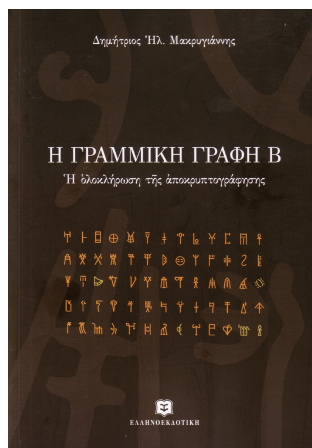




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LINEAR B

The completion of the decipherment

“ELLINOEKDOTIKI”

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SUMMARY

In the current work we attempt the completion of the deciphering of Linear B, the ancient script which was developed in the Minoan and Mycenaean world during the period 1450-1200 B.C.

The clay tablets with this script were first discovered by Sir Arthur Evans in the palace of Knossos, in the year 1901. Many other tables were also discovered later in the palace of Pylos, as well as in other areas.

As it is known, the work of the deciphering was never completed because 17 of the symbols remained unidentified. In other words, the precise syllabic value of these symbols was never determined. Many speculations for these symbols have been later made but without the unanimous agreement of the scholars.

In the current work we have applied a different method, which is based on the **shape** of the syllable-letters. We began from the observation that certain symbols have obvious resemblances to certain objects and the syllabic value of these symbols is related to the name of the objects. Such case, for example, is with the symbol “69 *tu*”, which depicts an ivy leaf and its syllabic value stems from the word “thyrsos”, which was a rod decorated with ivy branches.

Generalizing this observation, we concluded to the basic principle of our new explanatory attempt, which is formulated as follows:

The syllabic value of each symbol of Linear B is equivalent to the first syllable of the name of the object or of the concept which is represented by it.

With the application of this principle and with the explanation of the origin of the symbols, i.e. what exactly is represented by each one of them, we were able first to verify the theory of Ventris-Chadwick and second, to decipher the rest of the 17 symbols, which, as we said, remained unidentified.

Take for example the symbol “63 *wu*”. This symbol looks like a fort – (similar to one that is represented in a seal-ring from Zakros). We found the reference in the dictionary of Hesychii as: «φύρκος· τεῖχος», and «φύρκορ — οὐρκορ· ὀχύρωμα». Therefore the value of this symbol is “*wu*” and its meaning is “fort”.

We found that 10 from the 17 unidentified symbols form two new series (b and g), while the remaining 7 fill the gaps of the Ventris syllable-code.

Thus, the **completed syllable-code** of Linear B is finally revealed (see the attached table).

In parallel with the explanation of the syllable-code, the precise meaning of seven ideograms is given for the first time, along with the explanation of the shape of three of them, and possible theories for a few others are formulated.

This work is divided into three parts:

Part A: HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION. This has a purely historical character where the past developments on the subject are exposed. In Chapter D we present our own deciphering method, which we applied.

Part B: THE ORIGIN OF THE SYMBOLS OF LINEAR B. The above-mentioned theory which explains the origin and the deciphering of the symbols is expanded. In this part, all symbols (the identified as well as the unidentified ones), are located, and the word from which they derive is substantiated. Our results are summarized in three tables.

Part C: TABLET EXPLANATIONS. This part contains the explanations of texts of many tablets, for which we formulate many different opinions from the established ones. As an example, we mention the very common ideogram “SA”, for which the established opinion is that it means “linen”, whereas here it is translated as “untreated animal hides”. There are also some tablets which are explained for the first time with an accepted semantic rendering.

The text is accompanied by rich illustration and is complemented with 6 indexes.

In parallel with the interpretations of the symbols, issues that refer to that era are examined. Thus, this work forms also an informative introduction to the Minoan and Mycenaean civilisation.

The author is a physicist, who has occupied himself a lot with ancient Greek philosophy. His works “The notion of God in the pre-Socratic philosophy” (p. 550) and “Cosmology and Ethics of Democritus” (p. 393, Athens Academy Award), have been greatly appreciated by the students.

We believe that this work opens new horizons to the study of Linear B. In any case, though, the final conclusions are left to the judgment of the experts.

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THE COMPLETE SYLLABLE-CODE OF LINEAR B

ΤΟ ΠΛΗΡΕΣ ΣΥΛΛΑΒΑΡΙΟ ΤΗΣ ΓΡΑΜΜΙΚΗΣ Β

	<i>a</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>i</i>	<i>o</i>	<i>u</i>	ΣΥΜΠΛΗΡΩΜΑΤΙΚΑ
	08 <i>a</i>	38 <i>e</i>	28 <i>i</i>	61 <i>o</i>	10 <i>u</i>	25 <i>a, ē ā</i>
<i>b</i>	56 <i>ba</i>	64 <i>be</i>	22 <i>bi</i>	49 <i>bo</i>	83 <i>bu</i>	29 <i>pu, ē phy</i>
<i>d</i>	01 <i>da</i>	45 <i>de</i>	07 <i>di</i>	14 <i>do</i>	51 <i>du</i>	33 <i>ra, ē rai</i>
<i>g</i>	18 <i>ga</i>	89 <i>ge</i>	82 <i>gi</i>	47 <i>go</i>	85 <i>gu</i>	43 <i>ai</i>
<i>j</i>	57 <i>ja</i>	46 <i>je</i>	86 <i>ji</i>	36 <i>jo</i>	65 <i>ju</i>	48 <i>nwa</i>
<i>k</i>	77 <i>ka</i>	44 <i>ke</i>	67 <i>ki</i>	70 <i>ko</i>	81 <i>ku</i>	62 <i>pte</i>
<i>m</i>	80 <i>ma</i>	13 <i>me</i>	73 <i>mi</i>	15 <i>mo</i>	23 <i>mu</i>	66 <i>ta, ē tia</i>
<i>n</i>	06 <i>na</i>	24 <i>ne</i>	30 <i>ni</i>	52 <i>no</i>	55 <i>nu</i>	68 <i>ro, ē kro</i>
<i>p</i>	03 <i>pa</i>	72 <i>pe</i>	39 <i>pi</i>	11 <i>po</i>	50 <i>pu</i>	71 <i>dwe, ē dew</i>
<i>q</i>	16 <i>qa</i>	78 <i>qe</i>	21 <i>qi</i>	32 <i>qo</i>	34-35 <i>qu</i>	76 <i>ra, ē riai</i>
<i>r</i>	60 <i>ra</i>	27 <i>re</i>	53 <i>ri</i>	02 <i>ro</i>	26 <i>ru</i>	84 <i>bu, ē</i>
<i>s</i>	31 <i>sa</i>	09 <i>se</i>	41 <i>si</i>	12 <i>so</i>	58 <i>su</i>	87 <i>tve, ē tew</i>
<i>t</i>	59 <i>ta</i>	04 <i>te</i>	37 <i>ti</i>	05 <i>to</i>	69 <i>tu</i>	88 <i>āπροσδιόριστο</i>
<i>w</i>	54 <i>wa</i>	75 <i>we</i>	40 <i>wi</i>	42 <i>wo</i>	63 <i>wu</i>	90 <i>dwo, ē dow</i>
<i>z</i>	17 <i>za</i>	74 <i>ze</i>	79 <i>zi</i>	20 <i>zo</i>	19 <i>zu</i>	91 <i>two, ē tow</i>