

# MEDITERRANEAN LANGUAGE REVIEW

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# The Terminology of the Field Designations in the Colloquial of the Hebron Countryside

Issam K. H. Halayqa (Birzeit University)

Many terms have been intensively applied in the Hebron countryside vernacular to describe the landscape in sense of topographic appearance, cultivability, fertility, infertility, and barrenness of land, or the colour,<sup>1</sup> surface, thickness or thinness of soil that the people cultivate. These terms are of substantives and adjectives in nature and still used by the farmers or peasants and often heard of when dealing with land and its products. The naming of the fields or land in general, or even plots of land was subjected to many cultural and natural factors. Forty six terms connected with the terminology of field designations have been collected from many anthropological and dialectological works.<sup>2</sup> In addition, I then investigated if they are still in use in the contemporary dialect of Hebron countryside by interviewing some native speakers from selected rural areas northeast of Hebron.

## Motivations of this study

The land in the area under investigation has been properly utilized, either for cultivation, grazing, or construction of buildings and roads. This use required a high level of organization in regards to ownership, division, sale, buying and renting out of land. Although these terms have remained in actual use in the Palestinian countryside, they face the following endangerments: 1. Rapid expansion of urbanization. 2. The passing away of the older generation of people who were more intimately connected to the land. 3. Some terms, moreover, by now are headed towards becoming obsolete simultaneously with the relative abandonment of some agricultural activities. For these reasons, this paper attempts to define the anthropological background of these terms, and traces their lexical origins and their counterparts in the ancient near eastern languages which were used in the Levant.

## Category of the terms

The 45 terms we have gathered are divided into two main sections: substantives (24 terms) and adjectives (21 terms), each of which is also classified according to the area of use.

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1 Terms referring to soil color are not included in this study. For soil color, see Dalman II: 26ff., for colors in dialects, see Borg 2011.

2 Basically the works of Canaan 1916, Dalman 1928–1942, and Behnstedt & Woidich 2012.

## 1 Substantives (6 subsections)

### 1.1 Terms for land in general

The terms (*ʿarḍ*, *waṭāʾ*)<sup>3</sup> are found employed by locals to indicate cultivated or uncultivated land, plots of land, territory, regardless of its location, topographic shape, and size.

#### 1.1.1 *ʿarḍ*: *ʿarāḍī*

A land, field, farmland but it is said also in general context to indicate any piece of land regardless to its location or shape (Dalman II: 15, 17, 36, 47ff., 147, 180ff.; cf. Behnstedt & Woidich 2012: 299). The term is said of territory, earth or ground | **Ug** *arṣ* f. “earth, ground” (del Olmo Lete & Sanmartín 2003: 106–107). **Ph** *ṛṣ*<sub>1</sub> sg.f.abs. “earth”, pl.abs. *ṛṣt* “land”. **EpHeb** *ṛṣ*<sub>1</sub> sg.f.abs. *ṛṣ* “earth” (Hoftijzer & Jongeling 1995: 110–113). **BH** *ʿæræs* “ground, earth, piece of ground”, “territory, region” (Koehler & Baumgartner 2001: 90–91). **MH** *ʿrēcā* f. “land, earth, ground, field” (Jastrow 1950: 125). **OldAr**, **OffAr** *ṛq*, **Palm**, **Nab** *ʿrc* “earth, ground, soil” (Hoftijzer & Jongeling 1995: 111). **JBA** *ʿreḥā* f. “earth, ground, field” (Sokoloff 2003: 170). **Sy** *ʿrēcā* f. “earth, ground”, “field” (Sokoloff 2009: 104). **Ma** *arqa* “earth, land, field” (Drower & Macuch 1963: 39). **Sab** *ʿrd* f. “land, territory, country” (Beeston, Ghul & al. 1982: 7). **CAr** *ʿarḍ* “a land, or country: a piece of land or ground: and land, or soil” (Lane 1863–1893: 48). **PC** *ʿarḍ* f. “Erde, Erdboden, Erdreich, Fußboden, Acker, Feld, Land, Grundstück, Gelände” (Seeger 2015: 8).

#### 1.1.2 *waṭāʾ*: *waṭāyāt*

A term used as a synonym of *ʿarḍ* regardless to its use, location and shape but it is restricted with ownership, it appears more common in the colloquial contexts than *ʿarḍ* | **CAr** *waṭʾ* “depressed land, or low ground, between eminences”, *waṭʾa* “tread, treading” (Lane 1863–1893: 2949). **PC** *waṭāʾ* f. “Boden, Land, Grund und Boden, unbebautes Privatland, Grundstück, Erdboden” (Seeger 2015: 626).

### 1.2 Land with remnants of forests

The remains of forests, shrubs, and wild trees which grow randomly on slopes or mountain tops are expressed by two terms. Such land is uncultivable but used for grazing or providing firewood.

3 Dalman II: 47, 49, 242 mentions *ḥaqil* to mean “specific field” in the Palestinian colloquial, but up to my knowledge this term is not heard of in the colloquial of Hebron. It is also not listed by Seeger 2015, and sporadically used in Arabic dialects (Behnstedt & Woidich 2012: 297) | **OffAr** sg.emph. *ḥql* “plot of land, field” (Hoftijzer & Jongeling 1995: 401). **BH** *ḥāqʿlāh* II f. “plot of land” (Koehler & Baumgartner 2001: 324). **MH** *ḥāqʿlāh* f. “field” (Jastrow 1950: 474). **JBA** *ḥaqelā* m. “field” (Sokoloff 2003: 480). **Sy** *ḥaqilā* m. “field” (Sokoloff 2009: 485). **CAr** *ḥaqil* “land, land in which there are no trees, plot” (Lane 1863–1893: 612). **Sab** *ḥql* n. “field, countryside” (Beeston, Ghul & al. 1982: 69).

1.2.1 *ḥrāš*: *ḥuruš*

It indicates woodland, (cf. Dalman II: 38) land with small forests, remains of forests either from the British mandate or from the Ottoman periods | **BH** *ḥoræš* m. “forest” (Koehler & Baumgartner 2001: 358). **MH** *ḥōræš* m. “thicket, wild growing bushes” (Jastrow 1950: 440). **JPA** *ḥwrš* m. “forest” (Sokoloff 1990: 193). **SA** *ḥrš<sub>3</sub>* m. “forest” (Tal 2000: 297). **CAr** *ḥaraḡa* “a wood, a collection of trees or dense and tangled trees or a thicket, collection of dense and tangled trees into which can penetrate” (Lane 1863–1893: 543). **PC** *ḥrāš* “Wald, Wäldchen, Gehölz” (Seeger 2015: 110).

