

Local variation in the Coffin Texts:

*A case study of sentence structure and verbal structure
in spell 75*

Jorke Grotenhuis



Local variation in spell 75

- Local variation
- Method
- Results: sentence structure
- Results: verbal structure
- Future

Local variation

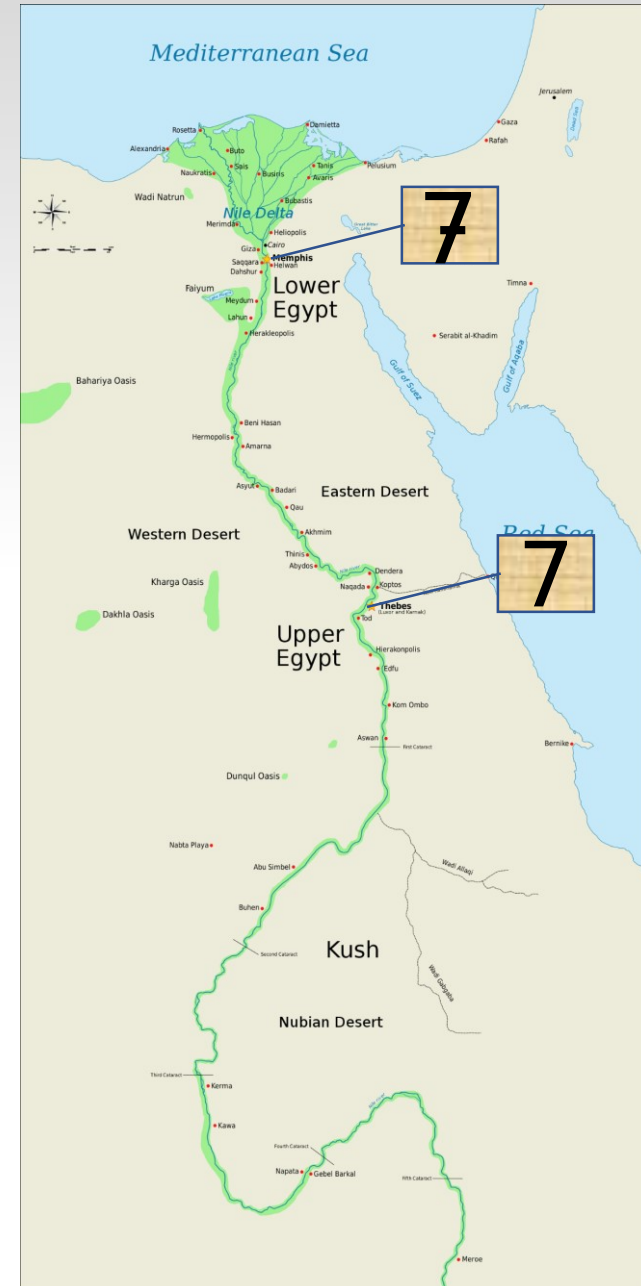
- Personal preference or local variation?

Local variation

- Personal preference or local variation?



Beni Hassan, tomb of Amenemhat, hall, north wall, register 1 (Newberry, plate 315)



Why Coffin Texts?

- Large corpus
- Multiple witnesses from the same and different locations
- Well published by de Buck

Method

- Encoding a database

The screenshot displays the FileMaker Pro interface for a database titled 'COFFIN TEXTS'. The main window shows a table with columns: Id main, Lemma, Translation, and Class of word. The table contains records such as 584 (Lemma: *hnq.t*, Translation: beer), 664 (Lemma: *hnw*, Translation: the Henu bark), 767 (Lemma: *hnw*, Translation: Henu), 386 (Lemma: *hny*, Translation: bark of), 125 (Lemma: *hp.t*, Translation: gar), 672 (Lemma: *hpy*, Translation: Hapy (one of the)), 707 (Lemma: *hpt*, Translation: to embrace, to), 556 (Lemma: *hpw*, Translation: Apis), 757 (Lemma: *hjwt.t*, Translation: runner), 520 (Lemma: *hpy*, Translation: Hapy), 822 (Lemma: *hpy-^snh.ty=fy*, Translation: +Hpy-anx.ty=fy+), 728 (Lemma: *hq.t*, Translation: Heget (frog)), 360 (Lemma: *hq3*, Translation: ruler), 602 (Lemma: *hq3*, Translation: to rule), and 1094 (Lemma: *hqr*, Translation: to be hungry).

A detailed view of record 7037 is shown in the foreground. It includes the following information:

- Form: *ib.kwi*
- Lemma: *ibi*, Id Lemma: 104
- Morphology 1: Stative
- Morphology 2: 1st person singular
- Morphology 3: [blank]
- Morphology 4: [blank]
- Id sentences: *iw=ib.kwi*
- Text: 7037
- Translation: while I am thirsty.
- Spelling image:
- Type of variant: Lexicology, Spelling, Morphology, Syntax, Subject, Additional verb form, Other...
- Editorial remarks: reconstruction, addition by editor, deletion by editor, lacuna, partial lacuna, ambiguous, point of interest, Other...
- Classifier: Sign number

A 'SPELLINGS' table is also visible in the background, with columns: here's Name, Gender, Sigla, Date_dyn, and Date. It lists various entries such as S14C, S1C, S1Tu, S2C, S2P, S3C, S3P, S5C, S6C, S9C, S910C, S93Sq, S95C, S96C, T1C, T1L, T1NY, and T2C.

Method

- Encoding a database
- Create analysis files

	A	B	C
1	Spell 75		
2	Version: S1C		S2C
3	line: I,314.a	I,314.a	I,314.a
4	Amino code: R	R	X
5	text: r(A) n bA Sw xpr.w m Sw	[r(A) n bA Sw xpr.w m Sw]	
6	translation: A spell for the spirit of Shu and becoming as Shu.	A spell for the spirit of Shu and becoming as Shu.	
7			
8	line: I,314.b	I,314.b	I,314.b
9	Amino code: R	N	N
10	text: 1pip bA Sw nTr xpr Ds=f	1pip bA Sw xpr Ds=f	1pip bA Sw xpr Ds=f
11	translation: I am the spirit of Shu, the god who came into being (by) himself.	I am the spirit of Shu, who came into being (by) himself	I am the spirit of Shu, who came into being (by) him
12			
13	line: I,314.c	I,314.c	I,314.c
14	Amino code: X	X	X
15	text:		
16	translation:		
17			
18	line: I,316.a	I,316.a	I,316.a
19	Amino code: X	M	K
20	text:	xpr[n]=1ps m Ha.w nTr Ds=f	xpr.n=1ps m Ha.w nTr xpr Ds=f
21	translation:	I have come into being from the body of the god himself.	I have come into being from the body of the god wh
22			
23	line: I,316.b	I,316.b	I,316.b
24	Amino code: R	R	M
25	text: 1pip bA Sw nTr sfg irw	1pip bA Sw nTr sfg irw	1pip bA Sw sfg irw
26	translation: I am the spirit of Shu, the god invisible of shape.	I am the spirit of Shu, the god invisible of shape.	I am the spirit of Shu, invisible of shape.
27			
28	line: I,316.c	I,316.c	I,316.c
29	Amino code: X	X	X
30	text:		
31	translation:		
32			
33	line: I,318.a	I,318.a	I,318.a
34	Amino code: X	X	X
35	text:		
36	translation:		
37			
38	line: I,318.b	I,318.b	I,318.b
39	Amino code: R	R	N
40	text: xpr.n=1ps m Ha.w n(w) nTr xpr Ds=f	xpr.n=1ps m Ha.w [n(w)] nTr xpr Ds=f	Ts,n=1ps m Ha.w n(w) xpr Ds=f
41	translation: after I came to be from the body of the god who came into being (by) himself.	after I came to be from the body of the god who came into being (by) himself.	after I was knitted together from the body of the one
42			
43	line: I,318.c	I,318.c	I,318.c
44	Amino code: R	M	N
45	text: 1pip imy Drw nTr	1pip imy Drw nTr	1pip imy Dr xpr Ds=f
46	translation: I am the one who is in the side of the god.	I am the one who is in the side of the god.	I am the one who is in the side of the one who can

Method

- Encoding a database
- Create analysis files

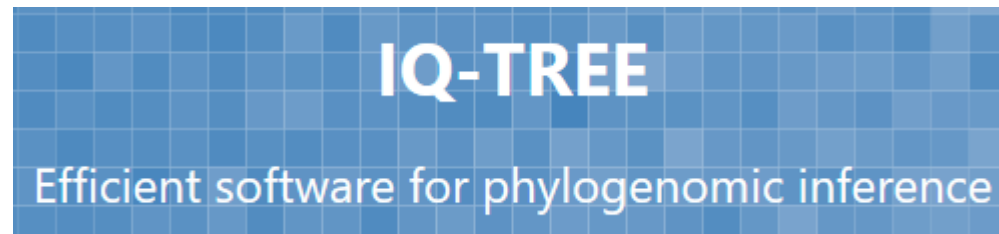
The image shows a large spreadsheet with columns labeled A through K. The rows are densely packed with text, likely representing a database or analysis data. The text is mostly small and difficult to read, but the layout is organized into columns. There are several rows that are highlighted in different colors, including blue, red, yellow, and green, which likely indicate specific data points or categories. The spreadsheet appears to be a complex data table used for analysis.

Method

- Encoding a database
- Create analysis files
- Spells as proteins

Method

- Encoding a database
- Create analysis files
- Spells as proteins



L.-T. Nguyen, H.A. Schmidt, A. von Haeseler, B.Q. Minh (2015) IQ-TREE: A fast and effective stochastic algorithm for estimating maximum likelihood phylogenies..
Mol. Biol. Evol., 32:268-274. <https://doi.org/10.1093/molbev/msu300>

Method

- Encoding a database
- Create analysis files
- Spells as proteins
- Visualization



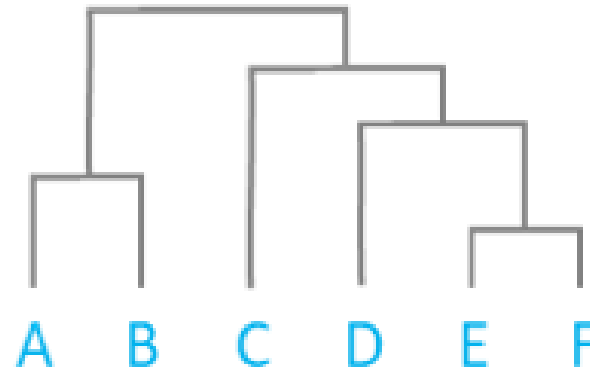
Dendroscope 3

by Daniel H. Huson

with contributions from Benjamin Albrecht,
Philippe Gambette, Leo van Iersel,
Celine Scornavacca and others.

