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## Preface

These Proceedings include papers presented at the Thirty-Fourth Annual UCLA Indo-European Conference, held on October 27–28, 2023 in Los Angeles.

Special gratitude is owed, first and foremost, to the graduate students comprising the Indo-European Conference Student Organizing Committee, whose dedicated participation and skilled tech-savvy support helped ensure the success of the conference: most especially the conference coordinators Paolo Sabattini, Laura McLean, and Elisa Migliaretti, as well as Joel Erickson, Nick Guymon, Aidan Holmgren, M. I. Rehan, Alex Roy, Arjun Srirangarajan, and Chengzhi Zhang. We are also grateful for significant administrative help from members of the Dodd Humanities Group: Carolyn Attanucci, Paul Gass, and Lena Hoang—and above all, for crucial help and support, Neli Petrosyan and Audrey Yi. We also gratefully acknowledge the financial support furnished by the A. Richard Diebold, Jr. Endowment in Indo-European Studies.

Naturally, we are especially indebted to the scholars whose papers appear below, not only for their stimulating conference presentations, but also for their cooperation and patience throughout the editing process. We owe special thanks, among those scholars, to our featured speakers Blanca María Prósper and Andreas Willi. (As usual, not all papers presented at the conference appear here, for a variety of reasons, including publication or planned publication elsewhere.)

We are also happy to repeat our annual praise of Angelo Mercado for his consummate skill and professionalism in the preparation of the camera-ready copy. This is, finally, our fourth outing with Helmut Buske Verlag: as with the preceding volume in this series, we are deeply grateful to Managing Director Michael Hechinger for his support and guidance throughout the production process, as well as Tim Oliver Pohl and Henrike Judwitt for their counsel on technical matters.

David M. Goldstein, Stephanie W. Jamison, and Anthony D. Yates  
September 2024

# On Tocharian B *śrāy* pl. ‘men’\*

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For the Tocharian B lexeme *śrāy* pl. ‘men’ only plural forms are known thus far. In the present paper I argue that a singular form—namely, the oblique B *śrān* ‘man’—is also attested, in B128a3. I then discuss the inner-Tocharian prehistory of B *śrāy* ‘men’, tracing it back to an *n*-stem Pre-PToch. *\*ġérh<sub>2</sub>-ōn-* << *\*ġérh<sub>2</sub>-o-n-* ‘the old one’ and showing that all forms attested in Tocharian B can be derived from this pre-form in a regular way. Finally, I address the Indo-European etymology of Pre-PToch. *\*ġérh<sub>2</sub>-o-n-* ‘the old one’, which is an individualizing derivative in *\*-n-* to the *\*h<sub>1</sub>reudʰ-ó-* type adjective PIE *\*ġerh<sub>2</sub>-ó-* ‘old’ > Arm. *cer* ‘old (person)’.

## 1 Introduction

The aim of the present contribution is to shed light on the synchronic and diachronic background of the Tocharian B (TB) lexeme *śrāy* pl. ‘men’. The paper is structured as follows: (i) in section 2 I provide an overview of the attested forms of B *śrāy* and claim that an oblique singular B *śrān* occurs in B128a3; (ii) in sections 3–5 I discuss the etymology of B *śrāy* from both inner-Tocharian and Indo-European perspectives and contend that the traditionally reconstructed pre-form Pre-PToch. *\*ġérh<sub>2</sub>-ōn-* regularly explains all forms attested in TB; (iii) in section 4 I summarize the main achievements of the paper.

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\* My warmest thanks go to Guido Borghi, Olav Hackstein, Athanaric Huard, Stephanie Jamison, Ilya Itkin, Ronald Kim, Sergio Neri, Alexander Nikolaev, Alessandro Parenti, Rosa Ronzitti, Ryan Sandell, and Anthony Yates for their valuable comments on earlier drafts of this paper, as well as to Rémy Viredaz for the enriching discussion of the Armenian material. I would also like to thank the organizers and all participants of the 34th Annual UCLA Indo-European Conference. Needless to say, the responsibility for all remaining errors is mine alone.

## 2 Synchronic analysis

### 2.1 Semantics and attestations

Since Sieg and Siegling 1949 II:36, 178, the nom.pl. B *śrāy* has been translated as ‘old (men)’.<sup>1</sup> Carling (2003:84), however, has convincingly shown the correct meaning to be ‘(sexually mature/adult) men’, since in IOL Toch 306b3 (classical; medical text)<sup>2</sup> the gen.pl. B *śrānāts*—for expected *śrānām̐ts\** with simplification B *-m̐ts#* > *-ts#* (Peyrot 2008:69)—translates the gen.pl. *ṇṇām* (to *ṇṇ-* ‘man’) in the Sanskrit parallel text; cf. (1). This passage is about uterine cancer (Skt. *rakta-gulma-*), which is said to affect only (sexually mature/adult) women and not (sexually mature/adult) men.

(1) IOL Toch 306b3

*mā su māsketār śrānāts* (= Skt. *nāsau bhavati ṇṇām*)

It [i.e., the uterine cancer] does not occur [lit. is/becomes] to [fertile] men.<sup>3</sup>

Based on the meaning ‘men (i.e., male human beings)’ of the gen.pl. B *śrānāts*, all known attestations of the nom.pl. B *śrāy*<sup>4</sup> and the obl.pl. B *śrānām̐*<sup>5</sup> can be satisfactorily explained (Carling 2003:84–5). Particularly relevant is the collocation B *śrāy klaiyna* ‘men [and] women’ (SI P/9.11), in which the nom.pl. B *śrāy* functions as antonym of the nom.pl. B *klaiyna* ‘women’ (sg. *kl(y)iyē*).

It has gone unnoticed so far that the poetic text B432b2S classic (Kaniška legend)<sup>6</sup> may also attest a plural form of the lexeme B *śrāy*. Although the context is fragmentary, it seems reasonable to interpret B *śrānām̐ts* as a misspelling of the expected gen.pl. B *śrānām̐ts\** (cf. *śrānāts* in (1) above) and to cautiously translate */// lyk· ṣṣai lyuwa śrānām̐ts ṣa ///* as ‘... he sent to the men (?)’.

The table in (2) summarizes the discussion above.

1 Cf. also *TEB* II:248; *DTB*<sup>1</sup>:644.

2 On the abbreviations used with Tocharian manuscripts, see Malzahn 2007:96–102.

3 Translation after Carling 2003:91.

4 B47a8Š classic; SI P/9.11 late (Pinault 1998:6); SI P/12.1, 5 late (Pinault 1998:18); THT2262a3 (Ilya Itkin, p.c.).

5 B22a1Š classic-late.

6 Thus Athanaric Huard (p.c.). Differently *CETOM*: historical treaty.

(2)		
	Sg.	Pl.
Nom.		<i>śrāy</i>
Obl.		<i>śrānām</i>
Gen.		<i>śrānāts</i>
		<i>śrānaṃts (?)</i>

## 2.2 A “new” attestation

The archaic poetic text B128MQ belongs to the so-called *rājavṛtti* genre (NHG *Fürstenspiegel*), which illustrates the proper conduct of kings (Couvreux 1954:98). In (3) I report the lines a2–a5, and in the following I will focus on the lines a3–a4 (underscored in (3)). Apart from the end of the line a3, where the symbol “–” indicates a missing *akṣara*, the restorations follow the text edition by Sieg and Siegling (1953:62).

