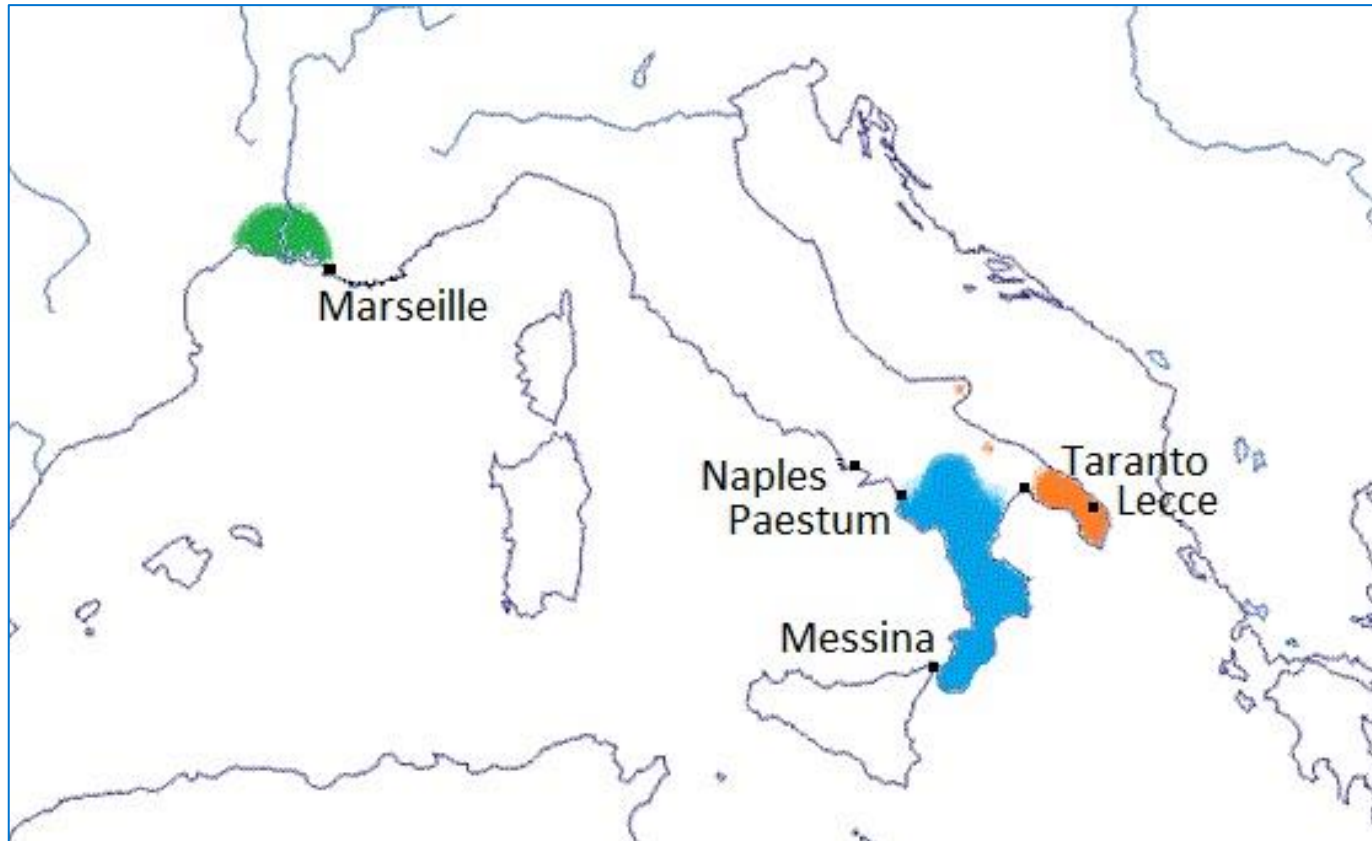


“Mixed language” texts and deliberate ambiguity in ancient epigraphy

Katherine McDonald, Gonville and Caius College

Greek alphabets and non-Greek languages

Gallo-Greek
C3rd? to
C1st BC



Messapic
C6th to
C2nd BC

**South
Oscan**
C4th to
C1st BC

d-maps.com

