

New Lexical Findings in Ṭyare Neo-Aramaic – Abstract  
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Ṭyare Neo-Aramaic is a NENA (North-Eastern Neo-Aramaic) dialect cluster originally spoken by tribal Assyrian Christians in the district of Ṭyare in the Ottoman province of Hakkâri (presently in south-eastern Turkey). Being one of the most archaizing NENA varieties, its conservative nature manifests itself mainly in the spheres of morphology and lexicon. The Ṭyare dialects exhibit an astonishingly rich repository of inherited Aramaic lexical items. Some of these are unique to Ṭyare amongst the modern Aramaic languages. The rich legacy of Aramaic in Ṭyare is most evident in terms relating to flora, fauna, topography, animal husbandry, agriculture, and other aspects of traditional life. The present lecture deals with selected new fieldwork-based findings in the Ṭyare lexicon, including inherited Aramaic nouns and verbs used in casual Ṭyare speech; archaisms restricted to Ṭyare folktales, oral poetry and sayings; Classicisms, specifically learned Syriac lexemes that have become vernacularized in Ṭyare; lexical innovations based on word-formation of inherited Aramaic words; and jocular lexical innovations, which are used as humoristic synonyms of regular Ṭyare words and phrases.