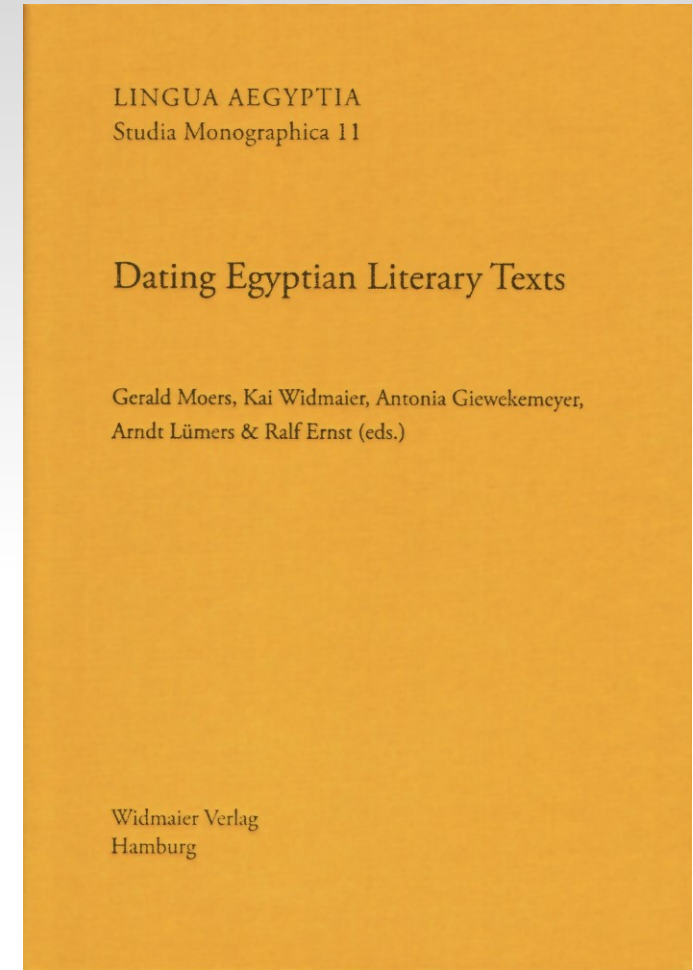
www-ab.informatik.uni-tuebingen.de/software/dendroscope

Dendrogram



Method

- Encoding a database
- Create analysis files
- Spells as proteins
- Visualization



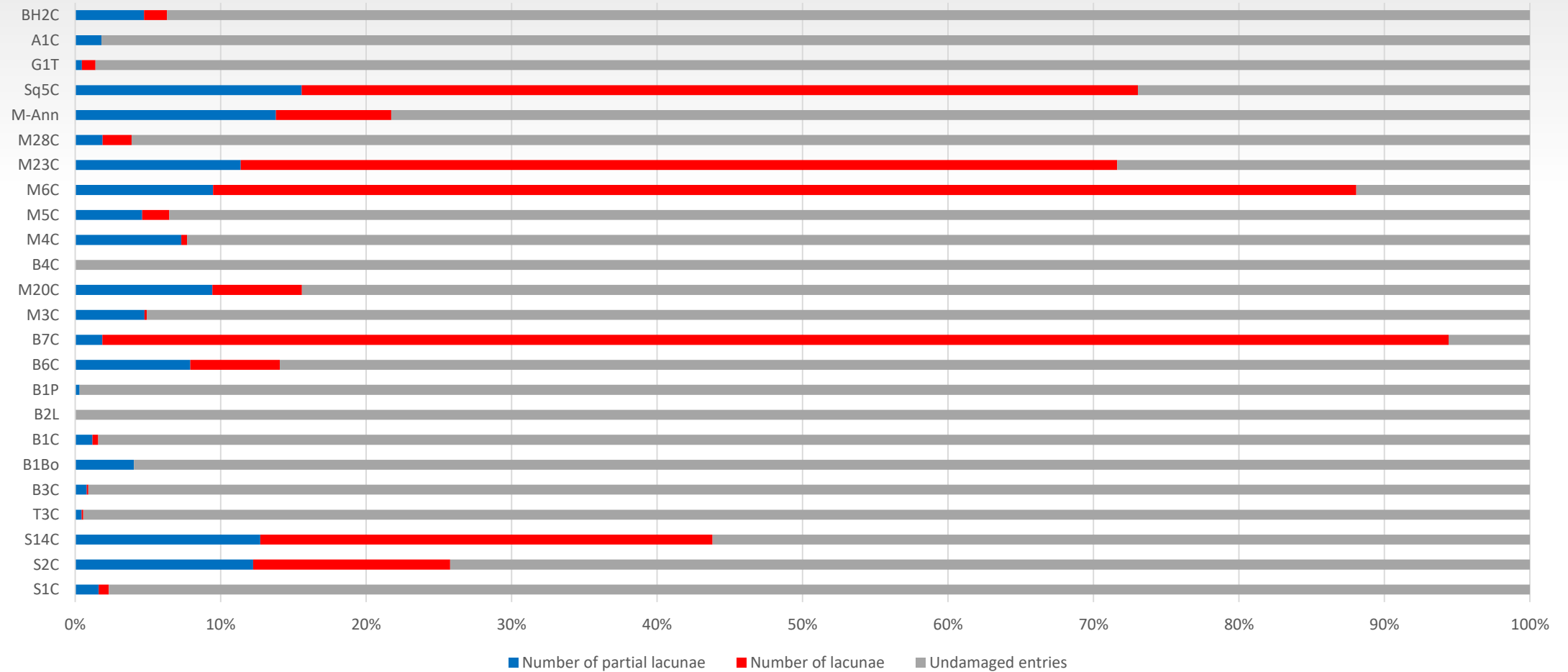
Schweitzer, Simon D. 2013. Dating Egyptian literary texts: lexical approaches. In Moers, Gerald, Kai Widmaier, Antonia Giewekemeyer, Arndt Lümers, and Ralf Ernst (eds), *Dating Egyptian literary texts*, 177-190. Hamburg.

Spell 75

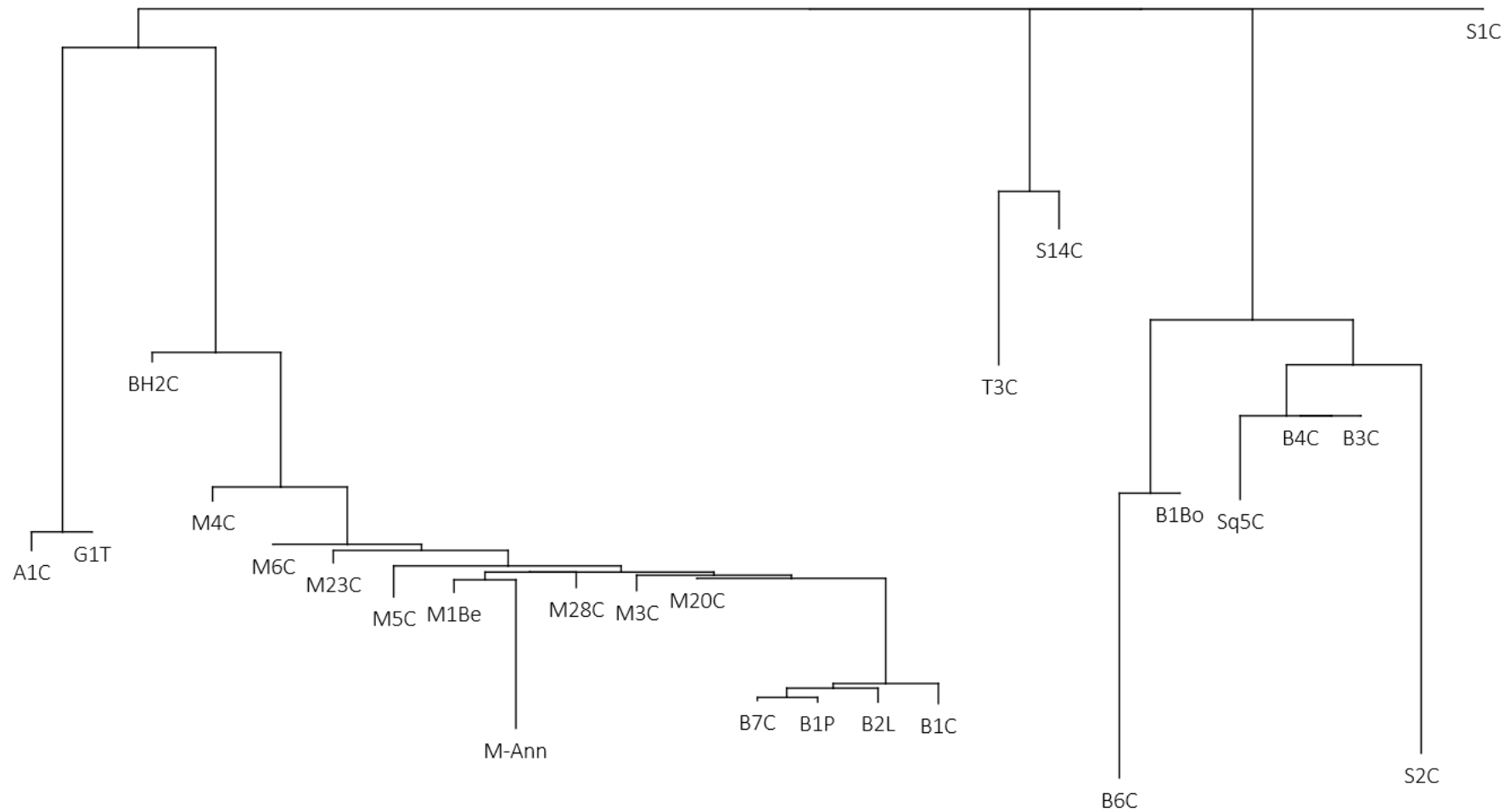
- 24+1 witnesses
 - 8 witnesses from Deir el-Bersheh
 - 8 witnesses from Meir (+1 unpublished, courtesy of Tobias Konrad, Mainz)
 - 3 witnesses from Asyut
 - 1 witness from Beni Hassan
 - 1 witness from Gebelein
 - 1 witness from Aswan
 - 1 witness from the Theban area
 - 1 witness from Saqqara
- 191 phrases