Identifying the language of a text

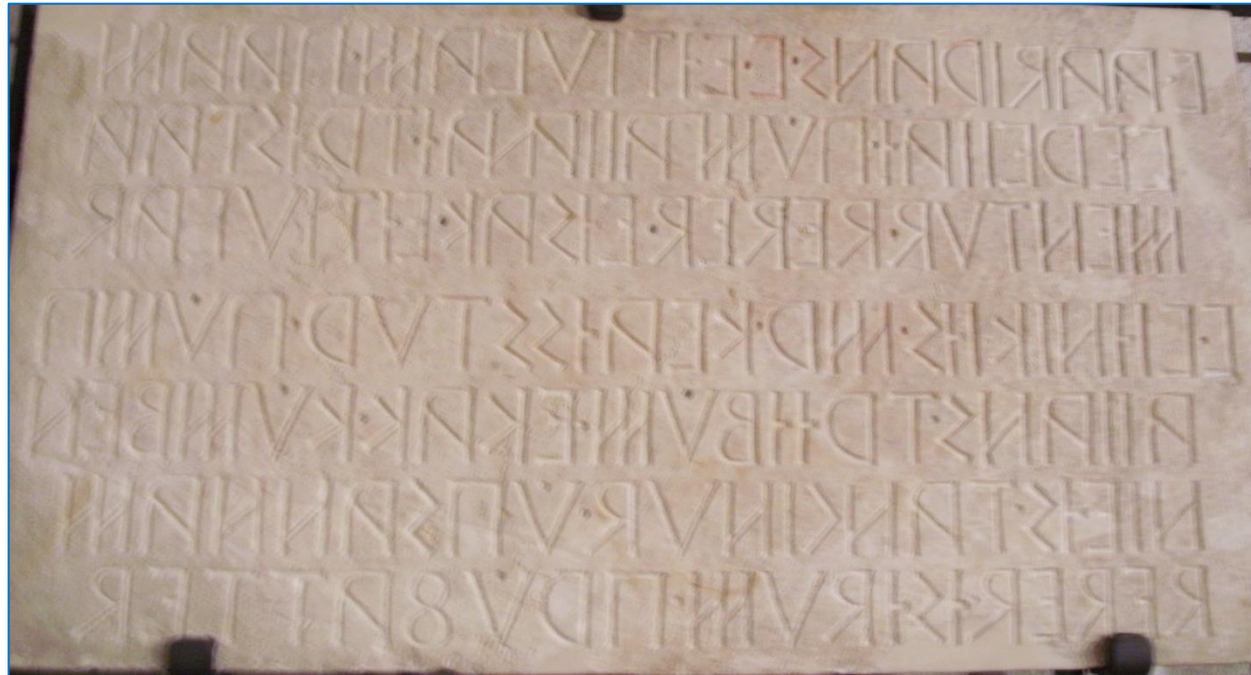
(1) Script?

(2) Lexicon?

(3) Onomastics?

(4) Morphology?

(5) Knowledge of area?



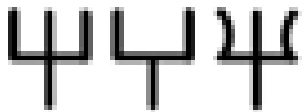
Pompei 24/Po 3
Oscan alphabet; C2nd BC
My photo. Museo Archeologico
Nazionale di Napoli.