1.2.2 *hīša/e*: *hīš*

A small jungle, small thick forest with grass located on mountain slopes, woodland serves for grazing (Dalman II: 38) | See **MH** *hīšāh/ḥešæt* m. “thicket, inaccessible place to be cleared by fire in order to be made arable”, “reed thicket” (Jastrow 1950: 441, 460). **SA** *hš* m. “tree” (Tal 2000: 298).<sup>4</sup> See **CAr** *ḥašš* “garden, garden of palm trees” (Lane 1863–1893: 573). **PC** *hīš* “verwildertes Stück Land (von trockenen Gräsern, Gestrüpp oder Bäumen)” (Seeger 2015: 612).

1.3 *Plots of cultivatable land with seasonal dwelling place*

This includes four terms expressing land rented out to farmers or rewarded to a women as dowry (*škāra*), or large plots of farmland that belong to a particular family (*‘izba/e*) with seasonal dwelling place, they are usually walled, fenced or marked with borders and planted with trees (*mizra‘a*) or vegetables (*miqtā*) located either on mountain tops or slopes.

1.3.1 *škāra*: *škārāt*

It is assigned to rented out portion of cultivable land, Dalman (II: 36) defines it as presented or offered land, gift land, a piece of land located usually in or outside village and planted with vegetables. See also (Dalman II: 59, 149) | **OffAr** *škr<sub>4</sub>* sg. emph. *škr<sup>o</sup>* “reward, salary”. **Palm** *škr<sub>5</sub>* sg.m.abs. *škr* “rewarding”, sg.emph. *škr<sup>o</sup>* (Hoftijzer & Jongeling 1995: 1135). **MH** *š<sup>e</sup>kīrūt* f. “hire, rent (for a house or a field)”, *šākār* m. “profit, reward” (Jastrow 1950: 1573, 1576).<sup>5</sup> **PC** *škāra* “Anbau, Aussaat, zukünftiger Ernteertrag; kleines Grundstück, bisweilen auch für Vorbeter und Pflüger angepflanzt” (Seeger 2015: 299).

1.3.2 *‘izba/e*: *‘izab/‘izibat*

It refers to a cultivated plot of land with a seasonal dwelling place, also said of all installations that belong to the living place for the shepherds, their families and live-

4 See **JBA** *ḥāšā<sub>2</sub>* “wild thyme” (Sokoloff 2003: 485–86). **Akk** *xašu* B “plant yielding seeds used as spice” (CAD H 144).

5 **EpHeb** *škr* “tax, tribute” (Hoftijzer & Jongeling 1995: 123). **BH** *š<sup>e</sup>kkār* “tribute” (Koehler & Baumgartner 2001: 95).

stock's when they move seasonally after pasture.<sup>6</sup> “Landgut, Bauergut, Bauerhof” (Behnstedt & Woidich 2012: 303), or seasonal dwelling place for harvesting summer products outside the village | **CAr** *‘azūba* “a land in which one has to go far for pasturage, in which the pasturage is little” (Lane 1863–1893: 2034). **PC** *‘izbe* “Ort, an dem man sich beim Vieh oder auf dem Felde längere Zeit (auch über Nacht) aufhält, geschütztes Nachtquartier (z. B. Höhle, Grotte)” (Seeger 2015: 377). See **BH** *‘azūbah* “abandoned one” (Koehler & Baumgartner 2001: 808).

### 1.3.3 *mizra‘a: mazāri‘*

A farm surrounded by walls, an open field in which trees, grain and vegetables are planted, fenced farm, or small field far from the village used for animal breeding, or small village, “Acker, Weiler” (Behnstedt & Woidich 2012: 298, 303), *muzrā‘* is also heard of with the meaning “field(s) of wheat and barley” | **Ug** *mdr‘* m. “sown land, cultivated land” (del Olmo Lete & Sanmartín 2003: 528). **Pun** *mzr‘* sg.abs. *mzr‘* “cultivated land” (Hoftijzer & Jongeling 1995: 610). **BH** *mizerā‘* m. “sown land” (Koehler & Baumgartner 2001: 567). **Sab** *mdr‘ot* f. “sown field, ground” (Beeston, Ghul & al. 1982: 40). **CAr** *mazra‘a* “a place of seed, the place in which is produced fruits or harvest to be reaped” (Lane 1863–1893: 1226). **PC** *mizra‘a* “Bauernhof mit Anbaufläche (Gemüse, Weizen, Blumen, Bäume etc.), (Hühner-, Rinder-)Farm, Pflanzung, Anlage” (Seeger 2015: 229).

### 1.3.4 *miqtā: maqātī*

A plot of land planted with vegetables, often cucumber, zucchini, water melon, melon and pumpkin (Dalman II: 55f. 209f.), any plot of land planted with vegetables (Canaan 1916: 166), “Melonenacker” in south Syria (Behnstedt & Woidich 2012: 300) | **BH** *miq‘šāh* II f. “field of cucumber” (Koehler & Baumgartner 2001: 629). **MH** *miq‘šāh* f. “cucumber field” (Jastrow 1950: 833). See **JPA** *qyšw‘yn* m.pl. “cucumber field” (Sokoloff 1990: 327, 492). **CAr** *maqātā* “land where cucumber are sown and grown” (Lane 1863–1893: 2847). **PC** *miqtā* “Gemüseacker, Gemüse-pflanzung” (Seeger 2015: 456).

## 1.4 *Plots of cultivatable land with deep and productive soil*

Plots of cultivated land with thick soil that is suitable for planting all of trees or vegetables and grain are listed here. They lay in narrow or wide valleys, or on mountain feet. These fields are mostly encircled with walls built with fieldstones or fences of shrubs and thorny plants, by this way the soil is kept on situ and the land produce is protected from thieves and wild animals.

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6 A derivative of the noun *‘izib* is also used in animal breeding contexts (cf. Halayqa 2013c: 123).



1.4.1 *baq<sup>ca</sup>/baq<sup>t</sup>: baq<sup>c</sup>*

A walled and spacious plot of land with thick layer of soil and located in a valley, a plot of land with flat surface | **Ug** *baq<sup>c</sup>* m. “valley” (del Olmo Lete & Sanmartín 2003: 234). **BH** *biq<sup>e</sup>āh* “valley-plain wide U-shape with gentle sides” (Koehler & Baumgartner 2001: 150). **MH** *biq<sup>e</sup>āh* f. “valley, plane, group of fields”, “unguarded fields” (Jastrow 1950: 186f.). **OffAr** *baq<sup>t</sup>* f. “valley(?)” (Hoftijzer & Jongeling 1995: 187). **JBA** *biq<sup>e</sup>atā* f. “valley”, *peqatā* (< *pq<sup>ct</sup>*) f. “open area, plain” (Sokoloff 2003: 230, 927). **JPA** *baq<sup>h</sup>* f. “valley” (Sokoloff 1990: 110). **Ma** *paqata* f. “valley, open plains, gorges, chasms” (Drower & Macuch 1963: 362). **Sy** *pqa<sup>ct</sup>tā* m. “valley, plain” passim (Sokoloff 2009: 1224). **CAr** *buq<sup>ca</sup>* “a piece, a part, portion or plot of land or ground differing in any manner, in colour or in appearance or external state or condition from that which adjoins it”, *baq<sup>ca</sup>* “a place in which water remains and stagnates” (Lane 1863–1893: 235). See **PC** *buq<sup>ct</sup> arid* “ein Fleckchen Erde” (Seeger 2015: 45).