Spell 75

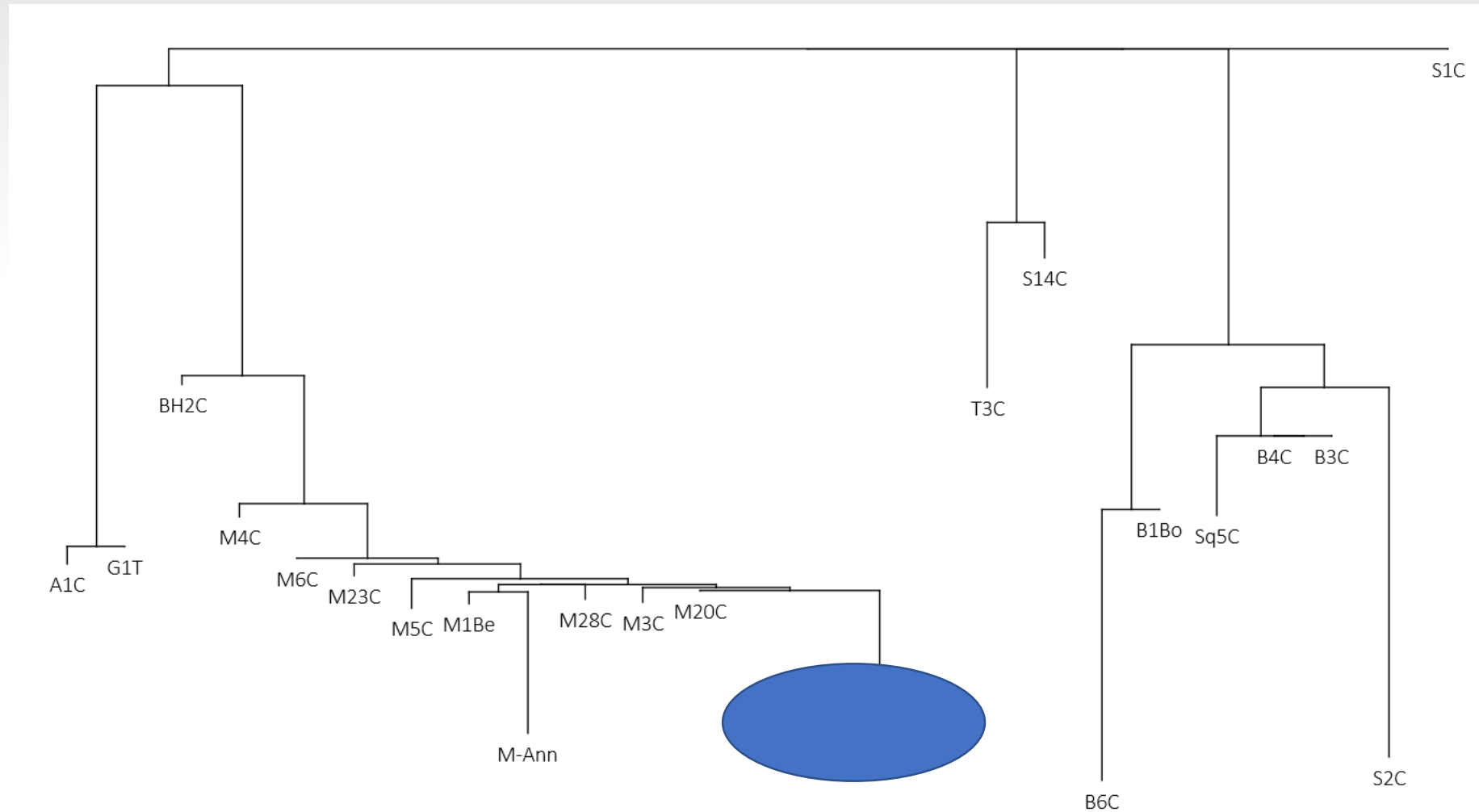
Damage to the witnesses



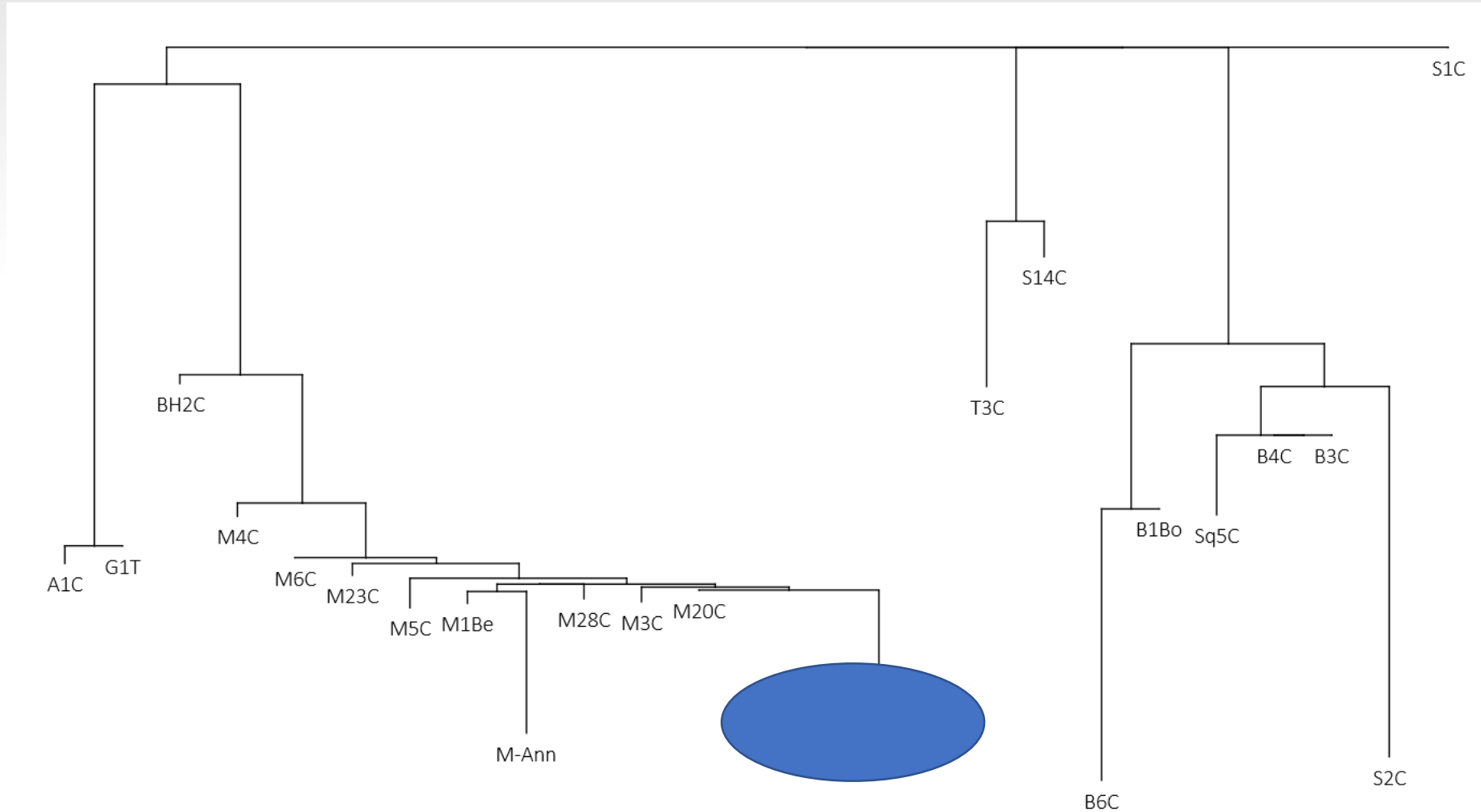
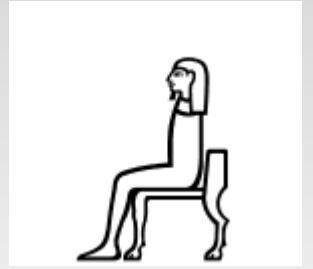
Results: sentence structure



