

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.18454/RULB.2021.28.4.45>**О ДВУХСОГЛАСНЫХ ЧЕТЫРЁХКОРНЕВЫХ ГЛАГОЛАХ В ХРИСТИАНСКОМ УРМИЙСКОМ ДИАЛЕКТЕ СОВРЕМЕННОГО АССИРИЙСКОГО ЯЗЫКА**

Научная статья

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Аннотация

Статья посвящена исследованию двухсогласных четырёхкорневых глаголов в христианском урмийском диалекте современного ассирийского языка. Обсуждаются активные и пассивные породы таких глаголов в различных семитских языках: классическом сирийском, арабском, иврите и современном ассирийском. Для сравнения приведены модели редупликации в таких языках, как хинди, турецкий и японский. Выписаны глаголы, восходящие к классическому сирийскому языку, а также глаголы, сравнимые с ивритом. Отдельно рассмотрены заимствования из арабского и персидского языка. Выявлены случаи фонетического сходства этих глаголов с другими языками – в частности, с английским языком. Обсуждается семантика этих глаголов, являющихся по большей части звукоподражательными или звукоизобразительными. Список глаголов дан в приложении.

Ключевые слова: Урмийский, современный ассирийский, глагол, порода, редупликация, звукоподражание, звукоизображение.

ON THE BILITERAL ROOT QUADRILITERAL VERBS IN ASSYRIAN CHRISTIANS URMI NEO-ARAMAIC

Research article

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Abstract

The article is dedicated to the investigation of the bilateral root quadrilateral verbs in the Neo-Aramaic Dialect of the Assyrian Christians of Urmi. The active and passive stems of such verbs in different Semitic languages including Classical Syriac, Arabic, Hebrew, Neo-Aramaic are discussed. The reduplication models in such languages as Hindi, Turkish and Japanese, are given for comparison. The verbs ascending to Classical Syriac and those compared with Hebrew are written down. The loan-words from Arabic and Persian are discussed apart. The cases of these verbs phonetic similarity with other languages including English are found. The semantic of these verbs being mostly mimetic or onomatopoeic is investigated. The list of verbs is given in Appendix.

Keywords: Urmi, Neo-Aramaic, verb, stem, reduplication, onomatopoeic, mimetic, denominative.

Introduction

The Neo-Aramaic Dialect of the Assyrian Christians of Urmi (NAACU) like the others Semitic languages is known to have four radical verbs. In Classical Hebrew the active stem of such verbs is close to the intensive stem (or D-stem): *tirgem* “to translate” vs. *sipper* “to tell”. The second consonant gemination in D-stem common for Aramaic, Classical Syriac, Classical Hebrew and Arabic, has been lost in NAACU as well as in Modern Hebrew. In NAACU D-stem ($C_1aC_2uC_3e$) and K-stem ($maC_1C_2uC_3e$) are morphologically similar (C means a consonant). Therefore the quadrilateral verbs turn out to be closer to causative stem K-stem rather than to D-stem: *hamzume* “to speak” vs. *malyupe* “to teach” (K-stem) vs. *labule* “to bring” (D-stem). The quadrilateral verbs may be formed by the reduplication of two root consonants (1-2-1-2 structure). In Classical Syriac such roots correspond to the active stem of palpel (*marmar* “to embitter”) and the reflexive stem etpalpel (*etmarmar* “to become bitter”) [1, P. 128]. In Hebrew the verbs of such type are found in D-stem (*pipet* “to chatter”), Dt-stem (*hitbazbez* “to be wasted”) and passive pulpal stem (*qulqal* “to be spoiled”). Arabic has four stems for the quadrilateral verbs [2, P. 48] but only G-stem (*zalzala* “to shake”) and tG-stem (*tazalzala* “to shudder”) are not rare to be considered. The verb in NAACU may have two dictionary forms: the jussive one as used in [3] and the infinitive one as used in [4]. I follow the manner of the infinitive verbal presentation. Thus the quadrilateral verbs in NAACU have $C_1aC_2C_3uC_4e$ form. The biliteral root quadrilateral verbs (BRQV) may be presented as $C_1aC_2C_1uC_2e$ (*čačūqe* “to tattle”). Particularly if the second consonant is weak y or w this scheme transforms to C_1awC_1uye (*gawguye* “to babble”). The detailed word dedicated to the quadrilateral verbs is [5]. This article firstly introduces the bilateral root quadrilateral verbs in NAACU as an object of the special discussion including the semantic classification and the comparison with other languages. The methodology is based on the lexical and semantic analysis.