1.4.2 *bustān: basātān*

A garden, an orchard, a walled field planted with trees located inside the city or village sometimes close to water springs where it can be watered (Dalman II: 220, 233, 239), “Obstgarten mit Nutzbäumen und seltener einen Gemüsegarten” (Behnstedt & Woidich 2012: 306) | **MH** m. *būs<sup>e</sup>ttānā* “garden” (Jastrow 1950: 147). **JBA** *būs<sup>e</sup>ttānā* (< MPer *bōstān*) m. “garden” (Sokoloff 2003: 191). **Sy** *būstānā* m. (< MPer *bōstān*) “garden, orchard” (Sokoloff 2009: 128). **Ma** *bustana* “garden, orchard” (Drower & Macuch 1963: 56). **CAr** *bustān* “a garden of sweet-scented flowers and trees, walled garden of palm trees” (Lane 1863–1893: 202). **CAr** *bustān* (< Per *būstān*) “Garten” (Asbaghi 1988: 63). **Per** *būstān* “a garden, kitchen garden, green spot” (Steingass 1988: 207). **PC** *bustān, bistān* “Garten mit Bäumen (< Per *būstān*)” (Seeger 2015: 36).

1.4.3 *bayyāra: bayyārāt*

A groundwater-well surrounded by fields of orange, lemon, avocado trees or a farm that is irrigated by it. The term is applied to a kind of fields located in the coastal area or in Jordan valley but extended to indicate an irrigated plot of land planted with orange and lemon trees, a well as an irrigated land, “Schoepfbrunnen” (Dalman II: 225, 230, VI: 268), “Obstplantage, Obstgarten” (Behnstedt & Woidich 2012: 298, 307) | < *bīr* “well, cistern” (cf. Halayqa 2013a: 128f.). **PC** *bayyāra* “Obstplantage” (Seeger 2015: 59).

1.4.4 *ḡnēna: ḡanāyin*

A walled garden, planted piece of land with trees, vegetables and flowers, usually located inside the populated areas. A diminutive form of *ḡanna* (Dalman II: 220; cf. Behnstedt & Woidich 2012: 306) | **Ug** *gn* I m. “garden, orchard” (del Olmo Lete & Sanmartín 2003: 302–303). **Pun** *gnh<sub>1</sub>* sg.f.abs. *gnt* “gardens” (Hoftijzer & Jongeling

1995: 228). **OffAr** *gnh* sg.emph. *gnt*° “garden”. **Nab** *gnh* sg.cs. *gnt* “garden”. **Palm** *gnh* sg.cs. *gnt* (Hoftijzer & Jongeling 1995: 228). **BH** *gan* m. “garden for vegetables, watered garden” (Koehler & Baumgartner 2001: 198). **MH** *gan*, *gannāh* f. “garden, paradise”, *gannā* f. “garden” (Jastrow 1950: 256). **JBA** *genūnūtā* f. “garden” (Sokoloff 2003: 295). **Sab** *gnt* f. “garden, orchard” (Beeston, Ghul & al. 1982: 50). **CAr** *ḡanna* “garden, walled garden of trees or palm trees, or of gripe vines”, *ḡunayna* “garden, little paradise” (Lane 1863–1893: 463). **PC** *ḡnēna* “Hausgärtchen, Hausgarten, Blumengarten” (Seeger 2015: 96).

#### 1.4.5 *ḡabala/e: ḡabāyil*

It indicates a walled agricultural terrace; a plot of land walled at least from one side, said of each walled terrace in slopes of mountains (cf. Dalman II: 23, 39, 53). A terrace field. The word is probably derived from *ḡabil* “a rope used in land measuring”, then developed to indicate the land measured by that rope | **BH** *ḡabael* II m. “piece of field”, “area, long narrow strip of land” (Koehler & Baumgartner 2001: 286). **MH** *ḡab<sup>e</sup>lā* II m. “district” (Jastrow 1950: 420). **Sy** *ḡablā* m. “region, zone” (Sokoloff 2009: 408). **Sab** *ḡblt* n.pl. “terrace field” (Beeston, Ghul & al. 1982: 65).<sup>7</sup> **PC** *ḡabala* “Abhang, Böschung, Gefälle zwischen zwei Terrassenfeldern” (Seeger 2015: 103).

#### 1.4.6 *ḡākūra: ḡawākūr*

It stands for a walled house garden with plantation of trees or vegetables (Dalman I: 555; II: 36, 187, 221, 242, 309, 350), “Hausgarten, Gemüsegarten, Obstgarten” (Behnstedt & Woidich 2012: 308) | **Sy** *ḡākūrā* (< Ar *ḡākūra*) m. “land, field” (Sokoloff 2009: 449). **CAr** *ḡākūra* “a piece of land retained and enclosed by its proprietor for sowing and planting trees, near the houses” (Lane 1863–1893: 616). **PC** *ḡākūra* “kleines landwirtschaftlich genutztes Stück Land, kleiner Gemüsegarten (meist ummauert)” (Seeger 2015: 125).

#### 1.4.7 *qaṭ<sup>a</sup>: qṭā<sup>c</sup>*

It designates a cut off piece or fragment of land from its surrounding through walling, piece of marked land, the term originally used by ploughman when he divides the field into longitudinal section called *mi<sup>c</sup>nā*<sup>8</sup> but each section *mi<sup>c</sup>nā* is also divided into piece called *qaṭ<sup>a</sup>*. The word is also applied to each walled piece of land (Dalman II: 171) | **MH** *qīṭe<sup>a</sup>*° “cut, the fragment under the tailor’s hand” (Jastrow 1950: 1351). **Sy** *qaṭ<sup>a</sup>* m. “fragment” (Sokoloff 2009: 1355). See **JBA** *qetṭea<sup>c</sup>* adj. “cut off”, m. “short one, shortened form” (Sokoloff 2003: 1006). **CAr** *qīṭ<sup>a</sup>* “piece of (anything)”, portion, cut off, detached, or separated from the whole” (Lane 1863–1893: 2990). **PC** *qīṭ<sup>a</sup>* “Stück, Bruchstück” (Seeger 2015: 476).