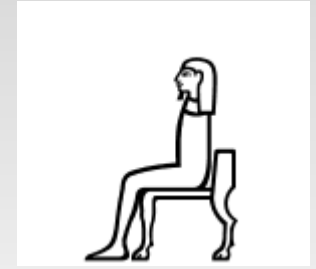
Results: sentence structure



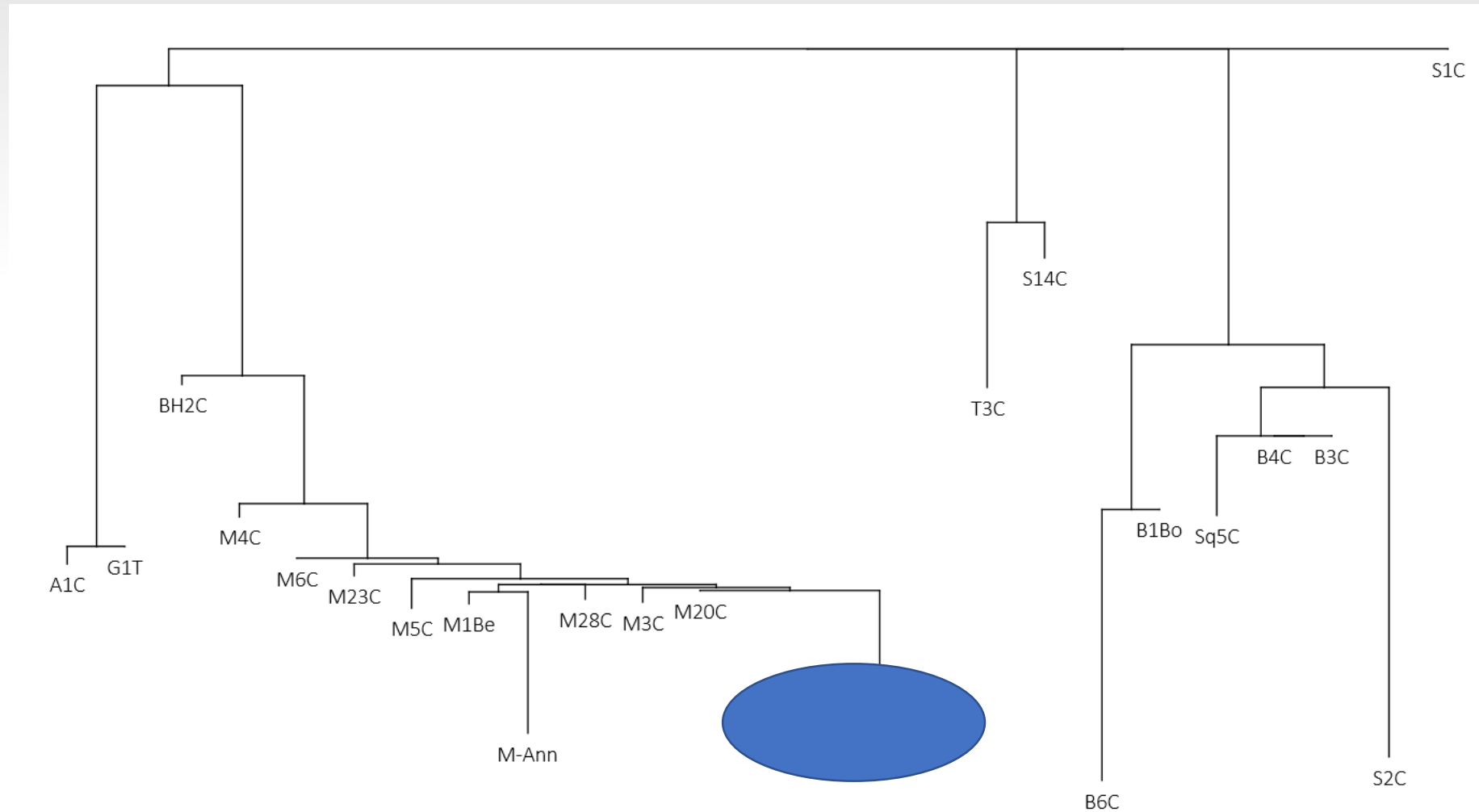
Results: sentence structure



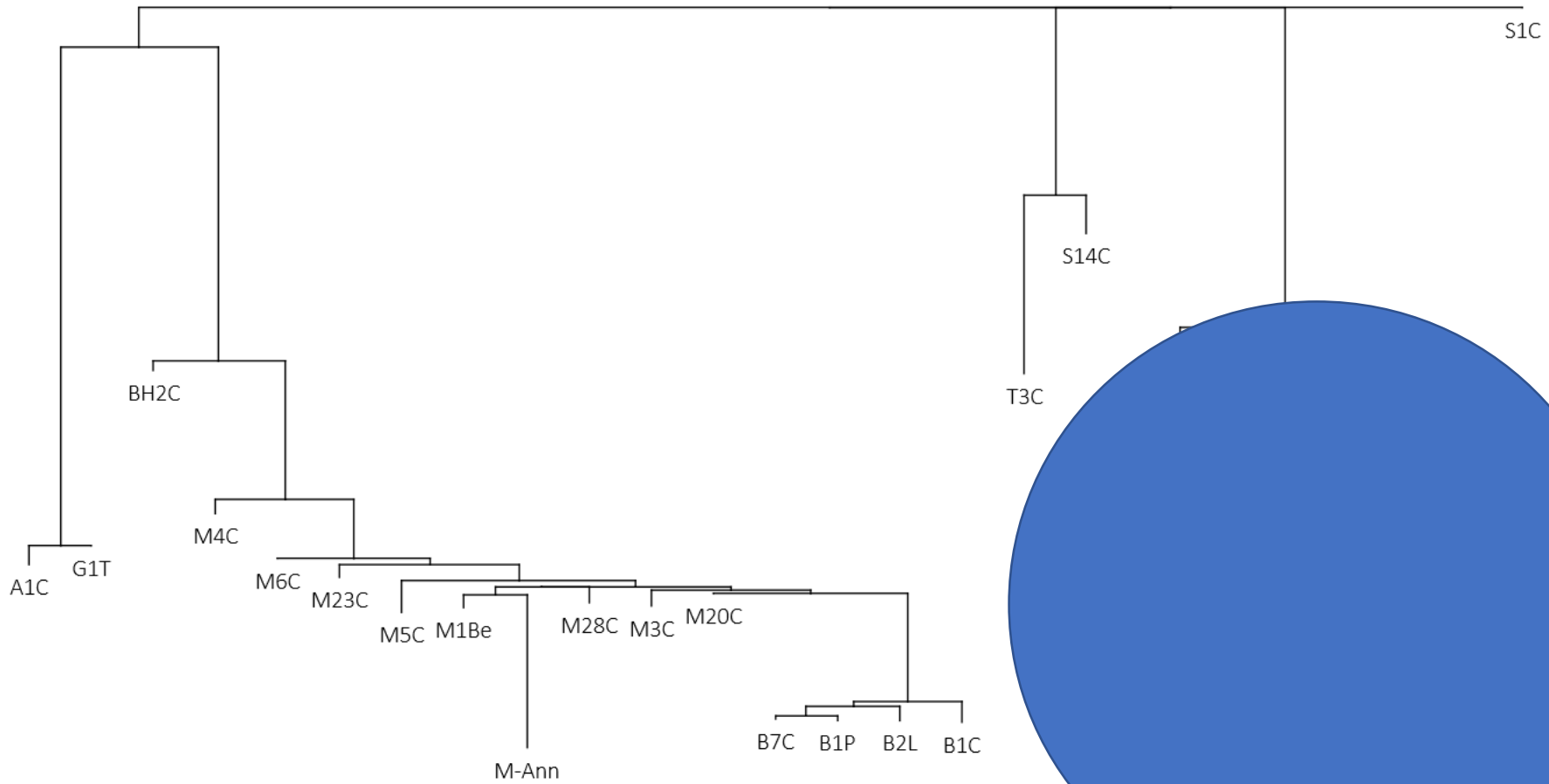
Results: sentence structure



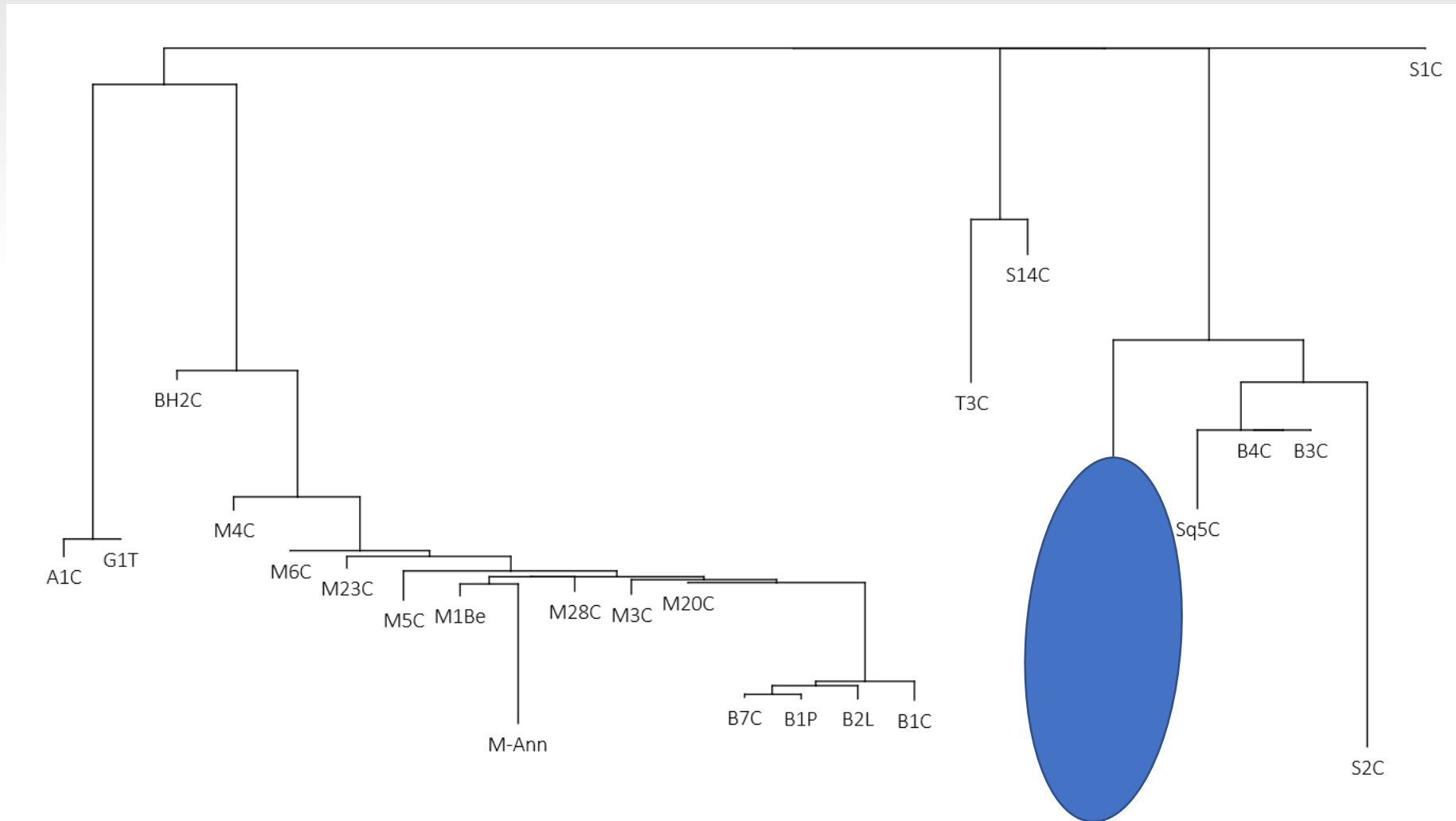
