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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, 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. 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 mains sections: substantives (24 terms) and adjectives (21 terms), each of which is also classified according to the area of use.

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.
1 Substantives (6 subsections)

1.1 Terms for land in general
The terms (‘arḍ, waṭā)³ 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 ‘arḍ: ‘arḍāṭī

1.1.2 waṭā: waṭāyāṭ
A term used as a synonym of ṣ̣rd regardless to its use, location and shape but it is restricted with ownership, it appears more common in the colloquial contexts than ṣ̣rd │CAr waṭ “depressed land, or low ground, between eminences”, waṭa “tread, treading” (Lane 1863–1893: 2949). PC waṭā 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.

Field Designations in the Colloquial of the Hebron Countryside

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 ḥoreš m. “forest” (Koehler & Baumgartner 2001: 358). MH ḥoreš m. “thicket, wild growing bushes” (Jastrow 1950: 440). JPA ḥwrš m. “forest” (Sokoloff 1990: 193). SA ḥrš3 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 ḥīša/e: ḥīš

A small jungle, small thick forest with grass located on mountain slopes, woodland serves for grazing (Dalman II: 38) | See MH ḥīšḥ/ḥešet m. “thicket, inaccessible place to be cleared by fire in order to be made arable”, “reed thicket” (Jastrow 1950: 441, 460). SA ḥš m. “tree” (Tal 2000: 298). See CAr ḥašš “garden, garden of palm trees” (Lane 1863–1893: 573). PC ḥīš “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 (škārā), or large plots of farmland that belong to a particular family (ʾizba/e) with seasonal dwelling place, they are usually walled, fenced or marked with borders and planted with trees (mizraʾa) or vegetables (miqtāš) located either on mountain tops or slopes.

1.3.1 škārā: 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 škr4 sg. emph. škr* “reward, salary”. Palm škr3 sg.m.abs. škr “rewarding”, sg.emph. škr’ (Hoftijzer & Jongeling 1995: 1135). MH škārūt f. “hire, rent (for a house or a field)”, šākār m. “profit, reward” (Jastrow 1950: 1573, 1576).5 PC škāra “Anbau, Aussaat, zukünftiger Ernteertrag; kleines Grundstück, bisweilen auch für Vorbeter und Pflüger angepflanzt” (Seeger 2015: 299).

1.3.2 ʾizba/e: ʾizabʿ/ʾizibat

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 ḥāša, “wild thyme” (Sokoloff 2003: 485–86). Akk xašu B “plant yielding seeds used as spice” (CAD ḫ 144).
stock’s when they move seasonally after pasture. Landgut, Bauergut, Bauerhof” (Behnstedt & Woidich 2012: 303), or seasonal dwelling place for harvesting summer products outside the village. Landgut, Bauergut, Bauerhof” (Behnstedt & Woidich 2012: 303), or seasonal dwelling place for harvesting summer products outside the village. "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 mizraʾ: mazāriʿ 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), muzrāʾ is also heard of with the meaning “field(s) of wheat and barley” 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).

1.4 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.

6 A derivative of the noun ‘izib is also used in animal breeding contexts (cf. Halayqa 2013c: 123).
1.4.1 baq‘a/bqā‘- bqā‘

1.4.2 bustān: basātān

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) | < būr “well, cistern” (cf. Halayqa 2013a: 128f.). PC bāyyāra “Obstplantage” (Seeger 2015: 59).

1.4.4 ġanēna: ġanāyin
A walled garden, planted piece of land with trees, vegetables and flowers, usually located inside the populated areas. A diminutive form of ġanna (Dalman II: 220; cf. Behnstedt & Woidich 2012: 306) | Ug gn I m. “garden, orchard” (del Olmo Lete & Sanmartín 2003: 302–303). Pun gnḥ₁ sg.f.abs. gnt “gardens” (Hoftijzer & Jongeling...

1.4.5 ḥābala/e: ḥābāyil

It indicates a walled agricultural terrace; a plot of land walled at least form 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 ḥabil “a rope used in land measuring”, then developed to indicate the land measured by that rope | **BH** ḥæbæl II m. “piece of field”, “area, long narrow strip of land” (Koehler & Baumgartner 2001: 286). **MH** hablā II m. “district” (Jastrow 1950: 420). **Sy** ḥablā m. “region, zone” (Sokoloff 2009: 408). **Sab** ḥblt n.pl. “terrace field” (Beeston, Ghul & al. 1982: 65). **PC** habala “Abhang, Böschung, Gefälle zwischen zwei Terrassenfeldern” (Seeger 2015: 103).

1.4.6 ḥākūra: ḥawākür

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** ḥākūrā (< Ar ḥākūra) m. “land, field” (Sokoloff 2009: 449). **CAr** ḥākūra “a piece of land retained and enclosed by its proprietor for sowing and planting trees, near the houses” (Lane 1863–1893: 616). **PC** ḥākūra “kleines landwirtschaftlich genutztes Stück Land, kleiner Gemüsegarten (meist ummauert)” (Seeger 2015: 125).

