The occurrences of [8] in medial position fall into a similar manner. The following list of shared lexical items illustrates this point:


The paradigm followed in the study was to take the dictionary of Jacob Mans (1975) as the source of lexical items. All the lexical items that contained pharyngeals in this lexicon were isolated, then a list was drawn up of all the lexemes that have come into Chaldean, and that share the same semantic reference with Syriac. A transcription was made of both lists. The transcription of Syriac was mainly on the orthography given in the lexicon, the phonetic shapes that Chaldean is dialectal on native speaker pronunciation. The study concentrated mainly on the trilltrilled roots in both languages, and only marginally includes their derivations or non-trilltrilled forms.

**THE PHARYNGAL [8]**

[8] is a voiceless pharyngeal fricative. It occurs in initial, medial and final positions, e.g., as first, second and third radical, and in clusters. Since one is unaware of the differences in the pharyngeal occurrences in both languages, the point of interest is: Where does Chaldean differ from Syriac in the shared lexical items, and are the differences phrasal or rule governed? The proper method is to isolate all the contexts which pharyngeal occurs is the shared items of the two languages, and to determine whether the changes that occur are contextualized or not.

In the items listed above, and separated by [8] to [8], changes concentrated to [8] in some contexts but not in others. Listing the above pattern of change and stability in Initial position:

**SYRIAC**

- [8m] = [8n] = [8o] = [8p] = [8q] = [8r] = [8s] = [8t] = [8u] = [8v] = [8w] = [8x] = [8y] = [8z]

The above pattern of occurrence is consistent, only exception is the above distributional occurrences of [8] in Chaldean, was noticed. i.e. [8m], "magic".
[9] in initial position, i.e. as the first radical:

- [p] 'dust, dirt'
- [t] 'gall' nut
- [k] 'I'ap
- [q] 'do, make'
- [m] 'we'
- [n] 'depth'
- [s] 'goat'
- [g] 'grape'
- [z] 'finger ring'
- [s] 'ten'
- [c] 'squeezes'
- [g] 'rebels, mutiny'
- [d] 'feast'
- [b] 'thigh'

- [r] 'sieve'
- [j] 'run'
- [q] 'scorpion'
- [g] 'nose'
- [n] 'narrow, tight'

- [w] 'moral evil'
- [m] 'baptise'
- [l] 'world'

The above list indicates that the Syriac [9] changes consistently into a glottal stop [?] in the corresponding Chaldean items in initial position. The list of exceptions in which [9] occurs initially is very limited and the items tend to be associated with matters liturgical, e.g. items below the *** in the above list.

[9] in medial position, i.e. as the second radical:

- [n] 'to carry'
- [r] 'yellow'
- [s] 'cheek'
- [d] 'black'
- [t] 'cough'
- [m] 'shorter'
- [k] 'small'
- [l] 'unlodge'
- [x] 'knad'
- [g] 'wish, want'

[9] in mid position in Syriac changes to a glottal stop in the corresponding Chaldean items. The few exceptions fit into the liturgical context or are obvious cognates.

[9] in final position i.e. as the last radical:

- [w] 'bassana'
- [b] 'affront'

The above sketch of the pharyngeal occurrences in Syriac and Chaldean shows the tendency of those sounds to change to other sounds. The conclusions is that this class of sounds does not change to the corresponding sounds of another class, but the class members change into sounds of different classes.

The break down on the number of items that were borrowed from Syriac into Chaldean is shown below.

NCC 79/230 34% SCC 30/155 19%
CHC 19/117 16% CPC 21/115 18%
CCR 30/114 26% CC 29/103 19%

This indicates that the number of lexical items inherited from Syriac into Chaldean is roughly speaking about 29% of the items that contain one of the pharyngeals.

SOURCES


[Legend: H = H, 9 = 9, 8 = 8, 7 = 7 ]