Sesostris II – Sesostris III



Results: sentence structure



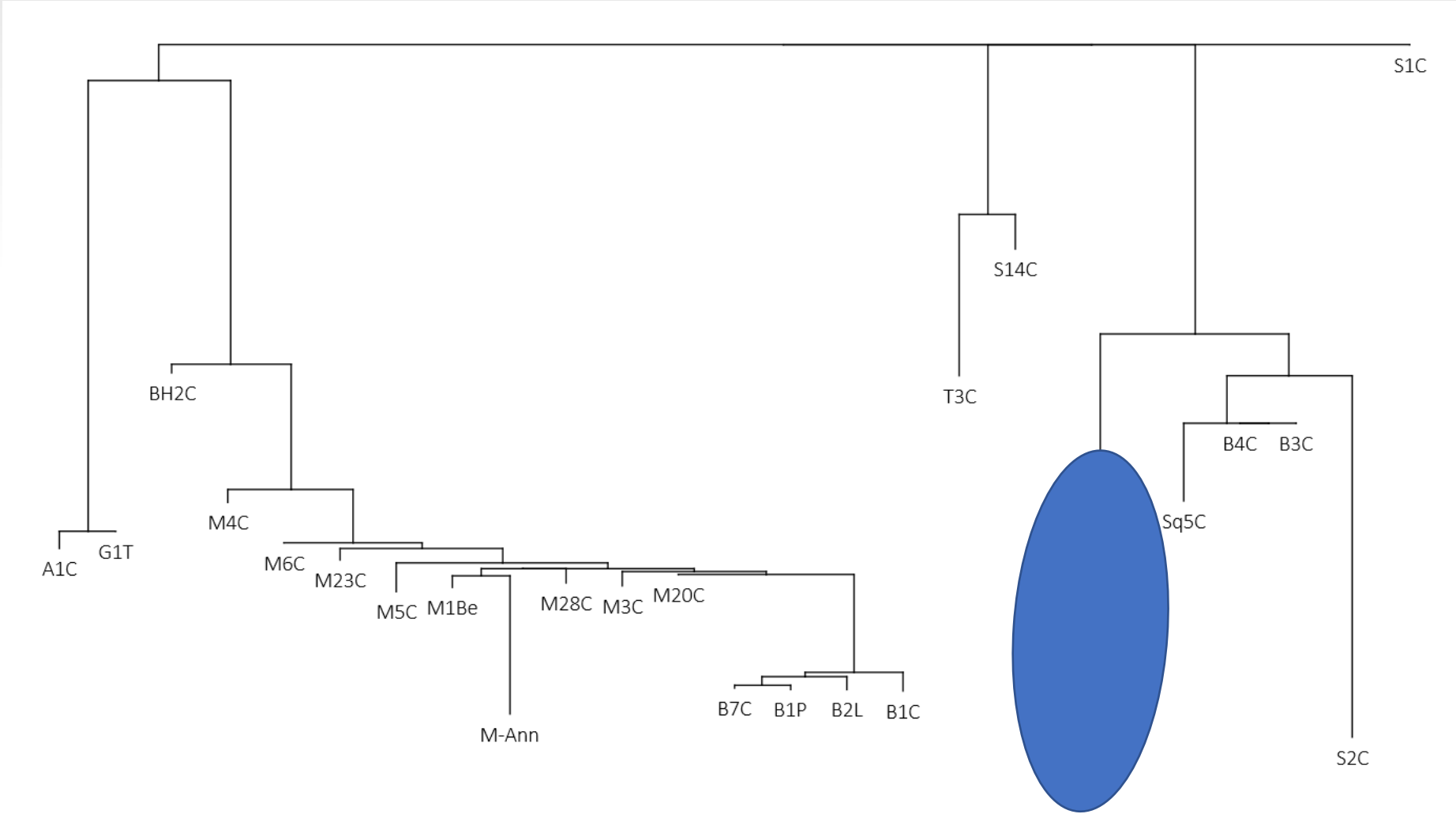
Results: sentence structure



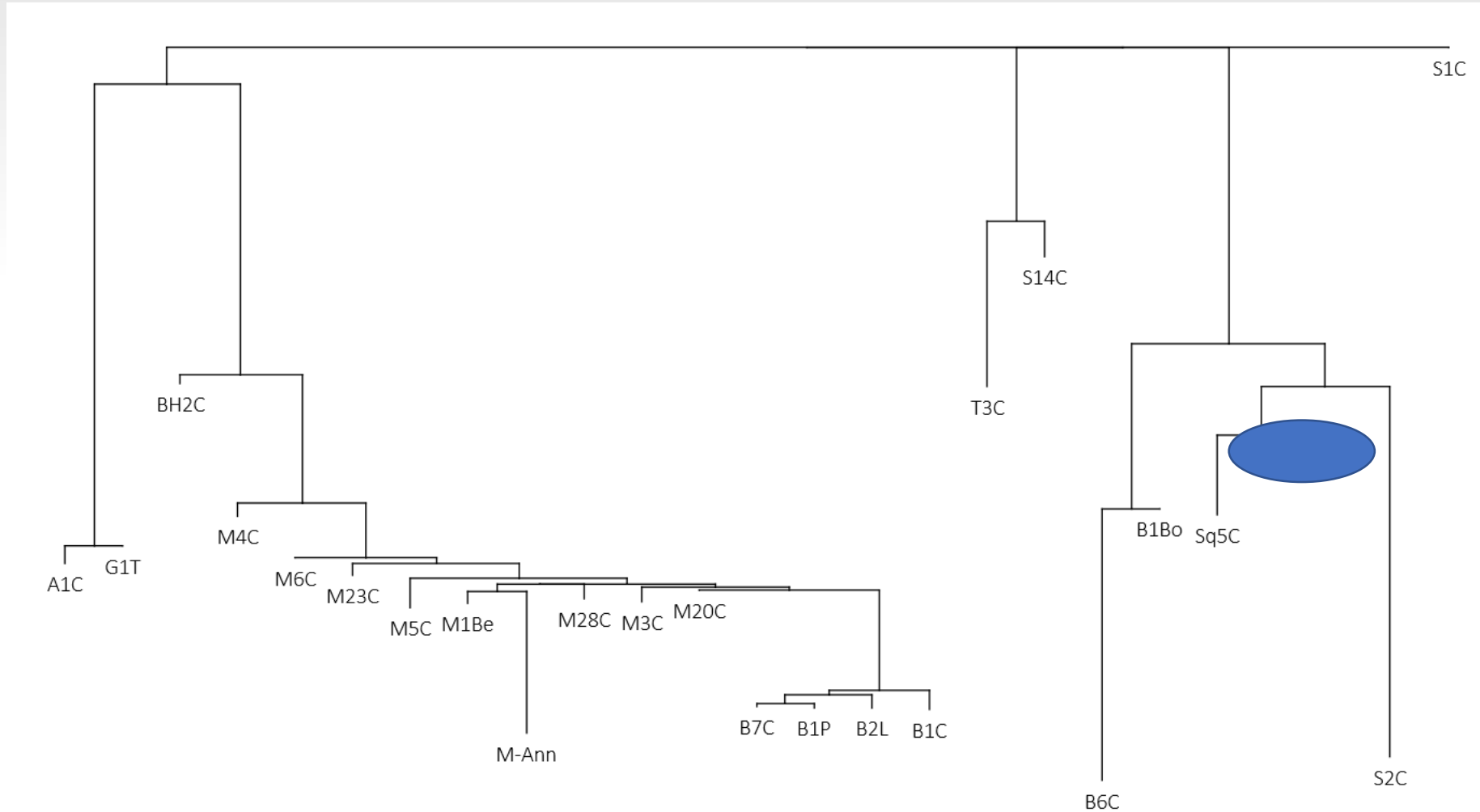
Late 11th dynasty – early 12th dynasty.