Script adaptations

Messapic



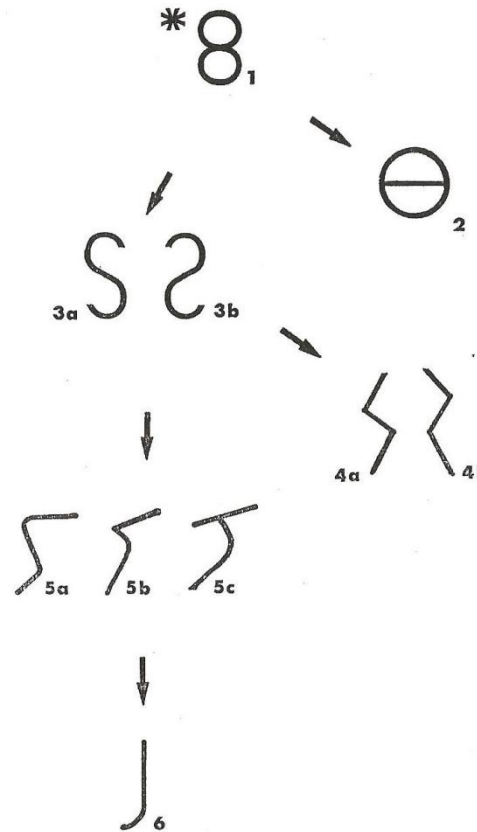
Angle based
trident /?/



Square based
trident /?/

Image: <http://lila.sns.it/mnamon/>

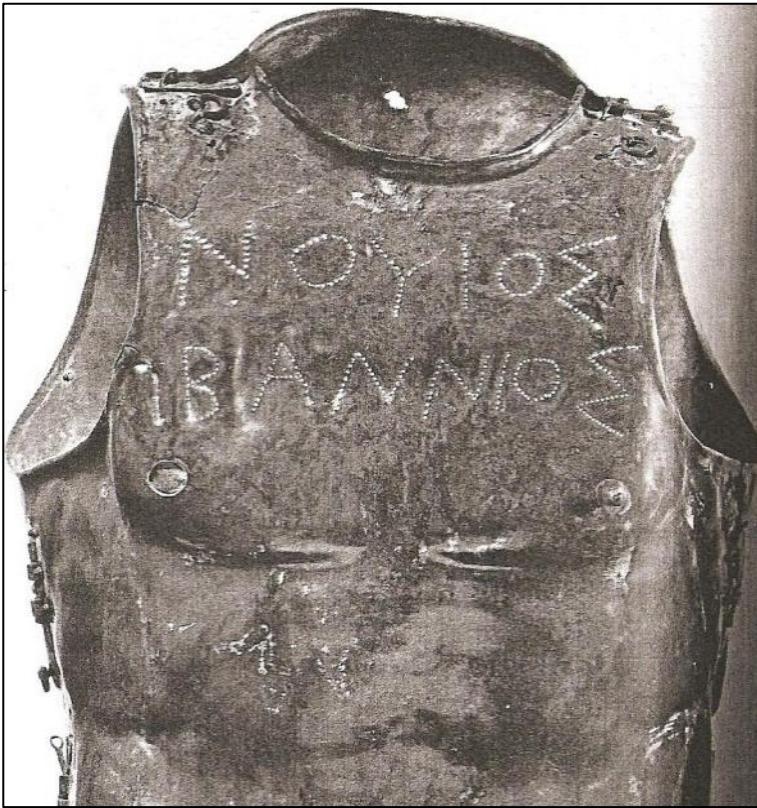
Oscan



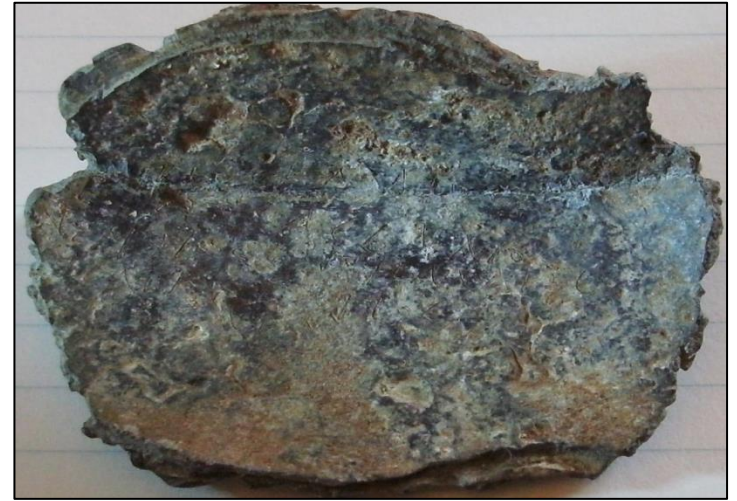
Θ, S = /f/

Image: Lejeune 1970.

Onomastics and morphology



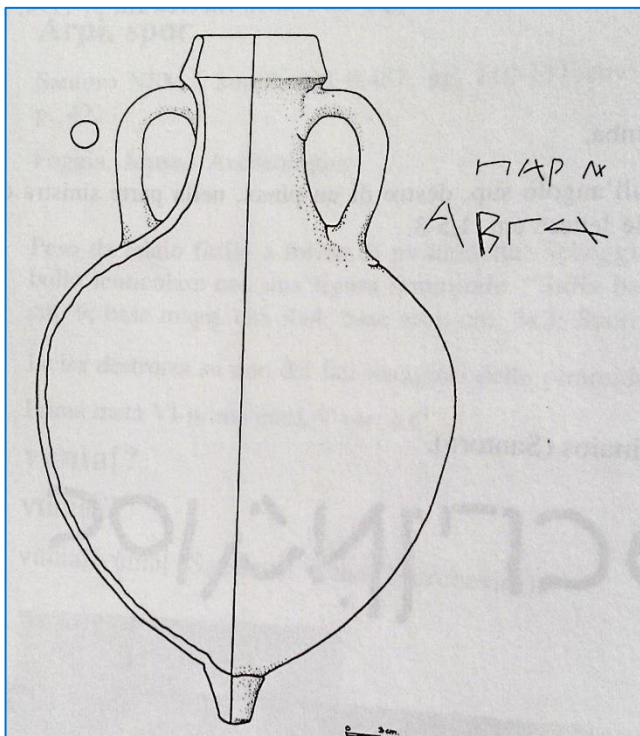
Inscribed cuirass (SEG 29.1026) from Southern Italy.
Image from Zimmerman (1979).



[πα]κιοσ καιλιοσ
φι[λ]λ[ιο]σ ασελλιοσ
νυμψιοσ ποππαλαιοσ
μινιοσ φαριοσ
[τ]ετοσ φαριοσ

Laos 4. My photo. Museo Archeologico
Nazionale di Napoli.

