## Jastrow, Otto. 2022. Der arabische Dialekt der Christen von Ka<sup>c</sup>bīye (Diyarbakir). Semitica Viva 60. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz. XVII, 310 pp. ISBN 978-3447-11753-1.

Mesopotamian Arabic can be divided into two major groups, which are native to what is now Iraq, southeastern Turkey, parts of northern Syria and southwestern Iran. The dialects of Turkey are considered the best researched. After the shibboleth word for 'I said' (OA *qultu*), Mesopotamian Arabic distinguishes between the so-called *qaltu* and *gilit* dialects. The distinction between these two dialect types is particularly relevant for Iraq.

*qaltu*-Arabic, as the older language layer, is mainly the dialect of the non-Muslim language communities that meanwhile largely or completely have emigrated. The Arabic (and Aramaic) dialects of the Jews from Iraq can therefore usually only be studied outside of their original homelands. If there are still speakers, they are mostly very old—in the best-case scenario—fluent speakers. Iraq's Christian Arab and Yazidi communities have suffered from displacement in recent decades. At least the northern Iraqi Aramaic Christian communities in the autonomous region of Kurdistan are still alive.

The language situation in central and southern Iraq is historically different due to the Mongol invasions. The dialect of Baghdad, as spoken by Muslims, has now become a prestige language and is understood throughout the country. Overall, research on the Bedouin *gilit*-dialects of Mesopotamia is less extensive than *qoltu*-research.

Jastrow divides the *qaltu* dialects into four groups according to geographical aspects: in addition to the Anatolian group, these are the Tigris group, the Euphrates group and a group of Jewish dialects of Iraqi Kurdistan, which he added to the classification after their discovery (Jastrow 1990).

The volume of language material that Jastrow was able to collect during his field research in Mesopotamia between 1967 and 1970 is considerable and groundbreaking for modern Arabic dialectology. This applies in particular to the dialects of Anatolia. In Jastrow (1978), the description of the Mardin region and the surrounding area is given special consideration.



Jastrow presents a study on the dialect of the Christians of Ka<sup>c</sup>bīye with the monograph under review, which can be considered a supplement to his previous publications on *qəltu*-Arabic in Anatolia. He now gives all the material he has available on the group of Diyarbakır dialects, including a sketch of the dialect of the city of Diyarbakır proper.

The *qəltu* speakers of the Diyarbakır group are exclusively Jews and Christians. The Christians lived in Diyarbakır city and in the surrounding villages of Ka<sup>c</sup>bīye (today with Turkish name *Bağıvar*), Qarabāš (today *Karabaş*), Čārūxīye (today *Çarıklı*), Qətərbel (today *Yukarıkılıçtaşı*) and Təlġāz (today *Doğu Çanakçı*). Jews inhabited Diyarbakır city, Urfa, Siverek and Çermik. The dialects of the Diyarbakır group are now considered extinct.

The grammatical description is based on interviews which Jastrow conducted in spring 1968 in Diyarbakır with older women who were forced to leave Ka<sup>c</sup>bīye in their youth. Some texts were recorded in Beirut. One speaker (Sayde) lived in Ka<sup>c</sup>bīye until the age of twelve and speaks a mixture of the dialects of Ka<sup>c</sup>bīye and Diyarbakır (p. 12–13). This means that the language community had ceased to exist for more than fifty years at the time of the recording in the late 1960s. The same applies to the Jewish language community of Diyarbakır. The Jewish population left the area during the Ottoman period or moved to the state of Israel after its founding, as mentioned in texts 17.4.2 and 17.4.3 (p. 134, 136).

Jastrow writes the grammar description with an introduction (p. 1–21). The fate of the Arabic-speaking Christians in Diyarbakır and the nearby villages is discussed. The historical background is based on first-hand information on persecutions, expulsions and massacres of parts of the Christian population from 1915 onwards (p. 1–2). Jastrow presents the circumstances and scope of his field research in some detail (p. 2–6). A section on the language of the texts, their genres and language style as well as data on his informants follows (p. 6–11). The language samples are mostly pure Ka<sup>c</sup>bīye Arabic (p. 13–14).

