# Neo-Aramaic and Kurdish Folklore from Northern Iraq

A Comparative Anthology with a Sample of Glossed Texts

VOLUME 1



Geoffrey Khan, Masoud Mohammadirad,
Dorota Molin and Paul M. Noorlander
In collaboration with Lourd Habeeb Hanna,
Aziz Emmanuel Eliya Al-Zebari and Salim Abraham





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Geoffrey Khan, Masoud Mohammadirad, Dorota Molin and Paul M. Noorlander, *Neo-Aramaic and Kurdish Folklore from Northern Iraq: A Comparative Anthology with a Sample of Glossed Texts, Volume 1.* Cambridge Semitic Languages and Cultures 12. Cambridge, UK: Open Book Publishers, 2022, https://doi.org/10.11647/OBP.0306

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Semitic Languages and Cultures 12.

ISSN (print): 2632-6906 ISSN (digital): 2632-6914 ISBN Paperback: 9781800647664 ISBN Hardback: 9781800647671 ISBN Digital (PDF): 9781800647688

DOI: 10.11647/OBP.0306

Cover images:

Cover design: Anna Gatti

# CHRISTIAN ARAMAIC OF DUHOK TEXT 14: §1–19

### Dorota Molin

## Speaker: Yawsep Elisha Ishaq

Audio: https://nena.ames.cam.ac.uk/audio/224/

(1) 'ana Yawsəp 'Eliša 'Isḥàq mən Dùhok=iwən.'

I Yawsep 'Eliša 'Isḥàq from Duhok=cop.1sg.m

I am Yawsep Elisha Ishaq, from Duhok.

yəmm-i naš-ət Mar Yàgo=la,¹ šəmm-ah Maryam mother-my people-of Mar Yaqu=cop.3sg.F name-her Maryam Toma Jubrà al. Jubrà<sup>5</sup>al Toma

My mother is from Mar Yaqo her name is Maryam Toma Jubrail.

g-əb-ən 'amr-ən-nux xa ma $\theta$ al $\tilde{u}$ ke=la, 'IND-want-1sg.m tell-1sg.m-o.2sg.m one tale=cop.3sg.f d- $\tilde{a}$ rya' ' $\tilde{u}$  barn $\tilde{a}$ sa.' of-lion and man

I'd like to tell you a story, about a lion and a man.

(2)  $\partial\theta$ -wa xa  $\partial$ arya EXIST-PST one lion

There was a lion

```
mṣíṭer-a wewa l-ṭùra. 'rule.ptcp-3sg.m cop.pst.3sg.m on-mountain
```

[who] controlled a mountain.

```
là-gabəl-∅-wa
                     čù
                            barnaš-ət
                                         zàl-wā-le
                                                          l-tura,'
NEG-accept-3sg.m-pst
                     no
                            human-sbr
                                         go.pfv-pst-3sg.m
                                                          to-mountain
māxe-∅-wa
               aàvse'
                        <sup>2</sup>u awəð-∅-wa xà-məndi.¹
                        and do-3sg.m-pst
cut-3sg.m-pst
               wood.pi.
                                          some-thing
```

He did not allow any humans to enter the mountain to cut wood or to do anything [else].

If someone went there, he would come down on them and eat them.

```
là-qābəl-∅-wa ču xa zəl-wā-le. NEG-accept-3sg.M-PST no one go.PFV-PST-3sg.M
```

He did not allow anyone to enter.

(3)  ${}^{9}u \ xa$  faqira  ${}^{9}\partial -wa$ . and one poor.man EXIST-PST

There was also a poor man.

```
pəš-le majbūr d-za-le ma\thetae-\varnothing become.pfv-3sg.m desperate sbr-go-3sg.m bring-3sg.m qàyse^{\text{l}} d-mzābàn-\varnothing-nay gyan-e^{\text{l}} wood.pl sbr-sell-3sg.m-o.3pl self-3sg.m
```

He had to go and get wood to sell it

```
d-'ayəš-\varnothing b-gàw-ay.' SBR-live-3SG.M in-with-them
```

in order to make a living through it.

```
ъe.
     là-k-əθy-a
                         mənn-e'
                                   xāze-∅-le
                                                      dá<sup>3</sup>əman
yes
     NEG-IND-come-3sg.f with-him
                                   see-3sg.m-o.3sg.m
                                                      always
vala zor-a
                  bә-туаӨа
                              m-kəpna
                                            baraul-eh'
                               from-hunger before-him
child
      little-sg.m
                  in-die.INF
```

He was not able to see [his] little child dying of hunger in front of him.

```
'u la-t-te č'u məndi d-māxàl-∅-lay.'

and NEG-EXIST-3SG.M nothing SBR-feed-3SG.M-O.3PL
```

And he had nothing to feed them.

