

The verb *šu-tak₄* 'to send.'

M. Civil - Chicago

[In determining the meaning of *šu-tak₄* in the Ebla archives, instances of this verb in texts from other times and places help by providing comparative material. Following a suggestion of L. Viganó, I offer here some notes from my lexical file of Sumerian verbs arranged, in the interest of brevity, in the form of a dictionary entry.]

šu-tak₄ /tka/ v. to send out.

From PS on; syllabic *ta* [23?]; complement *-a* [pass.], *-ga* [27]; reduplication class [6, 10, 20]; prefixes: *mu-* [1, 4, 6-8, 12, 13, 19], *V-* [2, 3, 5, 14-17, 23], *ba-* [7 var., 10], *-mm-* [20]; infixes: dative [pass.], locative [10], locative-terminative [7 var., 20]; *šu+a*, *šu*+possessive pronoun [8, 9].

Akk. **šūbulu*, inferred from *nig-šu-tak₄-a* = *šūbultu* Nigga B 8.; Hh I 39 (preferable var. from *V₄*= and Emar 4 no. 541:45); Erimhuš II 151 (Erimhuš Bogh. B 19' incorrect); possibly **šūzubu*, cf. Erimhuš II 152.

1. gifts: [1] (a mare, a stool, figurines of boxwood and ivory) *PN₁ dam enš^{ki} adab^{ki}-ka-ke₄ PN₂ ...-ra 2 kam-ma-ka šu mu-na-tak₄ PN₁*, the wife of the governor of Adab, sent (the gifts) over here to *PN₂* for the second time, RTC 19 i 1 - iii 2 (Lug. 3); [2] (copper and bronze) *PN₂ ...-ke₄ 2 kam-ma-ka PN dam enš^{ki} adab^{ki}-ra šu e-na-tak₄* sent over to her, *ibid.* v 4 - iv 3; [3] (aromatics) *PN ...-ka ... ama-ni šu e-na-tak₄ PN* sent (the aromatics) over to her mother, DP 511 (Lug. 3); [4] (garments and dates) *˘dub-sar˘-mah-[e] PN ...-ka šu mu-na-tak₄*, Nik 1 314 (Lug.); [5] (fish, fruits, etc.) *PN ...-ke₄ ˘nin-a-zu ki-en-gi šu e-na-tak₄ PN* sent over to Ninazu in Sumer, DP 51 (Ukg. 2); *šu e-ne-tak₄*, VAT 4631 (Or 12 212, Ukg. 21) *-ne-* correct?; [6] (silver and garments) *lú gi-na šu mu-ra-tak₄-tak₄ šu ti-ba-ab* a loyal man is sending you (silver and garments), accept them! Let B 19:13 (OB).

2. letters, messengers, instructions: [7] *mu erin lú kúr-ra-ke₄ (lugal) ù-na-dug₄ šu mu-e-tak₄* (var. *bí-ib⁻*) you sent over a letter (to the king) about the enemy troops, Let B. 5:4 (Lipit-eštar); [8] [*u₄?*] *ù-na-a-dug₄-bi šu-ni mu-un-tak₄-a* [when?] he sent him that letter, Let 3.114 (OECT 5 26, Ur III/OB); [9] *u₄ ù-na-a-dug₄-mu šu-ni šu-tak₄ (šu-* incorrect), *ibid.* 14; [10] *im-ma gub-bu ... unug^{ki}-ga lugal-zag-ge₄-e-si šu ba-ni-ib-tak₄-tak₄* he sends a written tablet to L. in U., JAOS 103 76:55f. (OB); [11] *lú-DU kaskal-e šu tak₄-ma-ab* send me a traveller, Let B 14:10 (OB); [12] *á-ág-gá-bi šu ha-mu-na-ab-tak₄?* these instructions should be sent to him, TCS 1 147:14 (Ur III lett.); [13] *gizkim šu ma-an-tak₄-a-ni* his "signal" which he sent me, NATN 913 (Ur III lett.).

3. various things (other than gifts or with undetermined purpose): [14] (bread and animals) *PN ... -[x] ninda^{ki}-ta girsu^{ki} šu e-na-tak₄* from N. he sent to him in G., BIN 8 379 (Lug. 2); [15] (pegs of ash wood) *PN ...-ke₄ šu e-tak₄*, AO 4156 (NFT 181, Ent); [16] (oak logs) *PN₁ ... -ke₄ PN₄-ra šu e-na-tak₄*, VAT 4469 (Or 16 [1925] 2); [17] *PN₁ é dam-gàr-ra ... (silver) šu ù-na-tak₄* *PN₁* sent silver to him to the merchant's home, NATN 511:9-11 (Ur III); [18] *PN₂-ra zi-mu-dar^{ki}-šè [šu ... -a]n?-tak₄*, *ibid.* 19-21; [19] *ur šu ga-mu-na-tak₄* I want to send him a dog/lion, ELA 476; [20] *ku^sa-gá-lá kéš-da-bi šu hé-mi-ib-tak₄-tak₄* he (the king) should send him these sealed leather bags, Let B 2:9 (Iddin-dagan); [21] (list of garments) *šu-a tak₄-a-am₆ túg gada gidim-e-ne-kam* (garments) sent out, they are linen for the spirits of the dead, VAS 14 163 v (Ukg. 3); similarly [22] clothes sent out to the laundry, DP 78 v 4 (n.d.); doubtful [23] (barley) *PN₁-ka-šè PN₂-ra šu in-na?-ta* (for *tak₄?*) barley was sent over to the house of *PN₁*= for *PN₂*=, TCS 1 181:3-5 (Ur III lett.).

