fragment of terracotta molded tablet
Tawadeintha (Tāvatiṁsa) pagod, Sriksetra

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Edition

〈1〉 va khaḥ

Commentary

The script look like Pyu, though there are no truly unique Pyu features like a subscript dot, and it could also be Southern Brāhmī, in which case the language would be expected to be Pali. The closest Indic matches for <vakhaḥ> are Prakrit *vakkha-* 'tree' < *vṛkṣa-* (the corresponding Pali is *vaccha-*) or *vakkha-* 'chest' < *vakṣas-* (no Pali cognate?). But it is hard to to imagine why anyone would write 'tree' or 'chest' in isolation, and Pali kkh is normally spelt <kkh> in the Pyu corpus, so we are inclined to read here two Pyu monosyllabic words.

Both *va* and *khaḥ* are attested in Pyu texts. Alas, they are only together in the present one, and without understanding the context, *O khaḥ* in PYU 32, l. 3, could either be a nominalization of a verb *khaḥ* or a possessed object *khaḥ*, so it is hard to guess what

the part of speech of *khaḥ* is. *0 va* in PYU 20, l. 2, has the same problem: *va* might be either a verb or a noun.

Bibliography

ASB, has a brief report on finds at Tawadeintha that includes this tablet fragment. No transliteration provided.

Primary

Griffiths, Arlo, Marc Miyake & Julian K. Wheatley. 2018–03–26. “Corpus of Pyu inscriptions.” Zenodo. DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.1207290. [URL]. Item DHARMA_INSPYU00090.