Classical Syriac

Estrangela Script

Chapter 12

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12.1. The Pegal Perfect of Geminate Verbs¹

Geminate verbs are verbs whose second and third root letters are identical.² In the P^{eq} all perfect, the second root letter is absorbed into the third root letter, which means that only one of the two identical root letters is written throughout the paradigm.

Geminate verbs in the P^{e_i} al perfect are similar to second-wāw/yôd verbs in the P^{e_i} al perfect since, in both cases, only two root letters appear throughout the paradigm. They can be distinguished from each other, however, by the vowel that is written with the first root letter: the theme vowel for geminate verbs is $pt\bar{a}h\bar{a}^{i}$ (e.g. $\dot{\Box}$) while the theme vowel for second-wāw/yôd verbs is normally $zq\bar{a}p\bar{a}^{i}$ (e.g. $\dot{\Box}$).

Geminate verbs are listed in two different ways in the standard English dictionaries of Classical Syriac. Payne Smith lists geminate verbs according to the form they have in the P^{eq}al perfect 3msg (e.g. $\dot{\Box}$). Sokoloff, on the other hand, lists geminate verbs according to their three root letters (e.g. $\dot{\Box}$). In this textbook, geminate verbs will be listed according to the form they have in the P^{eq}al perfect 3msg followed by their three root letters.

The following rules can be used to produce the forms of geminate verbs in the P^{eq}al perfect:

1. Only two root letters are visible throughout the paradigm: the first root letter and the third root letter. The second root letter has been absorbed into the third root letter.

¹ Cf. Nöldeke §178; Muraoka §66; Duval §§112–13, 212; Mingana §§127–28, 131; Brockelmann §194.

² The term *geminate* refers to identical sounds that appear side-by-side.

- 2. Apart from the 3fsg and 1csg, the vowel written with the first root letter is $p\underline{t}\bar{a}h\bar{a}^{?}$. The $p\underline{t}\bar{a}h\bar{a}^{?}$ is the theme vowel that would normally have been written with the second root letter. It has shifted positions to the first root letter because of the loss of the second root letter.
- 3. The 3fsg and 1csg follow the paradigm of the regular verb. However, instead of the second and third root letters being written separately, the letter is only written once but is understood to have been doubled. When the second root letter is a BeGaDKePhaT letter, it will have a hard pronunciation in the 3fsg and 1csg because of the doubling.
- 4. The endings are identical to the ones used with regular verbs.

The following chart provides the forms for geminate verbs in the P^{eq} al perfect along with an explanation for why each form takes the form that it does:

Table 12.1 – P ^{eç} al Perfect of Geminate Verbs				
	Form	Translation	Explanation	
3msg	ń	he robbed	The second root letter has been absorbed into the third root letter. The theme vowel has shifted to the first root letter.	
3fsg	<i>هان</i> ڌ	she robbed	This form follows the regular paradigm despite the fact that only two root letters are visible. This can be seen in the transliteration of this form: <i>bezzat</i> .	
2msg	<i>श्रा</i> न्	you robbed	The second root letter has been absorbed into the third root letter. The theme vowel has shifted to the first root letter.	
2fsg	<i>ڊ</i> الا,	you robbed	The second root letter has been absorbed into the third root letter. The theme vowel has shifted to the first root letter.	
1csg	<i>क्रां</i> न्	I robbed	This form follows the regular paradigm despite the fact that only two root letters are visible. This can be seen in the transliteration of this form: <i>bezzet</i> .	
3mpl	o <i>i</i> ⊋	they robbed	The second root letter has been absorbed into the third root letter. The theme vowel has shifted to the first root letter.	
3fpl	'n	they robbed	The second root letter has been absorbed into the third root letter. The theme vowel has shifted to the first root letter.	
2mpl	ं १९१ <i>ग</i> न्न	you robbed	The second root letter has been absorbed into the third root letter. The theme vowel has shifted to the first root letter.	
2fpl	८ -ष्रेंग्रः	you robbed	The second root letter has been absorbed into the third root letter. The theme vowel has shifted to the first root letter.	

1cpl	بغ	we robbed	The second root letter has been absorbed into the third root letter. The theme vowel has shifted to the first root letter.	
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12.2. Geminate Verbs in the Derived Patterns³

The following chart provides the forms for geminate verbs in the most common derived patterns. The P^{eç}al perfect paradigm has been included for the sake of comparison.