7 As a tool “rope, cord” it is attested in many ancient Semitic languages, see Halayqa 2014: Nr. 257.

8 Cf. Halayqa 2015: 80.

1.4.8 *karim: krūm*

A field designation said of walled piece of land with plantation specially grapes, olive trees or almonds. See (Dalman IV: 307ff.) (< Aram cf. Fraenkel 1982: 156) | **Akk** *karānu* “Weinrebe, Weintrauben” (von Soden 1965: 446f.), “wine, grapevine” (CAD K 202ff.). **Ug** *krm* m. “vineyard”, (del Olmo Lete & Sanmartín 2003: 455). **Ph** *krm*<sub>2</sub> sg.m.abs. *krm* “vineyard”. **EpHeb** *krm*<sub>2</sub> sg.cs. *krm* “vineyard”. **OffAr** sg.cs. *krm* “vineyard” (Hoftijzer & Jongeling 1995: 536). **BH** *kæræm* I m. “vineyard” (Koehler & Baumgartner 2001: 498). **MH** *kæræm* m. “enclosure, vineyard” (Jastrow 1950: 671). **Sy** *karmā* m. “vineyard” (Sokoloff 2009: 655). **PC** *karm* “Feld/Acker für Feigen oder Wein, Weinberg” (Seeger 2015: 500).

1.4.9 *māris: mawāris*

A term indicates a narrow and rectangular piece of flat land (30–40m. x 8–12m.) usually supported by walls which are built of free standing stones from two or three directions, and applied for both cultivated and uncultivated land, see (Dalman II: 39f., 48, 53, 59, 159; III: 46), “Ackerstreifen” (Behnstedt & Woidich 2012: 299) | **Sy** *maršā*<sub>1</sub> m. “rope” (Sokoloff 2009: 839). **CAr** *marasa* “the rope fell on one of the two sides of the sheave of the pulley”, “a rope, a dog’s rope”<sup>9</sup> (Lane 1863–1893: 2708). **PC** *māris* “ebenes und schmales Stück Land, Feld, Acker, Ackerstreifen” (Seeger 2015: 544).

1.4.10 *nuqra: nuqrāt*

A small piece of land hollow in shape located in valleys or slopes walled at least from three sides, with thick and deep soil | **BH** *neqārāh* m. “cleft” (Koehler & Baumgartner 2001: 723). **MH** *niqerā* m. “cleft” (Jastrow 1950: 935). **JBA** *neqīretā* f. “hollowed out area” (Sokoloff 2003: 775). **Sy** *nqārā* m. “opening, hole, cave” (Sokoloff 2009: 949). **SA** *nqyrw, nqrh* f. “cleft” (Tal 2000: 548). **CAr** *nuqra* “a small cavity in the ground, a hole in the ground in which water stagnates or a round” (Lane 1863–1893: 2838). See **PC** *nuqr* “Aushöhlung von Schalensteinen (klein)” (Seeger 2015: 586).

1.5 *Plots of cultivatable land with poor soil*

This category contains names that describe narrow, small pieces of land with poor soil and rocky surfaces and stones. The location of these plots is usually on slopes, or in the marginal areas. Because they have thin layers of soil, generally unproductive, they can be used for cultivation of barley.

9 Cf. Halayqa 2014: Nr. 246. Or it could be metathesis via *mašara*. See **Akk** *mušāru* “surface measure of one square *ninda*” (= 12 cubits<sup>2</sup>) (CAD M2 261). **JBA** *mešārā* f. (< **Akk** *mušāru*) “garden bed” (Sokoloff 2003: 717). **Ma** *mašara* “district, zone, habitation” (Drower & Macuch 1963: 279). **MH** *mešerā* “plain, garden bed” (Jastrow 1950: 858). Aram > Ar *mašara* (Fraenkel 1962: 12).

1.5.1 *buhṣa: buḥṣāt*

Small piece of land with surface relatively covered with small stones, it is irregular in shape and usually cultivated with barely | The term is a metathesis via *ḥaṣab* “pebble” named after stony rugged surface and related to *baḥṣ* (cf. Halayqa 2014: Nr. 149). **CAr** *ḥaṣab* “stones, pebbles” (Lane 1863–1893: 581). **SArD** *baḥṣ* “cail-loux” stones, a metathesis of **CAr** *ḥaṣb* (Barthélemy 1935: 30). See **MH** *ḥāṣāb* I m. “stone pitcher” (Jastrow 1950: 494).

1.5.2 *ḥarīqa: ḥarāyiq*

A land with steep surface, located on mountain feet. It is said of land resulted after burning the thorny plants to gain more land for cultivation, (cf. Canaan 1916: 165) | **CAr** *ḥarīqa* “heat, a wind, or some other cause of mischief or harm, that burns, or nips, shrinks, shrivel, or blasts herbage” (Lane 1863–1893: 552). **PC** *ḥarīqa* “Feuer, Feuersbrunst, Brand; Olivenhain (da zuvor brandgerodet)” (Seeger 2015: 111).

1.5.3 *‘māra: ‘māyir*

Said of a plot of land with rugged surface and planted with grain. A dwelled land, or cultivated land of barley<sup>10</sup> used for summer grazing | See *ti‘mīre* “bestelltes Feld, Acker” in Ramallah (Behnstedt & Woidich 2012: 298) | **Sy** *‘mīrā* m. “grass, hay”, *‘mūryār* m. “abode, dwelling”, “construction” (Sokoloff 2009: 1109–1110). **PC** *‘māra* “mit Oliven- und Mandelbäumen bewachsenes Land” (Seeger 2015: 396).

1.5.4 *mizrab/zarb: mazārib*

A narrow strip of land or small terrace, it is similar in form and size to *ezqāq* as mentioned by Dalman II: 23. The term<sup>11</sup> is also used during ploughing where the ploughman divides the land into stripes to facilitate its ploughing (cf. Dalman II: 169) | See **Sy** *zrībā* adj. “narrow” (Sokoloff 2009: 398), “narrow, path” (Smith 1957: 120). See **PC** *zarbe* “schmaler Weg, Gang” (Seeger 2015: 228).

1.6 *Terms indicating internal parts of the cultivated land*

There are a few terms used to specify the internal parts of the cultivated land, the land of this type is marked by lines of trees or vegetables, in other words, these expressions indicate the space that lie between the two parallel rows of trees and vegetables. They are usually heard of during tilling (*nīr*), or planting trees and vegetables (*šōrā*, *‘āriz*).

10 See **BH** *‘āmīr* “swath of corn, cut grain” (Koehler & Baumgartner 2001: 844).

11 *zrība* in Bahrain and Emirates means “enclosed garden, plantation” (Behnstedt & Woidich 2012: 301).