(4) k-imər-∅ ''ana mặặḥ-ən

IND-say-3sg.M I sacrifice-1sg

'I shall sacrifice [myself].

```
b-za-li l-day țura

FUT-go-1sG to-OBL.that.F mountain

d-ile ^{2}arya gaw-e ^{2}d-āx^{2}l-^{2}-li,
SBR-COP.3SG.M lion inside-it.3SG.M SBR-eat-3SG.M-0.1SG
```

I shall go to the mountain where the lion is and might eat me.

```
nayx-ən mən xày-i. rest-1sg.m from life-my
```

I will be spared [the burden of] my life.

```
bèš ṭu mət xaz-ən yale zor-e myaθa m-kəpna."
better than see-1sg.m children little-PL die.INF from-hunger
```

It is better than seeing [my] little children dying of hunger.'

*šqəl-le xmar-eḥ 'u məndi dìyeḥ, xàwl-eḥ,* take.pfv-3sg.m donkey-his and thing his rope.pl-his

So he took his donkey and his equipment, his ropes.

(5) *qəm-le* ham <sup>3</sup>aw arise.pfv-3sg.m also he

 $^{2}u$  zəl-le  $^{2}u$  d-awəð- $\bigcirc$  qayse  $^{2}u$  à $\theta$ e- $\bigcirc$ .  $^{2}u$  and go.pfv-3sg.m sbr-do-3sg.m wood and come-3sg.m

He got up and went to get wood before going back.

θe-le, là-θe-le, b-nayəx-∅ m-gyan-e.¹ come.pfv-3sg.m Neg.come.pfv-3sg.m futr-rest-3sg.m of-self-his

Whether or not [the lion] would come, he would find relief.

Believe it, he went and climbed the mountain [with] his axe to cut wood.

mxè-le, taq, tàq. hit.pfv-3sg.m crack crack

He started cutting, crack, crack.

wele dehwa... hənna 'àrya deic.cop.3sg.m wolf thing lion

k-šame qala g-nàxə $\theta$ - $\varnothing$  'əll-e.' IND-hear-3sg.m voice IND-descend-3sg.m to-him

Look, a wolf... I mean, a lion heard the sound and came to him.

(6) 'ha, barnàša, ha human

 $^{\circ}$ ati  $l-\bar{e}\theta$  šəmy-a gàw-i? $^{\circ}$  you.sg NEG-COP.2SG.M hear.PTCP-SG.M about-me

'Hey, human, haven't you heard of me?

dax k- $i\theta$ - $\partial t$   $^{\circ}ati$  d-qat- $\partial t$  how IND-come-2SG.M you.SG SBR-cut-2SG.M

'u məndyane d-g-əb-ət 'u là-g-əb-ət.'

and things SBR-IND-want-2sg.m and NEG-IND-want-2sg.m

How dare you come here and cut whatever you like, and so on?

l-ēθ šmiy-a

NEG-COP.2SG.M hear.PTCP-SG.M

gu da ṭura diyi=le?"
in OBL.that.F mountain mine=COP.3SG.M

Haven't you heard that this mountain is mine?'

k-imər- $\emptyset$ , bǎle, bǎle, wən šmiy-a IND-say-3sg.M indeed indeed COP.1sg.M hear.PTCP-sg.M

<sup>2</sup>*u* <sup>2</sup>*ana* ta hàdax=ən <sup>2</sup>∂θy-a." and I for such=cop.1sg.M come.PTCP-sg.M

He said, 'Indeed, I have heard, and that is why I have come.'

'dằxi ta hadax=ət '>əθy-a?' how for such=cop.2sg.м come.ptcp-sg.м

'What do you mean that this is the reason you have come?'

(7) k-imər- $\emptyset$ , 'mhèmən- $\emptyset$ , mer-i b-axl-àt-ti' IND-say-3SG.M believe.IMP-SG say.PFV-1SG FUT-eat-2SG.M-O.1SG.M

He said, 'Believe me, I thought [that if] you eat me,

```
'al 'aqál là-xaz-ənyal-izor-emyaθam-kəpnaat leastNEG-see-1sg.Mchildren-mylittle-PLdie.INFof-hungerbarqū́l'èn-i.'beforeeyes-my
```

at least I won't see my little children dying of hunger in front of my eyes.

```
ham 'axl-ət-ti 'ati bəš tu mət xāz-àn-nay.' even if 2sg.m-o.1sg you.sg better than see-1sg.m-o.3pl
```