The two consonant reduplication models

Now let us compare the structure of the bilateral root quadrilateral verbs (BRQV). The Semitic languages presented here are given only in their active stems. In Classical Syriac the structure looks like as $C_1aC_2C_1eC_2$, in Hebrew as $C_1iC_2C_1eC_2$, in Arabic $C_1aC_2C_1aC_2a$, in NAACU $C_1aC_2C_1uC_2e$.

The similar schemes can be also found in non-Semitic languages. The case of two consonant morpheme or word reduplication is widely spread. The words formed by the reduplication are often onomatopoeic or mimetic. For example Japanese has a multitude of such words called *gitaigo* and *giongo*. Their phonetic structure usually looks like as $C_1V_1C_2V_2$ — $C_1V_1C_2V_2$ (V means a vowel): *bura-bura* “walk”, *peko-peko* “hungry”, *gaya-gaya* “noise”. Hindi also possesses words of the

similar structure C₁VC₂C₁VC₂: *kalkal* “ripple”; *paṭpat* “fall of a light thing”; *phakphak* “puffing”. Turkic has a lot of mimetic words formation schemes [6, P. 67 – 73] including C₁VC₂C₁VC₂ (*pat-pat* “thudding”); C₁V₁C₂C₁V₂C₂ (*har-hur* “confusion”).

The comparison with other languages

NAACU verbs mostly belong to Classical Syriac (Syr.) lexicon [7], Hebrew (Heb.) is added for a comparison [8]: *baqbuqe* “to gurgle”, Syr. *baqbeq*, Heb. *biqbeq* “to gurgle”; *galgule* “to unveil”, Syr. *glā* “to uncover”; *daldule* “to make thin”, Syr. *dallilā* “thin”, Heb. *dal* “thin”; *damdume* “to bleed”, Syr. *damdem* “to bleed”, *dam* “blood”; *daqduqe* “to diminish”, Syr. *daqdaq* “small”, Heb. *dal* “thin, small”; *hanhune* “to be pleased”, Syr. *hnā* “to be pleasant”, Heb. *hinhen* “to signify assent”; *zamzume* “to resound”, Syr. *zamzem*, Heb. *zimzem* “to resound”; *talṭule* “to belittle”, Syr. *ṭli* “to be young”; *taptupe* “to flicker”, Syr. *ṭapṭep* “to flicker”; *kaškuše* “to cry Kish”, Syr. *akkeš* “to drive off”; *lagluge* “to stammer”, Syr. *lagleg* “to stammer”; *lamlume* “to mumble”, Syr. *lamlem* “to speak, to enunciate”, Heb. *limlem* “to babble, to grumble”; *mašmuše* “to grope”, Syr. *maš* “to touch”, Heb. *mišmeš* “to grope”; *parpure* “to spin”, Syr. *par* “to flee, to fly away”, Heb. *pirper* “to flutter”; *paqpuqe* “to cackle”, Syr. *paqqeq* “to babble”; *patpute* “to shred”, Syr. *paṭpet* “to tear to pieces”, Heb. *pitpet* “to break, to crush”; *šawšuye* “to whine”, Syr. *šawši* “to chirp, to squeak”, Heb. *šiyēš* “to chirp, to chirrup”; *qadqude* “to cut up into logs”, Syr. *qad* “to cut away”; *qahquhe* “to chuckle”, Syr. *qahqah* “to laugh”; *qanqune* “to chant”, Syr. *qanqen* “to chant”; *qapqupe* “to cluck”, Syr. *qapqep* “to brood”; *qapqupe* “to cluck”, Syr. *qapqep* “to brood”; *qarqure* “to croak; to grumble”, Syr. *qarqar* “to cluck”, Heb. *qirqer* “to cluck, to croak”; *raprupe* “to flutter”, Syr. *raprep* “to move to and from”, Heb. *riprep* “to flutter”; *raqruqe* “to grow thin”, Syr. *raqqeq* “to make thin”, Heb. *raq* “thin”; *ratrute* “to tremble”, Syr. *rat*, Heb. *ratat* “to tremble”; *šapšupe* “to creep”, Syr. *šap* “to crawl”; *tamtume* “to snuffle”, Syr. *tamtem* “to mutter”; *tantune* “to smoke”, Syr. *tan* “to smoke”.