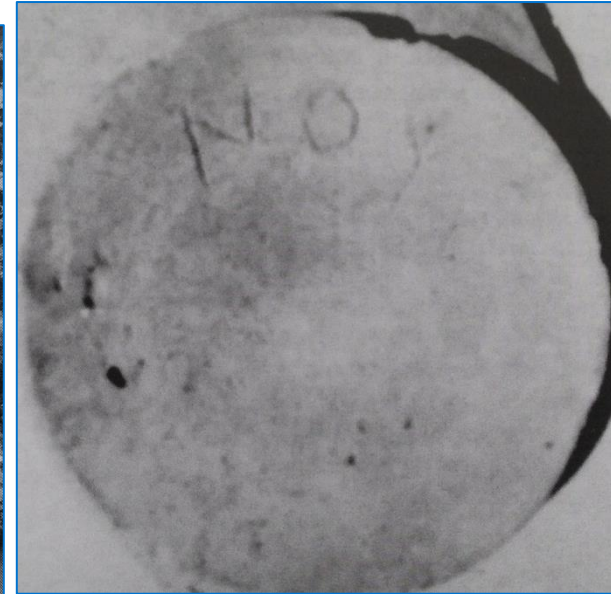
Very short inscriptions



MLM 11 Ar, second half C5th
Arpi
a) HAR b) ABGD



Caulonia 5
ΤΣ / Tf



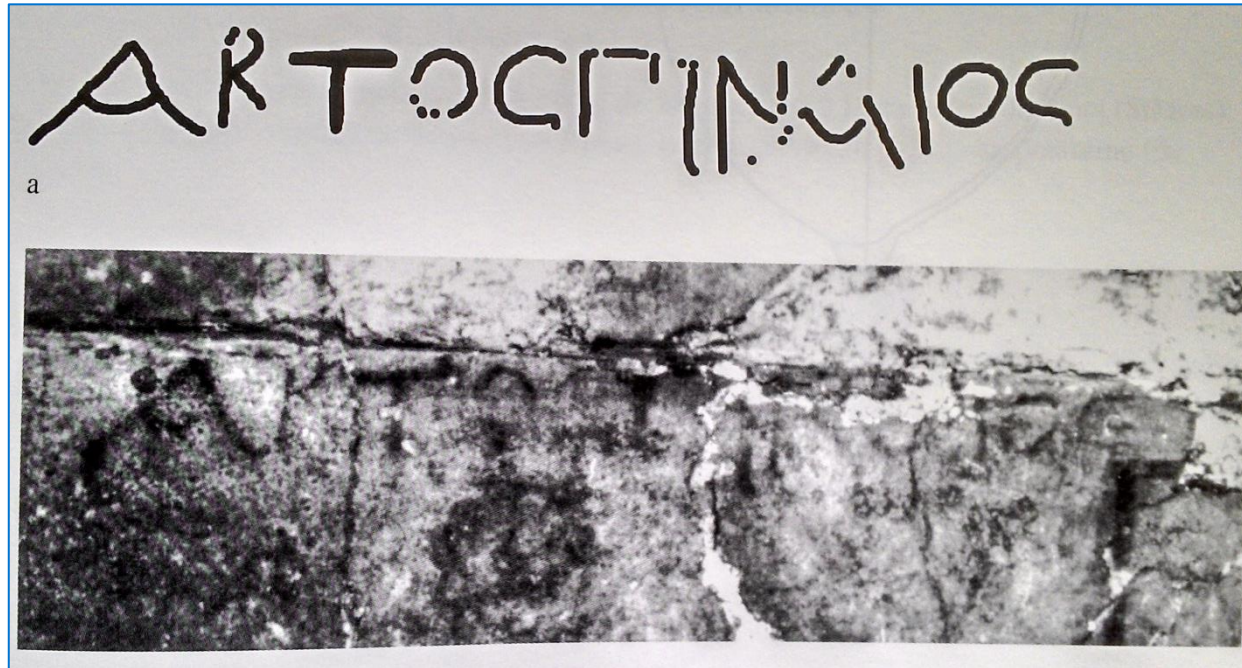
Heraclea 2
voψ or v(.) oψ(.)