### (3) B128a2–a5

*śāk no wāntārwa sākwa e(ṣṣeñca)na patāryana waipēcēnta alānmeṃ wa(t)*  
*(kālpaṃwa) (•) (kārtse) (waṣamo) a3 kārtse aiśāmñe krentaunātse soy mañīye*  
*yamāṣeñca rekisa • śana al(e)cce śrān m(ā) (– – – kre-) a4 (-ntā)mmp=ese*  
*śānmālñe pakwāreṃmeṃ tsālpāl(ñ)e • lamtuññe ike källālñe škānte toṃ skwān-*  
*mane (p)o (śpālmeṃ) (no) a5 aiśāmñeṣṣe sāk*

Now, [there are] ten things (which give) happiness [to a man]: paternal possessions or [possessions] (obtained) from elsewhere, (a good friend), good knowledge, a virtuous son, a servant acting according to [his] word, a wife not (...) a foreign/strange śrān, (...) coming together with (good [people]), being released from evils, [and] obtaining the royal position [is] the tenth [thing]. (Now), out of these happinesses, [the] most (excellent) [is] the happiness belonging to knowledge.<sup>7</sup>

According to Sieg and Siegling (1953:62 n. 4), there is a lacuna of five syllables at the end of line a3, for which they propose a restoration (*ritausa ṣek kre-*) a4 (*-ntā)mmp=ese*. Whereas the restoration (*ṣek kre-*) ‘always [GOOD]’ for the last two syllables is virtually certain, the restoration (*ritausa*) for the first three syllables is less convincing. B *ritausa* is the past participle of the verb B *rit<sup>ā</sup>*- ‘seek, long for’ (TVS:824) and could potentially mean ‘having sought’ (active) or ‘longed for’ (passive) (TEB I:185). Despite this, B *ritau* is otherwise attested only with passive semantics ‘longed for, cherished’,<sup>8</sup> which would be syntactically odd here due to the

<sup>7</sup> My translation.

<sup>8</sup> Cf. the attestations on CEToM s.v. *ritau*.



presence of a direct object, namely, the obl.sg. B *alecce śrān* “a foreign/strange *śrān*.” Moreover, it remains unclear why the action of the wife (B *śana*) should be described in the past tense: note the contrast with the phrase B *mañīye yamāṣeñca* “a servant acting ...” (not “having acted”) in the immediately preceding sentence.

The passage at hand has also been treated by Couvreur (1954:111), who only offers a Dutch translation without restoration of the Tocharian text. He translates the sentence B *śana al(e)cce śrān m(ā)* (— —) as “een vrouw die ge(en) vreemde steun (behoeft).” Since Du. *steun* means ‘aid, support’, Couvreur apparently identified B *śrān* in B128a3 with the independently attested form B *śrām* ‘refuge’ (B244b2MQ classical), which represents a shortened variant of the substantive B *śarām* ‘id.’ (← Skt. *śaraṇa-* ‘id.’). This interpretation is explicitly assumed in DTB<sup>2</sup>:704, though without translation of B128a3. Couvreur’s proposal that B *śana al(e)cce śrān m(ā)* (— —) means “a wife not (needing?) a foreign refuge” is possible in theory, yet it makes little sense in a list of things that bring happiness to a man.

In (4) I propose an alternative interpretation of B128a3–a4, which is based on two assumptions: (i) the syntagm B obl.sg. *alecce śrān* means “a foreign/strange man” and attests to the obl.sg. belonging to the plural paradigm of B nom. *śrāy* / obl. *śrānām* ‘men’; (ii) for the first three syllables of the lacuna at the end of line a3, I restore the *nt*-participle B nom.sg.m./f. *ñäṣṣeñca* ‘desiring’, which belongs to the paradigm of the verb B *ñäsk-* ‘demand, desire’ and is independently attested in TB (TVS:637).<sup>9</sup>

(4) Proposed interpretation of B128a3–a4

*śana al(e)cce śrān m(ā) (ñäṣṣeñca ṣek kre-) a4 (-ntä)ñmp-eṣe śänmälñe*

A wife not (desiring) a foreign/strange man, (always) coming together with (good [people]).

Compared to the previous hypotheses, this proposal has the following advantages.

(i) The restored verb B *ñäsk-* ‘demand, desire’ can occur with direct objects referring to human beings: cf. IOL Toch 63a2 /// *śpālmēm lāntsoś tā<sub>u</sub> ñäskem* /// “... (they said?) to the excellent queen: ‘her we desire ...’.”<sup>10</sup> (ii) The restored phrase

9 Other possible restorations have been kindly pointed out to me by Athanaric Huard (p.c.): (i) *m*-participle B *ynemane* ‘going’, possibly as a calque of Skt. *paradāraṃ gam-* ‘commit adultery’; (ii) nom.sg.f. B *makamña* ‘getting excited’ (lit. ‘running’), cf. the compound B *winā-makañña* (for *winā-makamña\**) ‘getting excited in [sexual] pleasure’ (lit. ‘running [into] [sexual] pleasure’) which refers to a woman in THT 1543.b+f+d a1 (Huard 2022:504–5, 578).

10 Translation after CEToM.

*śana* [...] *m(ā)* (*ñäṣṣeñca*) “a wife not (desiring) ...” finds a structural parallel in the immediately preceding phrase *mañīye yamāṣeñca* “a servant acting ...,” in which B *yamāṣeñca* is also an *nt*-participle (to the verb B *yām-* ‘do’). (iii) The semantic association between B *śana* ‘wife’ and B *śrān* ‘man’ in B128a3 is comparable to the opposition between B *klaīyna* ‘women’ and B *śrāy* ‘men’ in SI P/9.11 (see §2.1 above). (iv) The overall sense of the passage becomes much clearer, since a wife not eager to commit adultery makes sense as something that would bring happiness to a man.<sup>11</sup>

### 2.3 Inner-Tocharian connections?

Ogihara (2014:116, 117) claimed the Tocharian A all.pl. *śrāyāsac* (THT1519a2) to be etymologically related to the nom.pl. B *śrāy* ‘men’ and translated THT1519a2 *la śrāyāsac (k)laṣt lāc* as “... *Klaṣt* was spent to the elders” (Ogihara 2014:119). However, the nom.pl. B *śrāy* and the all.pl. A *śrāyās-ac* do not match formally, since B /-á-/ can hardly correspond to A -ä- regularly. Therefore, these forms are best kept distinct from each other; thus also DTTA:465, where Carling and Pinault propose a reading A (*śā*)*laśrāyāsac* ‘for the craftsmen’ and assume a borrowing from Skt. *śālāśraya-* ‘dwelling in hall’.