The author proposes a new classification of the Anatolian *qaltu*-dialects, based on the concept of peripherality, centered around the conservative dialect of Mardin (p. 15–21). In this model, the geographic periphery is largely correlated with the structural. Jastrow considers a reorganization necessary due to the new discovery of *qaltu*-dialects in southeastern Anatolia in the last twenty years. Noteworthy are new data from the locations Sine and Nōṛšēn. The peripheral dialects of Kaʿbīye and Sine in the west thus contrast the dialects of the Sason-Muş group with Hasköy and Nōṛšēn on the eastern periphery and share linguistic features not found in the central dialect of Mardin, Āzəx (which is now considered a separate dialect) and Siirt (p. 16–18). In addition, Jastrow points out some features that can be used to contrast the Anatolian and Iraqi *qaltu*-dialects (p. 19). A hallmark distinguishing feature is the isogloss in the pronouns and flexional suffixes 2/3 c.pl. While Anatolian dialects have *n*-forms, Iraqi have *m*-forms throughout: *hanne* (Mardin, Kaʿbīye) vs. *həmmi* (Jewish-Baghdadi) 'they', *baytən* (Mardin), *bayten* (Kaʿbīye)

vs. bētəm (Jewish-Baghdadi) 'their house', ğītən (Mardin), ğīten (Ka'bīye) vs. ğītəm (Jewish-Baghdadi) 'you (pl.) came'. Other characteristic features are the verbum existentiae (among the Anatolian dialects only Āzəx has (k)īkū 'there is', māku 'there is not', corresponding with Iraqi aku/māku; on the other hand Ka'bīye p. 300/4 fīnu or p. 158/52 ft, negated p. 158/52 māft, p. 154/41 mā fīnu, past p. 146/20 kāft, p. 150/30 kāfīnu 'there was'), the pronominal suffix of the 3 m.sg. -nu, which in Anatolia occurs only in the peripheral dialects of Nōršēn and Ka<sup>c</sup>bīye (generalized after all vowels, see below) and the indefinite article (Ka bive p. 164/15 faged mara xətyāre 'an old woman', Diyarbakır faqad, Christian-Baghdadi fagəd). Following the concept of the 'Mesopotamian-Levantine dialect continuum' introduced by Talay (2014), the Divarbakır dialects which are considered the western reaches of this dialect area, according to Jastrow, represent the transition from the Mesopotamian to the Levantine language type (p. 21). Its most striking feature is the shifting of the interdental spirants to plosives and the short imperfect (in Ka<sup>c</sup>bīve in addition to the short form there is an unstressed long form p. 292/27 yádhakōn w yadrabo čālģi 'they laugh and make music').

The presentation of the phonology and morphology of the dialect of Ka<sup>c</sup>bīye is clear and concise, as Jastrow has consistently demonstrated. In addition to phonology (p. 25–44), nominal and verbal morphology (p. 45–95) are dealt with in detail; a smaller section is devoted to syntax (p. 114–120).

Special features of the *qaltu*-dialects of Diyarbakır include: the mentioned shift of the interdental spirants to the plosive sounds (p. 264/12 (\*b' $\underline{t}$ ) ana tab'atki 'I will send you (f.)', p. 150/28 (\* $\underline{d}rb$ )  $k\bar{a}yad$ ráben 'he kept hitting them', p. 304/7 (\* $k\underline{d}b$ ) tagdeb 'you (m.sg.) cheat') and changes in the distribution of a (< \*i, \*u) and a (p. 30–31; 43). In unstressed final syllables of the type -CVC, a is realised as [e], which also affects the anaptyctic vowel (p. 264/14 aben 'son'). The consequences are also visible in the vowelism of the verbal stems, where the vowel sequence is a - e in the perfects of patterns II (abeta, abeta, abeta), VI (abeta), VII (abeta), VII (abeta), VII (abeta), and X (abeta), VIII (abeta), VIII (abeta), VIII (abeta), VIII (abeta), and VIII there is a uniform inflection basis for perfect and imperfect in Ka'bīye with abeta in the second syllable (VII abeta), VIII abeta, VIII abeta, VIII abeta). In this respect, this dialect differs from all Anatolian abeta0 and abeta1 and VIII there inflectional bases predominate.