1.4.7 qaṭᶜa: qtāᶜ

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 filed into longitudinal section called miʿnā but each section miʿnā is also divide into piece called qaṭᶜa. The word is also applied to each walled piece of land (Dalman II: 171) | **MH** qiteᶜā “cut, the fragment under the tailor’s hand” (Jastrow 1950: 1351). **Sy** qaṭᶜa m. “fragment” (Sokoloff 2009: 1355). See **JBA** qetṭeᶜ adj. “cut off”, m. “short one, shortened form” (Sokoloff 2003: 1006). **CAr** qitᶜa “piece of (anything)”, portion, cut off, detached, or separated from the whole” (Lane 1863–1893: 2990). **PC** qitᶜa “Stück, Bruchstück” (Seeger 2015: 476).

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

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 maršā1 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” (Lane 1863–1893: 2708). PC māris “ebenes und schmales Stück Land, Feld, Acker, Ackerstreifen” (Seeger 2015: 544).

1.4.10 nuqra: nuqrāt

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.

1.5.1 *buah: 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** *ḥasab* “stones, pebbles” (Lane 1863–1893: 581). **SAR** *baḥṣ* “cail-loux” stones, a metathesis of **CAR** *ḥasab* (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 ʿmāra: ʿmāyr

Said of a plot of land with rugged surface and planted with grain. A dwelled land, or cultivated land of barley 10 used for summer grazing □ See **TiMi** “bestelltes Feld, Acker” in Ramallah (Behnstedt & Woidich 2012: 298) □ **Sy** ʿmūrā m. “grass, hay”, ʿmūryār m. “abode, dwelling”, “construction” (Sokoloff 2009: 1109–1110). **PC** ʿmāra “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 11 is also used during ploughing where the ploughman divides the land into stripes to facilitate its ploughing (cf. Dalman II: 169) □ See **Sy** ʿzībā 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 (*nūr*), or planting trees and vegetables (šōrā, ʿāriz).

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10 See **BH** ʿāmūr “swath of corn, cut grain” (Koehler & Baumgartner 2001: 844).
11 ʿzībā 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 f. “row” (Hofter & Jongeling 1995: 1119). **MH** šūrāh f. “chain, line, row” (Jastrow 1950: 1542). **JBA** f. šūr’tā “row” (Sokoloff 2003: 1125). **JPA** šwrh f. “row, line” (Sokoloff 1990: 542). **Ma šura” “line, road, way” (Drower & Macuch 1963: 457).12

1.6.2 ᶜāriz: ᶜawāriz
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 ᶜāriz of grapes or olive trees | **MH** ᶜaršā a. m. “arbor, espalier” (Jastrow 1950: 1117–1118, 1121). Cf. **JBA** ᶜaršā (Sokoloff 2003: 882). Fraenkel (1982: 13) mentions ᶜrs with the meaning “a divider wall within a courtyard” but not identical with ᶜrsā “row”. The word could be considered as metathesis via ᶜzr. **BH** ᶜazārāh f. “precinct”, “border (around) the temple” (Koehler & Baumgartner 2001: 812). **MH** ᶜazārāh f. “enclosure, court” (Jastrow 1950: 1062). **JBA** ᶜazer’tā f. “court” (< BH, **MH** ᶜzrh) (Sokoloff 2003: 850). **Sab** m. māḏr “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”,13 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).

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12 Cf. **Sy** šawrā m. “a plant from which wicks are made”, or šwārā m. “pulley, axle tree” (Smith 1957: 568), šwārāz, 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 nārā “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 būrā₁ m. “uncultivated land”, bayyāyr adj.pl.m. “fallow, uncultivated field” (Sokoloff 2003: 192, 201). Ma būra “uncultivated land, empty space, waste or untillied 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 arg būr “Brachland, Brachfeld, Brache” (Seeger 2015: 55).

2.1.2 xarāb

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 šēlāep m. “stubble field” (Jastrow 1950: 1587).14

14 Cf. JBA šēlūpepē m.pl. “undeveloped dates” (Sokoloff 2003: 1147).
Field Designations in the Colloquial of the Hebron Countryside

2.1.4 ᶜamār
A term said of any cultivated plot of land, usually planted with trees. See ᶜmāra above (1.5.3).

2.1.5 sahl/sihle

2.1.6 waᶜar
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 waᶜar “rugged” applied to (road, and mountain) (Lane 1863–1893: 29). PC waʳ “zerklüftete/verwilderte/ raue/unwegsame Gegend, Geröll” (Seeger 2015: 627).

