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## Akkadian Words in Modern Assyrian

The ancient Assyrian language is classified as Akkadian; it was the language of the Assyrians and Babylonians, written in Cuneiform. To facilitate administrative tasks of the Assyrian Empire Aramaic was made the second official language in 752 B.C.

The Empire chancelleries adopted a simple standard form of the Aramaic for correspondence. In the heart of the Empire "Aramaic docketts" were attached to the cuneiform tablets. Such docketts gave brief indication of names and dates and a summary of the contents which were useful to merchants. This is classified as "Official Aramaic". Many Assyrian tablets have been found with Aramaic inscribed on them. Assyrian scribes are often depicted in pairs. One writing in Akkadian on a cuneiform tablet, the other writing in Aramaic on a parchment or papyrus sheet.

Among several bronze lion-weights found at Nineveh some had both the Akkadian and Aramaic text inscribed on them. They bore the names of the Assyrian kings at the time of use, including Shalmaneser III (858-824), Sargon (721-705), Sennacherib (704-681). The Official Aramaic later became accepted as the standard form of literary communication by the Aramaic speaking people in various part of the Empire. It is called Assyrian Aramaic (or, less commonly, Imperial Aramaic).

According to the Old Testament, in 701 B.C. when officials of Sennacherib appeared before the walls of Jerusalem, and the Rab-Shakeh spoke in Hebrew to the officers of King Hezekiah, they begged him to speak rather in Aramaic, for they understood this official tongue and did not want the populace to hear the humiliating demand for submission made in Hebrew. In later centuries Aramaic replaced Hebrew even in Israel. During their exile years in Babylon the Jews adopted the Square Assyrian script which was commonly known to them as Ketav Ashuri or the Assyrian text. The law demands that a Torah scroll be written with the "ketav Ashuri" so called after its place of origin.

In time Aramaic became spoken in Mesopotamia also and gradually replacing the Akkadian language. The transition was made possible because the two language shared similarities. Also because the 22 letters Aramaic alphabet was much easier to master than the 600 or so signs of the cuneiform. The evidence of side by side existence of the two languages in 4th century B.C. is an Aramaic document from Uruk which has been written in cuneiform. In Babylon The Akkadian writing disappeared by 140 B.C. except amongst a few priests who employed it for religious purposes. However it continued to be used for astronomical texts down to the time of Christ.

Most old languages for different reasons have gone through drastic changes from time to time. For example the Old English language has changed greatly from what it was at 9th century A.D. Present day English reader will have difficulty reading and understanding the Lord's prayer as written at that time as seen below.

"Feder Ure bu be eart on hefonum, si bin nama gehalgod. To becume bin rice. Gewurbe Oin willa on Eoroan swa swa on heoronum. ..."

The contemporary Assyrians use thousands of word in their daily conversation which are clearly Akkadian. Syriac, another name for the Christian Assyrian language, was perhaps in use as a literary language in northern Mesopotamia before the Christian era but only a few written examples of it have survived from the first century A.D. It developed as a literary language of some importance in Edessa after a Christian school succeeded a pagan learning center. Gradually it was accepted as the ecclesiastical and cultural language of the Aramaic speaking Christians of the region. Currently there are two slightly different dialects of the Syriac language called Eastern and Western. It should be noted that the spoken Modern Assyrian (Eastern or Western) is older than the literary liturgical language of the Church (the Edessan dialect). For example, in Akkadian the word for weapons is *keke* (literally: teeth, because weapons were cutting instruments), in liturgical Syriac the word for weapons is *zaineh*, while in modern Eastern Assyrian it is *cheke*, the same as in Akkadian.

Some differences in pronunciation between the ancient and the present day Assyrian words may be due to mispronunciation of the Cuneiform signs by translators. Some of the signs can be vocalized in more than one way. It should be noted that while the ancient Assyrian words universally ended in "U" the contemporary Eastern Assyrian words in their basic form end in "A". The vowel "A" of Eastern dialect in all cases is pronounced as "O" in the western Assyrian/Syriac speech of today.

This list consist mainly of single words without their usual derivatives and inflected forms such as verb tense, adjectives, adverbs, plural and gender forms and others. With the addition of these variations and additional new words this list can grow into thousands of entries.

This concordance was compiled by Peter BetBasoo and Wm Warda from the glossaries contained in the following books.

"State Archives of Assyria, Volume III: Court Poetry and Literary Miscellanea", by Alasdair Livingstone, Helsinki University Press.