1.6.1 *šōra*: *šūrāt/ešwar*

A strip, a rectangular piece of land bordered by a row of (olive) trees, vines or vegetables, the land it covers is to be estimated by 2m. in width with different lengths range from 10–30m. It is used as measuring unit during ploughing or planting processes. See (Dalman II: 173f.) | **EpHeb** *šwrh*<sub>3</sub> m. “row” (Hoftijzer & Jongeling 1995: 1119). **MH** *šūrāh* f. “chain, line, row” (Jastrow 1950: 1542). **JBA** f. *šūr<sup>e</sup>tā* “row” (Sokoloff 2003: 1125). **JPA** *šwrh* f. “row, line” (Sokoloff 1990: 542). **Ma** *šura*<sub>6</sub> “line, road, way” (Drower & Macuch 1963: 457).<sup>12</sup>

1.6.2 *‘āriz*: *‘awāriz*

A term designates a rectangular planted land; it covers the land planted with one row of trees or vines, its length is varied 25–30m. and width 1.5–2m. The term is used in dividing the planted land during ploughing and harvest. It is said for example this that a *māris* has three to four *‘āriz* of grapes or olive trees | **MH** *‘ar<sup>e</sup>sā* a. m. “arbor, espalier” (Jastrow 1950: 1117–1118, 1121). Cf. **JBA** *‘ar<sup>e</sup>sā* (Sokoloff 2003: 882). Fraenkel (1982: 13) mentions *‘rs* with the meaning “a divider wall within a courtyard” but not identical with *‘rsā* “row”. The word could be considered as metathesis via *‘zr*. **BH** *‘azārāh* f. “precinct”, “border (around) the temple” (Koehler & Baumgartner 2001: 812). **MH** *‘azārāh* f. “enclosure, court” (Jastrow 1950: 1062). **JBA** *‘azer<sup>e</sup>tā* f. “court” (< BH, MH *‘zrh*) (Sokoloff 2003: 850). **Sab** m. *m<sup>e</sup>ḏr* “part of construction” (Beeston, Ghul & al. 1982: 13).

1.6.3 *nīr*: *enyār*

It means a rectangular piece of land planted with two rows of trees; its width is around 2–3m. with different lengths 20–30m., this term is used as a surface measure unit when ploughing or harvesting | < *nīr* “plough yoke”,<sup>13</sup> and adopted in Palestinian colloquial for two meanings: 1. “yoke, a plough instrument”, 2. “a strip of planted land which its width is the same of yoke beam”. **Ug nrt** II f. “ploughed land, tilled field” (del Olmo Lete & Sanmartín 2003: 643). **BH** *nīr* II “prepared virgin soil, land made cultivable for the first time” (Koehler & Baumgartner 2001: 697). **CAr** *nīr* “the conspicuous part of a road, the conspicuous furrowed part of a road” (Lane 1863–1893: 2870–2871).

12 Cf. **Sy** *šawrā* m. “a plant from which wicks are made”, or *šwārā* m. “pulley, axle tree” (Smith 1957: 568), *šwārā*<sub>2</sub> m. “axle of the wheel” (Sokoloff 2009: 1535). **CAr** *šorā* “a certain marine plant, a sort of trees, of the trees of the shores of the sea” (Lane 1863–1893: 1617).

13 < Aram *nīrā* “yoke” > Ar *nīr* (Fraenkel 1962: 94, 131), as a plough tool, see Dalman II 93–95, 108, 132, Pl. 18, 21b, 25, 29, 33, 38, recently Halayqa 2014: Nr. 61; Seeger 2015: 596.

## 2 Adjectives (5 subsections)

The close observation of local peasants led to creating many words in adjectival form given to the land, those were employed to differentiate the plot of land from its surroundings and to describe the state of the land they deal with. The adjectives connected with land express cultivated and uncultivated land, flat or rugged, irrigated or non-irrigated, fertile or infertile. They also indicate the surface of soil whether it is cracked, dry, wet or occupied by stones and rocks.

### 2.1 *Cultivated and uncultivated land*

#### 2.1.1 *būr/(a)*

The word means uncultivated, unploughed, empty land whatsoever its location and its topographic appearance, see (Canaan 1916: 168; Dalman II: 24, 39, 132ff. 135, 162, 186) | **MH** *būr* II m. “something waste, wild growing” (Jastrow 1950: 148). **JBA** *būrā*<sub>1</sub> m. “uncultivated land”, *bayyāyr* adj.pl.m. “fallow, uncultivated field” (Sokoloff 2003: 192, 201). **Ma** *burā* “uncultivated land, empty space, waste or untilled ground” (Drower & Macuch 1963: 56). **Sy** *būrā* adj.m. “uncultivated land, unproductive, infertile” (Sokoloff 2009: 130). **CAr** *būr* “land not sown, land before it is prepared for sowing or planting, land that is left to lie fallow one year, that it may be sown next year”, “uncultivated land, unsown and unplanted land” (Lane 1863–1893: 274). **PC** *arḍ būr* “Brachland, Brachfeld, Brache” (Seeger 2015: 55).

#### 2.1.2 *xarāb*

The term is given to a desolated land whether flat or rugged, said also for abandoned and uncultivated fields for more than a year (cf. Dalman II: 38), in certain scenes it is used as synonym of *būr* | **Ug** *xrb* adj.m. “trocken” said of thyme (Tropper 2008: 52). **BH** *hāreb* I adj. “dry, waste, desolate”, *hōrābāh* “dry land” (Koehler & Baumgartner 2001: 349–350). **JBA** m. “ruin”, “ruinous result” (Sokoloff 2003: 442). **MH** adj.m. *hōr<sup>ē</sup>bān* “destruction, desolate condition, waste state” (Jastrow 1950: 439). **Ma** *hurba*<sub>1</sub> “destruction, desolation, ruin, waste, desert” (Drower & Macuch 1963: 137). **Sy** *harūbā* adj.f. “deserted”, “spoiled, ruined” (Sokoloff 2009: 487). **PC** *xarāb(e)* “Einöde, unbewohnte Gegend” (Seeger 2015: 145).

#### 2.1.3 *šilf(a)*

A term refers to a rectangular uncultivated plot of land 50–60 x 15–20m. which is unploughed and covered with dry or green grass. Canaan (1916: 166, 168) explains it as a land planted with the same seeds for two or three years (cf. Dalman II: 24, 134; III: 310) | **MH** *šæləp* m. “stubble field” (Jastrow 1950: 1587).<sup>14</sup>

14 Cf. **JBA** *šelūpepē* m.pl. “undeveloped dates” (Sokoloff 2003: 1147).

2.1.4 *ʿamār*

A term said of any cultivated plot of land, usually planted with trees. See *ʿmāra* above (1.5.3).

2.1.5 *sahl/sihle*

A plain, flat land, a term said of every land with flat surface (cf. Dalman II: 21) | **CAr** *shal* “plain or level, soft, smooth” said of place (Lane 1863–1893: 1453). **PC** *sahl* “Ebene”, *sihl* “einfach, leicht, eben” (Seeger 2015: 273).