In addition, the following features are also characteristic of Ka'bīye Arabic: the neutralisation of the opposition ': h in the final syllable and before an unvoiced consonant (p. 35–36; 41, 64: \*tla' $tu \rightarrow tlahtu$  'I went out', \* $b\bar{a}$ '  $\rightarrow b\bar{a}h$  'he sold', waqeh 'he fell', wqahtu 'I fell', waq'o 'they fell'). In the verb 'give', h has generalised from a contact form: p. 178/12 htawli 'give me!', p. 276/2 yahti 'he gives'  $\rightarrow$  p. 304/3 hata 'he gave'. The pronominal suffix of the 3 m.sg. is -nu after a vowel, otherwise -u (p. 288/11 darsu 'his tooth', but p. 292/28  $ab\bar{u}nu$  'his father', p. 254/6  $axadt\bar{u}nu$  'I took it', p. 286/9  $t\bar{u}waddawnu$  'that they bring him', p.

280/6 'anaynu 'his eyes', p. 266/17 kībānu 'his stomach', p. 276/2 ywaddīnu 'he carries him away'). It is the result of a faulty parsing or reinterpretation of plural forms like p. 302/10 yədbaḥūnu 'they slaughter him'.

Ka'bīye shares with the other Mesopotamian qaltu-dialects the umlaut from  $\bar{a}$  to  $\bar{e}$ , which is conditioned by an i or  $\bar{i}$  in the following or preceding syllable (e.g. in the broken plurals of the type CCēC, CCēCīC/CwēCīC and CCēyer/CCēCi such as p. 262/7 \* $kil\bar{a}b \rightarrow kl\bar{e}b$  'dogs', p. 142/11  $r\check{g}\bar{e}l$  'men', p. 172/6  $h(\bar{e})\check{g}\bar{e}yer$  'stones', p. 176/7  $sk\bar{e}k\bar{i}n$  'knives'; or else p. 286/8  $\check{g}\bar{e}hel$  'young', p. 290/21  $w\bar{e}hed$  'one', etc., but p. 166/19 \* $mw\bar{a}d\bar{i}h$  'places', p. 290/20  $sn\bar{a}d\bar{i}q$  'trunks') as well as the suffix of the 2 f.sg. -ki (p. 172/9  $kabaq\bar{a}lki$  'it is left for you', p. 176/10  $s\bar{a}-hm\bar{e}tki$  'for your mother-in-law', p. 294/31 idki 'your hand', p. 294/32  $ad\bar{a}niki$  'your ears', etc.). According to Jastrow, the diphthongs ay and aw are 'generally preserved' in Ka'bīye (p. 31-32), while monophthongized in some lexemes (p. 272/33 farasayn 'two horses', p. 294/29 \*ltaqayta 'you met her', but p. 294/30  $k\bar{e}f$  'merry goings-on', p. 272/5  $m\bar{o}dah$  'place').

The copula of the 3rd sg. shows no gender distinction in Ka'bīye, unlike in Mardin (m. -we, f. -ye; e.g. bəntu-ye 'she is his daughter') or Āzəx (m. -u/-we, f. -i/-ye). In Ka'bīye Arabic the forms -ye (after a vowel) and -we (after -u) are gender-indifferent positional variants (āġa-ye 'he is an agha', əxtu-we 'she is his sister', p. 46–47; also note p. 210/44 bōrg-ye 'it is clear', p. 296/37 'aš
\*snīn-ye 'it is ten years', p. 244/3 xayr-we 'it is good', p. 244/7 ayš-ye 'what is it?'). Total assimilation usually occurs with a preceding consonant: p. 274/6 ġalīṭ-ṭe 'it is fat', p. 276/1 ṭayyeb-be 'that would be good', p. 294/31 əndaḥ-ḥe 'where is she?', p. 300/3 xatan-ne 'he is a bridegroom', p. 302/1 laḥḥad-de 'it is Sunday'.