Samuel A.B. Mercer, "Assyrian Grammar with Chrestomathy and Glossary" Frederick Ungar Publishing, New York, 1961

Samuel A.B. Mercer, "Assyrian Grammar" London 1921

The Eastern Assyrian Dictionary used to verify the pronunciation and the meaning of the contemporary Assyrian words is : Orhaham's Dictionary of the stabilized and enriched Assyrian Language and English, Chicago Ill. 1943

### Common Vocabulary in ancient Assyrian and Modern Assyrian

Akkadian	Modern Eastern Assyrian	Modern Western Assyrian	Meaning
abalu	labuli		to carry, to take
abatu	evada		to do
abi	abi or babi	babi	my father
abu	aba or baba	abo	father
abu-kku-nu	babokhun or abokun		your father (plural)
adannu	dana	edono	appointed time, deadline
addu	addeya	eddo	now
agappu	gulpa	gefo	wing
agrabu	agriba	aqrebo	scorpion
aharru	kharraya	haroyo	to be the last
akalu	kalla	okhel	to eat
akhu	akhuna	aho	brother
akhatu	khatta	hotho	sister
ammtu	amtta	amtho	handmaid, female servant
anutee	annee	hani	these
arba'u	arba	arb'o	four
ardikhalu	ardikhla	ardikhlo	builder, architect
arkhu	yarkha	yarho	month
asu	asya	osio	physician
assuritu	assuraita , atturaita, suraita	ashuraito, othuraito, suraito	assyrian female
atta	att	hat	you
attunu	ahtune	hatu	you plural
bakhu	bakha	bokhe	to weep
banu	bnaya or bnna	bone	to build
baraqu	braqa	barqo	flash
bararu	barra		glimer, to shine
battibatti	batvatti		neighbourhood, households
beldababi	baldvavi	b'eldbobo	adverseries, enemies
bibbu	bibva		drainage
birinni	billan		between us
birgu	birqa		lightning
birku	birka	barko	knee
bishu	bisha	bisho	evil
bi itu	baita	baito	house
buru	beera	biro	water well
buhur	buhra (h =kh)		first born
daianu	daiana		judge
daianutu	daianuta	daiono	judgeship
dammu	demma	admo	blood
dannu	dannana		strong, mighty
daqqu	daqiqqa		tiny
darasu	doosh		push away
dimtu	dimeta		tear

dinu	dyana		to judge
dishpu	doosha	daosho	honey
ebbubu	abbueba or shabeba		flute
eberu	ebara	'boro	to cross
egirtu	egarta	egartho	letter
eglu	khagla	haqlo	field
ekallu	hakla	hajklo	palace
ekaku	khaka	hjoko	to scratch
elippu	elppa	elfo	ship
elle	all	aal	on upon
elu	elul	'eloyo	high
elulu	ellul		to be high
emeru	khemara	hmoro	ass, donkey
enu	eina	aino	eye
enzu	ezza	ezo	goat
epiru	epra	afro	dust
esru	esra	asro	ten
etteru	attera	atiro	one who has in abundance, rich
ettiru	nettara	notar	to protect
gamkhu	gamkha	qamho	flour
gammalu	gumla	gamlo	camel
gamru	gmira		complete
gappu	gulpa		wing
garabu	garbanta	qaribo	to come near
garru	garra or gyarra		to dig out
garnu	garna	qarno	horn
gashtu	gishta	qeshto	bow
gattu	gatta		hand, handle
gir-ba-an-nu	gur-ba-an-na	qorbono	offering
gishru	gishra	geshro	bridge
gushu	gishya		cold
hadatu	kudata	hothotho	renewal, to be new
hadutu	khaduta		joy
haddu	khdda		to rejoice
hamsu (hamshu)	hmsha	hamsho	five
haru	gyara		to dig out
harurtu	harhirta		throat, larynx
hassinu	hassina		ax
hashalu	hshalla		crush
hatanu	khitna	hathno	son in law
hatu	khtta	htoyo	to sin
hittitu	khtteeta	htitho	sin, crime
hugu	hoga		ladder's rung
iddu	idda	ido	side , hand
idu	yeda	yod'o	to know
iggu=ditch	gyara		to dig
ikkaru	akkara	akoro	farmer, gardner
illidu	yalidda	yaludo	child
ilippu	elppa		ship