2.1.6 *waʿar*

A land with rugged surface and protruding rocky masses, a term said of every rugged land in general, land with trees and plants, land with rocky benches and blocks where only narrow strips of soil in between can be used for cultivating of grains. See (Dalman II: 14). Poor land (Canaan 1916: 165) | **CAr** *waʿar* “rugged”<sup>15</sup> applied to (road, and mountain) (Lane 1863–1893: 29). **PC** *waʿr* “zerklüftete/verwilderte/raue/unwegsame Gegend, Geröll” (Seeger 2015: 627).

2.2 *Irrigated and non-irrigated land*2.2.1 *baʿl*

A term designates a rain-irrigated land, cultivated or farmed land that can only be watered by rain (cf. Dalman II: 30) | **MH** *baʿal* m. “a field watered by rain and requiring no artificial irrigation” (Jastrow 1950: 182). **Sab** *bʿl* II m. “rain-irrigated land” (Beeston, Ghul & al. 1982: 26). **CAr** *baʿl* “elevated land upon which comes neither running water nor torrent, or that is not rained upon more than once a year”, “any palm trees or trees or seed produce watered by rain” (Lane 1863–1893: 228).<sup>16</sup> **PC** *baʿl* “wildwachsende, essbare Pflanzen, die nicht gegossen werden”; *arḍ baʿl* “Fläche, auf der essbare Pflanzen ohne künstliche Bewässerung wachsen; kann auch adjektivisch, aber unflektierbar, benutzt werden” (Seeger 2015: 44).

2.2.2 *saqī*

An irrigated land, cultivated and farmed land which depends completely on artificial watering, it is usually located close to springs (cf. Dalman II: 33f., 219, 238) | Cf. **MH** *šaqeyā* f. “irrigated soil or garden”, *šeqī* m. “irrigation, field requiring irrigation” (Jastrow 1950: 1622). **Sy** *šeqyā* m. “irrigation” (Sokoloff 2009: 1593). **JBA** *šeqyā*<sub>2</sub> m. “liquid, potion” (Sokoloff 2003: 1174). **CAr** *saqa* in *saqa el-furāt* “towns or lands watered by the Euphrates”, *siqa* “land that is irrigated by water”, *masqī*

15 **Ug** *yʿr* II m. “wood” (del Olmo Lete & Sanmartín 2003: 947). **Pun** *yʿr* sg.abs. “wood, forest” (Krahmalkov 2000: 212). **BH** *yaʿar* I “wood, thicket” (Koehler & Baumgartner 2001: 422–423). **MH** *yaʿar* “forest” (Jastrow 1950: 585). **JBA** *yæʿræ* (< *yʿr*) m. “forest, thicket” (Sokoloff 2003: 521). **Sy** *yaʿrā* “shrubbery, bramble bush” (Sokoloff 2009: 578).

16 See **JBA** *baʿalā* “fructified” in connection with field (Sokoloff 2003: 227).

“irrigated”, *saqya* “palm trees that are irrigated by water wheel” (Lane 1863–1893: 1384–1386). **PC** *arḏ saqi* “Bewässerungsland” (Seeger 2015: 260).

### 2.3 Plots of land with thick layers of soil

#### 2.3.1 *simḥa*

A land with thick and red/reddish soil and no stones (Dalman II: 17), good and productive land | **Ug** *šmxt* f. “joy” (del Olmo Lete & Sanmartín 2003: 825). **BH** *simēḥāh* f. “joy, jubilation” (Koehler & Baumgartner 2001: 1336f.). **MH** *sāmeaḥ* adj.m. “bright, joyful, joyous” (Jastrow 1950: 1593). **CAr** *samḥa* adj.f. “generous, bountiful” (Lane 1863–1893: 1423). See **PC** *simḥ* “heiter, gütig, lebensfroh” (Seeger 2015: 267).

#### 2.3.2 *smīna*

An adjective designates fertile land with dark or red and thick soil (Dalman II: 24) | **MH** *š<sup>e</sup>menā* adj.m./f. “fat, rich” (Jastrow 1950: 1595). **JBA** *šamīn* adj. “fertile” said of soil” (Sokoloff 2003: 1157). **Sy** *šamīnā* adj. “fat” (Sokoloff 2009: 1573). **CAr** *samīna* “fat land, the land of good soil with few stones, strong to foster plants or herbage” (Lane 1863–1893: 1432). **PC** *smīn* “dick” (Seeger 2015: 270).

#### 2.3.3 *ḡ/mīqa*

It is said of a plot land with very thick layer of soil located in flat area or in valleys, with far extended soil (Dalman II: 21) | **BH** *āmoq* “deep, deep-seated” (Koehler & Baumgartner 2001: 849). **MH** *amīq*, *āmīq* I m. “deep”, “profound” (Jastrow 1950: 1088). **JBA** *mīqa* adj.f. “deep” (Sokoloff 2003: 870). **Ma** *muq* “deep, profound, low, depressed” (Drower & Macuch 1963: 352). **Sy** *mīqā* adj. “deep” (Sokoloff 2009: 1111). **CAr** *amīq* adj.m./f. “deep” said of a well (Lane 1863–1893: 2157). **PC** *ḡmīq*, *mīq* “tief” (Seeger 2015: 397, 417).

### 2.4 Land with thin layer of soil

#### 2.4.1 *rqīqa*

It assigns a land with thin and poor soil<sup>17</sup> (Dalman II: 15) | **Akk** *raqqaqu* A “thin” said of pants and objects, *raqqatu* B “swamp, marsh” (CAD R 168, 170), *raqqatu* I “ein dünnes Gewand”, *raqqaqu* I “dünn, schmal, fein” (von Soden 1972: 958). **Ug** *rq* II adj.m. “fine, thin” said of cloth (del Olmo Lete & Sanmartín 2003: 745). **BH** *\*raq* I adj.m. < *rq* *\*II* “thin, gaunt” (Koehler & Baumgartner 2001: 1286). **Sy** *raqqīq* adj. “thin, slender, tender” (Sokoloff 2009: 1489). **SA** *raqyqh* m. “thin (said of a cake)” (Tal 2000: 852). **CAr** *raqīq* adj.m. “thin”, *raqāq* “a desert tract, a wide desert

17 A synonym of this term is *qarqad* and given by Dalman II: 15 to indicate a dry land with thin layer of soil in Jerusalem and Ramallah. **PC** *qarqad* “Stück Land mit sehr dünner Erde” (Seeger 2015: 465).



with soft soil, a level of expanded tract of land of soft soil, beneath which is hardness, a soft and wide tract of land without sand” (Lane 1863–1893: 1131).<sup>18</sup> **PC** *rqīq* “dünn (von flächigen Dingen gesagt); zart, sanft, weich, schlank” (Seeger 2015: 215).