### 2.4 Local summary

In light of the preceding discussion, the paradigm of B *śrāy* ‘men’ can now be set up as in (5).

(5) “New” paradigm of B *śrāy* ‘men’

	Sg.	Pl.
Nom.		<i>śrāy</i>
Obl.	<i>śrān</i>	<i>śrānām</i>
Gen.		<i>śrānāts</i>
		<i>śrānaṃts</i> (?)

11 As kindly pointed out to me by Ilya Itkin, a sequence B *śrān-* is also attested in the unpublished manuscript THT4064, esp. at the lines a2 (*śrāntsa*) and a3 (*klyāśśa śrāntsa*). However, due to the fragmentary context it is difficult to know whether B *śrān-tsa* in a2 is a perlativ singular built on the obl.sg. B *śrān* ‘man’ or rather on the obl.sg. B *śrām* (~ *śarām*) ‘refuge’ discussed in §2.2 above. Under either account, B *śrāntsa* in a3 should be regarded as misspelled for *śrāntsa*. As for *klyāśśa* in a3, this form is obscure. Although a connection with B *kl(y)ie* ‘woman’ (thus tentatively Ilya Itkin, p.c.) is appealing, the formal details of this proposal remain to be worked out more precisely.

### 3 Toward a diachronic analysis

B *śrāy* ‘men’ is universally connected with the PIE root *\*ĝerh<sub>2</sub>-* ‘to age, become old’ continued in Ved. *jārant-* ‘old’ and *jārate* ‘becomes old’, Gk. γέρων, -οντος ‘old’ and ἐγήπᾱ ‘became old’, etc. (see *DTB*<sup>1</sup>:644 with older proposals).<sup>12</sup>

Peters (2004:267 n. 5) traced B *śrāy* back to an *nt*-stem Pre-PToch. *\*ĝerh<sub>2</sub>-(e)nt-*, but this pre-form is incompatible with the plural inflection nom. *śrāy* / obl. *śrānām* attested in TB (Del Tomba 2023:107). According to *DTB*<sup>2</sup>:705, B pl. nom. *śrāy* / obl. *śrānām* would go back to a *u*-stem “PIE *\*ĝerh<sub>2</sub>awes*, *\*ĝerh<sub>2</sub>awns*, an ablaut variant of the *\*ĝreh<sub>a</sub>-w-* seen in Greek *graūs* ‘old woman’.” However, the obl.sg. B *śrān* ‘man’ discussed in §2.2 above speaks against this scenario; cf. (6).

- (6) Formal incompatibility of B obl.sg. *śrān* with a *u*-stem pre-form
- i. Acc.sg. Pre-PToch. *\*ĝerh<sub>2</sub>-u-m* > PToch. *\*kʷarə* > B *\*kʷarə* / → *\*śar*, not *śrān*;
  - ii. Acc.sg. Pre-PToch. *\*ĝerh<sub>2</sub>-u-n-ṃ* (with a putative nasal extension) > PToch. *\*kʷarənə* > B *\*kʷarənə* / → *\*śran*, not *śrān*.

Alternatively, an *n*-stem pre-form was first reconstructed in *DTB*<sup>1</sup>:644; cf. Pre-PToch. “*\*ger(h<sub>a</sub>)ōn-*.” Since then, the pre-forms in (7) have been proposed.

- (7) Pre-Proto-Tocharian *n*-stem pre-forms proposed for B *śrāy* ‘men’
- i. Nom.pl. *\*ĝerh<sub>2</sub>-n-es* or *\*ĝerh<sub>2</sub>-ōn-es* (Pinault ap. Carling 2003:93 n. 47; Pinault 2008:484; 2023:4; Kim 2016:79)
  - ii. Nom.pl. *\*ĝerh<sub>2</sub>-ōn-es* (Hackstein, Habata, and Bross 2019:187–8)
  - iii. Nom.pl. *\*ĝ(e)rh<sub>2</sub>-én-es*, *\*ĝerh<sub>2</sub>-n-es*, or *\*ĝ(e)rh<sub>2</sub>-ōn-es* (Höfler 2017:180 with n. 594).

On morphological grounds (see §5.1 below), the reconstruction of an *n*-stem pre-form Pre-PToch. *\*ĝerh<sub>2</sub>-ōn-* is most likely. In particular, such a pre-form explains nicely both obl. forms attested in TB, namely, the obl.pl. B *śrānām* and the obl.sg. B *śrān*; cf. (8).

- (8) Deriving B obl.pl. *śrānām* and obl.sg. *śrān* from Pre-PToch. *\*ĝerh<sub>2</sub>-ōn-*
- i. Acc.pl. Pre-PToch. *\*ĝerh<sub>2</sub>-ōn-ṃs* > PToch. *\*kʷaranəns* > B obl.pl. */kʷarənən/* → *śrānām*—with regular development Pre-PToch. *\*<sup>o</sup>Vn-ṃs* >

12 For the assumption of a meaning ‘to age, become old’ for the PIE root *\*ĝerh<sub>2</sub>-*, which cannot be discussed in detail in the present context, see Steer 2015:159–77.

B °*Ųnām* as in the obl.pl.m. B *larénām* (~ nom.sg.m. *lāre*) ‘dear’, B *ark-wínām* (~ nom.sg.m. *árkwi*) ‘white’, etc.;

- ii. Acc.sg. Pre-PToch. \**ġerh<sub>2</sub>-ōn-m* > PToch. \**kʷaranə* > B obl.sg. /kʷarənə/ → *śrān*—with regular development Pre-PToch. \*°*Ųn-m* > B /°*Ųnə*/ → °*Ųm/n* as in the obl.sg. B /səswenə/ → *sāsweñ* (~ nom.sg. *sāswe*) ‘lord’.

On the other hand, one would expect the following development to have taken place in the nom.pl.: Pre-PToch. \**ġerh<sub>2</sub>-ōn-es* > PToch. \**kʷaranə* > B nom.pl. \**/kʷarənə/* → \**śrāñ*, cf. B nom.pl. /səswenə/ → *sāsweñ* ‘lords’. The attested nom.pl. B *śrāy* ‘men’ is therefore in need of an explanation.

## 4 Defining the relevant Pre-TB sound change(s)

### 4.1 The *śrāy* rule

The existence of a sound law turning Pre-B \**-nʷ(-)* into B *-y(-)* has already been proposed in the literature, although no consensus on its precise conditions has been reached; cf. (9).

