

The Special Vocabulary of Syriac

Although the great majority of words in Syriac are standard Aramaic, because Syriac has the widest variety of genres, is heavily influenced by Byzantine Greek, and many of its authors and translators were especially concerned with christological matters, Syriac has quite a few common words that are not used or are found much more rarely in the other dialects

Greek <i>ἀήρ</i> , corresponds to אֵר in Jewish dialects and aiar in Mandaic.	air, sky	<u>ܐܪ</u> (^ʾ <i>āʾar</i> , ^ʾ <i>āyar</i> , ^ʾ <i>āʿer</i>) n.f./m.	ܐܪܝܐ
Greek <i>εἶδος</i> .	form, species	<u>ܕܫܐ</u> , <u>ܕܫܐ</u> (* ^ʾ <i>ādaš</i> , ^ʾ <i>ādšā</i>) n.m	ܕܫܐܢܐ
Greek <i>εὐαγγέλιον</i> .	gospel	<u>ܘܨܘܢܐ</u> <u>ܘܨܘܢܐ</u> (^ʾ <i>ewangelīōn</i>) n.m	ܘܨܘܢܐܢܐ
Greek <i>οὐσία</i>	essence, being	<u>ܘܨܘܢܐ</u> (^ʾ <i>ūsīyā</i>) n.f	ܘܨܘܢܐܢܐ
pronounced “ܘܨܘܢܐ”!	like (preposition), as (conj.)	^ʾ <i>yk</i> → <u>ܘܨܘܢܐ</u> , <u>ܘܨܘܢܐ</u> (^ʾ <i>hayk/hēk/ʾak</i>) <u>prep.</u>	ܘܨܘܢܐ
Greek <i>σχολή</i> . Note how borrowings from Greek words with initial clustered <i>sigma</i> take preformative <i>aleph</i> in Aramaic.	school	<u>ܘܨܘܢܐ</u> (^ʾ <i>eskōlē</i> / ^ʾ <i>ā</i>) n.m	ܘܨܘܢܐܢܐ
Greek <i>σχῆμα</i> , i.e., English “scheme”.	character, manner	<u>ܘܨܘܢܐ</u> , <u>ܘܨܘܢܐ</u> (^ʾ <i>eskēm</i> , ^ʾ <i>eskēmā</i>) .n.m	ܘܨܘܢܐܢܐ ܘܨܘܢܐܢܐ
Greek <i>ἐπίσκοπος</i> .	bishop	<u>ܘܨܘܢܐ</u> , <u>ܘܨܘܢܐ</u> (^ʾ <i>epīsqōpā</i>) n.m	ܘܨܘܢܐܢܐ

Greek ὀρθόδοξος.	orthodox	<u>ʔrtdwks,</u> <u>ʔrtwdwks</u> adj	ܡܫܘܕܝܩܐ
also ܡܘܬܬܐ	between	<u>.byt</u> (bēt) prep	ܒܝܬܐ
enclitic like Greek γαρ	for, indeed	<u>gyr</u> (gēr) adv.	ܓܝܪܐ
usually spelled without nun in Syriac	treasure	<u>gnz, gnzʔ</u> (ginzā, ganzā, .gazzā) n.m	ܓܢܙܐ
Greek γένος; normally in the absolute in Syriac, and pl. ܡܢܫܐ	kind, species	<u>gns, gnsʔ</u> (gnes, .gensā) n.m	ܓܢܨܐ
enclitic like Greek δέ	then	<u>dyn</u> (dēn) conj./ .adv	ܕܝܢܐ
common Aram. “dwelling”	monastery	<u>dyr, dyrʔ</u> (dēr, .day/ērā) n.m/f	ܕܝܪܐ
	opposite, adversary	<u>dlqwbl,</u> <u>dlqwblʔ</u> (dalqūbel, .dalqūblā) n.m	ܕܠܩܘܒܠܐ
Greek ὕλη, same .word as hylʔ. pl ܡܠܐܝܡܐ	material, matter	<u>hwlʔ</u> (hulā, hūlē) n.f.	ܠܡܐܝܡܐ
=hštʔ adv. : now in others	now	<u>.hšʔ</u> (hāšā) adv	ܠܡܝܢܐ
	here	<u>.hrkʔ</u> (hārkā) adv	ܠܡܝܢܐ
	sense, pain, the Passion	<u>hš, hšʔ</u> (haš, haššā) n.m. #2	ܠܡܝܢܐ
	blessed, saintly	<u>twbn</u> (tūbān) adj.	ܠܡܝܢܐ