4. (figurative meaning, with no physical movement of goods): [24] (length of levee) *šu-a tak₄-a-(am₆)* (dike work) left out, i.e., to be done by someone who does not belong to the regular team, or in another time, DP 656 ii 2 (X 3); VAS 14 130 iii 4 (Ukg. 1); cf. [25] *aša₅ šu-a tak₄-a aša₅ PN-kam*, DP 578 iv 6.

5. in [27] *níg-šu-tak₄-a* things sent out (to someone, in genitive): VAS 14 38; UET 3 1685, 1744; Contenau, UDU 47:5; Kang, SACT 2 211:11; BIN 9 224, 225, 227, 233, 242, etc.; Isin refs. in van de Mieroop, Crafts in the Early Isin Period 148 s.v..

In [26] CT 50 32 ii 1ff. (barley) *ki šu-tak₄-ga* is possibly an error for *ki-(a)--tak₄* left in place, opp. to *bu-ra* removed; insufficient data.

Bibl. Powell, ZA 68 185ff.; Civil, *OrAn* 21 11¹³; ad 5: van de Mieroop, Crafts 147f.; Ferwerda TLB 5 p. 9f.

Comments. 1) This verb describes the transfer of goods over a distance and does not imply per se the notions of "official shipment", or "gift;" the impression that it does is created by the context of some of the better known occurrences, above sub 1.

2) A meaning 'left (out),' with no implication of movement, based on Akk. *šūzubu*, would possibly be better in [23, 25, 27].

3) The meaning of *tak₄* alone is 'to leave,' with most of the nuances of the English verb except for 'to depart' which is very rare: ⁸¹⁵*má kar gi-na li-bí-ib-tak₄-a-gin₇*, like a boat which has not left a secure port Lett. B 7:11. All derived meanings such as 'to divorce,' 'to desert,' 'to abandon,' etc. flow naturally from 'to leave.' Some apparent exceptions in Powell, loc.cit., are easily explained. An idiomatic translation in A.i. III iii 14, 17, where Sum. 'left in jail' (with *-ta* locative of remote deixis) has become in Akk. 'detained in jail,' has prompted the author to translate 'to hold over' where 'left' is perfectly satisfactory. Thus in GH (paragraphs of the author) 'to hold over in the storehouse' is more properly 'left in the silos,' in I 'to hold over on the tablet' is simply 'left on the tablet,'¹ in J translate 'capital left,' rather than 'reserve capital;' in these cases the sense of the text is not changed, only the mental perspective. In O, however, *dí-ta tak₄* is not 'to restrain by the judgment,' but 'to dismiss a case' or 'to withdraw from a case,' depending on whether the act is performed by the judges or by one of the parties.² In any case the literal translation is 'to leave a court case.' The centrality of the concept of leaving also holds true for Akk. *ezēbu*. Some of the meanings proposed in CAD E 416ff. s.v. can be similarly refined, e.g., in 3d all passages are better translated 'to leave a document (for someone)' rather than by 'to make a legal document,' and the traditional translation 'to save' in 6 literally means 'to cause to be left (alive after a catastrophic event).'

4) The verbs *gál--tak₄* and *tak₄-lá*, both 'to open,' form semantically a group apart (as already suggested by Powell, op. cit. 184³⁴) and are related to ED *TAK₄+SAG/LAK 310 = ša-ha-lum / t₄aggar(um)* 'door-keeper' MEE 4 229:269 (see Fronzaroli, *Quaderni di Semitistica* 13 [1984] 150) and ⁸¹⁵*TAK₄+SAG* 'door' "Archaic HAR-ra" A 240 (forthcoming), cf. Ug. *t₄gr*, Ar. *t₄agr*, Hebr. *šar*.³

5) Ur III texts occasionally use *šu-tak₄* [13, 17, 18, 23?], but in most places where this verb would be expected one finds *šu-ús*, Akk. *abāku* A, 'to ship out.'

1. My proposal in RA 70 (1976) 190 suggests the opposite and is now obviously incorrect.

2. Falkenstein's translation 'abweisen' is more correct (NSG 3 96), although his statement (NSG 1 75³) that it could be said of the winning party is probably incorrect. In Lahar and Ašnan 192 the results of the contest are succinctly described thusly *lahar tak₄-a 'ašnan é-a* 'L. withdraw (a loser) and A. came out (the winner).' Note also *is-háb di-da* (var. *-dè*) *nu-tak₄-tak₄-me-en* 'you are a scoundrel who never withdraws from a case,' i.e., is constantly involved in litigation (Dialogue 1:121, 2:102).

3. Perhaps *šurgū* given in Malku II 169 as a synonym of *daltu* represents, with metathesis, the same root.