Images: de Simone; Crawford

Tomb painters



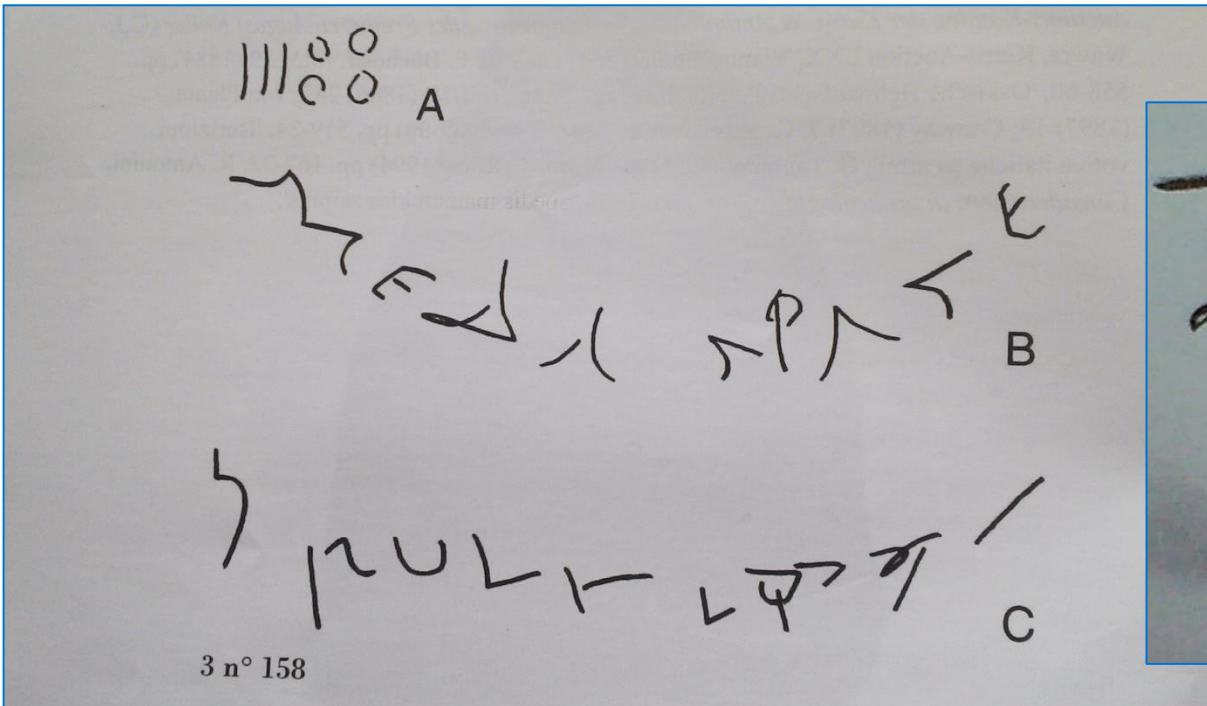
Paestum 3/Lu 42, 370-360 BC
πλασοσ



MLM 10 Ar, C3rd – 2nd
Arpi, Tomb of the Medusa
αρτοσ πιναιος (πιναφε)

Silver cantharus, c.75 BC

Image: Reddé and Schurbein



Lejeune: Gallo-Greek μεδα(μος ?) αραγε(νιος ?) (name plus patronymic)
or Oscan μεδα(τιες ?) αραγε(τασις) (name plus “silversmith”)

Crawford: Oscan με(τις) δα(τιες) αραγε(τασις) (two names plus “silversmith”)

What is the earliest “Gallo-Greek” inscription?

