

Otto Jastrow, Lehrbuch der ʿTuroyo-Sprache, Wiesbaden (Otto Harrassowitz) 1992 (= *Semitica Viva* · Series Didactica, Band 2), XVI + 215 Seiten

The book consists of several parts: Introduction, Phonetics, Morphology and Vocabulary, and also of a Glossary-Index of verbal roots and a »Key« to exercises and reading texts.

In the Introduction general information on ʿTur-ʿAbdin Christian Aramaeans and their language is given. I would like to dwell on the second paragraph of the Introduction devoted to the place of ʿTuroyo – the language of the ʿTur-ʿAbdinian Aramaeans, as the author puts it, in »New Aramaic languages«. In this subchapter both its title – »The place of ʿTuroyo in the New Aramaic languages« and the author's consideration that the »New Aramaic languages« originated from different forms of Middle Aramaic, similar to the Roman languages which originated from Latin (p. 4), deserve attention. It is difficult for us to agree with the classification of Aramaic dialects given by the author. He divides Modern Aramaic dialects into two groups: New-Western and New-Eastern Aramaic, though it should be noted that ʿTuroyo, the most Western Aramaic group of the New Aramaic languages (dialects), differs radically from the dialects of Bohtani and Hakkari regions, situated directly to the east of the Tigris (p. 5). It is this fact that allows us to divide the Modern Aramaic languages into three groups – Western and Eastern and place ʿTuroyo as a central dialect (or dialects) between them. (See K. Tsereteli, *Zur Klassifikation der modernen aramäischen Dialekte*, ZDMG 127/2 [1977] p. 244-253.

The comments on the content and structure of the book presented in the Introduction (p. 6-7), as well as the recommendation to a more intensive study of ʿTuroyo (p. 7-8) is very important and useful for readers.

The first part of the textbook is devoted to ʿTuroyo phonetics (pp. 9-19). A brief but comprehensive description of ʿTuroyo sounds is given: their pronunciation and peculiarities. The systems of consonants and vowels are considered separately. All consonantal phonemes are described, among them the consonants new to Aramaic, such as the affricates *ğ* and *č*, the emphatic dental *d̥* and interdental *d̪*, the emphatic sonants *ɾ*, *l̪*, *n̪*. The spirants: *d̪*, *t̪*, *x̪*, *g̪*, *f̪*, *v̪*, which were allophones of Old Aramaic plosive consonants, also appear as phonemes. The same can also be noted about the vowels considered (*a*, *e*, *i*, *o*, *u*) and three short vowels (*ə*, *ɨ*, *ʌ*).

After phonetics the entire material follows in 20 lectures (lessons), the grammatical material and the vocabulary of the language being distributed according to a definite methodological principle, based on the aims set by the author as the groundwork of the textbook. In this connection the author writes in the Preface that in accordance with the aims of the series »*Semitica Viva* – Series *Didactica*«, the textbook should arouse the interest of Semitists and Aramaists in ʿTuroyo, and that this language should be included in the academic courses of living Semitic languages. At the same time the textbook will be of great help for those who wish to master this language in practice. Therefore in my view the author's method of compiling the textbook is fully justified. Moreover, it is optimal for achieving this aim, as well as universal.

The main text, divided into lessons, is preceded by a phonological description of ʿTuroyo, facilitating the assimilation of grammatical or lexical material. The author's order and presentation of morphological and syntactical material in the lessons seems quite justified, allowing the reader an earlier practical use of ʿTuroyo, i.e. to form sentences through progressive introduction of lexical material, in other words, to speak the language. (That is why it is so important to study the phonological part of the book with the instructions given there before beginning the study of the course of lessons).