#### 2.4.2 *qarqabāš*

The term here expresses a dry land with thin layer of soil and scattered flat rocks, used in the area around Hebron<sup>19</sup> as well as in Jerusalem and Ramallah (Dalman II: 15f.). Sometime it is pronounced as *karkmāš* (Canaan 1916: 165 and note 1) | The term is composed of two Aramaic words *qrq<sup>c</sup>* and *bwš*. Both together mean “poor land, poor soil”. 1. *qrq<sup>c</sup>*. **JBA** *qar<sup>e</sup>qe<sup>c</sup>ā* (< MH *qar<sup>e</sup>qe<sup>c</sup>ā*) m. “land” (Sokoloff 2003: 1046). **JPA** *qrq<sup>c</sup>* m. “land” (Sokoloff 1990: 507). **SA** *qrq<sup>c</sup>* m. “soil” (Tal 2000: 802). **MH** *qar<sup>e</sup>qa<sup>c</sup>* “ground, soil”<sup>20</sup> (Jastrow 1950: 1426). 2. *bwš*. **JBA** *bīš* adj. “evil, bad thing” (Sokoloff 2003: 206). **Sy** *bīšā* adj. “bad, wicked”, *bayšā* “poor person” (Sokoloff 2009: 143–144). **JPA** *byš* “sick” (Sokoloff 1990: 96). **PC** *qarqabāš* “ein Stück Land mit viel Steinen und wenig Erde” (Seeger 2015: 465).

### 2.5 *Surface of soil and pebbled land*

#### 2.5.1 *mšaqāqa*

Dry plot of land with cracked surface flawless land (Dalman II: 21) | **CAr** *mašaq* “a place of cleaving, splitting, a fissure, cleft” (Lane 1863–1893: 1579). See **JBA** *šeqīq* adj. “split” (Sokoloff 2003: 1174). **MH** *šeqāq*, *šeqāqā* “open place, street” (Jastrow 1950: 1625).

#### 2.5.2 *mfall<sup>c</sup>a*

A synonym for *mšaqāqa* (Dalman II: 21) | **CAr** *pal<sup>c</sup>* “a fissure, or crack (in the foot)” (Lane 1863–1893: 2441).<sup>21</sup>

18 See **Akk** *raqqatu* B “swamp, marsh” (CAD R 168, 170), *raqqatu* II “Uferwiese, Uferstreifen” (von Soden 1972: 958). **JBA** *raqqetā* f. “alluvial ground” (Sokoloff 2003: 1094). **Ma** *raqata* “dry ground beside the river” (Drower & Macuch 1963: 422). **Sy** *raqqā* “shallow, ford” (Sokoloff 2009: 1490). **MH** *raqq<sup>c</sup>tā* f. “alluvial ground, bank” (Jastrow 1950: 1498). **CAr** *raqqa* “any land by the side of a valley, over which the water spreads in the days of the increase and into which it then sinks” (Lane 1863–1893: 1131).

19 In Jerusalem and Ramallah *qartāha* is used to indicate land with thin layer of soil (Dalman II: 15) | **BH** *qereah* m. “bald-head” (Koehler & Baumgartner 2001: 1140). **MH** *qāreahat* f. “baldness” (Jastrow 1950: 1426). **JBA** *qarehetā* f. “baldness” (Sokoloff 2003: 1039). **JPA** *qrh<sup>h</sup>* “baldness, bald spot” (Sokoloff 1990: 507). **Sy** *qrāhā* m. “bald”, *qarehtā* f. “baldness of the back of the head” (Sokoloff 2009: 1405).

20 **BH** *qar<sup>c</sup>qa<sup>c</sup>* “the bottom of the sea, floor” (Koehler & Baumgartner 2001: 1148).

21 See **JBA** *pl<sup>c</sup>* v. “to split, divide” (Sokoloff 2003: 914).

2.5.3 *mōfra*

A land covered with grass, of which soil is dry and ready for tilling (Canaan 1916: 168) | **CAr** *mawfūr* “complete, abundant” *ʿarḏ wafrāʿ* “land of which the herbage is abundant: Land of which the herbage has not been diminished” (Lane 1863–1893: 2956). **PC** *arḏ mōfre* “feuchtlockere Erde” (Seeger 2015: 628).

2.5.4 *mōhla/waḥel*

A muddy land, land with wet or moist soil, unready for tilling (Canaan 1916: 168) | **CAr** *wahl* “slime, mire, thin mud” (Lane 1863–1893: 3050). **PC** *wahl* “Schlamm, Morast” (Seeger 2015: 617).

2.5.5 *mṭayana/ṭīn*

It is used as a synonym for *mōhla/wahl* | **Akk** *ṭīdu* (*ṭītu*, *ṭīṭtu*) “clay, mud” (CAD T 106). **BH** *ṭī* m. “wet loam, mud, potter’s clay” (Koehler & Baumgartner 2001: 374). **MH** *ṭī* m. “mud, clay” (Jastrow 1950: 530). **JBA** *ṭīnā* m. “clay” (Sokoloff 2003: 502). **Sy** *ṭīnā* m. “clay, mud, mire, loam” (Sokoloff 2009: 527). **Ma** *ṭīna* “clay, mud” (Drower & Macuch 1963: 179) < Ar (Fraenkel 1982: 8). **CAr** *ṭīn* “clay, mud” (Lane 1863–1893: 1906). **PC** *ṭīne* “Lehm, feuchte Erde” (Seeger 2015: 363).

2.5.6 *rabad*

A lot of land, that surface is occupied by masses of red or brown compacted soil | **MH** *rābād* “thick patch”, *ribedā* “patch”, *robæd* “platform, mosaic pavement, landing terrace” (Jastrow 1950: 1439, 1455). **CAr** *rabad* “oblong pieces of matting of woven palm leaves in which dates are stowed or packed” (Lane 1863–1893: 1010).<sup>22</sup> **PC** *rabad* “Erdkloß” (Seeger 2015: 199).

2.5.7 *kurkār*

A land or a plot of land located on mountain slope or foot and covered with small round soft and hard lime stones in different shapes and size, “bloße kalkige Verkrustung der Dünen” (Blanckenhoren 1931: 37; Dalman VII: 2) | **MH** *kerikūr* “circle, circuit, round about the way” (Jastrow 1950: 669). **Akk** *qarqqaru* A 4b “ground, territory, plot of land” (CAD Q 119ff.).

2.5.8 *ṣarār/muṣrāra*

Term said of land full or covered with stone stones in different shapes and sizes (Dalman II: 17) | **BH** *ṣerōr* II m. “stone, pebble” (Koehler & Baumgartner 2001: 1055). **MH** *ṣerōr*\* I m. “knot”, *ṣerōr* II m. “stone, pebble” (Jastrow 1950: 1300–1301).<sup>23</sup> **PC** *ṣarār* “Kieselstein” (Seeger 2015: 321).