- (9) Proposed conditions for the development Pre-B \**-nʷ(-)* > B *-y(-)*
  - i. PToch. \**-ánə* > B *-ai* (Hilmarsson 1989:83);
  - ii. “Lautwandel /-āñ-/ > /-aiñ-/ mit Verlust des -ñ-” (Widmer 2004:162 n.251);
  - iii. Pre-PToch. “\**-ōn-es* > \**-āñä* > \**-āy* sous l’accent” (Pinault 2008:484);
  - iv. “\**-áñ#* > \**-áy#*” and “\**-añ* > *-ai*” (Peyrot 2012:185 and 215, respectively);
  - v. PToch. “\**-áñə#* > pre-TB \**-áyñə#* > TB *-áiñ*” (Del Tomba 2023:165);
  - vi. “[P]utative sound change of \**-ñ-* to \**-i-*” (Jasanoff 2018:76 n. 20);
  - vii. “[T]he change of intervocalic \**ñ* > \**y* is far from assured” (Kim 2018:72 n. 181).<sup>13</sup>

The development in (9.v) has been assumed by Del Tomba (2023:165) in order to explain nom.pl. forms of the type B *oksaiñ\** ‘oxen’. These forms, however, can be explained instead as secondary formations based on their obl.sg. in *-ai*; see §4.5

13 To be sure, other scholars have also assumed a development \**nʷ* > \**y* for the prehistory of Tocharian: cf. PToch. \**nʷ* > \**y* / *ǎ* \_\_ *ə* (Hilmarsson 1989:109) and Pre-PToch. \**n* > \**ɿ* / *e* \_\_ *ē* (Hackstein 2000:100; 2017:1326–7). However, since it is secure that neither the environment / *ǎ* \_\_ *ə* nor / *e* \_\_ *ē* occurred in the prehistory of B *śrāy*, I will not further discuss these sound changes in the following.

below. In addition, the nom.pl. B *śrāy* ‘men’ represents a counterexample to the postulated development PToch. “\**-āñə#* > pre-TB \**-āñə#* > TB *-āiñ*,” since one would expect B \**śraiñ*. Therefore, Del Tomba (2023:165 n. 196) assumes a special development Pre-B “\**śráñə* > \**śráñə* > (\**śráʸn* >) [B] *śrāy*,” claiming that in “an accented monosyllable [...] the apocope of the final nasal could have happened earlier” and that “dissimilation of the two palatals *ś...ñ* could have taken place.” Nevertheless, it remains unclear why Pre-B \**śráʸn*—after the presumed apocope of its final nasal—would have been spelled as ⟨*śrāyā*⟩ rather than as \*⟨*śrai*⟩ (see immediately below). Furthermore, the occurrence of two palatalized segments within the same word does not seem to be a sufficient condition for triggering a dissimilatory loss of one of them: cf. the nom.pl. B *pyapyaiñ\** ‘flowers’ (attested as *pyāppyaiñ*; see Del Tomba 2023:167), which never exhibits a variant B \**pyapyai*.

Crucial for understanding the prehistory of the nom.pl. B *śrāy* is its spelling. Specifically, B *śrāy* is not spelled as \*⟨*śrai*⟩ with a diphthongal sign (like, e.g., B obl.sg. ⟨*oksai*⟩ ‘ox’), but as ⟨*śrāyā*⟩ with two distinct *akṣaras* ⟨*śrā*⟩ (ligature) and ⟨*yā*⟩. This suggests that /a/ and /y/ in B *śrāy* are heterosyllabic and point to an underlyingly trisyllabic structure /*kʲə.rá.yə*/ (→ ⟨*śrāyā*⟩) rather than to a disyllabic structure \*/*kʲə.ray*/ (→ \*⟨*śrai*⟩) or to a monosyllabic structure \*/*kʲráy*/ (→ \*⟨*śrai*⟩).<sup>14</sup> Cf. the substantive B *upāy\** ‘stratagem’, which is spelled in the same way as B *śrāy* and must have been underlyingly trisyllabic—i.e., /*u.pá.yə*/\*—since it is a loanword from Skt. *upāya*- ‘id.’ (Pinault 2008:441). Crucially, no spelling B \*⟨*upai*⟩ (← \*/*ú.pay*/) is attested. Based on the assumption of an underlying structure B /*kʲə.rá.yə*/, I propose the Pre-TB sound change described in (10) and the derivation of the nom.pl. B *śrāy* presented in (11).

(10) *Śrāy* rule

Pre-B \**nʲ* > B *y* / <sup>*a*</sup>  
[+accent] — ə #

A Pre-TB palatal nasal undergoes lenition to a palatal approximant in the environment following an accented \**a* and preceding a word-final \**ə*.

(11) Updated derivation of B nom.pl. *śrāy* ‘men’

Pre-PToch. \**ǵerh₂-ón-es* > PToch. \**kʲəranʲə* > Pre-B \**kʲəranʲə* > B /*kʲəráyə*/ → *śrāy*.

14 Whether Adams implies the same when he claims that “[t]he nominative plural [B *śrāy*] is underlyingly *śrā-r̥*” (DTB<sup>2</sup>:705) is unclear to me. On the TB word-final sequence *-āy*, see further Ringe 1996:xxii–xxiii.

A derivation similar to that in (11) has been assumed by Pinault, who proposed a development B *śrāy* < “\**śārāyā* < \**śārāñā*” (2008:484; see also (9.iii) above) and explained it on the basis of the “phonetic rule discovered by Winter” (ap. Carling 2003:93 n. 47). In the present paper, however, I argue that “\**śārāyā*” (or, in the above notation, /*k̡ārāyə*/) is not the direct ancestor of the nom.pl. B *śrāy* but rather the form synchronically underlying it. Moreover, I assume that the “phonetic rule discovered by Winter” is not responsible for the development of -y in B *śrāy*; see §4.2 below.

#### 4.2 The *śrāy* rule vs. the *klyomai* rule

Another crucial point in my argument is in fact the necessity of keeping the Pre-TB *śrāy* rule as stated in (10) distinct from another Pre-TB sound law, which was proposed by Winter (1987:306) in order to explain (among other things) the synchronically isolated voc.sg. of the adjective B *klyomo* ‘noble’, namely, *klyomai*; cf. (12).<sup>15</sup>

(12) “Tocharian Winter’s Law” and the derivation of the voc.sg. B *klyomai* ‘o noble’

- i. Pre-B \**n* > B *y* / <sup>*a*</sup><sub>[-accent]</sub> — #

A Pre-TB alveolar nasal undergoes lenition to a palatal approximant in the environment following an unaccented \**a* and preceding the right edge of a word,<sup>16</sup>

- ii. Pre-PToch. sg. nom. \**kléu-mōn-s* / voc. \**kléu-mōn* > PToch. \**kl'omō* / \**kl'uman*, whereby the voc.sg. \**kl'uman* >> (after the nom.sg. \**kl'omō*) \**kl'oman* > Pre-B \**kl'óman* > B /*kl'ó*.may/ → *klyomai*.