Table 12	Table 12.2 – The Perfect of Geminate Verbs in the Derived Patterns				
	P ^{eç} al	Pa ^{ss} el	γA <u>p</u> ¢el	³E <u>t</u> p ^{eç} el	³Е <u>t</u> pa ^w al
3msg	ħ	<i>اي</i> خ	点次	<i>ii</i> ⊃タi⊄	ıj≒şi⊄
3fsg	<i>جز</i> بھ	<i>جاز</i> نه	gi juick	<i>ېنانېلا</i>	भंग्नेश्रद
2msg	<i>جُا</i> لة	خيرنة	タボネ	शान्भद	भारंनाप
2fsg	<i>ڊ</i> ıنه,	خيرنه,	بجاتب,	אוובאיב,	אווֹהָאִל.
1csg	جتابو	جنتو	girik	كالإجاثال	<i>ېتنېنانو</i>
3mpl	خ ر ه	<i>جٰڌו</i> ه	ەلتابد	oringia.	oıiجهتر
3fpl	ıż	<i>اي</i> ن	ゴベ	ווֹ־יִּשְׁיבֹּ	ıj÷yı⊄
2mpl	√ 0911÷	جُتابون	~091戸六	くのタバラダベ	くの名がかがべ
2fpl	<i>خېاب</i>	<i>र्नेशा</i> हें	て発売込	<i>- मानमा</i> द	<i>جانابة بالج</i>
1cpl	<u>ئ</u>	رتن	~で次	~ ルラダズ	~ /i≒タヤ忒

Several observations can be made:

- Geminate verbs in the Pa^{ss}el, ⁷Etp^{es}el, and ⁷Etpa^{ss}al are completely regular.
- For the [?]Ap[?]el, the second root letter has been absorbed into the first root letter, causing it to double. Once this change is understood, the conjugation should be easy to reproduce since it follows the same pattern as the regular verb. This can be seen quite clearly when the conjugation is transliterated ([?]abbez, [?]abbezt, [?]abbezt, [?]abbezt(y), abb^(e)zēt, etc.) or when the doubling of the first root letter is pronounced distinctly when reciting the paradigm.

12.3. The Peral Perfect of ≺om⁴

One of the most common verbs in Classical Syriac is the verb köm ("to be"). For example, in the Gospel of Mark, which consists of sixteen chapters, the verb köm is used 381 times. In the

³ Cf. Nöldeke §178; Muraoka §66; Duval §§113; Mingana §§130–35; Brockelmann §194.

⁴ Cf. Nöldeke §\$263, 299, 301, 304; 338C; Muraoka §\$85, 109; Duval §\$109, 333–35, 338–39; Mingana §\$267, 270–72, 276; Brockelmann §\$40, 193, 219, 228, 234.

vast majority of cases, the verb $\prec \ddot{o}\sigma$ is found in the $P^{e\varsigma}$ al perfect. The $P^{e\varsigma}$ al perfect of $\prec \ddot{o}\sigma$ follows the same paradigm as the $P^{e\varsigma}$ al perfect of original third-yō \underline{d} verbs (i.e. the paradigm for the verb $\prec \ddot{o}\sigma$):

Table 12.3 – P ^{eç} al Perfect of the Verb దంగా				
3msg	۲ŏa	3mpl	ဝဝ်က	
3fgs	နှင့်က	3fpl	ွ ှဲဝုံက	
2msg	ېخۈص	2mpl	روهجۈھ	
2fsg	ەنجەرە،	2fpl	ختېتۈن	
1csg	هِ-وَس	1cpl	۲ې۵	

In addition to the regular forms of the verb $\prec \ddot{o}_{\sigma}$ in the $P^{e\varsigma}$ al Perfect, the verb $\prec \ddot{o}_{\sigma}$ also has enclitic (i.e. contracted) forms that can be used in combination with other words. The enclitic forms of the verb $\prec \ddot{o}_{\sigma}$ are identical to the non-enclitic forms apart from the fact that the first root letter is no longer pronounced:

Table 10.3 – Enclitic Forms of the Verb 🗸 än the Pecal Perfect				
3msg	ぺる゙ด	3mpl	ဝဝ်က	
3fgs	φόσ	3fpl	ှ ဝှ်က	
2msg	هِجَوْنِ	2mpl	् ०श्च-०ंक	
2fsg	ېخېنې	2fpl	حتجبة	
1csg	هِ-وَنِ	1cpl	۲ېږي	