Incised cursive

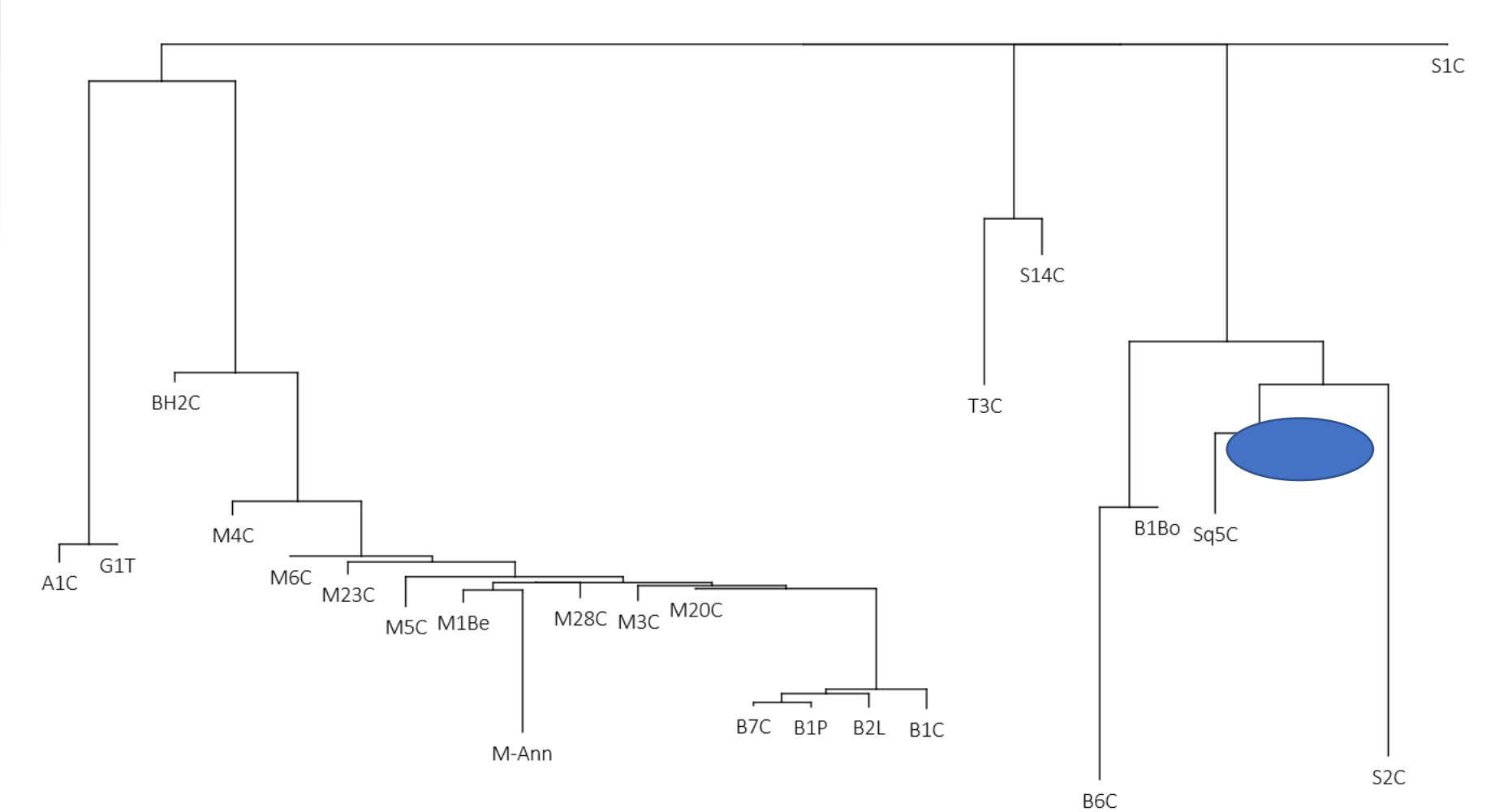
Results: sentence structure



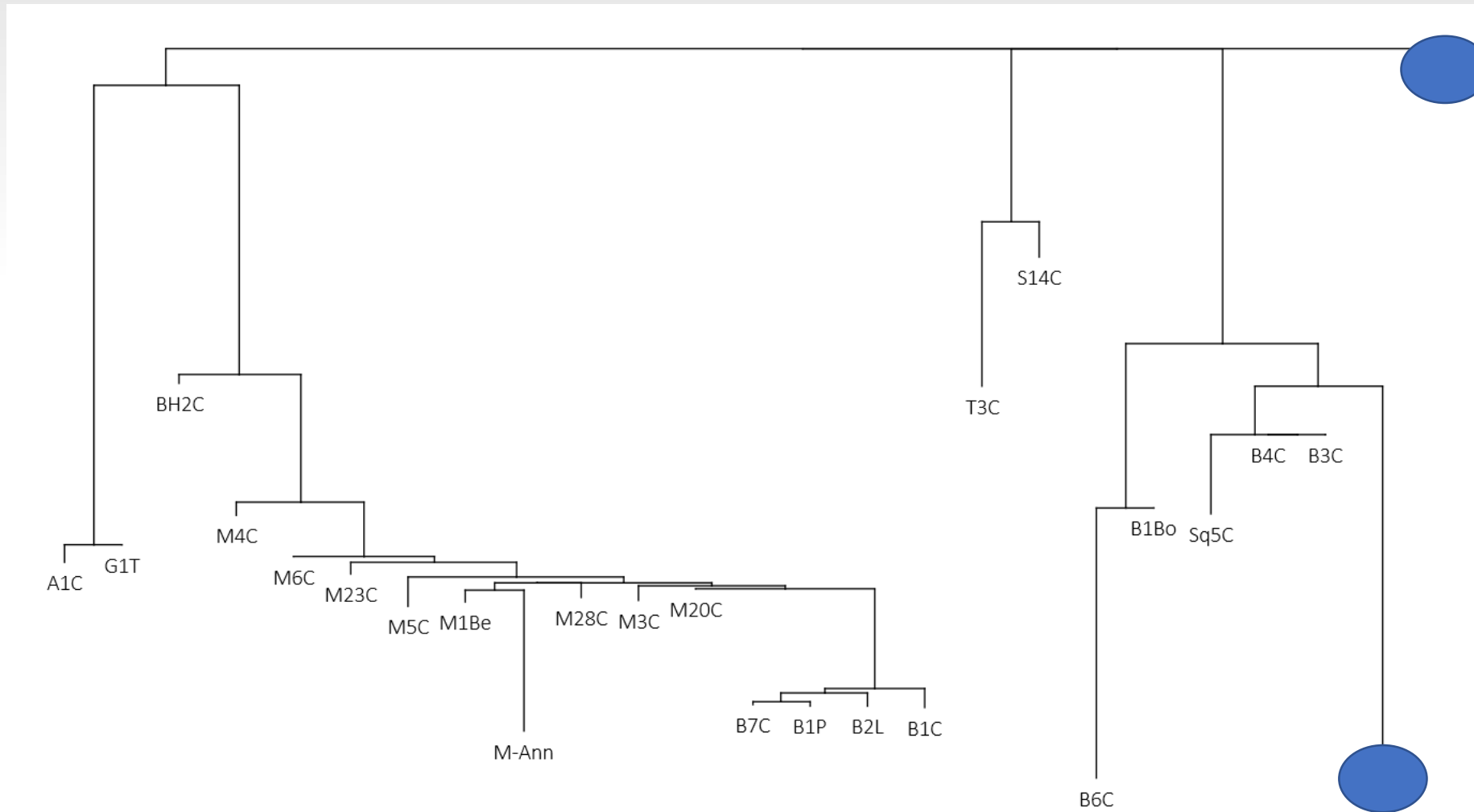
Results: sentence structure



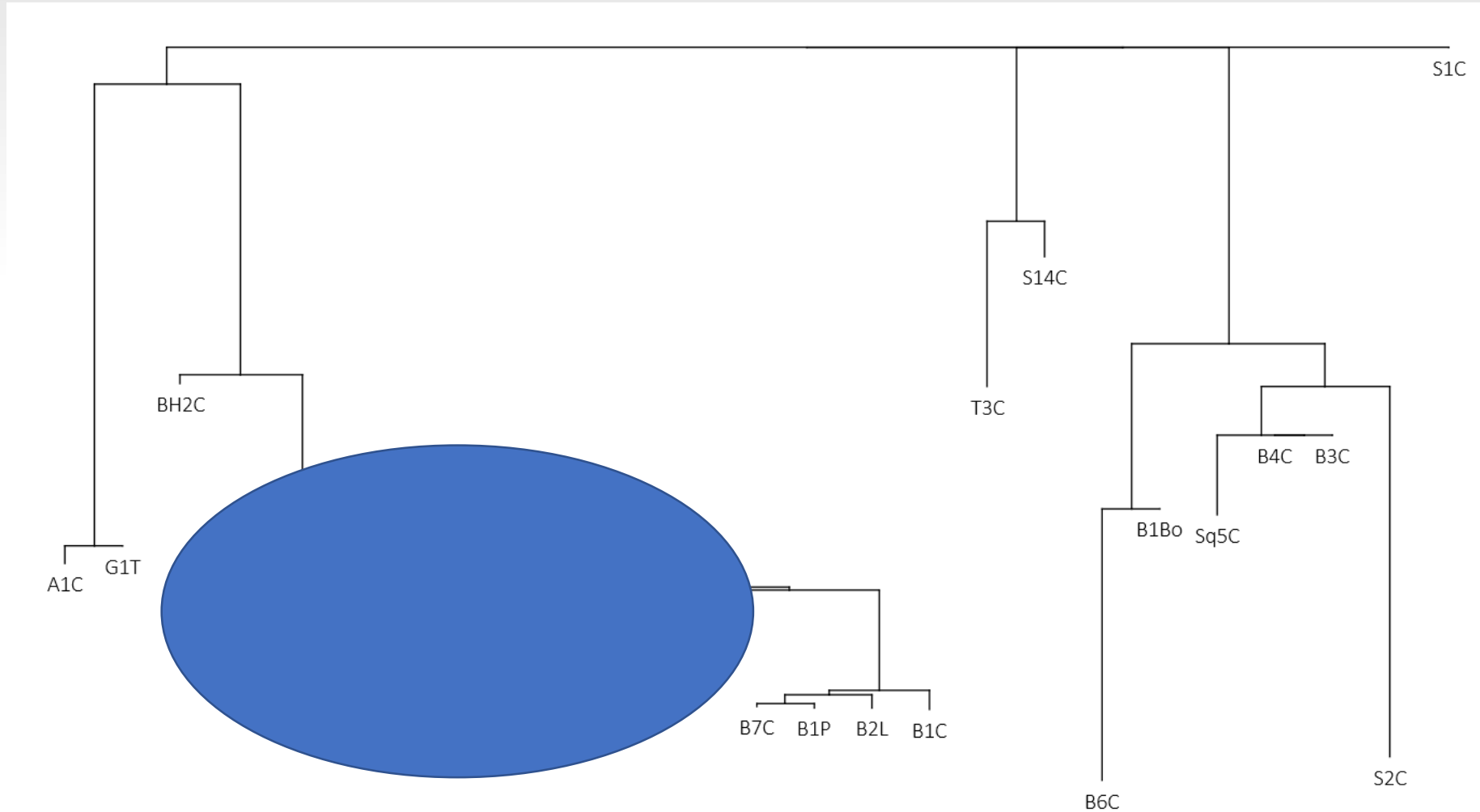
Results: sentence structure



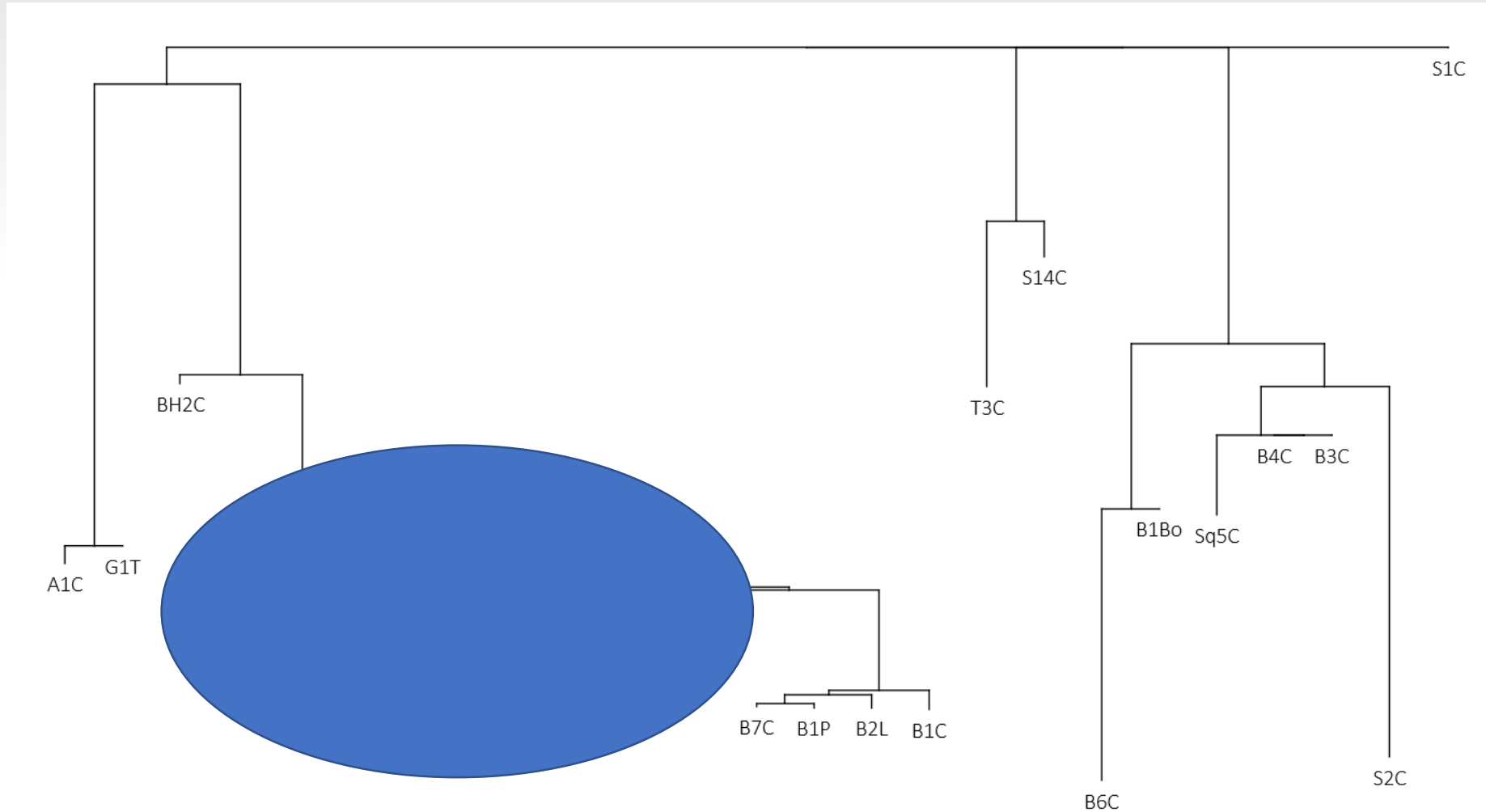
Results: sentence structure



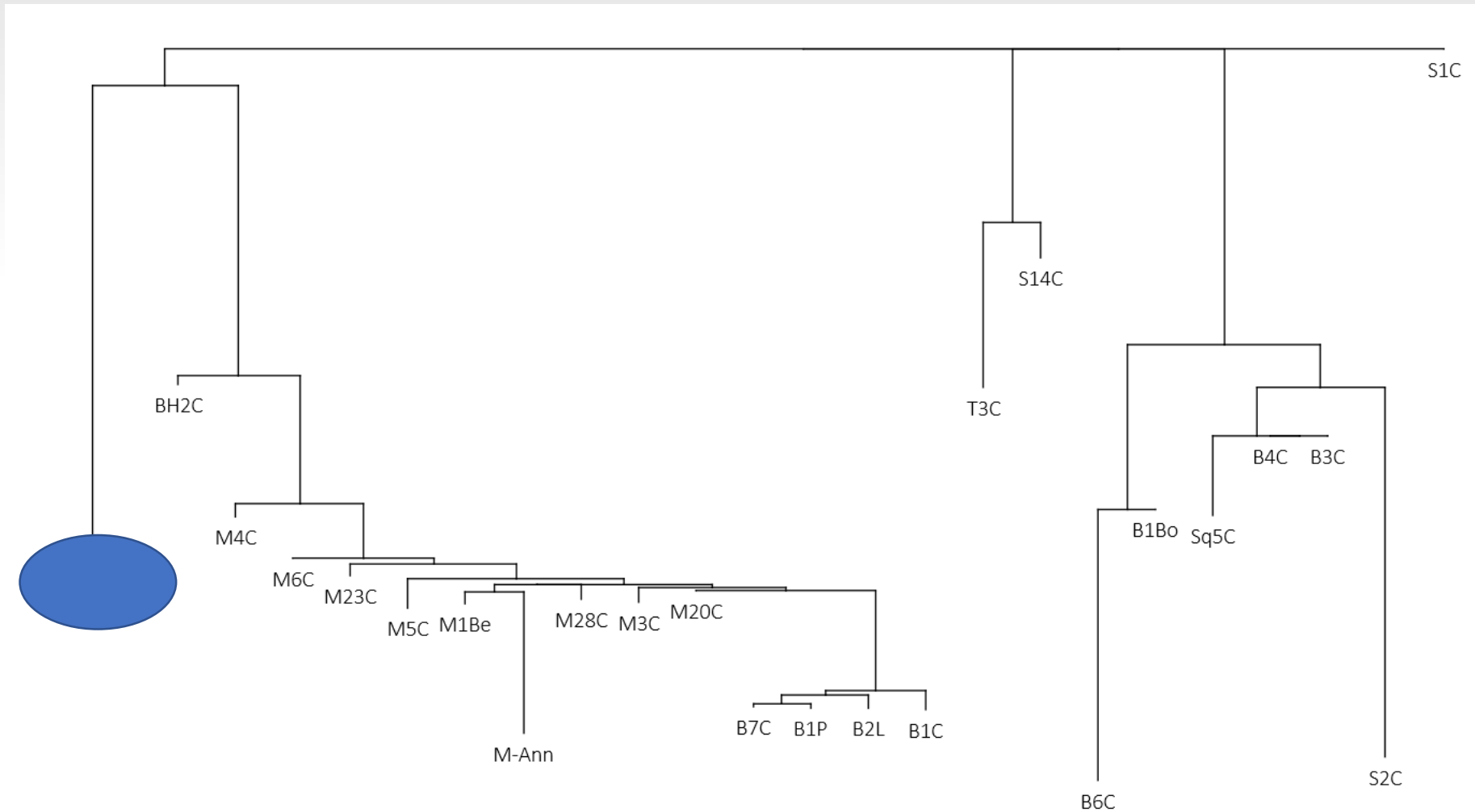
Results: sentence structure



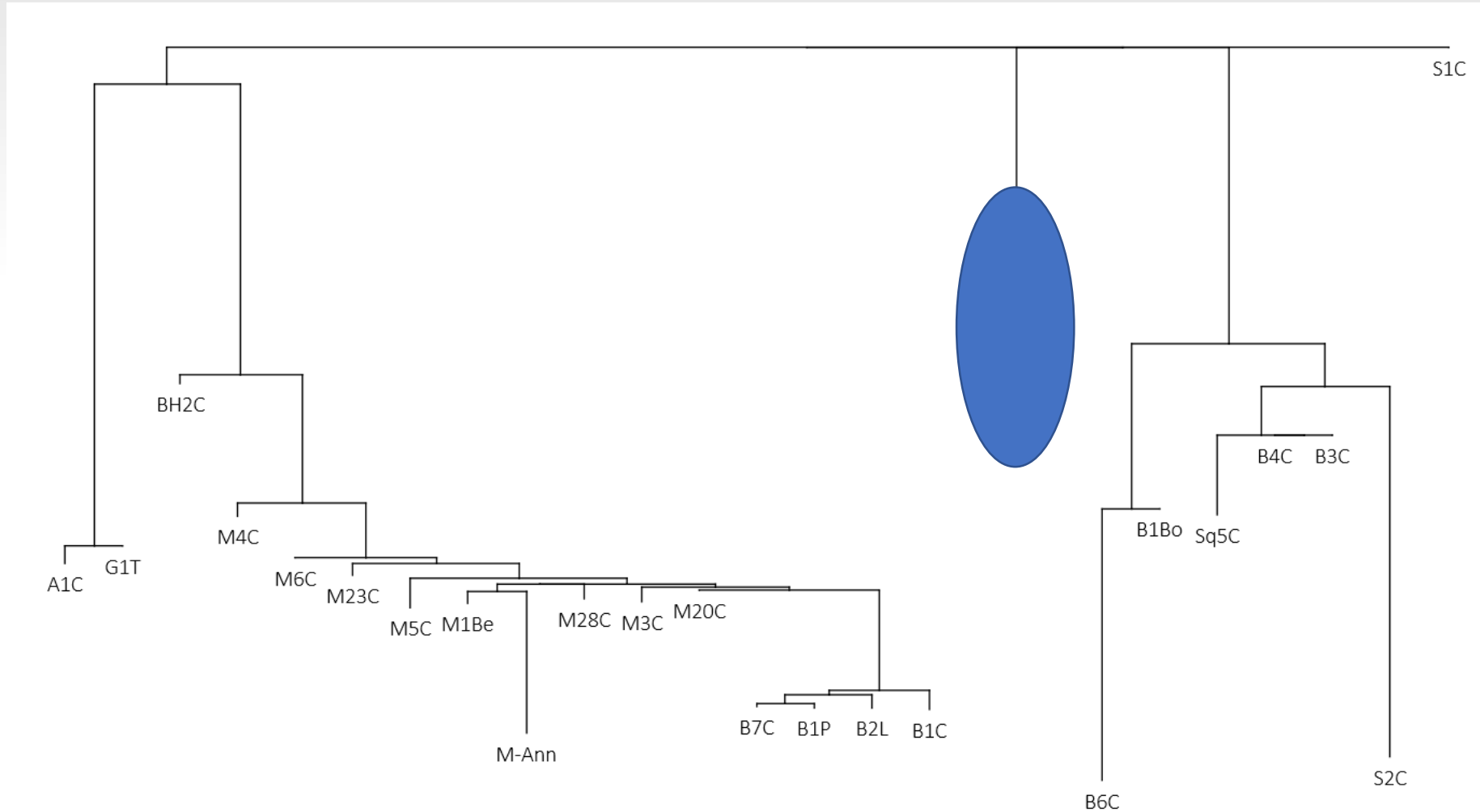