Interesting is a verb derived from the expression  $\S i$  sawa 'he made something' (p. 69), which takes inflectional prefixes in the imperfect tense and is used as a passe-partout word: p. 248/6  $y \S isawawnu$  'they make him something (i.e. honour him)', p. 300/6  $tat \S isay$  'that you (m.sg.) do something'. However, a juxtaposition with the unfused form is still encountered: p. 154/40  $m \bar{a}$  ...  $\S insayk$  'we are not allowed to harm you', p. 278/8  $w \S i tsayen$  'she kisses them', p. 302/9  $\S i t isawnu$  'they will do him something'. For this verb and contaminated forms such as (\* $\slash k l$ )  $\slash k l$  'be eaten, be edible' (p. 200/17  $\slash k l$ )  $\slash k l$  'one cannot eat them') and (\* $\slash t l$ )  $\slash k l$  'istar $\slash l$ ,  $\slash k l$ )  $\slash l$  'recover, get well' (p. 246/10  $\slash l$ )  $\slash k l$  'star $\slash l$ ,  $\slash l$ )  $\slash l$  'so that his eyes will get well')  $\slash l$  Jastrow employs the term 'hybrid verb' (p. 63, 65).

A list of 'smaller word classes' (prepositions, adverbs and others, p. 103–113) proves to be helpful. Etymological information is not given here, but can be found elsewhere ( $g\bar{o}ra$  'quite, fairly' according to p. 208 fn. 2 < Turkish  $g\bar{o}re$ ).

Typing errors are insignificant. They appear more frequently in chapter 17 'Der Dialekt von Diyarbakır (The Dialect of Diyarbakır)' (p. 121–138, others see below). This latter is to be understood as an annex: Jastrow outlines the related

dialect of the city of Diyarbakır based on tape recordings that he made with three speakers during his field research in the region.

The twenty-one texts from Ka<sup>c</sup>bīye comprise more than half of the monograph (p. 140–307). A part of the extensive collection of texts, with explanations, has already been published in Jastrow (1981: 316-371), including the four-part report on the 'fall of Ka'bīve' ('Der Untergang von Ka'bīve', here p. 140–181). which is an important contemporary document. However, the larger part of the corpus is made up of newly published texts from Ka bive. According to Jastrow, the textual material on Ka bive has thus tripled (p. 5). In detail, these are the texts: VI 'Erinnerung und Gegenwart (Memory and present)' (p. 194-215), VII 'Hochzeit in Ka'bīye (Wedding in Ka'bīye)' (p. 214–219), VIII 'Einheimische Lebensmittel (Local food)' (p. 220-225) and various, shorter text samples under IX 'Was könnte ich dir noch erzählen? (What else could I tell you?)' (p. 226–237). In the chapter 'Saydes Erzählungen (Sayde's stories)' the texts X to XIV (p. 240–272) are new, as well as XVI 'Ein guter Anfang oder ein gutes Ende (A good beginning or a good end)' (p. 276–279), XVIII 'Es gibt schlechte und gute Frauen (There are bad and good women)' (p. 284-298), XIX 'Handwerk hat einen goldenen Boden (Trades are gold in every land)' (p. 298-302) and XXI 'Späte Gerechtigkeit (Late justice)' (p. 304-307).

The text samples in the dialect of Diyarbakır city are significantly smaller in number (p. 130–138). They are based on 70 minutes of audio material and are valuable in that the dialect has not been previously described. Here we learn about the Jewish population of Diyarbakır, whose Arabic dialect is said to have hardly differed from that of the Christians of Diyarbakır. Their language is little, if at all, documented, the same applies to the dialects of the Jewish communities in the cities of Çermik, Siverek (Arabic *Swērák*) and Urfa. Since Jastrow was not able to work through the new Ka'bīye and Diyarbakır texts on site with native speakers, they contain some uncertain transcriptions and translations. Also note that text 1 on the 'fall of Ka'bīye' (p. 140–159) was pieced together by the author and partly reassembled. It contains fragments from more than one recording.

However, the fact that forty years later the bulk of the text corpus can be reprinted almost without any changes attests to the quality of Jastrow's previous work.

Since the commentary apparatus was retained, it would have made sense to place the Diyarbakır texts after the Ka'bīye texts. Thus word explanations would already be given at the first occurrence (e.g. p. 134/6 sōṇa 'besides, moreover', which is only commented on p. 152; similarly p. 144/17 zāṭán 'anyway, in any case', commented p. 226; or p. 150/31 dāḥā 'more, yet more; already; (with negation) not again, not anymore', glossed p. 156 and 196; and p. 246/11 fə-daxlek-ana 'I plead with you', which is only annotated in fə-daxlek 'please!' p. 282/10).