Commonly “type” as in the Tanakh’s supposed foreshadowing of Christian scripture; see also s.v. רִי .	form, type	twps, twps’ (tpōs/topos, tupsā/ tupsā) n.m.	רִי
Greek <i>τάξις</i>	order, rank, arrangement	tkš, tkš’ (tekkes, .tekkəsā) n.m	רִי
with suffix = a type of reflexive pronoun; an expansion from “yt” marking d.o.	essence	yt, yt’ (yāt, yātā) .n.m./f	רִי
	Nature, natural substance	kyn, kyn’ .kyān, kyānā) n.m	רִי
	congregation, synagogue, Judaism	knwšh, knwšt’ (knuššā, .knuštā) n.f	רִי
	Christian	krystyn .krīstyān) adj	רִי
	to be fitting; passive=to be threatening!	lhm vb, (e/a)	רִי
older form: מִדְּמָה , and can be made plural. Compare מִדְּמָה and מִיָּד in other dialects.	something, whatever	mdm (meddem) pron.	רִי
Both forms are enclitic in their clauses, paralleling the Greek <i>μὲν ... δὲ</i> .	on the one hand ... on the other	mn (man) adv.	רִי ... רִי

a poetic hymn of line by line varying meter designed to be sung to a fixed melody; i.e., quite different from Jewish midrash.	a type of hymn	<u>mdrš, mdršʿ</u> (<u>madraš, mdršā/</u> <u>madrāš, mdrāšā</u>) <u>n.m.</u>	ܡܕܪܫܐ
literally: placing on the head	punishment	<u>msm bryšʿ</u> (<u>məsām brēšā</u>) <u>n.m.</u>	ܡܨܡܒܪܝܫܐ
Note that the root “(md)” means “to sink” in Aramaic, unlike Hebrew.	baptist baptism	<u>mʿmdn,</u> <u>mʿmdnʿ</u> (<u>maʿmədān,</u> <u>maʿmədānā</u>) <u>nom.ag.C,</u> <u>mʿmwdy,</u> <u>mʿmwdytʿ</u> (<u>maʿmōdī,</u> <u>maʿmōdītā</u>) <u>n.f.</u>	ܡܚܡܕܢܐ ܡܚܡܘܕܝܬܐ
The root sʿr is common in Aramaic in the sense “to visit”, but “to do an action” is a special Syriac development.	action, event, visitation	<u>swʿrn, swʿrnʿ</u> (<u>suʿrān, suʿrānā</u>) <u>.n.m</u>	ܣܘܥܪܢܐ
Note the assimilated “d” in the singular.	church, the Church	<u>ʿdh, ʿdtʿ</u> (ʿēttā) <u>.n.f</u>	ܥܕܬܐ
and so various forms of the root <u>slb vb.</u> “to crucify”	the Crucifixion	<u>slybw,</u> <u>slybwtʿ</u> (šlībū, <u>.slībūtā</u>) <u>n.f</u>	ܣܠܒܘܬܐ

	resurrection, the Resurrection	<u>qymh, qymt⁷</u> (<u>qyāmā, qyāmtā</u> (<u>qayyāmtā</u>)) n.f.	ܩܝܡܬܐ
Greek <i>κατήγωρ</i> with metathesis, but also occurs as <i>ܩܝܘܐ</i> .	to accuse	<u>qtrg</u> vb.	ܩܝܘܐ
an important term in the christological arguments	person, essential nature, hypostasis	<u>qnwm, qnwm⁷</u> (<u>qnōm, qnōmā</u>) n.m.	ܩܢܘܡܐ
common in Aramaic as “mystery”, but also used here like <i>ܩܘܡܐ</i> .	typological symbol	<u>rz, rz⁷</u> (<u>rāz, rāzā</u>) .n.m	ܩܝܝܐ, ܩܝܝܐ
This is the same word as Rabbinic Hebrew <i>רמז</i> , but in Syriac it often has a special theological meaning: <i>the divine nod or wink as a creative or commanding manifestation of divine will.</i>	blink, hinting	<u>rmz, rmz⁷</u> (<u>rmez, remzā</u>) n.m.	ܩܝܝܐ