ορβωνος / ορβωλιος / ορβωτιος
Lejeune 1988 G-502, second half C3rd

ριτυμος
Lejeune 1988 G-529–548, beginning C2nd

βιτουκλοβιος αισιανιος ριτυμος
Lejeune 1988 G-529b, beginning C2nd

αιιουιται κονγεννομαρος
Lejeune 1988 G-526, last quarter of the
second century

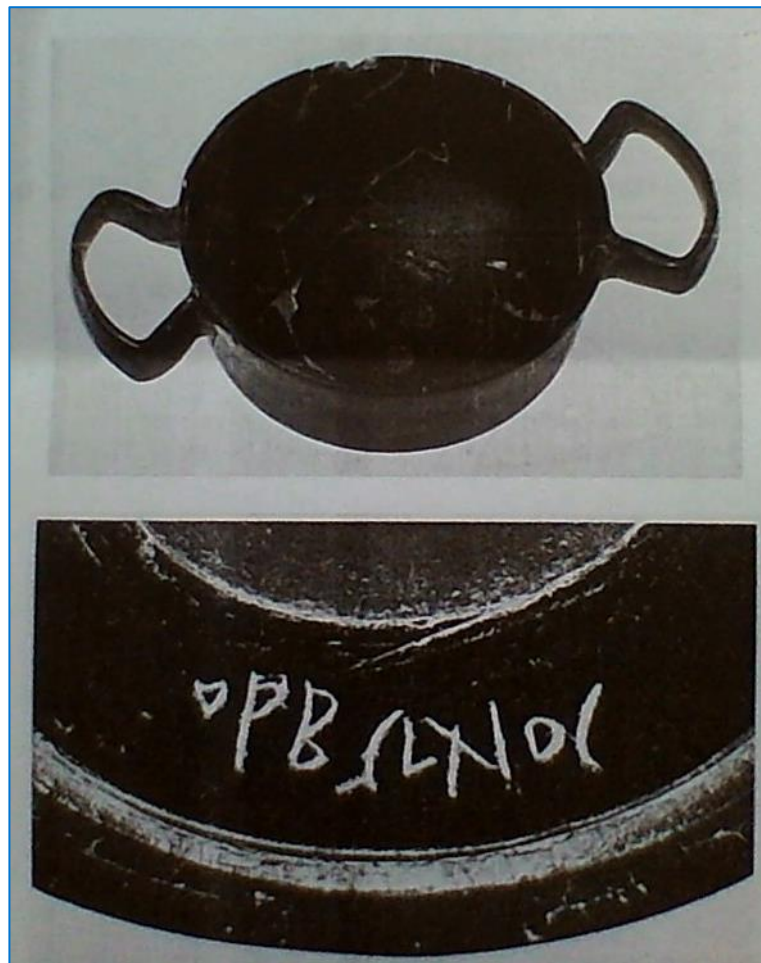
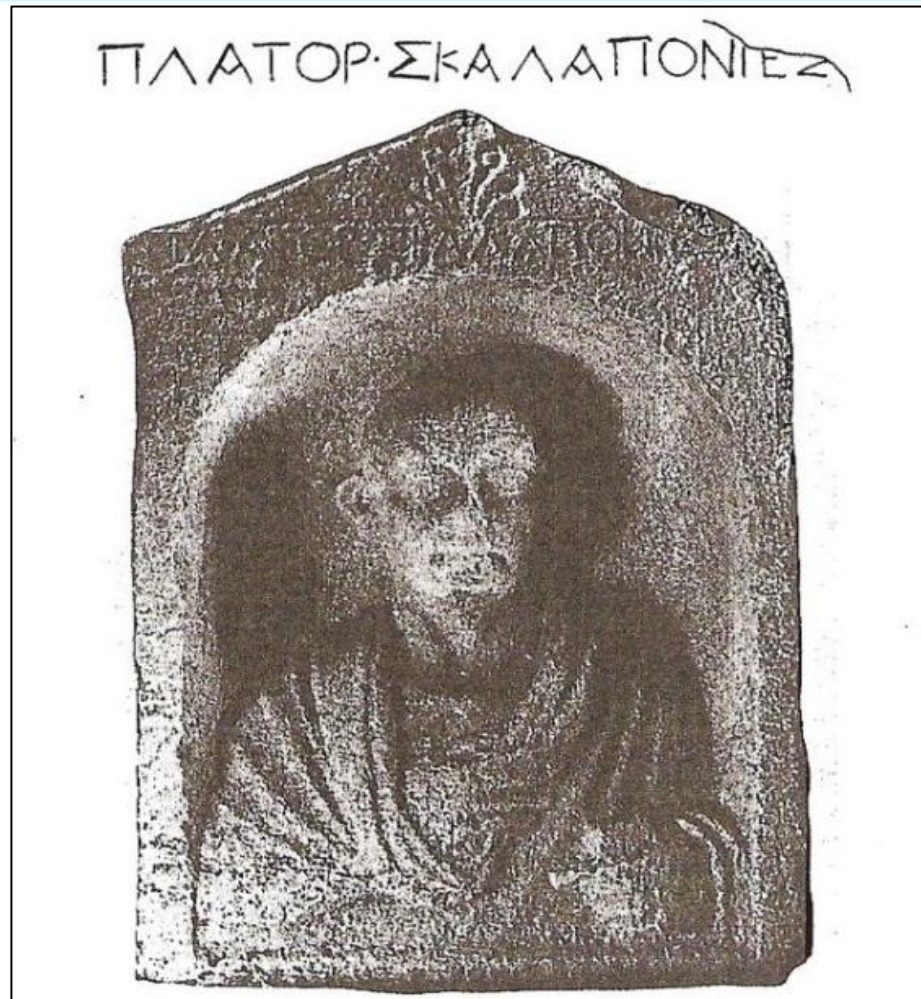


Image: Lejeune

Funerary epigraphy



Tegianum 1/Lu 41
c. 100 BC
Image La Regina
(2002)

Deliberate ambiguity

Effect of the text on:

- an illiterate or semi-literate reader
- a literate reader who speaks/writes another language
- a literate bilingual reader
- a literate reader who speaks your own language