The bibliography (p. 309–310) contains the relevant titles in the field of *qəl-tu-*Arabic dialects. Curiously, Sasse's Munich thesis from 1971 'Linguistische Analyse des arabischen Dialekts der Mḥallamīye in der Provinz Mardin (Südosttürkei) (Linguistic analysis of the Arabic dialect of the Mḥallamīye in the province of Mardin)' is not included.

Jastrow's work invites further investigations in the area of language contact. As mentioned in the introduction (p. 7–8), the influence of Turkish and Kurdish is high. In addition to the obvious word borrowings, some of which are explained in the commentary, the Arabic texts from Ka bive, due to the proximity to the city of Diyarbakır, have numerous verbs, phrases and also syntactic structures that suggest a borrowing from Turkish. This includes a number of smaller words that are very common, such as hala 'doch' (to reinforce the imperative) < Turkish hele, or  $haniye \sim hani \sim hani$  (p. 188/16, 250/8, 306/6) < Turkish hani 'where?; well then' and probably also  $y\bar{a}ho \sim y\bar{a}hu$ , which adds mood to a statement like yahuin spoken Turkish (ultimately of Arabic origin, at the beginning of direct speech p. 146/19, 148/25, 150/30, 184/7, 186/14, 260/5, 274/9, 294/28, 298/1, 304/7). The particle wāy 'lo and behold' (p. 116, 140/1) functions as a presentative, not unlike Turkish vay 'you don't say!'. Ka'bīye Arabic wahh 'how so?, oho!' (p. 250/9, 288/17, 292/23) resembles Turkish vah, eyvah 'oh, oh dear', just as the onomatopoeia for barking is similar (p. 262/7 haw haw haw 'woof woof', Turkish hav hav). Echo word formation with the onset m- appears to be an areal linguistic phenomenon which has its origin in Turkish as is commonly believed (p. 190/22 day'āwiye may'āwiye 'villagers and the like', p. 208/41 taxtāyāt maxtāyāt 'wooden boards and so on', p. 210/50 qāzāx māzāx 'sweaters and so on', p. 274/5 'ūdayn mūdayn 'wood and such', etc.).

The newly formed Arabic verbs *razzel/yrazzel* (p. 216/5 'embarrass' < Turk. *rezil etmek*), *sargen/ysargen* (p. 140/1 'banish, deport' < Turk. *sürgün etmek*) or *sakter/ysakter* (p. 150/28 'wish sb. in hell' < Turk. *siktir etmek*) are a consequence of language contact, an explanation that most likely also applies to the following passages from the published texts:

- p. 130/1 šī lē kəǧā fə-rāsna 'what happened to us' < Turkish başına gelmek,
- p. 130/4 ōrūč kān kəmasku 'they were fasting' < Turkish oruç tutmak,
- p. 138/14 ssəra šānna ǧā 'it's our turn' < Turkish birine sıra gelmek,

- p. 140/4 yəği mbāli and 290/20 yəği l-³mbālek 'come to one's mind', cf. Turkish aklına gelmek,
- p. 142/7 *ayš ṣāro!* 'what trouble they had (literally: what they became)' < Turkish *nasıl oldular*,
- p. 148/24 sāġ salīm 'safe and sound' < Turkish sağ selim,
- p. 150/26 alla yğib səğlek w səğlu ṛ-ṛās 'God let your and his work succeed' < Turkish Allah işini rast getirsin,
- p. 166/21 *šī lē kaṛayna hīč nēs mā kaṛānu* 'what we have experienced, nobody has experienced before', cf. Turkish syntax,
- p. 194/2 + 3 *qəsmən mö yṣīr* and 212/54 *mā kəsār qəsmən* 'be bestowed on, be in one's destiny' < Turkish *kısmet olmak*,
- p. 206/34 mən masa 'the previous evening' < Turkish akşamdan lit. 'from the evening',
- p. 206/37 *čənki nēs fī təqaḥ nēs fī mō təqaḥ* 'because it works for some people, it doesn't work for some people', cf. Turkish *düşmek*,
- p. 208/41 *ya'ni mən ġbayz fərən dāḥā ṭayyəb ysīr* 'it tastes better than the bread from the bakery', cf. Turkish syntax,
- p. 244/3 and 246/9 xayr-we ( $\bar{a}ge$ )? 'what's the matter, what is it?' < Turkish hayrrdır?,
- p. 244/7 ant dardek ayš-ye? 'what's the matter with you?' < Turkish derdin ne?,
- p. 252/1 yatīm baqa 'become an orphan, be orphaned' < Turkish yetim kalmak,
- p. 252/3 akal  $m\bar{a}l\ l\bar{e}\ ab\bar{u}y$  'he has appropriated my father's property' < Turkish malını yemek,
- p. 260/6 *idu mō twaddi tīqtɔʻla* 'he cannot bring himself to kill her' < Turkish *eli varma(ma)k* 'manage, be able to do',
- p. 272/5 ṣānǧi yəmsə́ga 'she was gripped by birth pangs' < Turkish sancısı tutmak,
- p. 280/2 šəġli mō yəği ṛ-ṛās 'I do not succeed', see above,
- p. 286/7 təqaḥ mbālu 'occur to', cf. Turkish aklına düşmek,
- p. 286/8 *ana mō-ḍreb īdi* 'I can't touch him' and 294/31 *ḍrəbi īdki* 'put your hand in' < Turkish *elini vurma(ma)k*.

