PARADIGMS AND EXERCISES IN SYRIAC GRAMMAR

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PREFACE TO THE FOURTH EDITION

In the Author's Note to the first edition Professor Robinson wrote that there was 'a need for something of an elementary nature which should be of value to the student who takes up Syriac for the first time. A book of paradigms and exercises is especially desirable in the case of those who have had no previous experience of Semitic languages . . . it is designed as an introduction, and an introduction only.' The steady demand for the grammar since then has shown that the need remains and that this grammar has gone some way to meet it. The printing of a new edition has given the opportunity of expanding the grammar slightly, chiefly by adding some explanatory notes and one or two further rules of syntax, and of providing more help to pronunciation by printing diacritic points more fully throughout. It remains an introduction only, and the more advanced student will still need to refer to larger grammars such as Nöldeke's *Kurzgefaßte syrische Grammatik* (of which there is an English translation by J. A. Crichton) or Duval's *Traité de grammaire syriaque.*

The editor acknowledges the debt he himself owes to Robinson's *Syriac Grammar* from which he first learnt Syriac, and also to his own students of recent years who have been through the grammar with him. It is also a pleasure to acknowledge the extreme care shown by the printers and proof readers at the Clarendon Press.

L. H. BROCKINGTON

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CORRIGENDA

p. 16	last line	*for*	ܐܢܬ	*read*	ܐܢܬ
19	line 12	,,	ܪܒܬܐ	,,	ܪܒܬܐ
24	,, 10	,,	ܒܬܘܠܬܐ	,,	ܒܬܘܠܬܐ
25	,, 10	,,	ܪܒܬܐ	,,	ܪܒܬܐ
27	last line	,,	ܪܝܫܝܗܝܢ	,,	ܪܝܫܝܗܝܢ
35	line 15	,,	ܡܠܟܝܟܝ	,,	ܡܠܟܝܟܝ
37	,, 10	,,	ܕܡܠܟܐ	,,	ܕܡܠܟܐ
38	,, 16	,,	ܝܕ	,,	ܝܕ
39	,, 4	,,	ܪܦܪ	,,	ܪܦܪ
40	,, 5	,,	ܐܪܡܠܬܐ	,,	ܐܪܡܠܬܐ
43	f.n. 1	,,	ܫܡܗܐ	,,	ܫܡܗܐ
44	last line	,,	ܘܐܡܪ ܗܘ	,,	ܘܐܡܪ ܗܘ
45	line 2	,,	ܒܥܝܢ	,,	ܒܥܝܢ
46	Col. 3. line 10	,,	ܐܢܬܬ	,,	ܐܢܬܬ
47	f.n. 3	,,	ܩܪܝܬܐ	,,	ܩܪܝܬܐ
63	line 3 from bottom	,,	ܬܬܩܛܠ	,,	ܬܬܩܛܠ
65	line 15	,,	ܕܢܬܩܛܠ	,,	ܕܢܬܩܛܠ
76	,, 13	,,	ܗܝܕܝܢ	,,	ܗܝܕܝܢ
83	,, 14	,,	ܬܩܒܠܝܗ	,,	ܬܩܒܠܝܗ
	,, 22	,,	ܠܟܘܢ	,,	ܠܟܘܢ
87	,, 13	,,	ܘܐܣܟܝܗ	,,	ܘܐܣܟܝܗ
92	line 3 from bottom	,,	ܐܘܒܕ	,,	ܐܘܒܕ
93	line 13	,,	ܐܟܝܠ	,,	ܐܟܝܠ
108	,, 7	,,	ܬܒܪܘܢ	,,	ܬܒܪܘܢ
117	line 3 from bottom	,,	ܐ	,,	ܐ
155	line 9	,,	ܣܢܘܢܝܬܐ	,,	ܣܢܘܢܝܬܐ
156	,, 5	,,	ܐܝܬ	,,	ܐܝܬ

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PARADIGMS AND EXERCISES IN SYRIAC GRAMMAR

I. INTRODUCTORY

§ 1

SYRIAC belongs to a group of languages classified by philologists under the general name of Semitic, and more especially to the Aramaean section of these languages. While its centre was Edessa, it was spoken over a wide area in early Christian times, and was more generally used than Greek in western Asia, apart from Asia Minor. In spite of some peculiar features, it is akin to the language spoken in Palestine in the first century A.D., and is, therefore, of special value to students of the New Testament. A developed form is still spoken in the region of Tabriz, but the language with which we are here concerned is that of the Syriac Bible and early Christian Fathers.

