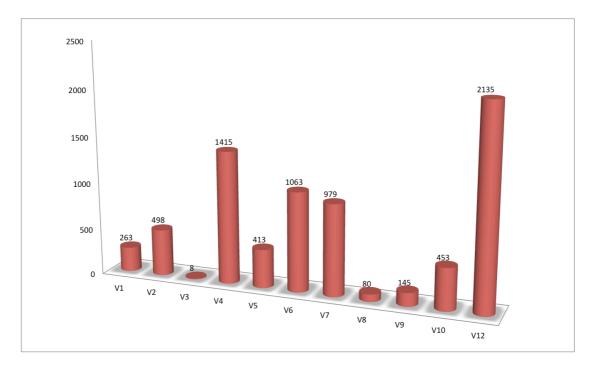## The occurrence of some verbal prefixes in Sumerian

This short note is just a very simple play with the data that can be obtained from the Electronic Text Corpus of Sumerian Royal inscriptions (http://oracc.museum.upenn.edu/etcsri. Its aim is to draw attention to the potential of the corpus.

The chart below shows the occurrence of the verbal prefixes of the first 10 verbal slots, based on the grammatical model applied by the project (see Zólyomi 2010, the project's page on parsing: http://oracc.museum.upenn.edu/etcsri/parsing/, and Table 1 below)

The texts available on the project's website contained 2135 finite verbal forms on 1 August 2013. Slot V12 contains the verbal stem. The results are not unexpected:

➢ The most frequently used verbal prefix is the ventive in slot V4. Among the 2135 finite verbal form, 1415 contains a ventive prefix, which is 66 % of all finite verbal forms in the corpus.

➢ 263 finite verbal forms contain a modal prefix in slot V1 (= 12 %). Among the 263 forms, 59 are negated forms with the prefix /nu/-.

➢ The most frequent prefix among the so-called dimensional prefixes is the dative in slot V7. 979 (= 46 %) finite verbal forms of the corpus contain a dative prefix.

➢ The second most frequent are the various locative prefixes in slot V10: 453 (= 21 %). The project distinguishes 3 locative cases (cf. Zólyomi 2010); their distribution is the following: locative1 = 187, locative2 = 209, locative3 = 57.

➢ Slot V9 contains both the ablative and the terminative prefix. Their distribution: ablative = 88, terminative = 57.

These data say nothing about the co-occurrences of the various prefixes in the verbal prefix-chain. Data on that can also be obtained using the "advanced search" of the project.

Slot 1	MODAL prefixes, prefix of ANTERIORITY
Slot 2	FINITE-MARKER prefix
Slot 3	COORDINATOR prefix
Slot 4	VENTIVE (cislocative) prefix
Slot 5	MIDDLE prefix or 3NH PRONOMINAL prefix (specifying the person, gender and number of the first in the sequence of dimensional prefixes)
Slot 6	INITIAL PRONOMINAL prefix (specifying the person, gender and number of the first in the sequence of dimensional prefixes)
Slot 7	Dimensional I: DATIVE prefix
Slot 8	Dimensional II: COMITATIVE prefix
Slot 9	Dimensional III: ABLATIVE or TERMINATIVE prefix
Slot 10	Dimensional IV: LOCATIVE1, LOCATIVE2, or LOCATIVE3 prefix
Slot 11	FINAL PRONOMINAL prefix (referring to A or P, depending on the tense)
Slot 12	stem
Slot 13	PRESENT-FUTURE MARKER (*in intransitive verbs*)
Slot 14	PRONOMINAL suffix (referring A, S, or P depending on the tense)
Slot 15	Subordinator

Table 1: Sumerian verbal template of finite verbs

References

Zólyomi, Gábor (2010), 'The Case of the Sumerian Cases', in Leonid Kogan et al., eds. *Proceedings of the 53e Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale*, Vol. 1: *Language in the Ancient Near East* (2 parts) (Babel und Bibel, 4A-B). Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 577–590.