

STUDIA ORIENTALIA  
EDITED BY THE FINNISH ORIENTAL SOCIETY

86

---

# Linguistic Peculiarities in the Aramaic Magic Bowl Texts

by  
Hannu Juusola



HELSINKI 1999

Hannu Juusola  
Linguistic Peculiarities in the Aramaic Magic Bowl Texts.  
**Studia Orientalia**, Vol. 86. 1999

Copyright © 1999 by the Finnish Oriental Society,  
Societas Orientalis Fennica,  
c/o Institute for Asian and African Studies  
P.O.Box 59 (Unioninkatu 38 B)  
00014 University of Helsinki  
FINLAND

Editorial Board:

*Tapani Harviainen*

*Arvi Hurskainen*

*Juha Janhunen*

*Heikki Palva*

*Asko Parpola*

*Simo Parpola*

*Rein Raud*

*Kaj Öhrnberg*

*Petteri Koskikallio* (Publication Secretary)

ISSN 0039-3282

ISBN 951-9380-40-X

Gummerus Kirjapaino Oy  
Saarijärvi 1999

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This study was carried out at the Graduate School of the Institute for Asian and African Studies, University of Helsinki. I wish to express my sincerest gratitude to Professor Asko Parpola, the former Head of the Institute, for providing excellent research facilities.

I am deeply indebted to my teacher and supervisor, Professor Tapani Harviainen, for his guidance and encouragement. It was at his suggestion that I undertook this research project, and he also provided invaluable comments on my study.

During my studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem I had the opportunity to discuss my project – then at the very beginning – with Professor Joseph Naveh. He also taught me a great deal about the palaeography of Aramaic. My thanks are due to this scholar and gentleman.

I wish to express my thanks to the reviewers of my thesis, Professor Takamitsu Muraoka (Leiden University) and Professor Heikki Palva (University of Helsinki), for their constructive criticism. I am happy to thank the professors and scholars of the Institute for Asian and African Studies, who showed interest in my study at the meetings of our Graduate School. Further, I am grateful to the Secretary of the Graduate School, Dr. Irmeli Perho, for her technical assistance and encouragement.

My colleagues and friends, Laura, Maisu, Minna, Morteza, Petteri, and Sylvia, I thank for their cheerfulness during our hours of work! I also wish to thank Michael Cox, Lic. Theol., for correcting my English and Petteri Koskikallio, Lic. Phil., for editing the manuscript for printing.

Finally, my appreciation is extended to a number of individuals close to me. Special thanks I owe to my parents and – last and best – to my wife Outi.

I acknowledge the financial support of the Finnish Cultural Foundation (Suomen Kulttuurirahasto) and, in particular, of the Graduate School of Asian and African Studies. I appreciate the fact that the Finnish Oriental Society has accepted my work for publication in *Studia Orientalia*.

Helsinki, December 1998.

*Hannu Juusola*

# CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	v
I. INTRODUCTION	1
1. Aramaic Magic Bowls: Preliminary Remarks	1
2. East Aramaic Dialects	9
2.1. Classification	10
2.2. Babylonian Jewish Aramaic (BJA)	12
2.3. The Language of Targum Onqelos	14
2.4. The Language of the Aramaic Magic Bowls	16
2.4.1. 'Koiné' Features	21
II. AIMS OF THE STUDY AND MATERIAL USED	26
1. Aims of the Study	26
2. Material Used in the Study	26
III. PHONOLOGY	30
1. Notes on the Spelling	30
2. Laryngeals and Pharyngeals	32
3. Word-final Consonants	41
4. <i>Yod</i> and <i>waw</i> as a Counterpart of <i>shwa</i>	44
5. Word-final Vowels	52
6. <i>Waw</i> as a Counterpart of */ā/ ( <i>qameṣ</i> )	54
IV. MORPHOLOGY	69
1. Independent Personal Pronouns	69
2. Enclitic Personal Pronouns	79
3. Suffixed Pronouns	81
4. Demonstrative Pronouns	101
5. The Independent Possessive Pronoun	128
6. The Relative Pronoun	129
7. Interrogative and Indefinite Pronouns	130
8. Inflection of Nouns	132
8.1. States	134
8.2. Genitive Expressions	140
8.3. The Inflectional Endings of Nouns and Adjectives	141

9. Notes on Prepositions, Conjunctions, and Adverbs	146
10. Verbs	152
10.1. Perfect	153
10.1.1. Notes on Weak Verbs	171
10.2. Imperfect	174
10.2.1. Notes on Derived Stems and Weak Verbs	187
10.3. Imperatives	191
10.4. Participles	197
10.4.1. Notes on Weak Verbs and Derived Stems	205
10.5. Infinitive	217
10.6. Indication of the Direct Object	226
10.7. Verbs with Object Suffixes	228
V. CONCLUSIONS	245
Bibliography	255
Abbreviations	263