The following verbs are loaned from Arabic (Arab.) [9]: *hamhume* “to grumble”, Arab. *hamhama* “to growl, to grumble”; *hashuse* “to hiss”, Arab. *hashasa* “to sizzle”; *walwule* “to wail”, Arab. *walwala* “to wail”; *waqwufe* “to quack, to croak”, Arab. *waqwaqa* “to croak, to bark”; *zanzune* “to hum”, Arab. *zanna* “to hum”; *hašhuše* “to rustle”, Arabic *hašhaša* “to ring, to rustle”; *taḥtuhe* “to crumble”, Arab. *taḥtaḥa* “to break”; *taṭtune* “to buzz”, Arab. *taṭtana* “to ring, to make a noise, to buzz”; *qašquše* “to break”, Arab. *qašqaša* “to break”; *ragruqe* “to tremble”, Arab. *rajraja* “to tremble”; *rahruhe* “to soften”, Arab. *raxraxa* “to make weak”; *šaršure* “to stream”, Arabic *šaršara* “to drop”. Some connections are probable: *dašduše* “to trample, to tread down”, Arab. *dašdaša* “to crash” (cf. Heb. *dišdeš* “to stamp”); *zaquqe* “to cackle”, Arab. *zaqzaqa* “to chirp; to chatter (about a woman)”; *hamhume* “to fever”, Arab. *hamḥama* “to be warm” (cf. *ḥimma* “heat”); *kaškuše* “to cry Kish”, Arab. *kašša* “to drive off” (cf. Syr. *akkeš* “to drive off”); *lakluge* “to prod”, Arab. *lakka* “to fist”; *naḥnuhe* “to pant”, Arab. *naḥnaḥa* “to clear throat”; *šaršure* “to chirp”, Arab. *šaršara* “to crack, to chirp” (cf. Heb. *širšer* “to chirp”); *šašquqe* “to rattle”, Arab. *šašqaqa* “to chirp” (cf. Heb. *šiqšeq* “to rattle”).

Some BRQV are loaned from Persian (Pers.) [10]: *harhure* “to laugh”, Pers. *herher* “roars of laughing”; *wazwuze* “to whiz, to whirl”, Pers. *wezwez* “buzz”; *zawzuye* “to howl”, Pers. *zuze* “squeal, howl”; *hašhuše* “to wheeze”, Pers. *xesxes* “wheeze”; *karkure* “to deafen”, Pers. *kar* “deaf”; *pačpuče* “to whisper”, Pers. *pečpeče* “whisper”; *taqtuqe* “to knock”, Pers. *taqtaq* “rat-rat”. Some connections are probable: *balbule* “to improve”, Pers. *bālā* “top, upper part”; *gawguye* “to babble”, Pers. *gu*, the presence stem of *goftan* “to say”; *hamhume* “to grumble”, Pers. *hamhame* “noise, boom”; *latlute* “to mangle”, Pers. *latlat* “by parts”; *namnume* “to dampen”, Pers. *namnam* “drop by drop” (but cf. *nimmana* “damp”); *naqnuqe* “to stammer”, Pers. *neqneq* “whimper”.

In some cases the meaning of loan-word is slightly changed: *lamlume* “to mumble” vs. Syr. *lamlem* “to speak, to enunciate”; *hanhune* “to be pleased” vs. Syr. *hnā* “to be pleasant”; *šaršure* “to stream” vs. Arabic *šaršara* “to drop”.

Some verbs in relative Semitic languages have the same root but different meanings: *marmure* “to murmur”, but Syr. *marmar* “to embitter”; *gargure* “to swagger”, but Syr. *gargar* “to drag”; *gamgume* “to thunder, to roar”, but Heb. *gimgem* “to stammer”; *dagduqe* “to trot”, but Heb. *digdeg* “to tickle”; *wašwufe* “to whine”, but Arab. *wašwaša* “to peep out”; *qapqupe* “to cluck”, but Arab. *qafqafa* “to shiver with cold”.

The general character of mimetic and onomatopoeic semantics leads to the possibility of arbitrary similarity or independent formation (e.g. *wazwuze* “to whiz, to whirl” may have appeared itself or may have been loaned from Persian *wezwez* “buzz”). Therefore the comparison with English should not be so amazing: *hashuse* “to hiss”, *wazwuze* “to whiz”, *walwule* “to wail”, *warwure* “to whirl”, *taḥtuqe* “to tick”, *kaškuše* “to cry Kish”, *marmure* “to murmur”. The verb *taptupe* “to patter” finds correspondence with both English (*tap-tap*) and Turkic (*tip-tip* “tap-tap”). Moreover the resemblance with Japanese (Jap.) and Hindi may be discovered for several words (*gangune* “to hum”, Jap. *gangan (suru)* “to ring”; *paqpuqe* “to cackle”, Jap. *paku-paku* “without sound”, *harhure* “to snore”, Hindi *kharkhar* “snore”; *marmure* “to murmur”, Hindi *marmarānā* “to murmur”).