In the Mosul Bible (East Syriac) and in some East Syriac manuscripts, the enclitic forms of the verb $\prec \ddot{\alpha} \sigma$ are fully vocalized and are marked by (a) a hastener line above the letter σ as well as (b) a single dot below the letter σ (e.g. $\prec \ddot{\alpha} \sigma$, $\lambda \ddot{\alpha} \sigma$, etc.). This dot should not be confused with the dot used with $h b \bar{a} \bar{s} \bar{a}^{7}$ (3) or $r b \bar{a} \bar{s} \bar{a}^{7}$ (4). In other East Syriac manuscripts, the enclitic forms of $\prec \ddot{\alpha} \sigma$ are unvocalized (i.e. they are not written with vowels) but are still marked by are marked by (a) a hastener line above the letter σ as well as (b) a single dot below the letter σ (e.g. $\prec \dot{\alpha} \sigma$, $\lambda \dot{\alpha} \sigma$, etc.). The practice of placing a dot below the letter σ goes back to a convention that was used in earlier manuscripts to distinguish enclitic forms from non-enclitic forms before hastener lines were used: enclitic forms were marked by a dot below the letter σ (e.g. $\prec \dot{\alpha} \sigma$, $\lambda \dot{\alpha} \sigma$) while non-enclitic forms were marked by two even dots below the letter σ (e.g. $\prec \dot{\alpha} \sigma$, $\lambda \dot{\alpha} \sigma$). In this textbook, the use or non-use of hastener lines will be used to distinguish enclitic from

non-enclitic forms except for exercises that involve translating unvocalized texts.⁵

The enclitic forms of the verb $\prec \ddot{\alpha} \sigma$ are used when they are (a) immediately preceded by the word $\prec \ddot{\alpha}$ ("not"), (b) immediately preceded by the subject complement, $\dot{\alpha}$ (c) used in combination with the particle of existence ($\dot{\alpha}$), or (d) used in combination with a participle, a verb in the perfect tense, or a verb in the imperfect tense. The use of $\prec \ddot{\alpha} \sigma$ with participles will be discussed in chapter 14. The use of $\prec \ddot{\alpha} \sigma$, with the imperfect will be discussed in chapter 17.

Excluding the use of $\prec \ddot{o}$ with participles and the imperfect tense, the $P^{e\varsigma}$ all perfect of $\prec \ddot{o}$ has several functions:

a) It can be used to make assertions about something in the past. The enclitic form is used when it comes immediately after the subject complement or when it is immediately preceded by the word. The subject complement can be a noun, an adjective, an adverb, or a prepositional phrase. The full form is used in all other cases. Note the following examples:

Examples			
Syriac	English		
فِههٔ لَاقِحُ جَجْدَجَةً ﴾ يَهُمُّ لِالْكُمْ جَجْدَجَةً ﴾ الْمَادُ حِبِهِ،	And he was there in the wilderness for forty days. (Mark 1:13)		
بريع بناهي حينه هي حريد	But he was outside in a deserted place. (Mark 1:45)		
نتي مين. خوس بنيب مي	Life was in him. ⁸ (John 1:4)		
و نوغتها. دونه ها بر ساید می دونه	And he is 10 not the God of the dead but of the living. (Matt 22:32)		

b) Non-enclitic forms of $\prec \ddot{o}_{\sigma}$ can be used to indicate transformation ("become," "come into being"). When this happens, the verb $\prec \ddot{o}_{\sigma}$ normally comes after the subject complement. Non-

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⁵ West Syriac texts use a single dot below the letter σ to indicate non-enclitic forms and no dot to indicate enclitic forms.

⁶ A subject complement is a word or phrase that provides information about the subject. Subject complements are used with linking verbs like the verb "to be" or "to become." For example, in the sentence, "The bear was large," the subject complement is the word "large."

⁷ Note that manuscripts do not always agree with each other about when an enclitic form is used versus a non-enclitic form. However, the rules given here apply in most instances.

⁸ In this clause, "life" is the subject of the verb $\prec \ddot{\circ} \sigma$, which explains why the full form is used. The subject complement "in him" comes before $\prec \ddot{\circ} \sigma$ but not immediately before it.

⁹ This is an exception to the rule about enclitic forms being used after <. Other exceptions are found in Matt 24:21 and Matt 28:6.

¹⁰ The perfect of $\prec \ddot{\alpha} \sigma$ is often used with a present meaning when preceded by the word $\prec \Delta$.

enclitic forms can be used with this meaning when they are immediately preceded by the word \(\Lambda\). Note the following examples.