The first lesson is devoted to the noun (gender, number, definite and indefinite articles, adjectives with attributive and predicative functions). In the 2nd lesson independent pronouns of ʿTuroyo and their use together with a copula is given. In the 3rd lesson we are introduced to the verb in order to widen the speech area of the student. The 4th lesson begins with so-called weak verbs (med. *w* and

med. *y*). The peculiarities of the conjugation of weak verbs are shown through their comparison with strong verbs. At the end of the grammatical part the past tense forms of the enclitic copula are given. The 5th lesson also treats the weak verbs (tert. *w* and tert. *y*). To the above-mentioned verb types verbs beginning with *ʔ*, which have a vowel at the beginning of the Present Tense stem, are also added, i.e. the 1st stem is not visible here (*oxəl* »eats«). The verb *howe* »to be«, which represents a double weak verb, is considered separately. Here we are also introduced to the genitival construction of nouns, expressed through linking two substantives by the particle *d*. As for pronouns, we find here the indefinite pronoun *kül* »each«, »everybody«. In the same lesson elements of syntax are introduced, namely word characteristic of interrogative sentences, are given, used in direct or indirect interrogative sentences. The 6th lesson introduces the Preterite of middle verbs, which in most cases expresses the characteristic features of the subject and intransitive action. Among pronouns we find here demonstrative pronouns indicating near objects. In syntax, the types of sentences are considered in which the word with logical accent occupies the first place, followed by the narration associated with it. The 7th lesson begins with the verb. Here we deal with the Preterite of transitive verbs, called »ergativ flektiertes Präteritum« by the author and the Preterite of intransitive verbs, »prädikativ flektiertes Präteritum«. Possessive pronominal suffixes and demonstrative pronouns are also presented. In the 8th lesson the so-called ergative Preterite of the verbs tert. *w* and *y* is given, as well as the verb med. *w* and *y*. The verb *obe* (»to give«), whose Preterite is *hule*, is cited as an original verb. In Țuroyo we encounter verbum existentiae *kūt* ~ *kito* »it is, it exists« and *layt* ~ *layto* »it is not, it does not exist«. The stem *did* together with corresponding pronominal suffixes (*didī* »my«, etc.) is given as an independent possessive pronoun. The 9th lesson begins with the discussion of the ergative Preterite of some types of verbs, namely: the verbs tert. *r*, *l*, prim. *y* and *ʔ*. The author presents the forms of »Predicative verbs« with objective suffixes in some detail. Two prepositions *ʔal* (»on«) and *ʔam* (»with«), as well as the Relative pronoun *d*, are also found here. The 10th lesson is devoted to derived verbal stems. Stems derived from the 1st stem, denoted by Roman numerals II and III, historically represent the Intensive and the Causative. According to the author, the stem II no longer has a clear meaning, whereas the stem III often expresses Causative of intransitive verbs of the primary stem: *nošəf* (I) »dries itself«, *manšəf* (III) »dries«. Then the Imperative forms in stems II and III and in Imperfect with objective suffixes are presented. In this lesson prepositions are represented by *gab* (»to«), *hedər* (»around«) and *lašən* (»for«). Further, in the 11th lesson, we find tetraliteral verbs as well as verbal stems borrowed from Arabic. In the same lesson we are introduced, perhaps a bit late, to the cardinal numerals 1-10 and the rules of their use. Further, several prepositions (*qam* »before«, *bətr* »behind«, *taht* »under«) are presented. In the 12th lesson we deal with the stem III of the verbs prim. *y* and med. *y*. Here the inflexion of the verb »to have« with the help of verb. exist. and pronominal suffixes is considered: *kūt* »is« > *kətle* »he has«. In the present lesson we have uninflected adjectives, which generally are of foreign origin. Among numerals we find here the cardinal numerals 11-19, and three prepositions: *bayn* »between«, *xūd* »as« and *laf* »to«. In the 13th lesson the verbs of derivative stems are given together with pronominal suffixes expressing an object. Here the use of the Subjunctive to express a wish is shown. In the same lecture we find a part of compound prepositions, comprising adverbs of place and time. In the 14th lesson the author dwells on the peculiarities manifested by the verbs – the objective suffixes are added. A whole paradigm of the verbal forms under discussion is given. Of the numerals, tens (20-90) are presented. Adverbs of place, derived from substantives, appear as prepositions. The 15th lesson begins with Plusquampreterite – the tense preceding the Preterite. Of the numerals here we find hundreds and thousands. And again the verb in the 16th lesson: the forms of the Imperfect with pronominal objective suffixes (to express the direct or indirect object). Of the numerals the compound cardinal numerals are presented. In syntax the author presents conditional sentences. The 17th lesson shows the Passive Voice of the verbs in the stem I and the Infinitive of stems I, II and III. The Numeral is represented by ordinal numerals formed by means of relative particles. In the next,