ilutu	elayoota		highness, divinity
imkhas	mkhaya	mahyo	to hit or stirke
immati	imman	ema	when
imnu	yamina	iamino	right hand
imaru	khmara		donley
inbu	anbee	enbe	grapes
insabtu	esagta		ring
inu	ina		eye
isu	gasa	qaiso	wood
isku	eshka	shako	testicle
ittimalu	timmal	athmel	yesterday
kabadu	kavda		liver
kakkabu	kikhwa	kokbo	star
kakkishu	kaksha		rat
kakku	kacha		weapon
kalbannatu	kalbanita		axe
kalbatu	kalibta	kalbtho	bitch
kalbu	kalba	kalbo	dog
kallatu	kalta	kaltho	daughter-in-law
kalu	kuli	kole	all
kalu	kla		to stand, to hold back
kalmatu (feminine)	galma (male)		louse, a wingless parasitic insect
kapapu	kyapa		to bend, to bow
karabu	grava (communion)		to bless
karmu	karma	karmo	vineyard, orchard
karru	kraya	karryo	to be short
karsu	kersa	karso	belly, abdomen
kasaru	asarra		to bind, tie
kashtu	keshta		bow
kaspu	kispa		silver
khabu	khabbib		to love
khallu	khalla		vinegar
khammatu	khammta		female
khanugu	khannig	hnoqo	to strangle
khashlu	khshala		to crush
khasinu	khasina		ax
khattanu	khitna		son-in-law
khatu	khtama	hthomo	to end
khuturu	khutra		scepter
kiddatu	khaduta		joy, happines
kima	kimad		according to, as much as
kinnatu	kinnuta	kinotho	justice
kinnu	kinna	kino	just
kinnutu	kinnuta		justice
kinnu	kinna		nest
kirmu	karma	karmo	orchard, garden
kistu	kaissa		wood
kudurru	kuduri - khadervanee		boundry
kullu	kulli	kole	all

kurru	kurra		furnace
kussi	kursi	kursio	chair
kussitu	kusitta		hat, garment hood
kutallu	gdalla	qdolo	back of the neck
la	la	lo	no
labashu	lebasha	lbosho	to cloth
lagattu	lgatta		to pick, pluck
libbi	libbi	lebi	my heart
libbu	libba	lebo	heart
lishannu	lishanna	leshono	toungue, langauge
lumu	loma		bad luck, ill faith
ma-alku	malka=king	malko	prince
ma-alke	malke=kings	malke	princes
maalkatu	malikta	malektho	queen
maanu	maaney	manyo	who
magaru	myaguri	myaqar	to favour, obey, respect
maglutu	magluta		broiled
makharu	makhara		architect, surveyor
makhasu	mkhaya		to smite
malu	mala	mole	to fill
mamitu	momita		oath
manu	mnaya	bnoyo	to count, count
mannu	maney		who
manzaltu	mozalta	mazlo	orbit, position of star
marsu	mirya		sick
marsutu	mrayta		sickness
mashmashu	shamasha	shamosho	deacon
mashu	manshuyee		to forget
mashu	machuhi		to find
massu'u	msaya		to clean to wipe
mashtitu	shtaita	shtoyo	a drink
mattati	matvati		lands, villages
matu	myata	maoto	to die
matu	mata	motho	land, country
meshu	meshaya		to clean - to wahsh
messu	msayya		to wash cloths
migru	miugra	miaqro	favorite, honorable
milku	milka		counsel
minna	minna or binna	menyo	what
minu	minyana	menyono	number
mishikhtu	mshukhta		measurement
mittu	mitta	mitho	the dead
mu	mia	maye	water
mudutu	dayta	ida'tho	knowledge
murru	mora		myrah
muskenu	meskeena	meskeno	destitute
mutanu	mota		death
mutu	mota		death
naasharu	nishra	nishra	eagle

nabu	nabuyee		to speak (in prophecy) to utter
naggaru	najar	nagoro	carpenter
nakharu	nukhra	nekhroyo	foreign
nakhu	nakha		to rest
namaru	nora		mirror
napahu	npakha	nfoho	to blow
napishtu	napsha		life, breath of life
naptu	nupta		naptha
narrati	naravati	nahre	rivers
narkabtu	markabta	markabtho	chariot
narru	narra	nahro	river
nassaru	nattar		to guard
nashagu	nshaga	nshoqo	to kiss
nihtu (f)	nyehta		peaceful, at rest
nihu (m)	nikha		restful, peaceful
nirru	nirra		yoke
nishi	nashi	noshe	people
nishu	nasha	nosho	person
nash-nakhar	nasha-nakhraya	nosho nekhroyo	foreigner
nunu	nuna	nuno	fish
nuarmu	armunta		pomegranate
nuru	nura	nuro	light, fire
pagru	pagra	faghro	corpse, body
pakadu	pgada		to appoint, to command
parasu	prasha	frosho	to separate
paraku	prakha		to fly
pashahu	pshakha		to be at rest
parzillu	prizla		iron
pasharu	pshara	fshoro	to dissolve
patu	ptakha		to open
pillakku	pillga		spindle
pirru/pillu	pilla	filo	elephant
pitu	ptakha		to open
pu	puma		mouth
putu	patta	fotho	face
qabaru	qbara (soft b)	qboro	to bury
qalalu	qaloola	qalilo	small, tiny, light-weight
qalati	galiatee		alkali
qannu or qinnu	qinna	qeno	nest
qarabu	qravtana		war, soldier, enemy
qarnu	qarna		horn
qastu	qishta		bow
qatu	qatta		hand (handle)
qemku	qemha		flour
qeribu	qerbune		to draw near
raatu	rehtta		water course
rabshag	rubshaga		cup-bearer or chief butler
rabu	raba	rabo	great, large
rakabu	rekaba		to ride

