese *Shāndōng* 山東; ʂa:ntəwŋ in Late Middle Chinese). It is called *Sandoŋ* 산동 in Korean and *Santō* さんとう in Japanese. Considering the vowel *o* of the character *dōng* 東 in Korean and Japanese, it may be more correct to read the place name in the Orkhon inscriptions as *Šantuŋ*, not *Šantuŋ*.



Figure 3. Detail of the West Side of the Šine-Ussu Inscription  
(Photo taken by the author on 1 August 2018)



Figure 4. Detail of the West Side of the Šine-Ussu Inscription  
(Photo taken by Byungjae Yoo on 12 August 2016)

At the beginning of a sentence prior to a few severely damaged sentences before this sentence, there is a phrase  $\text{TKGWYILKA}$   $\text{taqïyu}^{11}$   $\text{yilqa}$  ‘in the Fowl year’, which corresponds to the year 757. In 757 An Lushan was assassinated by his own son, An Qingxu 安慶緒 (?–759).

In sum, I suggest that the letter groups  $\text{TKGWYILKA}$  .....  $\text{N[LW]GŠNGYW}$   $\text{wKïKILms}$  in this line should be read as  $\text{taqïyu yilqa}$  .....  $\text{an[lu]šaniy yoq qïlmiš}$  ‘In the Fowl year (= 757), ..... allegedly he (or they) eliminated *Anlušan* (= An Lushan)’.

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<sup>11</sup> Clauson (1972: 468b): ‘**takı:ğu:** (etc.) “a domestic fowl”; a very old word both in its natural meaning and as one of the animals in the twelve-year cycle. An early l.-w. in Mong. as *takiya* (*Haenisch* 144; *Studies*, p. 235). C.i.a.p.a.l. [common in all periods and languages] in a bewildering variety of forms, which are set out very fully in *Doerfer* II 861.’

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