

Table of contents

Preface and Acknowledgements 15

Symbols and Abbreviations 17

Introduction 19

0.1 Jewish Babylonian Aramaic 19

0.2 Sources 20

0.3 JBA within the context of Aramaic in general 21

0.4 Variation within JBA 23

 0.4.1 Diachronic variation within JBA 24

 0.4.2 Palestinian Aramaic within the Babylonian Talmud 25

 0.4.3 The archaic language of NBA, and that of the Geonic texts [GBA] 25

0.5 Language contact 26

0.6 Sources of our linguistic knowledge of JBA 27

 0.6.1 A note on the phonology of JBA 27

 0.6.2 Manuscripts used for establishing a grammar and printed
 versions of the Babylonian Talmud 28

 0.6.3 Editions of the Babylonian Talmud and the sources used
 in this book 31

0.7 JBA scholarship 32

0.8 About this book 33

 0.8.1 The purpose of this book 33

 0.8.2 Citations and translations 34

Chapter 1

1.1 Orthography 37

 1.1.1 Consonants 37

 1.1.2 Vowel letters (*matres lectionis*) 38

 1.1.2.1 א Alef 39

 1.1.2.2 י Yod 40

 1.1.2.3 ו Waw 40

 1.1.2.4 ה Heh 40

 1.1.2.5 Summary of the uses of the vowel letters 40

 1.1.3 The Consonants /w/ and /y/ 40

 1.1.4 The diphthong /ay/ 41

 1.1.5 Vocalization 41

1.1.6	Notes on the writing of words	42
1.1.6.1	Word division	43
1.1.6.2	Abbreviations.....	43
1.2	Phonological notes	44
1.2.1	The absence of vocalization in this grammar	44
1.2.2	Unresolved phonological issues	44
1.2.2.1	Shortened vowels.....	44
1.2.2.2	Low vowels	45
1.2.2.3	High/mid front vowels.....	46
1.2.2.4	High/mid back vowels	47
1.2.2.5	Summary of the vowel system.....	47
1.2.2.6	Diphthongs.....	47
1.2.2.7	Interchange of vowels	47
1.2.2.7.1	High/mid front and back vowels.....	47
1.2.2.7.2	Low and high/mid back vowel.....	48
1.2.2.8	The consonants represented by the letters פ, כ, ד, ג, ב, and ת	49
1.2.3	Summary	49

Chapter 2

2.1	Apocopation of final consonants	51
2.2	Nominal inflection	52
2.2.1	State	52
2.2.2	Gender and number.....	54
2.2.2.1	Agreement.....	54
2.2.2.2	The “neuter”	57
2.2.3	The uses of the various states.....	59
2.2.3.1	The construct state	59
2.2.3.1.1	The genitive relation in JBA	59
2.2.3.1.2	Prepositions in the construct state	60
2.2.3.2	Short and long forms.....	61
2.2.3.2.1	Definiteness.....	61
2.2.3.2.2	Loanwords.....	62
2.2.3.2.3	Plural substantives.....	63
2.2.3.2.4	Adjectives	63
2.2.3.2.4.1	Predicative vs. attributive uses of the adjectives	63
2.2.3.2.4.2	Substantivized adjectives	64
2.2.3.2.4.2	Long form in predicate adjectives.....	64
2.2.3.2.5	Adverbs	65