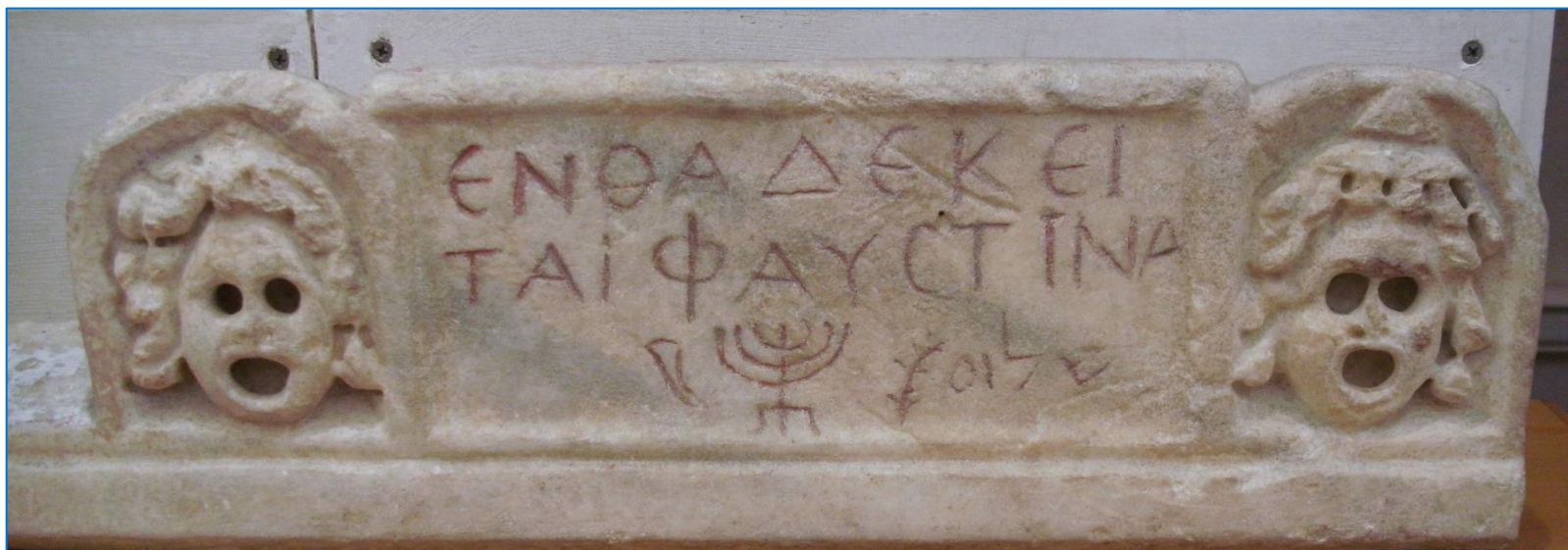
- Which is likely to be the biggest proportion of your readership?
- Which kind(s) of reader is it most important to address?

Scripta franca



<http://aulosinternet.wikispaces.com/Maps>

Mixed languages and mixed language texts



My photos, Baths of Diocletian

Mixed languages - definitions

- “A mixed language is a language that shows positive genetic similarities, in significant numbers, with two different languages... Therefore, creole languages are not mixed languages: they are related to one language with respect to the lexicon, but they do not have a grammatical system in common with any other language... Some pidgins could be considered mixed languages.” (Bakker, 1997)
- “Pidgins and creoles are mixed languages, but their study has traditionally been kept apart from that of mixed languages.” (Lefebvre, 2004)
- “Mixed language: a language that did not arise primarily through descent with modification from a single earlier language. There are two types of mixed languages... On the one hand there are pidgins and creoles... on the other hand there are bilingual mixed languages.” (Thomason, 2001)

“Mixed language” texts ≠ texts in “mixed languages”

Adams	1 <i>Bilingual texts</i>	2 <i>Texts implicitly reflecting bilingual situations</i>	3 <i>Mixed-language texts</i>	4 <i>Transliterated</i>
	Two separate parts in different languages and ‘a content which is usually, at least in part, common to both’ ^a	‘An “implicitly bilingual” text is on the face of it in a single language, but there is reason to think that another language played a part in its formation’ ^b	Texts showing any form of code-switching or code-mixing	Composed in language A, but the script is that of language B
Revised	1 <i>Bi- (/ tri-) version bi- (/ tri-) lingual texts</i> ^c	2 <i>Texts displaying bilingual phenomena</i> ^d	3 <i>Mixed-language texts</i>	4 <i>Transliterated texts</i>
	As above (plus specification of number of versions and languages)	Composed in language A, but showing interference/code-switching/borrowing from language B	3a Written in genetically mixed languages (see §2.2) or 3b codes that are so mixed that it is impossible to identify the dominant language (see p. 85) ^e	As above. Can involve <i>texts displaying bilingual phenomena or bi-version bilingual texts</i>

Latin/Greek “mixed language” text

σεξστοσ κλωδιοσ

δεκομου λιβερτινοσ

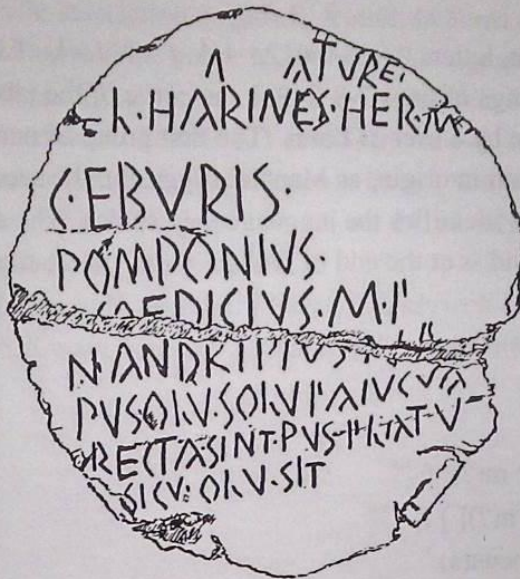
αντι διον τερτιον νωναισ

IGUR 718; funerary inscription on olla

Nr. Appian way, second half C2nd

“We should arguably not be seeking to disentangle something that may be deliberately entangled.” Mullen (2013) 65