Even if you eat me, it is better than seeing them.

```
may\theta-ən barqul yale zor-e hawe-\varnothing bə-mya\thetaa die-1sg.M before children little-pl be-3pl in-die.INF m-kəpna 'u xàz-ən-nay.' of-hunger and see-1sg.M-o.3pl
```

I would die in front of my little children dying of hunger, and I would see them.

```
naqla 'àti-ži' b-kàypux-wən.' this time you.sg-also in-bondage-your.sg.m-cop.1sg.m
```

Now, [it's up to] you, I am at your mercy.

```
'ana gu ḥəmayata diyux=iwən.'
I in protection your.sg.м=cop.2sg.м
```

I am under your protection.

```
g-àb-ət, and halala tà-lux. Ind-want-2sg.m I prey for-you.sg.m
```

If you want, I am yours.

```
{}^{2}u g-{}^{2}b-{}^{2}t {}^{2}i, {}^{1} {}^{2}ana hun {}^{2}a\theta y-a and IND-want-2SG.M also I COP.1SG.M come.PTCP-SG.M
```

[but] if you please, I've come

```
m-majburù\theta-i^{\dagger} d-m\acute{a} 'yə\check{s}-\partial n 'ay\grave{a}l diyi.' of-desperation-my SBR-support-1sg.M children my
```

out of the need to feed my children.'

(8) k-imər- $\emptyset$ , 'madám t-ila hàdax,' IND-say-3SG.M since SBR-COP.3SG.F thus

*ham, hàm ṭa-li rand=ila* even even for-me advantage=cop.3sg.F

*'u ham ţà-lux rand-ila.'* and even for-you.sg.m advantage=cop.3sg.f

He said, 'If that is the case, then it's good for me and good for you.'

'dằxi?"

'How?'

k-imər- $\emptyset$  'ati b-awð-ət qayse 'u b-làbl-ət,' IND-say-3sg.m you.sg.m fut-do-2sg.m wood and fut-take-2sg.m

He said, 'You will cut wood and take it [to town].

'u ana b-yāw-àn-nux maṣraf diyux.'
and I FUT-give-1sg.m-o.2sg.m salary your.sg.m

And I will give you your living.

b-za-lux hàm ṭa-li b-aθ-ət. FUT-go-2sg.M even for-me FUT-come-2sg.M

You will go and come to me.

 $^{2}$ aygət  $a\theta$ -ət  $m\bar{a}\theta$ -ət-ti  $^{2}$ ix $\hat{a}$ la,  $^{1}$ when come-2sg.M bring-2sg.M-o.1sg food

When you come and bring me food,

```
hàm 'ana 'axl-ən.'
even I eat-1sg.m
```

I too will eat.'

```
''e,' k-imər-Ø, 'kabira rand-ila.'
yes IND-say-3sg.M great advantage=cop.3sg.F
```

'Yes,' he says. 'This is a great advantage.'

So he goes to cut wood every day, makes a bundle of this thing, a load of wood, and carries [it].

```
labəl-Ø qàyse' 'u č'u xa là-labole,
take-3sg.m wood and no-one NEG-take.INF
'àjran gə-mzābən-Ø-nay.'
expensive IND-sell-3sg.M-0.3pL
```

He brings wood while no one else does, so he sells it at a high price.

```
k-ið-ət '>əstəġlal d-šùqa.' IND-know-2sg.M advantage of-market
```

You know, taking advantage of the market.

```
mh \grave{a} y m \ni n - \emptyset, kud-yom
                                    hol
                                                       b-əθàya,'
believe.IMP-SG
                     every-day
                                    DEIC.COP.3SG.M in-come.INF
                                                                         ^{\circ}e.^{1}
            <sup>2</sup>u mzabone gàyse, <sup>1</sup>
                                         'u naše
labole
                                                         bə-xzàya,
take.INF
           and sell.INF
                              wood
                                          and people
                                                         in-see.INF
                                                                         yes
```

Believe me, he comes every day, transports and sells wood, people can see this, yes.

```
'u ani xene là-g-yar-i za-lay.' and they others NEG-IND-dare-3PL go-3PL
```

Others do not dare go [to the mountain].

#### One day...

$$t\acute{a}b'\bar{a}n$$
  $d$ - $k$ - $i$ - $\theta$ e- $\varnothing$   $d$ - $ma\theta$ e- $\varnothing$   ${}^{\circ}ix\grave{a}la$ , of.course SBR-IND-come-3SG.M SBR-bring-3SG.M food  $k$ - $axl$ - $i$   $m\grave{u}x\check{\delta}a\check{\delta}e$ .