In Syriac, as in the other Semitic languages, the majority of nouns and verbs are associated, for grammatical purposes, with a triliteral root. It is by no means certain that triliteral roots were as fundamental to the Semitic languages as was once thought. There are many biliteral nouns and biliteral verbal forms. Many verbs which now show a triliteral form in some of their inflected forms may be expansions of an original biliteral form by the repetition of a letter or by the addition of a weak letter.

It generally happens that all words having the same three 'radicals' can be traced to a single idea. Derivatives are formed by prefixing or affixing consonants, by a change of vowels, or by the doubling of a consonant within the root itself. Thus the primary meaning of the root *QRB* is that of nearness. The verb *qreb* means 'to be near'. Another verbal form *qareb* means 'to

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Unattached	*Joined to following letter*	*Joined to preceding and following letters*	*Joined to preceding letter*	*Estrangelā*	*Nestorian*	*Transliteration*	*Name*
ܐ	ܐ	ـܐـ	ـܐ	ܐ	ܐ	ʾ	ʾĀlaph
ܒ	ܒ	ـܒـ	ـܒ	ܒ	ܒ	b	Bēth
ܓ	ܓ	ـܓـ	ـܓ	ܓ	ܓ	g	Gāmal
ܕ	ܕ	ـܕـ	ـܕ	ܕ	ܕ	d	Dālath
ܗ		ـܗـ	ـܗ	ܗ	ܗ	h	Hē
ܘ		ـܘ	ـܘ	ܘ	ܘ	w	Waw
ܙ		ـܙ	ـܙ	ܙ	ܙ	z	Zain
ܚ	ܚ	ـܚـ	ـܚ	ܚ	ܚ	ḥ	Ḥēth
ܛ	ܛ	ـܛـ	ـܛ	ܛ	ܛ	ṭ	Ṭēth
ܝ	ܝ	ـܝـ	ـܝ	ܝ	ܝ	y	Yūdh
ܟ	ܟ	ـܟـ	ـܟ	ܟ	ܟ	k	Kāph
ܠ	ܠ	ـܠـ	ـܠ	ܠ	ܠ	l	Lāmadh
ܡ	ܡ	ـܡـ	ـܡ	ܡ	ܡ	m	Mīm
ܢ	ܢ	ـܢـ	ـܢ	ܢ	ܢ	n	Nūn
ܣ	ܣ	ـܣـ	ـܣ	ܣ	ܣ	s	Semkath
ܥ	ܥ	ـܥـ	ـܥ	ܥ	ܥ	ʿ	ʿĒ
ܦ	ܦ	ـܦـ	ـܦ	ܦ	ܦ	p	Pē
ܨ			ـܨ	ܨ	ܨ	ç	Çādhē
ܩ	ܩ	ـܩـ	ـܩ	ܩ	ܩ	q	Qōph
ܪ	ܪ	ـܪـ	ـܪ	ܪ	ܪ	r	Rēš[1]
ܫ	ܫ	ـܫـ	ـܫ	ܫ	ܫ	š	Šīn
ܬ		ـܬ	ـܬ	ܬ	ܬ	t	Taw

[1] Or Rīš.

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Skull, ܩܕܩܘܦܐ.

Slave, ܥܒܕܐ.

Slay, ܩܛܠ o.

Sleep (*v.*), ܫܟܒ a; *causative*, Pa.

Sleep (*n.*), ܫܢܬܐ.

So, ܗܟܢܐ.

Solomon, ܫܠܡܘܢ.

Something, ܡܕܡ.

Sometimes, ܒܥܕܡ ܒܥܕܡ.

Son, ܒܪܐ, 13.

Soul, ܢܦܫܐ (*f.*), *Plur.* ܢܦܫܬܐ.

Sow, ܙܪܥ o, 23.

Sparrow, ܨܦܪܐ (*f.*).

Speak, ܡܠܠ *Pa.*

Speech, ܡܠܬܐ.

Spirit, ܪܘܚܐ (*f.*).

Spit, ܬܦ o, 28.

Sprinkle, ܙܠܦ o, 28.

Stand, ܩܡ, 27.

Standard, ܢܣܐ.