Finally, here are some notes on errata and corrigenda, including a few suggestions. The typos found usually do not go beyond the absence of a háček or macron in the transcriptions. They cannot diminish the value of this accomplished and important contribution to Arabic dialectology:

- p. 19 reference '0.2.2.1', correct: 0.3.2.1,
- p. 59 '2. sg.c. drabna, nəkser', correct: 1. pl.c.,
- p. 78 'Plusquampräteritum', correct: Plusquamperfekt,
- p. 128 'sie sammelten, pflegten zu machen (they collected, used to make)', correct: 'pflegten zu sammeln',
- p. 129 reference '17.4.3,4', correct: 17.4.2,4,
- p. 146/19 cūt kāno, correct: čūt kāno 'there were two',
- p. 146/20 kāyūlūlu, correct: kāyqūlūlu 'he was called',
- p. 148/25 cūt, correct: čūt 'two',

- p. 151/28 'Er gab schikanierte sie (he gave bullied them)', correct: 'Er gab ihnen keine Lebensmittel (he gave them no food)',
- p. 156/48 (fn. 5) *ḥarči* 'all sorts' of unknown etymology, cf. Persian *har-či* 'whatever, everything',
- p. 176/10 htaynu, correct: htaynu 'give it',
- p. 192/27 ta'dda, correct: ta'adda 'assault sb.',
- p. 196/8 (fn. 3) salča is certainly Turkish salça 'tomato/pepper paste', not 'sauce',
- p. 206/33 w aqʻad āge w aftaḥ āge zġār zġār, maḥ yōxlāwi (?) 'then I sit down and open very small dumplings with (?)' is < Turkish hamur açmak 'roll out dough', uncertain form yōxlāwi probably is Turkish oklava 'rolling pin',
- p. 208/41 (fn. 1) čōp: Surely Turk. çöp is meant as 'blade of grass, stick' instead of 'garbage, waste' here,
- p. 208/43 suf, correct: sūf 'wool',
- p. 208/43 'as nōtāt, correct: 'aš nōtāt 'ten lira',
- p. 242/2 *qāl əmkān māfi* 'she said: Absolutely.', correct: 'he said: No way!' < Turkish *imkânı yok* 'impossible! no way!',
- p. 248/3 (fn. 4) *yazlam pozulmáz* is not Turkish *yazmam bozulmaz* 'my document cannot be annulled', but rather *yazılan bozulmaz* 'what is written (= fated) cannot be annulled', as the speaker glosses in Arabic *ktībe lē nkatbet dāḥā mō təxṛeb*,
- p. 250/8 səġel, correct: šəġel 'work',
- p. 256/15 cīplāx, correct: čīplāx 'naked',
- p. 260/5 sī mā, correct: šī mā,
- p. 262/9 lale, correct: lāle 'dumb',
- p. 294/32 (fn. 3) čēz < \*šhēz < šihāz 'dowry', alternatively < Turkish çeyiz?,
- p. 304/5 *qāmo raho*, correct: *rāho* 'they went'.

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