

## Language choice and ethnic identities in pre-hellenistic Lydia.

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Due to scarcity of textual evidence, both literary and epigraphic, sociolinguistic situation in many regions of pre-Hellenistic Anatolia remains largely unclear. Lydia seems to be no exception: its modest epigraphical corpus comprises less than 50 stone inscriptions – some more more than 20 full lines, some just several broken text fragments – and several dozens of graffiti, which are distributed very unevenly in the Lydian territory, and Greek authors give only vague idea of population in Lydia. And yet, epigraphic material does contain some interesting clues permitting one to gain at least a general idea of sociolinguistic dynamics in Lydia and neighbouring regions before ca. 320 BC. The aim of the present contribution is to give an overview of different kinds of evidence bearing on the questions of language and identity in Lydia.

The first part will concern personal names found in Lydian inscriptions, which contain indications of a mixed character of the Lydian population. The most salient characteristics of this material is the presence of significant number of names finding parallels in Phrygia and even more distant areas of northern Anatolia, on the one hand, and the total absence of Greek names, on the other. The second part will focus on the question of Mysian presence in Lydia. Here, I will discuss two remarkable pieces of epigraphical evidence, as well as toponyms which can be associated with Mysians. The final part will discuss the use of the Aramaic language in Lydia, and the problem of Persian presence in the region.