The assumption of the sound change in (12.i), which I will call the *klyomai* rule, also enabled Winter (1987:305–7) to convincingly explain the sequence *ylai-* that

15 Since voc.sg. forms in B -*ai* otherwise occur only beside nom.sg. forms in B -*a* (TEB I:103), the inflectional pattern B sg. nom. *klyomo* : voc. *klyomai* is synchronically isolated and thus likely to reflect an old ablaut alternation. The alternative assumption that the vocative marker -*ai* (← /-ay/) in B *klyomai* had spread analogically from forms with nom.sg. in B -*a* (Pinault 2008:476) is unattractive, since one would then expect a voc.sg. B \**klyomoy* rather than *klyomai*—cf. B sg. nom. *aiṣṣeñca* ‘giving’ : voc. *aiṣṣeñcai* = nom. *klyomo* ‘noble’ : voc. X, X = \**klyomoy*. As a further alternative, one might regard -*ai* in the voc.sg. B *klyomai* as diachronically identical with the obl.sg. ending -*ai* of the type B *oksa* ‘ox’. However, the refunctionalization of an oblique as a vocative would be hard to explain.

16 Cf. also Winter 1989:115–6; Lubotsky 1994:67.

occurs in the theonym B *ylai-ñäkte* (: A *wlām-ñkät*) ‘Indra’. Winter traced B *ylai-* back to a lexicalized voc.sg. that originally belonged to the paradigm of the Tocharian ‘king’ word, namely, B *walo*, A *wäl* << Pre-PToch. *\*uélH-ont-* / *\*uḷH-nt-*. Building on Winter, I claim in (13) that B *ylai-ñäkte* and A *wlām-ñkät* arose through independent univerbations of a Proto-Tocharian syntagm voc.sg. *\*wʷalan nʷäktæ* ‘o King God (i.e., Indra)’; cf. PIE voc.sg. *\*dīēu ph₂ter* ‘o Sky Father’ → (univerbation) Lat. *Iū-piter* ‘Jupiter’.

(13) Derivation of B *ylai-ñäkte* ‘Indra’ through the *klyomai* rule

Pre-PToch. sg. nom. *\*uélH-ōnt-s* (>> *\*uḷH-ōnt-s* > B *walo*, A *wäl*) / voc. *\*uélH-ōnt*, whereby the voc.sg. *\*uélH-ōnt* > *\*uel’ōn* > PToch. *\*wʷalan* → syntagm *\*wʷalan nʷäktæ* ‘o King God’ > ‘Indra’ > (i) Pre-A *\*wālān nʷäktā* → (univerbation) *\*wālān-nʷäktā* > A *wlām-ñkät* ‘id.’, (ii) Pre-B *\*yʷalan nʷäkte* > *\*yʷalay nʷäkte* → (univerbation) B /yʷalay-nʷäkte/ → *ylai-ñäkte* ‘id.’.<sup>17</sup>

The discussion above shows that the *klyomai* and the *śrāy* rule differ from each other in two crucial respects: (i) their application environment, namely, Pre-B / <sub>[-accent]</sub> <sup>a</sup> \_\_\_ # (*klyomai* rule) vs. Pre-B / <sub>[+accent]</sub> <sup>a</sup> \_\_\_ # (*śrāy* rule); (ii) their target, namely, Pre-B *\*n* (*klyomai* rule) vs. Pre-B *\*nʷ* (*śrāy* rule). Moreover, although both sound laws yield a new segment B /y/, their outcomes are clearly distinct at the graphic level: the *klyomai* rule leads to a tautosyllabic (i.e., diphthongal) sequence B /<sup>o</sup>ay./ → ⟨<sup>o</sup>ai⟩, cf. B voc.sg. *klyomai* ‘o noble’; the *śrāy* rule leads instead to a heterosyllabic sequence B /<sup>o</sup>ā.yə/ → ⟨<sup>o</sup>āyā⟩, cf. B nom.pl. *śrāy* ‘men’.

Despite this, the *klyomai* rule as stated in (12.i) above has been reformulated by several scholars in the past decades; cf. (14).

(14) Proposed reformulations of the *klyomai* rule

- i. Pre-PToch. *\*-ōn-ŋ* > PToch. *\*-anə<sup>n</sup>* > Pre-B *\*-anə* > *\*-ay* > B *-ai* (Pinault 2008:485)—see also Pinault 2008:512 (“diphthongaison de *\*-ān(ä)* accentué”) and Hajnal 2005:237, 240 (“Wandel von B Obl.Sg. *\*-/an(ä)#/* > B *-ai*”);
- ii. Pre-PToch. *\*-ōn* > PToch. *\*-ay* (Malzahn 2011:95 n. 30);
- iii. “Winter’s sound law *\*-án#* > *-ai#*” (Peyrot 2012:215, but “*\*-an* > *\*-ai*” at p. 183).

17 Differently Peyrot (2012:184) and Del Tomba (2023:164): Pre-B *\*ylan-ñäkte* > *\*ylañ-ñäkte* > B *ylai-ñäkte*. However, no parallels for the assumed development Pre-B *\*<sup>o</sup>añ-ñ<sup>o</sup>* > B *<sup>o</sup>ai-ñ<sup>o</sup>* are adduced.

None of these reformulations is convincing. The development assumed in (14.i.) is contradicted by the fact that a sequence Pre-B *\*-ŷnə* never undergoes apocope of its final *\*-ə* at the underlying level—cf. B obl.sg. /səswénə/ → *säsweṃ* (~ nom.sg. *säswe*) ‘lord’, B obl.sg.m. /larénə/ → *lareṃ* (~ nom.sg.m. *lāre*) ‘dear’, etc. Accordingly, the regular outcome of a sequence Pre-B *\*-ánə* is B /-ánə/ → *-āṃ/n*, as shown by the obl.sg. B /kīəránə/ → *śrān* ‘man’ in (8.ii) above. As for (14.ii.), it does not seem warranted to assume that a development *\*n > \*y* / <sup>a</sup><sub>[-accent]</sub> \_\_\_ # had already taken place in Proto-Tocharian, since the preservation of the final nasal in the petrified voc.sg. Pre-A *\*wālān* ‘o King’ (→ A *wlām-ñkāt* ‘Indra’) as against its lenition in Pre-B *\*yālan > \*yālay* (→ B *ylai-ñäkte* ‘id.’) ensures that the latter process must have taken place in the prehistory of TB. In (14.iii) the reconstruction of an accented input sequence Pre-B *\*-án* is contradicted by both Pre-B *\*klóman* (> B *klyomai*) and Pre-B *\*yālan > \*yālay* (→ B *ylai-ñäkte*).

