

The last rigorous statistical study of Linear A sign frequencies was completed 35 years ago by Packard (1974), using a variety of chi-square analysis. Since then, new discoveries have significantly enlarged the corpus of Linear A inscriptions, and many of the readings that Packard included in his analysis have been revised, such that his study has become progressively less reflective of reality.

In this paper, I present the results of a fresh application of Packard's method to the current corpus, but with a refinement: whereas he calculated only the overall frequency of each sign in the corpus, I also calculate the frequency of each sign *at each position* within a word: word-initial, word-final, penultimate, antepenultimate, and so on. In most human languages, inflectional markers occur at specified places within words, most often at or near word-boundaries. Thus in Linear A, inflectional markers ought to be represented by signs that recur inordinately often at a particular place in a word (such a word-finally). The implication is that my refinement of Packard's method ought to highlight at least the most common of these markers.

As a control, I first apply this technique to a database of several thousand Linear B words, and demonstrate that the technique successfully isolates a number of important derivational and inflectional affixes in Mycenaean Greek, including the prefixes *a-*, *eu-*, *api-* and *epi-*, and the suffixes *-u*, *-jo*, and *-ja*.

I then apply the technique to the Linear A corpus to isolate a number of potential Minoan affixes, most notably a prefix *A-* and a suffix *-TE*, with a high probability (based on their frequencies) that one of these affixes is an ethnic, genitive, or ablative marker.

Finally, I show that these results are independently supported by a recently-published hypothesis (Valério 2007) suggesting that the following Linear A phrase, found on several ritual vessels from the Minoan peak sanctuary at Palaikastro on Crete, may mean "Diktaian Master (vel sim.)":

A-DI-KI-TE-TE DU-PU₂-RE

Palaikastro was the site of an important temple to Diktaian Zeus from the Archaic period onward; thus this phrase would seem to represent a Minoan precursor of that name, with the initial *A-* or final *-TE* of the first word serving a genitive or ablative function.