Examples	
Syriac	English
ال محلیب همید کی میده مهید میده مهید میده میده مید مید مید مید مید میده مید میده مید	All things came into being through him. And without him, not even one thing came into being. (John 1:3a) And the Word became flesh. (John 1:14)
بغتيب. به جنيب ديك هوي جرار بهنيم هرار . بغتيب به مي به بغير دي	And he said to them, "The Sabbath was created because of human beings. Human beings did not come into being because of the Sabbath." (Mark 2:27)

c) Non-enclitic forms of köm can be used to indicate existence or an occurrence. When this happens, it is often best to translate the verb impersonally with the words, "there was," followed by the subject. In some cases, the verb köm can be rendered by a verb other than the verb "to be" that fits with the context. Note the following example (two different translations are used):

Examples	
Syriac	English
ەقبىك خىكى كىلىنىڭ: كىلىنىڭ كى	And there was a voice from heaven: "You are my beloved son. With you I have been pleased. (Mark 1:11) OR And a voice came from heaven: "You are my beloved son. With you I have been
فنغمه لحسيه هيع نيمهم.	pleased. (Mark 1:11) And they went out to see what had happened. (Mark 5:14)
موم جن تعرب المعتفرة المعرب الموم المورد ال	There was a human being who was sent by God. His name was John. (John 1:6)
وتع بخته به	These things happened in Bethany on the other side of the Jordan. (John 1:28)

d) The $P^{e_{\hat{i}}}$ al perfect 3msg, preceded by the conjunction o (i.e. \vec{k} \ddot{o} \dot{o} \dot{o}), can be used to indicate that the events that are about to be narrated took place in the past. This follows the function of the

¹¹ The Mosul Bible uses the enclitic form here but this appears to be a mistake. East Syriac manuscripts use the full form here.

past-time indicator וְיָהֵי (wayehî) in Hebrew and the use of the phrase אמו בֹּץצֹּעבּדס (kai egeneto) in Greek to imitate this Hebrew construction. When used with this function, the verb מסֹם can be translated, "And it came to pass that," "And it happened that," or it can simply be left untranslated. ¹³ Note the following examples:

Examples	
Syriac	English
خومه جون کرنی به با که به	And it came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee. (Mark 1:9)
	OR
	And it happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee. (Mark 1:9)
	OR
	And in those days, Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee. (Mark 1:9)
چحقک <i>۱۰۰۰ لیک محنح</i> شه <i>ه جحر</i> ۱۹۵۶ بخت مح <i>نجه حختی</i> ههه محتیک	And it came about that while he was reclining in his house, many tax collectors
	and sinners were reclining with Jesus and
بعهٰ مجم الجلحبة قصر.	with his disciples. (Mark 2:15)
	OR
	And while he was reclining in his house, many tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus and with his disciples. (Mark 2:15)

e) Enclitic forms of κ on be used in combination with the particles of existence and non-existence to indicate existence or non-existence in the past (i.e. there was, there were, there was not, there were not). When this happens, the particle of existence comes first and the enclitic form of κ on comes second.

¹² The 3msg preterite + waw-consecutive of the verb היה ($h\bar{a}y\hat{a}$).

¹³ The choice between these translation options depends on one's philosophy of translation. If the purpose of the translation is to reproduce the passage in a way that sounds natural in English, it would be best to leave the verb untranslated. However, a good argument can be made that this construction would have sounded somewhat archaic or unnatural in Classical Syriac since this construction is a conscious imitation of the Hebrew style used in the Old Testament. Translating this construction as, "and it came to pass that," might have the same effect on English speakers as this construction would have had on readers of Classical Syriac, which might make this translation preferable.

Examples			
Syriac	English		
د کینچی خونک خونک کام به دره م محابلا های خونک خونگای به دره می بادره	And in their synagogue there was a man in whom there was an unclean spirit. (Mark 1:23)		
التوادم. التوادم و يوم به	Now there were some scribes and Pharisees there who were sitting. (Mark 2:6)		
لجبر بجنه مجنب موني الأناسي دونه بحد به بخ با بن من به	Now another one fell on stone where there was not much soil. (Mark 4:5)		

f) Enclitic forms of $\prec \ddot{\alpha} \sigma$ can be used in combination with the particle of existence to make assertions about something in the past. When this happens, the particle of existence comes first and is written with a pronominal suffix that matches the person, gender, and number of the form of the verb $\prec \ddot{\alpha} \sigma$ it is used with. It is equivalent in meaning to the use of $\prec \ddot{\alpha} \sigma$ by itself when it is used to make assertions about something in the past. Note the following examples:

Examples	
Syriac	English
ەكىبىلاەت، ھەكى جىر ئېتەللاك.	And he was with the wild animals. (Mark 1:13)
٠٠٠٪ بيت موي موسېند	For they were fishermen. (Mark 1:16)
عاوي بتهنجا حينه حا بجاباين	And a woman who was in the course of
دجنتبهم ببتك عتب الجنالج عمته.	blood ¹⁴ for twelve years (Mark 5:25)

g) Enclitic forms of $\prec \circ \sigma$ can be used in combination with verbs in the perfect tense. When this happens, the verb in the perfect tense comes first and the enclitic form of $\prec \circ \sigma$ comes second. This combination is often used to communicate action that took place prior to another action that took place in the past (i.e. the pluperfect) but can also be used with the same meanings as a regular verb in the perfect. Note the following examples:

Examples	
Syriac	English
چېښه لکښې ښعنجه ۱۰۵۵ خې د ځخو. کښه لکښه له ښې په د ځه د ځو.	Many crowds who had heard all that he was doing came to him. (Mark 3:8)
دتند س بهنده نخ درون بهنده دیند س بهنده نخ درون بهنده	And he said, "Whoever has ears to hear, let him hear." (Mark 4:9)

¹⁴ I.e. menstruating.

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12.4. Vocabulary

Verbs	
عَرِّنْ ₁₂	(Pa ^{ss} el) to teach, instruct
<i>ا</i> جٰ ا	(P ^e γal) to steal, plunder
i;ċi	(P ^e γal) to lead, guide, govern
שהבי שהיה	(⁷ Ap ^c el) to love
ب لات	(P ^e γal) to sit, dwell, stay, remain
ペポン , ペン	$(P^{e\varsigma}al)$ to rebuke (with $\dot{=}$)
خذِن	(P ^e γal) to help, assist
حلا جَد	(P ^e sal) to enter, come in, go in, attack (with $\dot{\Rightarrow}$)
オブベー オア	([?] Ap ^c el) to bring in, carry in
i <u>÷</u> ii e	(P ^e γal) to be strong, get well, recover, stand firm, prove true

Nouns		
Singular	Plural	Meaning
ج <u>ن</u> متِ	ڔێؘۣڡؾؚ	(m) flesh, meat
ببغة	ببلامقەم	(f) covenant, agreement, treaty, testament
حت كِنب ¹⁶	ہنگتے	(m) sinner (a male sinner)
لإتابا	(abs.) المتلة (abs.)	(m) night
مغضغ	لانغينه	(m) servant, deacon
مخنب	مختنخ	(f) eye
بر <u>ة</u> بغ	ىرقى ^م ىغ	(m) face, person (of the members of the Trinity, of Christ being one person)
بزجي	برخع	(m) evening

Note that the root of this verb is \triangle . However, in the Pa cc el, it can be conjugated as though \checkmark were the first root letter.

ا في الله is actually an adjective ("sinful"). However, since it is used so frequently as a substantive to mean "sinner" (i.e. sinful person), it should be memorized as though it were a noun. The feminine version is found in the vocabulary for chapter 13.

¹⁷ The emphatic state of المناه has two possible forms: المناه ألم or المناه ألم The vocabulary section uses the absolute form because this is the most common form that will be encountered in Syriac texts. When used with numbers (e.g. forty days), المناه المناه is used in the absolute state.

الم المراقب	ہي ڌ	(f) hour, time, moment of time
لحنائاته	للمبيل مع	(m) power, might, authority, sovereignty, ruler

Adverbs	
لخِه	outside, out
لجست	immediately, at once
شحنووم	always, forever
بوفت	again
نلانخ	there

Interjections	
た 戊	yes, truly
べあ	behold!, look!

Idioms	
Combination	Meaning
≺ స్వాహ సావ	just then, at that very moment
س <i>ېح</i> د ب ې	at that very moment
که محمد به م	never

Proper Nouns	
ळ <i>एळचॅ</i> ५ं	Ephesus
ø99 ಶ್ರಸ್ತ	Athens
المنالة	Galatia
مومنهنع	Philippi
စင်္ဂဟုဝ်စ	Corinth

12.5. Homework

- a) Using practice sheet 12.1, memorize the paradigm for the $P^{e\varsigma}$ al perfect of the verb $\dot{\rightleftharpoons}$.
- b) Using practice sheet 12.2, memorize the paradigms for $\dot{\varphi}$ in the derived patterns.

- c) Using practice sheet 12.3, memorize the paradigm for the Peral perfect of the verb κ on.
- d) Memorize the vocabulary in 12.4 above. Ideally you should learn seven words per day until they are all memorized. Make sure you can translate the words from Syriac to English as well as English to Syriac. The following link on Quizlet can be used to help you learn the vocabulary: https://quizlet.com/ cj3rug?x=1qqt&i=2z26w0.
- e) Using practice sheet 12.4, translate the sentences from Syriac to English.