2.2 Irrigated and non-irrigated land

2.2.1 baᶜal
A term designates a rain-irrigated land, cultivated or farmed land that can only be watered by rain (cf. Dalman II: 30) | MH baᶜal m. “a field watered by rain and requiring no artificial irrigation” (Jastrow 1950: 182). Sab bᶜal II m. “rain-irrigated land” (Beeston, Ghul & al. 1982: 26). CAr baᶜal “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). PC baᶜal “wildwachsende, essbare Pflanzen, die nicht gegossen werden”; arṯ baᶜel “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 šeqā m. “irrigation” (Sokoloff 2009: 1593). JBA šeqā₂ 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


16 See JBA baᶜalā “fructified” in connection with field (Sokoloff 2003: 227).
“irrigated”, *saqya* “palm trees that are irrigated by water wheel” (Lane 1863–1893: 1384–1386). **PC ard qa** “Bewässerungsland” (Seeger 2015: 260).

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

#### 2.3.1 simha


#### 2.3.2 smīna

An adjective designates fertile land with dark or red and thick soil (Dalman II: 24) | **MH šomenā** adj.m.f. “fat, rich” (Jastrow 1950: 1595). **JBA šamīn** adj. “fertile” said of soil” (Sokoloff 2003: 1157). **Sy šamīnā** adj. “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 ġ/mīqa


### 2.4 Land with thin layer of soil

#### 2.4.1 rqīqa


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

2.4.2 qarqabāš

2.5 Surface of soil and pebbled land

2.5.1 mšaqaqa

2.5.2 mfallā‘a
A synonym for mšaqaqa (Dalman II: 21) | CA\(^{r}\) pl\(^{c}\) “a fissure, or crack (in the foot)” (Lane 1863–1893: 2441).\(^{21}\)

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20 BH qarq\(^{c}\)q “the bottom of the sea, floor” (Koehler & Baumgartner 2001: 1148).

21 See JBA pl\(^{c}\) 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” ʿarḍ wafrāʿ “land of which the herbage is abundant: Land of which the herbage has not been diminished” (Lane 1863–1893: 2956). PC arḍ mōfre “feuchtlockere Erde” (Seeger 2015: 628).

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

2.5.5 mṭayana/fīn

2.5.6 rabad
A lot of land, that surface is occupied by masses of red or brown compacted soil | MH rābdā “thick patch”, ribēĎā “patch”, robēĎ “platform, mosaic pavement, landing terrace” (Jastrow 1950: 1439, 1455). CAr rabād “oblong pieces of matting of woven palm leaves in which dates are stowed or packed” (Lane 1863–1893: 1010).22 PC rabād “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 kerikār “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

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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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Agricultural activities</strong></th>
<th><strong>Term and its indication</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Irrigation</td>
<td><em>saqī</em> artificial irrigated land, <em>ba‘il</em> non-irrigated land, rain watered land.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiring of land</td>
<td><em>škāra</em> a piece of hired land.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burning of thorns</td>
<td><em>ḥārīqa</em> a land with less steep slope resulted after burning the thorny plants to gain more land for cultivation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tools and instruments</td>
<td><em>māris</em> rope &gt; a narrow rectangular piece of land, <em>habala‘e</em> rope &gt; walled cultivated terrace, <em>qa‘a</em> piece of anything &gt; any piece of land, <em>nīr</em> yoke beam &gt; one row of trees equal to the yoke beam in width.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.1.2 Natural factors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Vegetation</strong></th>
<th><strong>Term and its indication</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forests</td>
<td><em>ḥrāš</em> forest, <em>ḥīš</em> woodland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plantation</td>
<td><em>bustān</em> orchard, <em>šnēna</em> small garden, <em>ḥākūra</em> a walled house garden.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Names of products</td>
<td><em>karīm</em> vineyard, field of olive trees or almonds, <em>miqṣa</em> field of vegetables often cucumber.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rows of trees/vegetables</td>
<td><em>šōra</em>, <em>‘āriz</em> a part of land between two rows of vegetables or trees.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Topographic feature
Hollowed  baq‘a/baq‘ī a piece of land in wide valley, nuqra hollowed out area, piece of land hollow in shape.
Narrow  mizrab/zarb a narrow terrace, a small piece of land with irregular shape.
Flat/rugged  shal flat, plain, wa‘ar rugged surface with rocky masses.

Soil characters
Thickness  simḥa, smīna, /gmīqa land with deep soil.
Thinness  rqīqa, qarqabāš poor soil, land with thin layer of soil.
Surface  mšaqqa, mfal‘a creviced land, rabad hard massed soil, clods, mōfra, dry soil, mōhla/wahel, mṭayana/ṭīn wet, moist soil.

Pebbled land  kurkār, šarār/muṣrāra, buḥṣa 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%.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nr.</th>
<th>Canaanite</th>
<th>Aramaic</th>
<th>Arabic</th>
<th>Common Semitic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100%</td>
<td>17.4%</td>
<td>28.2%</td>
<td>26.1%</td>
<td>26.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Only bustān out of 46 studied lexemes was found to be of Persian origin, it makes up 2.2%.
Field Designations in the Colloquial of the Hebron Countryside

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  Palmyrean
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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