Chapter 3

3.1 Consonant changes	67
3.1.1 Loss of medial /d/ and /g/	67
3.1.2 Interchange of the sonorants /l/, /n/, and /r/	68
3.1.3 The gutturals (/ʔ/, /h/, /ħ/, /ʕ/)	68
3.1.3.1 The glottal stop (/ʔ/)	69
3.1.3.2 The pharyngeals (/ħ/, /ʕ/)	69
3.1.4 The emphatic consonants /q/, /ʕ/ and /tʕ/	71
3.1.5 The labial /b/	73
3.1.6 Intervocalic /y/	73
3.1.7 The nasal /n/	74
3.1.7.1 Regressive assimilation	74
3.1.7.2 ay > a before /n/	74
3.2 Adjective patterns	74
3.2.1 Nominal patterns	74
3.2.2 The gentilic suffix	75
3.3 Pronouns	78
3.3.1 Independent personal pronouns	78
3.3.1.1 Forms	78
3.3.1.2 Functions	79
3.3.2 Demonstrative pronouns	80
3.3.2.1 Form	80
3.3.2.2 Syntax and functions	82
3.3.2.2.1 Pronominal uses	82
3.3.2.2.2 Adnominal uses	83
3.3.2.2.3 Functions	83
3.3.2.2.3.1 Exophoric uses	83
3.3.2.2.3.2 Endophoric uses	83
3.3.2.2.3.3 Introduction of new entities in the discourse	84
3.3.2.2.3.4 Reciprocal uses	85
3.3.2.2.3.5 Adverbial functions	85
3.3.3 Indefinite pronouns	86
3.3.3.1 For human references	86
3.3.3.2 For inanimate references	88
3.4 Locative demonstrative adverbs	88

Chapter 4

4.1 Apocopation of final vowels	89
4.2 Genitive pronominal suffixes	89
4.3 Genitive constructions	93
4.4 Interrogative pronouns	95
4.5 Nominal clauses, dislocation, and copulative pronouns	97
4.5.1 The structure of nominal clauses	97
4.5.2 Historical developments in nominal clauses	98
4.6 Existential clauses and existential particles	102
4.6.1 Existential clauses	102
4.6.2 Predicative Possessive Construction (PPC)	106
4.6.2.1 Dative PPC	106
4.6.2.2 Locative PPC	107
4.6.2.3 Nominative PPC (Topic-PPC)	107
4.7 Possessive pronouns	108
4.8 Comparative and superlative	109

Chapter 5

5.1 Morphology of the strong verb: introduction to the verbal system	111
5.2 Stems	111
5.3 Pe-stem	112
5.3.1 Suffix conjugation	112
5.3.2 Prefix conjugation	115
5.3.3 Imperative	118
5.3.4 Infinitive	119
5.3.5 Participles	120
5.3.5.1 The basic declension	120
5.3.5.2 Participial conjugation	122
5.4 “Derived” stems	124

Chapter 6

6.1 Weak verbs	129
6.2 I-n	129
6.3 I-w/y	132
6.4 I-ʾ/ʿ	135
6.5 II-w/y	136
6.6 II-ʾ/ʿ	140
6.7 Geminate verbs	142

6.8	III-y	147
6.9	Roots with apocopation of the final consonants	150
6.10	Doubly weak verbs	152
6.10.1	I and II	152
6.10.2	I and geminate verb	152
6.10.3	I and III	153
6.10.4	II and III	155
6.11	Quadriradical verbs	156
6.11.1	Origin and form	156
6.11.2	Weak quadriradical verbs	157
6.12	A general note concerning the Af-stem of the weak verbs	157

Chapter 7

7.1	The Verb הו"י "to be"	159
7.1.1	Inflection	159
7.1.2	Function	160
7.2	The Tense/Aspect/Mood (=TAM) System	162
7.2.1	Two approaches for the TAM system	162
7.2.2	Absolute vs. relative tense	165
7.2.3	The imperfective aspect: a distinction between <i>durative</i> and <i>iterative</i>	167
7.2.4	The verb הו"י with the participle	168
7.2.4.1	Omission of the verb	168
7.2.4.2	The form of the verb	168
7.3	Imperative	170
7.3.1	Request/command	171
7.3.2	Instructions	171
7.3.3	Advice/ general principles	171
7.3.4	Instructions for the readers	172
7.3.5	Purpose and result	172
7.4	Numbers	173
7.4.1	Forms	173
7.4.2	Syntax	174
7.4.3	The expressions יומא חד, זמנא חדא	175
7.5	The syntax of כולא "every, all"	175
7.6	Repetitions of nouns	177

