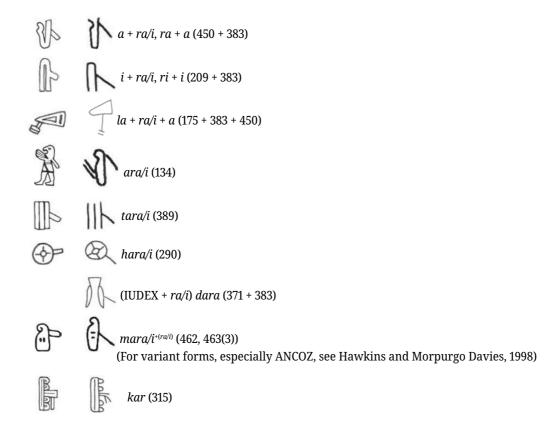
### 3c. CVCV signs



# L.450

### Origin —

#### Reading

Long uncertain beside incorrect "a" (for i) and  $\acute{a}$ , also because of curious usages (initial-a-final, plene and space-filler zero).

Value a by Forrer (1932); Bossert (1944)  $\check{a}$ ; Güterbock (1950), Meriggi (1951), Friedrich (1953) had settled for  $\grave{a}$  (the third a), followed by Laroche, HH, p. 232 f. (L.450, see discussion there). With the New Reading of "a" (L.209) as i,  $\grave{a}$  could be moved to the vacant first a slot, thus became a. Transcription \*a indicates initial-a-final.

## initial-a-final (-\*a)

Peculiar graphic practice whereby an initial *a*- in any word is written not at the beginning but instead at the end, standing as a tall, full-height sign. First observed in personal names on seals and elsewhere, then on monumental Empire inscriptions EMİRGAZİ 1, also 2: see Hawkins *apud* Melchert, *The Luwians* (2003), pp. 159–161 (6.2.3). For a detailed examination of the evidence and analysis see now J. M. Burgin,

Graphical origins of "initial-a-final" in Hieroglyphic Luwian (*SMEA* NS 2 (2016), pp. 7–32).

Convention. In transliteration of text, initial-a-final is here placed where it appears at the end of the word (-\*a). Elsewhere, in commentary and discussion, it is transferred to where it belongs, at the beginning (\*a-).

*Empire* examples: EMİRGAZİ 1 follows this practice with no exceptions, as does NİŞANTAŞ (as far as visible). YALBURT normally slants initial *a* over the following signs, thus is equivocal, not very clear-cut: only definite example \**a-mu-pa-wa/i* (block 4, § 3), a 4-sign group.

*Transitional*: initial-*a*-final followed by GÜRÜN, also KÖTÜKALE (İSPEKÇÜR, DARENDE—no examples); ALEPPO 6 and 7; ANKARA 2; but on KARAHÖYÜK only exceptionally. See below, *Usage*.

*Late* period: the practice continues through into the early Late period inscriptions, details explored by Melchert in *Fs Hawkins* (2010), pp. 147–158. This shows that it continued until c. 850 B.C., when it was gradually abandoned and replaced initial a- with a- or -. In the latest inscriptions a- partially reappears.

At Karkamiš for example, the Suhi-Katuwa inscriptions rigorously observe initial-a-final; Yariri (A6, A15b, A24a)