The verb semantics

The most of BRQV are onomatopoeic (46%) and mimetic (48 %). “Onomatopoeia refers to the imitation of sound, whereas mimesis refers to an outward appearance or inner feeling rather than a sound” [11, P. 3]. The onomatopoeic verbs present the animal sounds (*waqwufe* “to quack”, *zarzure* “to bray”, *qawquye* “to croak”); the human sounds (*harhure* “to laugh”, *harhure* “to snore”, *kalkule* “to sob”); the natural sounds (*baqbuqe* “to gurgle”). The mimetic verbs express the bodily feelings (*hamhume* “to fever”, *čančune* “to tingle”, *lahluhe* “to pant”); the movements (*dagduqe* “to trot”, *lačluče* “to trample”, *načnuče* “to masticate”); the appearance (*gabgube* “to foam”, *taptupe* “to flicker”, *pakpuke* “to putrefy”).

One should also note that NAACU has some mimetic and onomatopoeic verbs being not quadrilateral or quadrilateral but not two consonants reduplicated: *nvaḥa* “to bark”, *raya* “to rain, to snow”, *zangure* “to ring”, *pa’wure* “to yawn”.

The four radical verbs of 1-2-1-2 structure may come from the geminated 1-2-2 structure verbs: \sqrt{dqq} “to be small”, *daqqiqā* “small, tiny”, *daqā* “to make small”, *daqduqe* “to diminish”. Such verbs are mostly denominated from a noun

or an adjective: *damdume* “to bleed” vs. *dimma* “blood”; *daqduqe* “to diminish” vs. *daqqiqa* “small, tiny”; *qalqule* “to lighten” vs. *qalulla* “light”; *tantune* “to smoke” vs. *tinna* “smoke” (cf. Syr. *tan* “to smoke”, *tenānā* “smoke”).

There are some synonyms among these verbs: *laghughe*, *naqnuqe* “to stammer”; *dardure*, *gawguye* “to babble”; *qažquže*, *šaršure* “to pour”. The synonymous verbs may differ only by one consonant (*pazpuze*, *bazbuze* “to squirt”; *raghrughe*, *rahrughe*, *raxruxe* “to soften”) or by the consonant transposition (*hašhuše*, *šašhuše* “to rustle”).

Conclusion

The reduplication is spread over mostly of the word languages. One of such verbs semantic sphere is onomatopoeia and mimesis. The verbs root structure in Semitic languages usually includes three or four consonants. Thus the four consonant verbs are nicely convenient for the bilateral root reduplication structure! Such verbs could be met in Arabic, Hebrew, Classical Syriac and Neo-Aramaic. The verbs of Neo-Aramaic Dialect of the Assyrian Christians of Urmi are analyzed. Many verbs are shown to ascend to Classical Syriac language or be loaned from Arabic and Persian. These verbs semantics is mostly onomatopoeic or mimetic. The phonetic comparison of these NAACU verbs with similar semantics words in other languages may be the object of the further discussion.