#### 4.3 Interim conclusions on pre-TB sound changes

For Pre-TB I assume the existence of two different sound laws, which I label as the *klyomai* and *śrāy* rules respectively. The former—i.e., Pre-B *\*n > B y* / <sup>a</sup><sub>[-accent]</sub> \_\_\_ #—explains the voc.sg. B *klyomai* ‘o noble’ and the sequence *ylai-* in the theonym B *ylai-ñäkte* (: A *wlām-ñkāt*) ‘Indra’. The latter—i.e., Pre-B *\*n<sup>i</sup> > B y* / <sup>a</sup><sub>[+accent]</sub> \_\_\_ ə #—explains the nom.pl. B *śrāy* ‘men’.

#### 4.4 Apparent counterexamples to the *śrāy* rule

If the proposed formulation of the *śrāy* rule is correct, one should never find words ending in *-āñ* (← /-ánə/) in TB. To be sure, although the final sequence B *-āñ* is rare, some counterexamples are met. In the present section, I will show them to be inconclusive.

Cases like 3sg.pret.-I B *krasā-ñ* ‘was angry’ (B400b1S classic-late), causal.sg. B *kawā-ñ* ‘out of desire’ (PKAS7Lb3DA classic-late), or nom.pl. B *lākle-lyakāñ* ‘seeing suffering’ (PKAS7Ea6DA classic) are irrelevant, since here B *-ñ* is an enclitic personal pronoun, a case ending, or is preceded by an ⟨*ā*⟩ misspelled for expected ⟨*a*⟩ (see Del Tomba 2023:166 n. 197, with discussion of further forms). As for B nom./obl.sg. *sāñ* ‘artifice, expedient’ (: A *ṣāñ* ‘id.’), it is a loanword from LKhot. *sañā-* ‘id.’ (Del Tomba and Maggi 2021; Dragoni 2023:189). Since in Late Khotanese final short vowels have been lost (Dragoni 2023:219), one may surmise that this word was borrowed as (late) PToch. *\*sán<sup>i</sup>* rather than *\*sánə*. Therefore, due to the absence of *\*-ə#*, no development Pre-B *\*n<sup>i</sup> > B y* took place.



The most conspicuous group of counterexamples is represented by the nom.pl. forms in B *-āñ* (← */-ánʔə/*) belonging to the nominal subclass VI.3b; cf. B *tanāñ* ‘seeds’, *katsāñ* ‘bellies’, etc. (TEB I:135–6; Del Tomba 2023:111–2). However, as (15) shows, these plurals are formed according to a synchronically productive rule that applies to most members of the nominal class VI.3 (TEB I:132–7) and that consists of adding the syllabic nom.pl. ending B */-nʔə/* → *-ñ* to an obl.sg. form ending in */-V(y)/* (cf. also Del Tomba 2023:165 n. 195; Pinault 2008:485).

(15) Obl.sg.-based formation of the nom.pl. in the TB class VI.3

- i. Obl.sg. *ri* : nom.pl. *ri-ñ* ‘city’—subclass VI.1a;
- ii. Obl.sg. *kálymi* : nom.pl. *kálymi-ñ*\*<sup>18</sup> ‘direction’—subclass VI.1b;
- iii. Obl.sg. *pyápyai* : nom.pl. *pyapyái-ñ*\*<sup>19</sup> ‘flower’—subclass VI.2a;
- iv. Obl.sg. *arşáklai* : nom.pl. (*\*arşáklai-ñ* >) *arşákla-ñ*\*<sup>20</sup> ‘snake’—subclass VI.3a.

Accordingly, I claim that the paradigmatic pressure of the obl.sg. B *tāna*, *kātsa*, etc. blocked the regular development Pre-B *\*-ánʔə* > B */-áyə/* in the nom.pl. B *tanāñ*, *katsāñ*, etc.; cf. (16).

(16) Proportional analogy explaining final B *-āñ* in the subclass VI.3b

B obl.sg. *kálymi* : nom.pl. *kálymi-ñ*\* ‘direction’ = obl.sg. *pyápyai* : nom.pl. *pyapyái-ñ*\* ‘flower’ = obl.sg. *tāna* : nom.pl. X ‘seed’, X = *tanā-ñ*—not *\*tanáy*.

Crucially, in the paradigm of B *śrāy* ‘men’ the obl.sg. was B *śrān* (see §2.2 above). Since the latter did not end in *-a*, no analogical restoration *śrāy* >> *\*śrā-ñ* took place in the nom.pl. I therefore conclude that the synchronically isolated nom.pl. B *śrāy* as a *lectio difficilior* preserves the regular outcome of a sequence Pre-B *\*-ánʔə* in TB.

18 Attested as *kálymim* (B108b6S late); see Del Tomba 2023:169.

19 Attested as *pyāppyaiñ* (B275a2MQ archaic) and *pyapyaim* (PKAS6Da3DA classic); see Del Tomba 2023:167.

20 Misspelled as *arşaklañ* in PKNS39a3DA classic. For the regular simplification B *\*ay* > *a* / <sup>V</sup><sub>[+accent]</sub> C<sub>x</sub> \_\_ C, cf. B obl.sg. *peñiyai* ‘splendor’ → adjective (*\*peñiyai-tstse* >) *peñiya-tstse*\* ‘splendid’ (Peyrot 2012:184).

4.5 Obl.sg. B *śrān* ‘man’ vs. obl.sg. B *oksai* ‘ox’

Finally, one might ask why the *n*-stem Pre-PToch. *\*ġérh<sub>2</sub>-ōn-* yielded an obl.sg. B *śrān* ‘man’, whereas the *n*-stem Pre-PToch. *\*(h<sub>2</sub>)uK(-)s-ōn-* ‘ox’<sup>21</sup> led to an obl.sg. B *oksai* ‘id.’ belonging to the nominal subclass VI.2a (TEB I:133–4).