Results: sentence structure



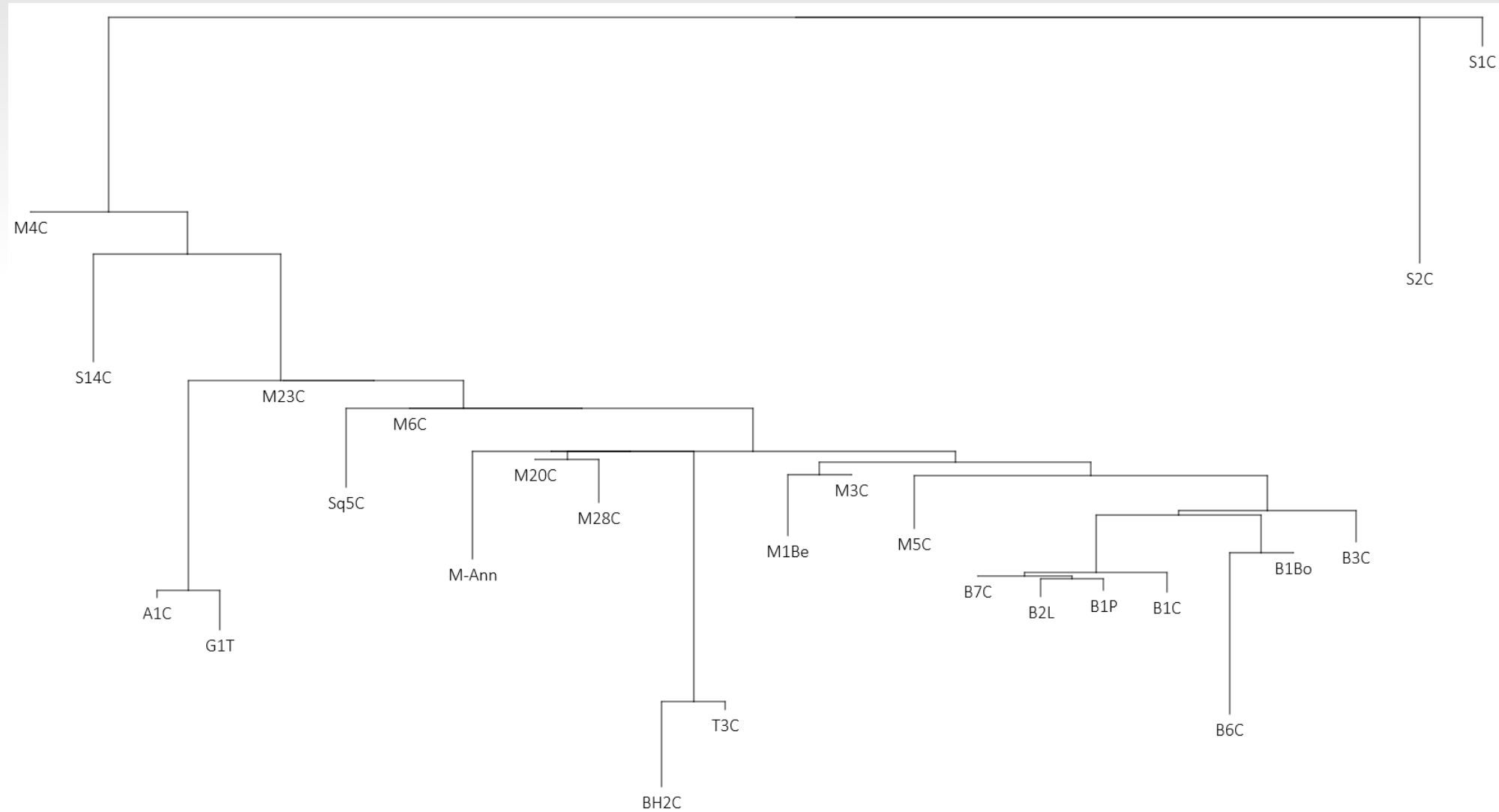
Results: sentence structure



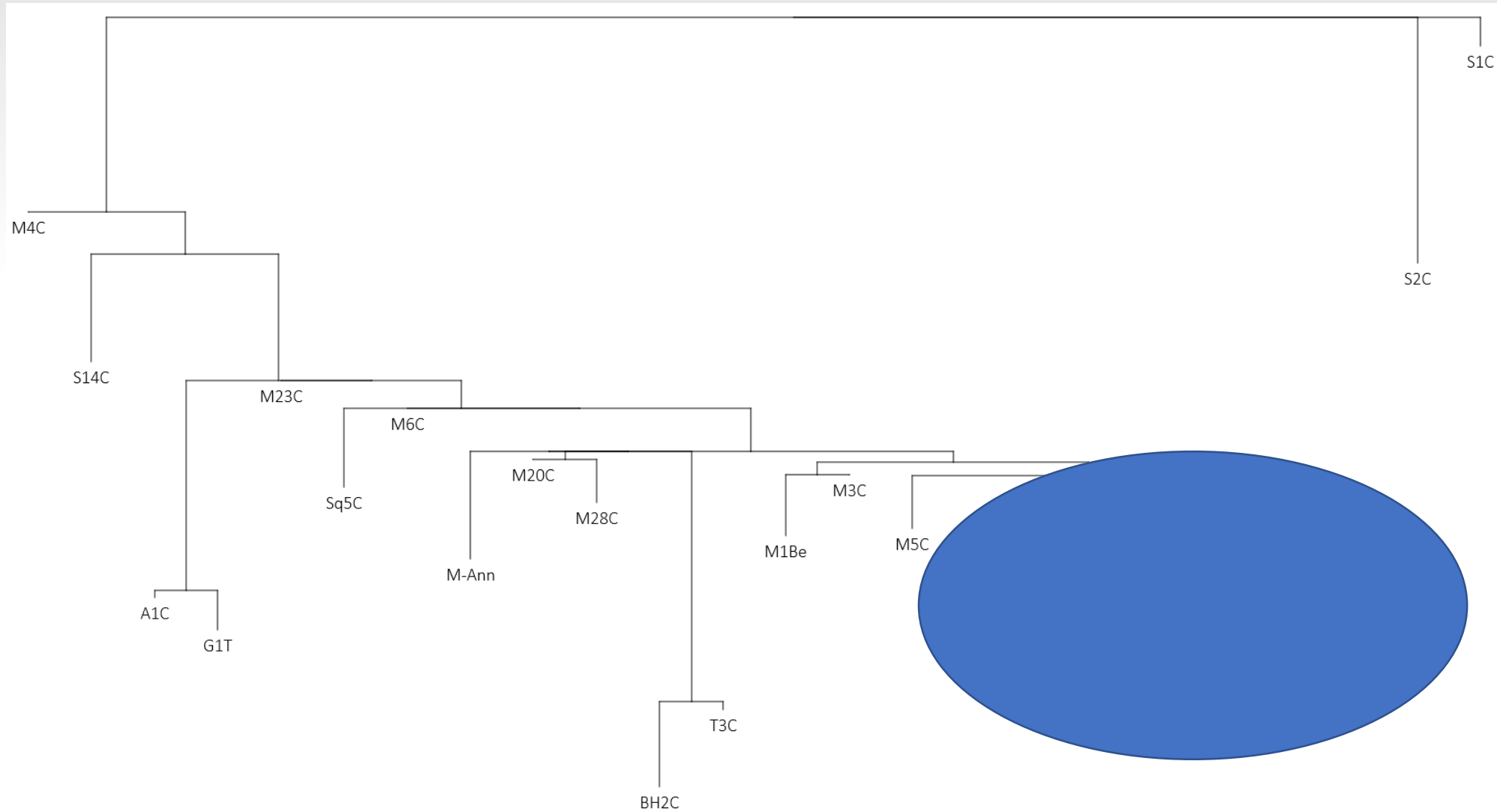
Results: sentence structure



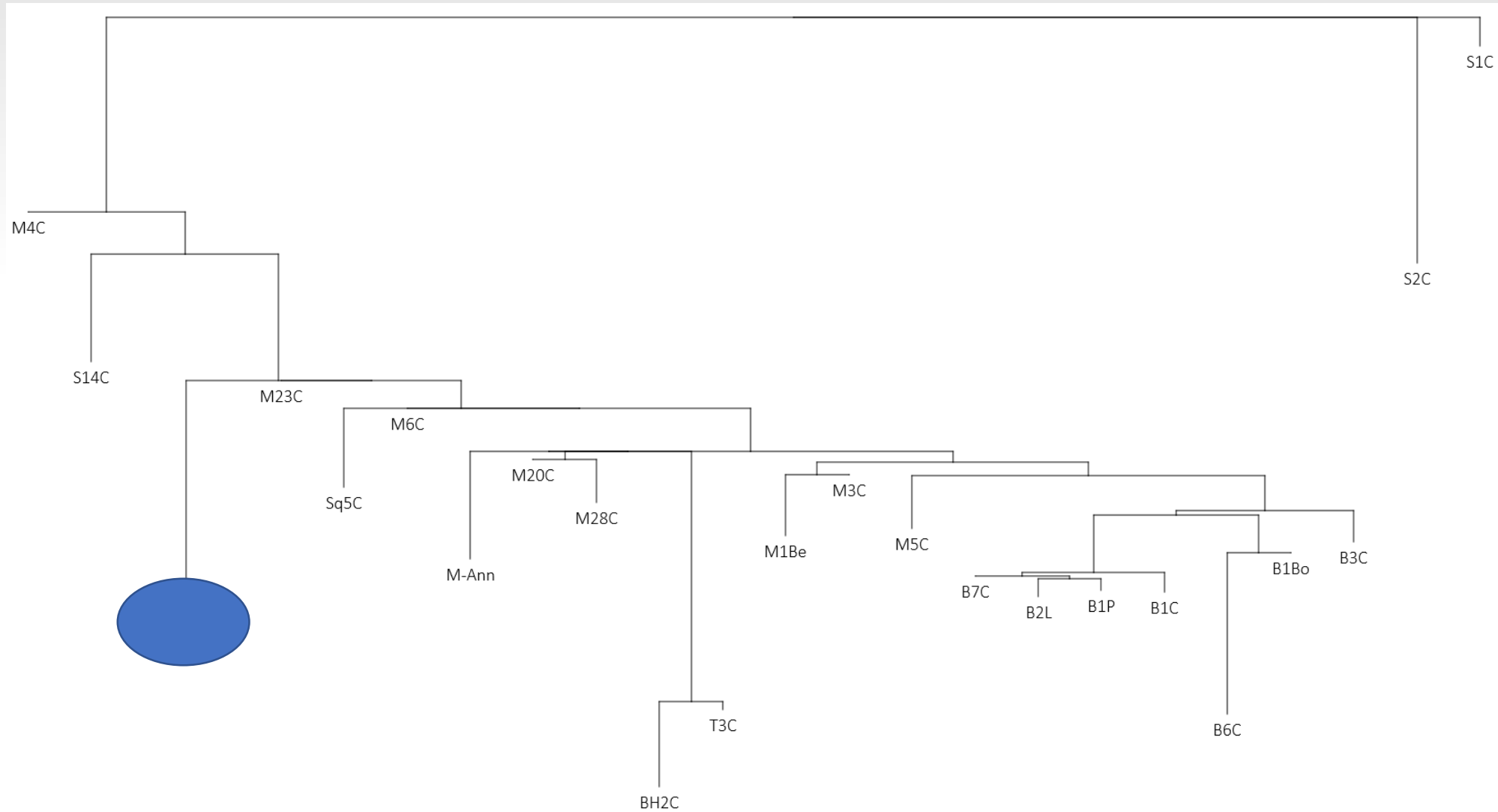
Results: verbal structure



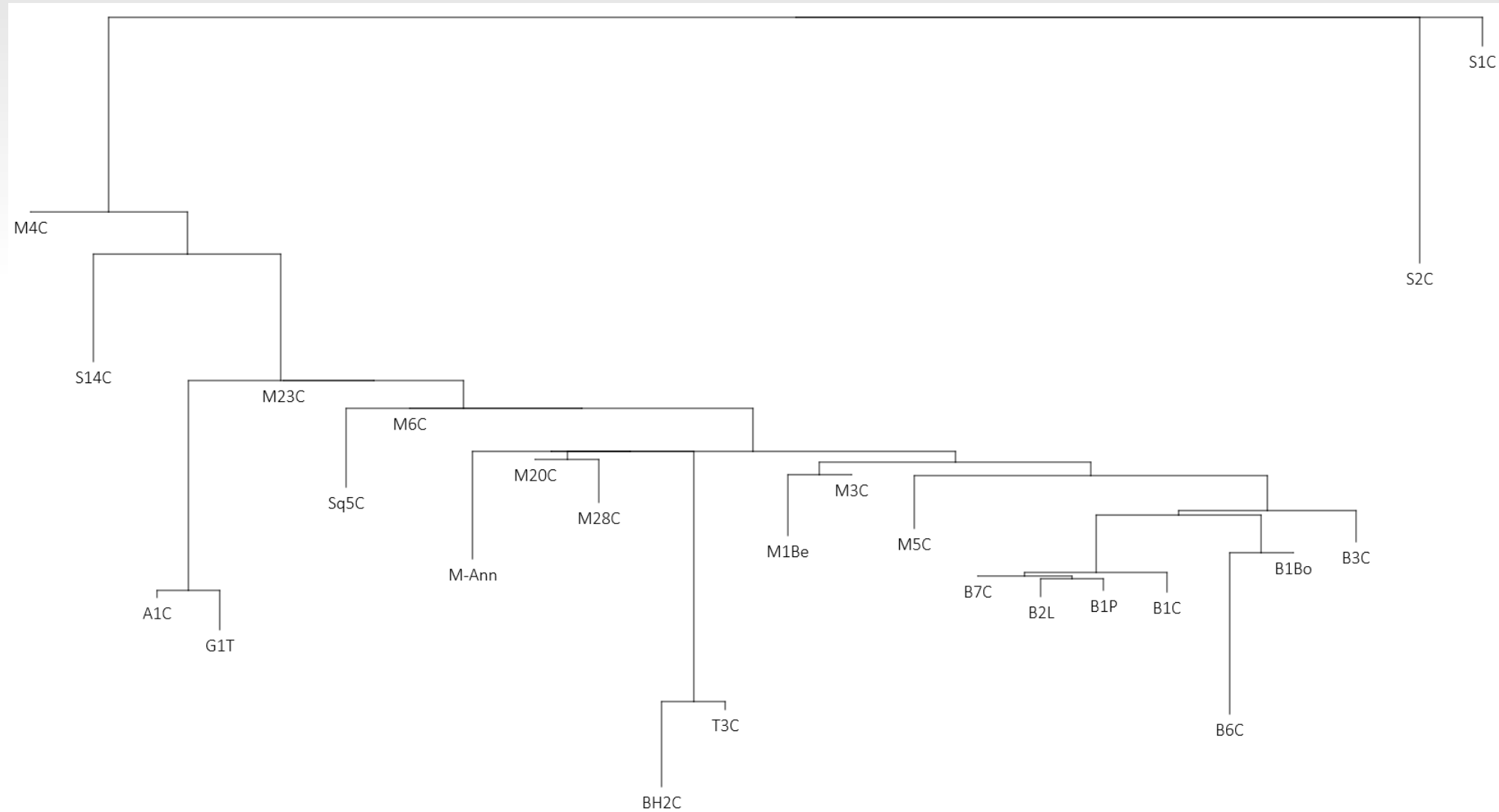
Results: verbal structure



Results: verbal structure



Results: verbal structure



Results

- There are many fuzzy borders
- Bersheh shows signs of a local tradition that is distinct from the other regions in Egypt, although there seem to have been at least two workshop traditions within Bersheh itself
- The coffins from Aswan and Gebelein seem to share a common origin
- Meir has a common ground between the witnesses

Future

- Analyzing more spells using the same method, and comparing the results
- Analysis of the spelling and use of verbal forms