Appendix

A list of the BRQV in NAACU

<i>bajbuje</i> “to creep”	<i>lahluhe</i> “to pant”
<i>bazbuze</i> “to squirt”	<i>lahluhe</i> “to nibble”
<i>balbule</i> “to improve”	<i>lakluke</i> “to prod”
<i>baqbuqe</i> “to gurgle”	<i>lačuče</i> “to trample”
<i>gabgube</i> “to foam”	<i>lamlume</i> “to mumble”
<i>gawguye</i> “to babble”	<i>lastuse</i> “to chew”
<i>gazguze</i> “to abhor”	<i>laplupe</i> “to fluff; to puff”
<i>galgule</i> “to unveil”	<i>laqluqe</i> “to rattle”
<i>gamgume</i> “to thunder”	<i>latlute</i> “to mangle”
<i>gangune</i> “to hum”	<i>maħmuħe</i> “to snuff about”
<i>gapgupe</i> “to froth”	<i>maimuye</i> “to swear”
<i>gargure</i> “to swagger”	<i>mašmuše</i> “to bide time”
<i>gažquže</i> “to fizz; to become giddy”	<i>marmure</i> “to murmur”
<i>dagduqe</i> “to trot”	<i>mašmuše</i> “to grope”
<i>daldule</i> “to make thin”	<i>naznuze</i> “to whine”
<i>damdume</i> “to bleed”	<i>naħnuħe</i> “to pant”
<i>daqduqe</i> “to diminish”	<i>naknuke</i> “to groan; to stutter”
<i>dardure</i> “to babble”	<i>načnuče</i> “to masticate”
<i>dašduše</i> “to trample”	<i>namnume</i> “to dampen”
<i>halhule</i> “to decay; to incite”	<i>naqnuqe</i> “to stammer”
<i>hamhume</i> “to grumble”	<i>sarsure</i> “to scream”
<i>hanhune</i> “to be pleased”	<i>pazpuze</i> “to squirt”
<i>hashuse</i> “to hiss”	<i>pahpuhe</i> “to snort”
<i>harhure</i> “to laugh”	<i>paṭpuṭe</i> “to whisper”
<i>hathute</i> “to incite”	<i>pakpuke</i> “to putrefy”
<i>wazwuze</i> “to whiz, to whirl”	<i>pačpuče</i> “to whisper”
<i>walwule</i> “to wail”	<i>paqpuqe</i> “to boil; to cackle”
<i>waswuse</i> “to squeak”	<i>parpure</i> “to spin”
<i>wašwuše</i> “to whine”	<i>pašpuše</i> “to mollify”
<i>waqwuqe</i> “to quack, to croak”	<i>patpuṭe</i> “to whisper; to shred”
<i>warwure</i> “to whirl”	<i>šawšuye</i> “to whine”
<i>zawzuye</i> “to howl”	<i>šaršure</i> “to chirp”
<i>zakzuke</i> “to pale; to trot; to prod”	<i>qaghqughe</i> “to cackle”
<i>zamzume</i> “to resound”	<i>qadqude</i> “to cut up into logs”
<i>zanzune</i> “to hum”	<i>qawquye</i> “to croak”
<i>zapzupe</i> “to pat; to puff”	<i>qaħquħe</i> “to chuckle”
<i>zaqzuqe</i> “to cackle”	<i>qaṭquṭe</i> “to cluck”
<i>zarzure</i> “to bray”	<i>qačquče</i> “to separate in parts”
<i>hačhuče</i> “to probe”	<i>qalqule</i> “to lighten”
<i>halhule</i> “to undermine”	<i>qamqume</i> “to rumble”
<i>hamhume</i> “to fever”	<i>qanqune</i> “to chant”
<i>hashuse</i> “to wheeze”	<i>qasquse</i> “to break”
<i>haphupe</i> “to feel faint”	<i>qapqupe</i> “to cluck”
<i>harhure</i> “to snore”	<i>qašquše</i> “to break”
<i>hašhuše</i> “to rustle”	<i>qarqure</i> “to croak; to grumble”
<i>taħtuħe</i> “to crumble”	<i>qažquže</i> “to pour”
<i>taṭtuke</i> “to tick”	<i>ragruge</i> “to tremble”

taṭṭule “to belittle”
ṭaṭṭune “to buzz”
ṭaṭṭupe “to flicker”
kazkuze “to crisp”
čazčuze “to sizzle”
čaḥčuḥe “to crash”
kalkule “to sob”
kamkume “to scorch”
čamčume “to hurl”
čančune “to tingle”
čapčupe “to flap”
čaččuqe “to tattle”
karkure “to deafen”
čarčure “to scream; to grind; to squeak”
kaškuše “to cry Kish”
katkute “to disintegrate”
laḡluqe “to stammer”
laḡluje “to glisten”

raḡhrughe, “to soften”
raḡruḥe “to soften”
raxruxe “to soften”
raprupe “to flutter”
raṣruše “to shiver”
raqruqe “to grow thin”
ratrute “to tremble”
šaḡšuḥe “to rustle”
šaḡšuke “to totter, to shake”
šamšume “to swoon”
šapšupe “to creep”
šaḡšuqe “to rattle”
šaršure “to stream”
tamtume “to snuffle”
tantune “to smoke”
taptupe “to patter”
taqtuqe “to knock”
tarture “to hoarse”

Конфликт интересов

Не указан.

Conflict of Interest

None declared.

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