Chapter 8

8.1 Relationships between the stems	179
8.1.1 Grammatical relationships.....	179
8.1.2 Equivalence.....	180
8.1.3 Lexical relationships	180
8.1.3.1 Inflectional relationships.....	180
8.1.3.2 Multiple meanings	182
8.2 Reflexives and reciprocals	183
8.2.1 Reflexives	183
8.2.1.1 Verbal reflexives	183
8.2.1.2 Pronominal reflexives	183
8.2.1.3 Independent possessive pronouns as reflexives.....	184
8.2.2 Reciprocals.....	185
8.2.2.1 Verbal reciprocal	185
8.2.2.2 Pronominal reciprocals.....	185
8.3 Rhetorical questions	187

Chapter 9

9.1 Accusative pronominal suffixes	191
9.1.1 The function – preliminary notes	191
9.1.2 The pronominal forms	192
9.1.3 The verbal bases.....	194
9.1.3.1 Suffix conjugation.....	195
9.1.3.1.1 The forms	195
9.1.3.1.2 Notes about the derived stems	197
9.1.3.2 Prefix conjugation.....	197
9.1.3.2.1 The forms	197
9.1.3.2.2 Anaptyxis	199
9.1.3.3 Imperative.....	199
9.1.3.4 Infinitive	200
9.1.3.5 Participle.....	201
9.2 Direct object markers	201
9.2.1 The preposition -־	201
9.2.1.1 The syntax.....	201
9.2.1.2 More about the semantics	202
9.2.1.3 The anticipatory pronominal suffixes	203
9.2.1.4 Exceptions to the rules.....	205
9.2.2 The accusative marker ׀	206

9.3 T-stems with accusative pronominal suffixes	206
9.4 “Dative”	207
9.4.1 Argument dative (or indirect object)	207
9.4.1.1 Marked with the preposition ל-	207
9.4.1.2 The dative preposition נוהיל-, גיל-	207
9.4.2 Non-argument dative	208
9.5 Passive participle	209
9.6 Passive clauses	210
9.7 The <i>qtil li</i> construction	211

Chapter 10

10.1 Dependent clauses	213
10.1.1 Syndetic vs. asyndetic depended clauses	213
10.1.2 The role of the dependent clause as a constituent in the matrix clause	213
10.1.2.1 Noun clauses	213
10.1.2.1.1 Subject clauses	213
10.1.2.1.2 Predicate clause	215
10.1.2.1.3 Object clause	216
10.1.2.1.4 Dependent clauses as the topic of the matrix clause	217
10.1.2.2 Adjective clauses	217
10.1.2.3 Adverbial clauses	220
10.1.3 General observations	221
10.2 Conditional clauses	222
10.2.1 Conditional clauses with the conjunction או/אם	222
10.2.2 Other conditional conjunctions	223
10.3 Cleft sentences	224
10.4 Negation	226
10.4.1 The negators	226
10.4.2 Historical background	227
10.4.3 Syntactic differences between לא and לאו	228
10.4.4 Contexts where לא is often used	228
10.4.5 General observations	229
10.4.6 Negation of existential clauses	230

Chapter 11

11.1	Infinitive clauses	233
11.1.1	Introduction	233
11.1.2	Nouns	234
11.1.2.1	Topic.....	234
11.1.2.2	Subject	234
11.1.2.3	Predicate.....	236
11.1.2.4	Object	237
11.1.2.5	Infinitive with intransitive verbs	238
11.1.2.6	Infinitive as other verbal complements	240
11.1.2.7	Infinitives as nouns that modify nouns (the genitive relation)	240
11.1.3	Adjectival and adverbial infinitives.....	241
11.1.3.1	Adjectival infinitives (modifying a noun)	241
11.1.3.2	Adverbial infinitives	243
11.1.4	Non-embedded infinitive clauses	244
11.1.4.1	Infinitive clauses in questions	244
11.1.4.2	Infinitive clauses to describe possible logical deductions.....	245
11.1.5	Infinitive without a clause	246
11.1.6	Summary regarding the representation of the subjects of the infinitive clauses.....	247
11.2	Verbal hendiadys – pseudo-coordinative verbal constructions.....	247
	Glossary for Linguistic Terminology	251
	Vocabulary and Exercises	259
	Lexicon	287
	Verbal Paradigms	302
	Bibliography	325
	Indexes	
	Content according to grammatical topics	333
	Subjects	340
	Texts	353