raqadu	reqada	rqodo	to dance
re'u	raya	re'yo	shepherd
re' utu	ra' uta		shephership
remu	rekhma	rahme	mercy
reshu	resha	risho	head, beginning
rikku	raikha	riho	smell
rimmu	rimma		wild bull, buffalo
ruaqu	ragga		to be distant, to escape
rubbo	rub		chief, leader
ruku	rikgga		distant, far
rukhtu	rvikta		extensive
rupsu	rupsha, rupshta		shoulder, shovel
sabiru (male)	shibirta (fem)		bracelet
sadaru	sedra		list, to order
sagu	syaga	sloqo	climb, to go high
saharu	sura	z'uro	small
salmu	salma	salmo	image
salu	saluee	slutho	to pray
samamu	shmayya	shmayo	heaven, sky
sammu	smugga	semoqo	red
sananu	sanyana		rival, hater
sanu	tanee		to repeat, tell
saptu	sipta	saptho	lip, edge
sarahu	srakha		to utter cries of mourning, uncontrolled anger
sarapu	srapa		to burn, refined silver
sebu (shebu)	shavva	shau'o	seven
seheru	sura		small, to be young
shaggalu	tgalla		to weigh
shakhanu	shkhana	shahino	to be warm
shalamu	shlama		peace, greeting
shalamu	shlama	shlomo	to be well
shalatu	shultana	sheltono	to rule
shalmish	b' shlama		peacefully
shaluhu	shalukee		to strip off
shamanu	tmany	tmanyo	eight
shamatu	shameta		birth mark, brand
shamshi	shimsha	shemsho	the sun
shamu	shmaya	shmayo	heaven
shanati (female)	sheeni (male)	shne	years
shapahu	shpaha		spread, scatter, spill
shatu	shta		to drink
shatu	sheeta	shtoyo	year
shebabbi	shbabbi	shbobe	neighbors
shebu	shavva		seven
shedu	shedda	shido	demon, evil spirit
shemu	shma	shma'	to hear
shinesar	teryesar	tra'sar	twelve
shuptu	shopa		place, dwelling, seat
shulmu	shlama		peace

shumu	shema	eshmo	name
shutapu	shotappa		partner, partaker
siamu	syamma		insegnia, writing
siaqu	eeqa	iqo	narrow, tight
sibutu	saibuta	sobutho	old age
simmiltu	simmalta		ladder
sippu	sippa		edge, treshold
sipru	sipra		writing
siru	bisra	basro	meat
sissu	suissa	sessyo	horse
sittu	shintata	shantho	sleep
sulamu	shulama		completion
sumelu	simmala	semolo	left
sumu	shimma		name
surru	sharee		to begin
turu	tora	taoro	bull
taaru	dyarra	d'oro	to return
tabaku	tpakha		to pour out, shed
tabtu	tobta	tubtho	goodness, kindness
tabu	tava	tobo	good, pleasant
tahumu	tekhuma	thumo	boundry
talmidu	talmidda	talmidho	student, apprentice
tamaru	tamer		bury
tamati	yamti		seas
tamtu	yamta	yamo	sea
tamitu	mamita		oath
tamu	mami		to swear
taniku	tannukee		to sigh
tapahu	tpakha		to pour out
taradu	trrada		to send, expel
targmanu	targemana	targmono	translator
targmon	targmanna		dargoman
taru	dyara		return
tayartu	dyarta		to return
tegal	tgalla		to weigh
temuru	tamuree		to bury
tesliti	sluti		my prayer
teslitu	sluta		prayer
tibnu	tuyna		straw
tillu	tilla		hill, mound
tinuru	tanura	tanoro	oven
tishu	tishaa	tisho	nine
u = oo	oo	oo	and
ummanu	ummana		artist
ummu	yema		mother
umu	uma		day
umushu	umait		daily
urhu	urkha	urho	road, way
uru	ura		stall



wabalu	labuli		to take, to carry away
zakhiru (male)	zkhura		small
zakhirtu (female)	zkhurata		small
zamaru	zmara		to sing
zammeru	zammara		singer (male)
zammertu	zammarta		singer (female)
zeru	zerra		seed
zeru	zarra		descendant
zekhru	dekhra		male
zingnu	digna		beard
zuprinu	zapaana		safran
zuzu	zuza	zuze	money

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