I claim the answer lies in the fact that B *śrān* ‘man’ continues an *n*-stem with the semantic feature [+human]. Consequently, the inherited obl.sg. PToch. *\*k̡āranā* > Pre-B *\*k̡āranā* ‘man’ was morphologically segmented as *\*k̡āra-nā* and preserved as such in B /k̡ārā-nā/ → *śrān*, where the final sequence /-nā/ marked the feature [+human]—cf. B obl.sg. /səswe-nā/ → *säswem* ‘lord’. In contrast, the inherited (acc.sg. Pre-PToch. *\*(h<sub>2</sub>)uK(-)s-ōn-m* >) obl.sg. PToch. *\*oksana* > Pre-B *\*oksana* ‘ox’ was morphologically segmented as *\*oksa-nā* but then reshaped as Pre-B *\*oksa* due to its semantic feature [–human]—cf. B obl.sg. /yākwe/ (not *\*yākwe-nā*) → *yakwe* ‘horse’.<sup>22</sup> I further assume that the nom.sg. B *okso* (< Pre-PToch. *\*(h<sub>2</sub>)uK(-)s-ōn-s*) subsequently triggered an analogical restructuring of the expected obl.sg. B *\*oksa* (type B *kantwa* ‘tongue’, subclass VI.3b) as *oksai* due to its phonetic similarity (cf. the structure *o...o*) with forms like B *prosko* ‘fear’, *yoko* ‘thirst’, *ścono* ‘hatred’, etc. Since the latter forms—continuing old *eh<sub>2</sub>*-stems—belonged to the nominal subclass VI.2a (Del Tomba 2023:153), TB ‘ox’ was analogically transferred to this inflectional class; cf. (17). Notably, disyllabic items with the structure *o...o* in the nom.sg. are particularly frequent in the TB subclass VI.2a but missing in the subclass VI.3b.<sup>23</sup>

(17) Analogical transfer of TB ‘ox’ to the subclass VI.2a via nom.sg. *okso*

Sg. nom. *prosko* : obl. *proskai* ‘fear’ = nom. *yoko* : obl. *yokai* ‘thirst’ = nom. *ścono* : obl. *śconai* ‘hatred’ = nom. *okso* : obl. X ‘ox’, X = *oksai*—not *\*oksa*.

Finally, the obl.sg. B *ókai* (← /ókay/) functioned as base for the creation of the nom.pl. B *oksái-n̄\** (← /oksáy-n̄ə/)<sup>24</sup> according to the productive pattern described in (15) above.

21 Cf., with diverging etymological analyses, Pinault 2008:432–3 and Höfler 2017:6–40; differently Jasanoff 2018, esp. 75–7, who sets up an *oi*-stem.

22 A comparable scenario has been proposed by Jasanoff (2018:77) in order to explain the paradigm B sg. nom. *kaurše* / obl. *kaurš\** ‘bull’. For the assumption of a semantically driven truncation of substantives with the feature [–human] in Tocharian, see Hilmarsson 1987:46.

23 Cf. the forms attested for these subclasses in Del Tomba 2023:147 and 111–2, respectively.

24 Attested as *oksaim* (PKAS15Bb3 classic); see Del Tomba 2023:167.

## 5 The derivation and prehistory of Pre-PToch. *\*ġérh<sub>2</sub>-ōn-*

### 5.1 Historical morphology

As proposed by several scholars,<sup>25</sup> the *n*-stem pre-form Pre-PToch. *\*ġérh<sub>2</sub>-ōn-* is best analyzed as an individualizing derivative in *\*-n-* to an underlying adjective PIE *\*ġérh<sub>2</sub>-ó-* ‘old’ (type PIE *\*h<sub>1</sub>reydʰ-ó-* ‘red’), which is continued in Arm. *cer*, *-oy* ‘old (person)’ (EDAIL:339). Accordingly, this individualizing derivative must have originally exhibited a stem *\*ġérh<sub>2</sub>-o-n-*. The lengthened *ō*-grade (cf. Pre-PToch. *\*ġérh<sub>2</sub>-ōn-*) likely arose in the nom.sg., where a development *\*ġérh<sub>2</sub>-o-n-s* > (Szemerényi’s Law) *\*ġérh<sub>2</sub>-ō-n* >> (resegmentation) *\*ġérh<sub>2</sub>-ōn* took place. Subsequently, the stem allomorph of the nom.sg. underwent intraparadigmatic generalization, thus yielding the stem *\*ġérh<sub>2</sub>-ōn-* continued in Tocharian. For the latter process, parallels are known: (i) within Tocharian, cf. the acc.sg. Pre-PToch. *\*ulH-ónt-ṃ* >> (after the nom.sg. *\*ulH-ōnt-s*) *\*ulH-ónt-ṃ* > PToch. *\*(w)lantə<sup>n</sup>* > obl.sg. AB *lānt* ‘king’; (ii) from other Indo-European languages, cf. the invariable stem Lat. *Catōn-* and Gk. *Στράβων-* of the so-called *Catō* and *Στράβων* types (Schaffner 2005:199, 200, 269–70).

As sections 3–4 have shown, TB directly continues the acc.sg., nom.pl., and acc.pl. of the individualizing *n*-stem Pre-PToch. *\*ġérh<sub>2</sub>-ōn-*. As for the nom.sg. *\*ġérh<sub>2</sub>-ōn* (< *\*ġérh<sub>2</sub>-o-n-s*), its expected inner-Tocharian development is presented in (18).

(18) Expected development of the nom.sg. Pre-PToch. *\*ġérh<sub>2</sub>-ōn*

*\*ġérh<sub>2</sub>-ōn* >> (recharacterization) *\*ġérh<sub>2</sub>-ōn-s* > (*s*#-loss with compensatory lengthening)<sup>26</sup> *\*gerHōn* > *\*ger’ō* > PToch. *\*k’ərō* > B /k’áro/\* → *śaro\**.

The expected nom.sg. B *śaro\** ‘man’ has not yet been found in the TB corpus.<sup>27</sup>

Notably, the individualizing *n*-stem Pre-PToch. *\*ġérh<sub>2</sub>-o-n-* may find a structural parallel in the *nt*-stem PIE *\*ġérh<sub>2</sub>ont-* ‘old (person)’ (> Ved. *járant-* ‘old’, Oss. *zæron* ‘id.’, Gk. *γέρων* ‘old (person)’), if the latter is to be segmented as *\*ġérh<sub>2</sub>-o-nt-* and represents an individualizing derivative in *\*-nt-* (type Hitt. *irmala-nt-* ‘ill’)<sup>28</sup> based on the adjective PIE *\*ġérh<sub>2</sub>-ó-* ‘old’ (> Arm. *cer* ‘old (person)’)—thus Klingenschmitt ap. Schaffner 2001:615–6 and Oettinger (2001:303).

25 Cf. Pinault 2008:484; 2023:4; Höfler 2017:180; Hackstein, Habata, and Bross 2019:187–8.

26 On this process, see Pinault 2008:421, 431.

27 Remarkably, a nom.sg. B *śaro\** is also set up by Peters (2004:267 n.5; cf. also Malzahn 2011:84), though he derives it from Pre-PToch. *“\*gerän(t)s.”*

28 On which see, among others, Melchert 2000:68–70; Oettinger 2001.

The morphological relationships involved would be the same as in PGerm. *\*arua-* ‘ready, quick’ (> ON *qrr* ‘id.’) ~ PIAr. *\*áruan-* ‘the quick one’ (> Ved. *árvan-* m. ‘runner, horse’) ~ PIIr. *\*áruant-* ‘the quick one’ (> OAv. YAv. *auruuant-* ‘quick; m. runner’, Ved. *árvant-* m. ‘runner, horse’)—thus Schaffner 2001:616 with n. 162.