Cumae 10/Cm 15, Cumae?, c. 100-50 BC

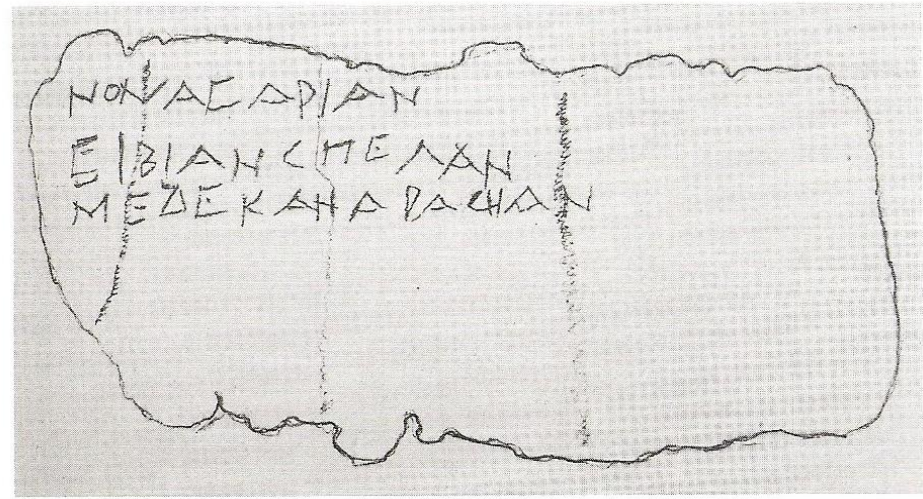
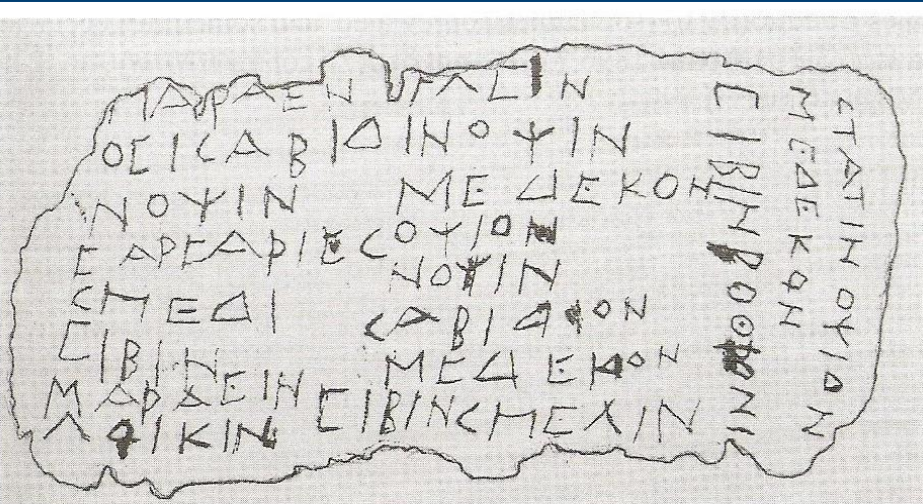


Uetler 7: Bleitafel (Cumae?); im Akad. Kunstmuseum, Bonn (C143a).

Oscan names	{	I. harines. her. mature[-?-] c. eburis.
Latin names	{	pomponius. m. caedicius. m. f. n. andripius. n. f.
Mixed curse formula	{	pus. olu. solu. fancua(s) recta(s). sint. pus. flatu sicu. olu. sit

“May the tongues of these men be rigid; may the breath of these men be dry.” (?)

“Mixed language” curse tablet?



μαραειν γαφιν
οφι(ν) σαβιδι(ν) νοψιν
νοψιν μεδεκον
φαρ(ιv) φαριε(ι)σ οψιον
σπεδι(ν) νοψιν
φιβιν σαβιδιον
μαραειν μεδεκον
λοικιν φιβιν σπελιν
στατιν οψιον
μεδεκον
φιβιν βοθροني(ον)

νοψ(ι)α(ν) φαριαν
φιβιαν σπελ(ι)αν
μεδεκαν αραδιαν

Laos 2/Lu 46. Laos, 330-320 BC
(Image: Crawford).

“Mixed language” curse tablet?



[πα]κιοσ καιλιοσ
φι[λ]λ[ιο]σ ασελλιοσ
νυμψιοσ ποππαλαιοσ
μινιοσ φαριοσ
[τ]ετοσ φαριοσ

Conclusions

- Should recognise that texts may be deliberately ambiguous as a deliberate strategy
 - To appeal to a certain readership
 - To avoid excluding readers
 - To create magical texts?
- Even texts where the language is identifiable to us may be taking part in these strategies
- Terminology around “mixed language” texts may need revision

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