22 See **Pun** *rbd* v. “to pave” (Hoftijzer & Jongeling 1995: 1053).

23 For the Canaanite origin of the word, see Hopkins 1995: 37-49.

### 3 Conclusions

Two outcomes are achieved within the conclusion of the study of the terms of the field designations: the factors that have created these terms and the linguistic strata they represent.

#### 3.1 *Cultural and natural factors that influenced the naming of fields*

This part indicates the factors that encouraged inhabitants to create the terminology of the fields. Based on the daily contact between man and his surrounding environment, the agricultural activities (mainly ploughing and harvest) performed by peasants and farmers imposed themselves on these names. On the other hand the man acquaintance of landscape led him to distinguish the land nature whether it is rugged or plain, high or low, fertile or poor, cultivable or uncultivable; with deep or poor soil, covered by stones and rocks or vegetation. Therefore he had to create specific terminology to express a full description of the land that he deals with. There are cultural and natural factors that imposed themselves on the nomenclatures.

##### 3.1.1 Cultural factors

<i>Agricultural activities</i>	<i>Term and its indication</i>
Irrigation	<i>saqī</i> artificial irrigated land, <i>ba<sup>ʿ</sup>l</i> non-irrigated land, rain watered land.
Hiring of land	<i>škāra</i> a piece of hired land.
Burning of thorns	<i>ħarīqa</i> a land with less steep slope resulted after burning the thorny plants to gain more land for cultivation.
Cultivated/uncultivated land	<i>ʿmāra</i> cultivated piece of land with grain, <i>ʿamār</i> cultivated land, <i>mizraʿa</i> farm, sown land, <i>xarāb</i> uncultivated/empty land, <i>šilf(a)</i> uncultivated but covered with grass.
Tools and instruments	<i>māris</i> rope > a narrow rectangular piece of land, <i>ħabala/e</i> rope > walled cultivated terrace, <i>qaṭʿa</i> piece of anything > any piece of land, <i>nīr</i> yoke beam > one row of trees equal to the yoke beam in width.

##### 3.1.2 Natural factors

<i>Vegetation</i>	<i>Term and its indication</i>
Forests	<i>ħrāš</i> forest, <i>ħiš</i> woodland.
Plantation	<i>bustān</i> orchard, <i>ġnēna</i> small garden, <i>ħākūra</i> a walled house garden.
Names of products	<i>karīm</i> vineyard, field of olive trees or almonds, <i>miqta</i> field of vegetables often cucumber.
Rows of trees/ vegetables	<i>šōra</i> , <i>ʿariz</i> a part of land between two rows of vegetables or trees.

**Topographic feature**

Hollowed	<i>baq<sup>°</sup>a/bqī<sup>°</sup></i> a piece of land in wide valley, <i>nuqra</i> hollowed out area, piece of land hollow in shape.
Narrow	<i>mizrab/zarb</i> a narrow terrace, a small piece of land with irregular shape.
Flat/rugged	<i>shal</i> flat, plain, <i>wa<sup>°</sup>ar</i> rugged surface with rocky masses.

**Soil characters**

Thickness	<i>simḥa</i> , <i>smīna</i> , <i>°gmīqa</i> land with deep soil.
Thinness	<i>rqīqa</i> , <i>qarqabās</i> poor soil, land with thin layer of soil.
Surface	<i>mšaqāqa</i> , <i>mfall<sup>°</sup>a</i> creviced land, <i>rabad</i> hard massed soil, clods, <i>mōfra</i> , dry soil, <i>mōhla/waḥel</i> , <i>mṭayana/ṭīn</i> wet, moist soil.

**Pebbled land**

*kurkār*, *šarār/mušrāra*, *buhša* land with poor soil relatively covered with pebbles and gravels.

3.2 *The linguistic strata of the terms*

In the second result, an attempt is made to show the influences of ancient Semitic and non-Semitic languages by defining the linguistic strata of these terms. Some terms have been loaned in the current vernacular from different languages and periods and employed with the same meaning; others have been loaned and phonetically modified to indicate an exact, a close meaning. It is nearly impossible to say with regard to when these lexemes were loaned into the colloquial of Hebron countryside. The outcome of the study proved that the names of fields and the nomenclatures connected to land are purely of Semitic origin, since this has showed a considerable percentage of loaned words from Semitic languages such as Canaanite and Aramaic and rare words were loaned from Persian. The table below shows the terms listed under the ancient languages they belonged to.

Semitic words found in the names are 45 terms, those make up 97.8%.

Nr.	Canaanite	Aramaic	Arabic	Common Semitic
	<i>ba<sup>°</sup>l</i> , <i>ḥrāš</i> , <i>rabad</i> , <i>šilf(a)</i> , <i>šōrā</i> , <i>šarār/mušrāra</i> , <i>°ariz</i> , <i>hīš(a)</i> .	<i>bayyāra</i> , <i>škāra</i> , <i>°māra</i> , <i>°amār</i> , <i>qarqabās</i> , <i>kurkār</i> , <i>māris</i> , <i>mizrab/zarb</i> , <i>nīr</i> , <i>nuqra</i> , <i>°izba/e</i> , <i>mfall<sup>°</sup>a</i> , <i>mṭayana/ṭīn</i> .	<i>buhša</i> , <i>ḡnēna</i> , <i>ḥabala/e</i> , <i>ḥarīqa</i> , <i>ḥākūra</i> , <i>shal</i> , <i>°gmīqa</i> , <i>mšaqāqa</i> , <i>mōfra</i> , <i>mōhla/waḥel</i> , <i>waṭā</i> , <i>wa<sup>°</sup>ar</i> .	<i>°arq</i> , <i>būr(a)</i> , <i>baq<sup>°</sup>a/bqī<sup>°</sup></i> , <i>xarāb</i> , <i>rqīqa</i> , <i>saqī</i> , <i>simḥa</i> , <i>smīna</i> , <i>karim</i> , <i>qaṭ<sup>°</sup>a</i> , <i>mizra<sup>°</sup>a</i> , <i>miqtā</i> .
46	8	13	12	12
100%	17.4%	28.2%	26.1%	26.1%

Only *bustān* out of 46 studied lexemes was found to be of Persian origin, it makes up 2.2%.

**Languages and dialects abbreviated**

Akk	Akkadian
Aram	Aramaic
BH	Biblical Hebrew
CAr	Classical Arabic
EpHeb	Epigraphic Hebrew
JBA	Jewish Babylonian Aramaic
JPA	Jewish Palestinian Aramaic
Ma	Mandaic
MH	Middle Hebrew
MPer	Middle Persian
Nab	Nabataean
OffAr	Official Aramaic
OldAr	Old Aramaic
Palm	Palmyrenean
PC	Palestinian Colloquial
Per	Persian
Ph	Phoenician
Pun	Punic
SA	Samaritan Aramaic
Sab	Sabaic
SArD	Syrian Arabic Dialect
Sy	Syriac
Ug	Ugaritic

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