Stir up, ܥܪܪ o.

Stone (*v.*), ܪܓܡ o.

Stone (*n.*), ܐܒܢܐ (*f.*).

Story, ܐܣܛܘܪܝܐ.

Strength, ܚܝܠܐ.

Strengthen, ܬܠ, 27, *Pa.*; *passive, Ethpa.*

Stretch out, ܫܕܪ o.

Strong, be, ܬܩܦ a; ܬܩܦ o.

Stumble, make to, ܟܫܠ *Aph.*

Subdue, ܟܒܫ o; *passive, Ethpa.*

Suffice, ܟܦܝ a.

Sun, ܫܡܫܐ (*m. and f.*).

Swallow, ܒܠܥ.

Synagogue, ܟܢܘܫܬܐ.

T

Take, ܢܣܒ a, 22.

Take away, ܫܩܠ o.

Taste, ܛܥܡ a.

Tasteless, become, ܛܦܫ a, 23.

Teach, ܝܠܦ, 24 *Pa.*

Teacher, ܡܠܦܢܐ.

Teaching, ܡܠܦܢܘܬܐ.

Tear, ܒܙܥ o.

Tell, ܚܘܝ, 23, 25, *Aph.*; ܐܡܪ a, 24.

Temple, ܗܝܟܠܐ.

Tempt, ܢܣܝ a and o.

Tent, ܡܫܟܢܐ.

Testify, ܣܗܕ a.

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That, *m.* ܗܘ, *f.* ܗܝ, 5.

That, *Particle*, ܕ, 5.

Then, ܗܵܝܟܢܳܐ.

There, ܬܡܳܢ.

There is, ܐܝܼܬ, 8.

There is not, ܠܵܝܼܬ, 8.

Therefore, ܗܳܟܝܼܠ ܕ.

These, ܗܵܠܹܝܢ, 5.

They, *m.* ܗܢܘܢ, ܐܢܘܢ, *f.* ܗܢܝܢ, ܐܢܝܢ, 5.

Thigh ܟܘܼܪܥܳܐ, *Plur.* ܟܘܼܪܥܹܐ.

Thing, ܡܶܕܝܼܢܳܐ, 31.

Think, ܣܥܪ o.

This, *m.* ܗܵܢܳܐ, *f.* ܗܵܕܹܐ, 5.

Those, *m.* ܗܢܘܢ, *f.* ܗܢܝܢ, 5.

Thou, *m.* ܐܢܬ, *f.* ܐܢܬܝ, 5.

Three, ܬܠܬ, 32.

Threshold, ܐܶܫܬܘܼܬܳܐ, *Plur.* ܐܶܫܬܘܼܬܹܐ.

Throw, ܪܡܐ, 29, *Pe. and Aph.* ܝܗܒ, 29, *Pe. and Pa.*

Thus, ܗܳܟܢܳܐ.

Till (*v.*), ܣܟܠ a and o, 23.

Time, ܙܒܢܳܐ.

To, *Prep.*, ܠ (*inseparable*), ܠܘܬ, 8, 10 note.

Tomb, ܩܒܪܳܐ.

Tongue, ܠܫܳܢܳܐ.

Torch, ܠܦܝܼܕܳܐ.

Torment, ܥܲܝܼܩܳܐ, *Plur.* ܥܲܝܼܩܹܐ.

Torture, ܙܘܥ a and o.

Touch, ܡܫ o, 28.

Towards, ܠܘܬ.

Trample, ܕܘܫ o, 28.

Transgress, ܥܒܪ a, 23.

Tread on, ܕܘܫ, 27.

Treasure, ܓܢܙܳܐ.

Tree, ܐܝܼܠܢܳܐ.

True, ܫܪܝܪ.

Truly, ܒܫܪܝܪܘܬ.

Truth, ܫܪܝܪܘܬܳܐ.

Turn aside, ܫܢܐ, 29; *trans.*, *Pa.*; *passive*, *Ethpa.*

Two, *m.* ܬܪܬܝܢ, *f.* ܬܪܬܹܝܢ.

U

Under, ܬܚܘܼܬ, 10 note.

Understand, ܣܟܠ *Ethpa.*

Until, ܥܕܡܐ, 10 note.

Unto, ܠܘܬ, 10 note.

Upon, ܥܠ.

Useful for, be, ܣܥܐ, 24, *followed by* ܠ.

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