the 18th lesson, the author proceeds with the discussion of the Passive of the stem I, but this time of the Passive of weak verbs. Here the Participle is also given, including the Passive Participle. The following lessons introduce us to the Passive of derivative stems: in the 19th lesson the Passive of the stem II (Intensive), and in the 20th lesson that of the stem III (Causative) is shown. In these lessons adjectives are considered: in the 19th lecture the formation of degrees of comparison and in the 20th lesson, the adjectives denoting origin (nisba). Here we also find the formation of nouns denoting professions.

The glossary (pp. 155-184), subsequent to the »lessons«, includes all these words occurring both in the lecture material and in the reading texts and their commentaries. The words are ordered according to the Latin alphabet, which aids in presentation of the material.

Number and gender are indicated by nouns, the Present and Preterite by verbs (*gowər* – *gawər* »marriage«, here *gowər* is the Present Tense and *gawər* is the Preterite).

In uninflected adjectives their invariability is indicated. Together with the explanation of the glossary words reference to the corresponding grammatical part is given in brackets. The symbols denoting synonyms are presented. In the glossary the foreign origin of words is also indicated.

The glossary assists in an active assimilation of the material given in the textbook. At the same time, in spite of its size, the glossary contains, if one may say so, the basic speech core of the Turoyo vocabulary.

Of special importance is the glossary of verbal stems, given separately (pp. 185-187), showing the main temporal forms of verbs (Present and Preterite) in three stems (Basic, Intensive and Causative). It allows a more intensive use of the Turoyo material for historical-comparative research into Aramaic and Semitic languages in general: it shows clearly the whole conjugation system of the Turoyo verb, representing the modern state of development of the Aramaic (resp. Semitic) verbal conjugation system.

The »Key«, given at the end of the textbook (pp. 188-215), involving exercises and a German translation of the reading texts is of considerable help in Turoyo study. I take this opportunity to give credit to Otto Jastrow for his research into modern Aramaic dialects and stimulating the activity on an international scale. It was his devotion to Modern Aramaic dialects and profound interest in them that led him to the creation of the series *Semitica Viva*, and to its further broadening through the series *Series Didactica*, Jastrow himself being its main participant. He also founded the bulletin »Neo-Aramaic Newsletter«, directed by Jastrow himself. This bulletin, in fact, unites all specialists of Modern Aramaic dialects and gives them information on the entire work done recently in this field.

I express my heartfelt gratitude to Prof. O. Jastrow for the book under review, as well as for all the above-mentioned achievements.

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Martiniano Pellegrino Roncaglia, Egypte. Histoire de l'église copte. Tome IV. Deuxième édition revue et augmentée, Beyrouth–Jounieh (Librairie St. Paul) 1994, 356 Seiten

Von der auf sieben Bände veranschlagten monumentalen Geschichte der koptischen Kirche Roncaglias sind bisher vier Bände erschienen, die im wesentlichen die ersten drei Jahrhunderte abdecken. In erster Auflage kamen sie von 1966 bis 1973 im Beirut Verlag Dār al-Kalima heraus und sind schon verschiedentlich gewürdigt worden. Seit 1985 erscheint in der Librairie St. Paul, Beyrouth–Jounieh, eine durchgesehene und vermehrte zweite Auflage dieser Bände, die im wesentlichen aus einem photomechanischen Nachdruck besteht.

Das Werk stellt keine herkömmliche, chronologische Geschichte des ägyptischen Christentums