Nevertheless, since some derivatives of the PIE root *\*ǵerh<sub>2</sub>-* participated in the Caland system (Stüber 2002:83–4), one cannot exclude that PIE *\*ǵerh<sub>2</sub>ont-* ‘old (person)’ rather was an *nt*-stem Caland formation of the type Gk. κρέων, -οντος m. ‘ruler’, ἐκόν (fem. ἐκοῦσα) ‘readily’, Ved. *bṛhánt-* ‘high’, etc. (Rau 2009:71–2; Löwe 2014:174–5) and should therefore be segmented as *\*ǵerh<sub>2</sub>ont-*.<sup>29</sup>

## 5.2 Semantics

Since Pre-PToch. *\*ǵerh<sub>2</sub>-o-n-* must have originally meant ‘the old one’, I claim the meaning ‘man’ attested in TB to have arisen through a semantic development ‘the old one (masculine)’ > ‘the mature one’ > ‘the adult one’ > ‘man (i.e., male human being)’. That such a development was possible is shown by Germanic, where—as noted by Carling (2003:92)—some derivatives of the PIE root *\*ǵerh<sub>2</sub>-* ‘to age, become old’ exhibit the same basic meaning as B *śrāy*: cf. OE *ceorl* m. ‘free man’, MHG *kerl(e)* m. ‘man, husband’, NHG *Kerl* m. ‘fellow, person’ ~ OHG *kar(a)l* m. ‘(strong) man, husband’, etc. < PGerm. *\*χe/arla-* < Pre-PGerm. *\*ǵélór(h<sub>2</sub>)-lo-* (EWAhd V:411–4; Neri 2016:24).

## 5.3 Extra-Tocharian equations?

Höfler (2017:180 n. 595) tentatively identified an extra-Tocharian equation with B *śrāy* ‘men’ in the Armenian form *cerun* ‘old (person)’ (*Book of Chries*; EDAIL: 339). This proposal is appealing, as an acc.sg. PIE *\*ǵerh<sub>2</sub>-ó-n-m̃* or Pre-PArm. *\*ǵerh<sub>2</sub>-ón-m̃* (cf. B obl.sg. *śrān*) would have led to PArm. *\*cerúnan* > (post-tonic syncope) *\*cerúnn* > Arm. *cerun*, subsequently refunctionalized as nom./acc.sg. (cf. Arm. nom./acc.sg. *garun* ‘spring’ < Pre-PArm. acc.sg. *\*uesar-on-m̃*).<sup>30</sup> One should then assume that *°nn* (not *°n*) in Arm. *inn* ‘nine’ < PArm. *\*énun* (Klingenschmitt 1982:235 n. 7) would have been kept in order to avoid a hyper-short outcome *\*in* (Rémy Viredaz, p.c.).

29 PIE *\*ǵerh<sub>2</sub>ont-* can hardly be an *nt*-participle of the type PIE *\*b<sup>h</sup>ér-o-nt-* ‘bearing’ because one would then expect a meaning ‘aging’ rather than ‘old (person)’. For a still different analysis of PIE *\*ǵerh<sub>2</sub>ont-*, see Steer 2015:171–2.

30 See EDAIL:201, with references.

To be sure, Arm. *cerun* also allows for alternative pre-forms: e.g., PIE *\*ĝerh<sub>2</sub>-u-no-* or *\*ĝerh<sub>2</sub>-o-mh<sub>1</sub>no-* (cf. Klingenschmitt 1982:257 n. 16). The former pre-form, however, would lack an exact extra-Armenian match; the latter, instead, would have meant ‘aging, becoming old’ and would therefore not explain the semantics ‘old (person)’ of Arm. *cerun* straightforwardly. According to Olsen (1989: 223), Arm. *cerun* goes back to PIE *\*ĝerh<sub>2</sub>ont-* ‘old (person)’ (see §5.1 above). Again, one should start from the acc.sg. PIE *\*ĝerh<sub>2</sub>ónt-ŋ* and assume a development to PArm. *\*cerúnan* > *\*cerúnn* > Arm. *cerun*. Nevertheless, the exact conditions under which PIE *\*-nt(-)* yielded Arm. *-n(-)* rather than *-nd(-)* are debated (cf. Batisti 2020:26–8 with references, 43). Finally, Rémy Viredaz (p.c.) suggests that Arm. *cerun* ‘old (person)’ might simply be a late enlargement of Arm. *cer* ‘id.’ (see §5.1 above) by means of the suffix *-un* (on which see Olsen 1999:601–8).

In sum, despite the formal ambiguity of the Armenian word, the assumption of an equation B obl.sg. *śrān* ‘man’ = Arm. *cerun* ‘old (person)’ remains possible and is even likely.<sup>31</sup>

## 6 Conclusions

In this paper I argued that beside the plural forms nom. *śrāy* / obl. *śrānām* ‘men’ also a singular form—namely, obl. *śrān* ‘man’ (B128a3)—is attested in TB. This confirms the reconstruction of an individualizing *n*-stem pre-form *\*ĝerh<sub>2</sub>-o-n-* >> *\*ĝerh<sub>2</sub>-ōn-*, which may also be continued in Arm. *cerun* ‘old (person)’ and underwent an inner-Tocharian semantic development ‘the old one (masculine)’ > ‘the mature one’ > ‘the adult one’ > ‘man (i.e., male human being)’. The expected acc.sg. Pre-PToch. *\*ĝerh<sub>2</sub>-ōn-ŋ* yielded regularly the obl.sg. B /*k̑əránə*/ → *śrān*. Similarly, the expected nom.pl. Pre-PToch. *\*ĝerh<sub>2</sub>-ōn-es* led regularly to the nom.pl. B /*k̑əráyə*/ → *śrāy* due to the application of a sound law Pre-B *\*n* > B *y* / <sup>*a*</sup><sub>[+accent]</sub> \_\_\_\_ *ə* #, which I have called the *śrāy* rule. Finally, I contended that the diphthong /-ay(-)/ in the voc.sg. B *klyomai* ‘o noble’ and the theonym B *ylai-ñäkte* ‘Indra’ did not arise through the *śrāy* rule but through a different Pre-TB sound change, which I labelled the *klyomai* rule—i.e., Pre-B *\*n* > B *y* / <sup>*a*</sup><sub>[-accent]</sub> \_\_\_\_ #.

31 Beside Arm. *cerun*, also a form *ceruni* ‘old person’ (Bible, 2×) is attested; cf. *EDAIL*:339. Since Arm. *ceruni* is apparently a term of respect (Rémy Viredaz, p.c.), it may represent a reshaping of Arm. *cerun* ‘old (person)’ by analogy to Arm. *ř/rabbuni* ‘teacher’. For a different explanation, see Olsen 1989:224.

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