Of course, when he brought food, they would eat together.

```
'awa 'u arya k-əxl-i mùxðaðe tama.'
he and lion IND-eat-3PL together there
```

He and the lion ate together there.

```
ya'ni, hàm 'ixal-ət faqira' 'ala hsàb-eh
it.means even food-of poor.man on expense-his
k-aw-e.'
```

So the poor man's food was also at his expense.

```
'e, 'arya g-yāwəl-Ø-le 'ṭa-li 'u ṭà-lux.'
yes lion IND-give-3sG.M-0.3sG.M to-me and to-you.sG.M
```

He gave him [saying] 'For you and for me.'

One day, he realized that the lion

ya'ni, kabìra wəd-le faðl 'əll-eḥ.' I.mean great do.pfv-3sg.m favour to-him

was doing him a great favour.

k-imər-Ø, 'ba, xòn-i,'
IND-say-3sg.M look brother-my

ham 'ati mšarəf-Ø gèb-an.'
also you.sg.M honour-3sg.M to-us

He said, 'Brother, come over one day to ours, honour us [in this way].

'azm-ən-nux xa yoma l-gèban, invite-1sg.m-o.2sg.m one day to-to-ours mənn-an xùl- $\emptyset$ .' with-us eat.imp-sg

I'd like to invite you to ours, eat with us.'

*k-imər-* $\emptyset$ , 'mà y-xaləf- $\emptyset$ .' b-à $\theta$ -ən.' IND-say-3sg.m what IND-matter-3sg.m Fut-come-1sg.m

He says, 'Of course, I will come.'

ba ³arya mən màni b-zade-∅?¹ look lion from who FUT-fear-3sg.м

Whom does a lion fear?

là-zad-e mən ču xa. NEG-fear-3SG.M from no one

He fears no one.

(12) mhaymən-Ø wàd-lay, believe, IMP-SG do, PFV-3PL

Believe me, they did so,

```
zàl-lay mṭe-lay l-bàyθa. ¹go.pfv-3pl arrive.pfv-3pl to-house
```

they went and arrived at [the man's] home.

```
k-imər-∅
              ta bàxt-eh
                              'bàxta.'
                   wife-his
IND-say-3sg.m
              to
                              wife
g-dary-at
              'ixala
                      ta
                           'àrva.'
IND-put-2sg.F
              food
                      for
                           lion
dre
            iŭda
                      'u tà-li
                                  dre
                                               iŭda.'
            portion and to-him put.IMP.SG.F
                                               portion
put.IMP.SG.F
```

He said to his wife, 'Wife, when you serve food for the lion, serve him separately from me.'

```
k-imər-\emptyset,
                 lə<sup>3</sup>án
                             <sup>9</sup>egət
                                     galize
                                               g-nàxθ-i,
                                                                   iŭda.'
IND-say-3sg.m
                                     saliva
                                               IND-descend-3PL
                 because
                            when
                                                                   portion
galize g-naxθ-i
                                   'ixàla.
                              gи
saliva
          IND-descend-3pl.
                                   food
                              in
```

He said, 'Because when his drool runs down, it drips on the food.

```
labb-i là-k-izəl-∅,' ya'ni, 'è.' heart-my NEG-IND-go-3SG.M I mean yes
```

I lose my appetite, yes.'

```
^{9}ay=ži z^{3}l-la, ^{1} \thetae-la ^{2}mu\thetae-la ^{2}ix^{3}la. ^{1}she=also go.pfv-3sg.f come.pfv-3sg.f bring.pfv-3sg.f food
```

So, she went and came back, and brought food.

```
dre-la ta 'àrya jŭda,' 'u ṭà-leh jŭda.' put.PFV-3SG.F to lion portion and to-him portion
```

She served the lion separately and [the man] separately.

day

b-ixàla. (13) <sup>2</sup>u ani pəš-lay and they begin.PFV-3PL in-eat.INF

They started eating.

```
xàl-le
                    <sup>o</sup>arya<sup>l</sup>
                                 <sup>o</sup>u xləs-le
                                                              <sup>2</sup>u θe-le
                                 and finish.pfv-3sg.m and come.pfv-3sg.m
eat.pfv-3sg.m lion
l-tùra.'
to-mountain
```

The lion ate his food up and came back to the mountain.

```
yoma zəl-le
                           fagìra.'
derət
        day
               go.PFV-3SG.M poor.man
second
```

Next day, the poor man went up.

```
k-imər-\emptyset.
             ha,
                   ha,
                        fagìra,'
IND-say-3sg.m ha
                   ha
                        poor.man
kud-yom k-əxl-ət-wa
                           mànn-i,'
                                     'àxxa,
every-day IND-eat-2sg.M-PST with-me
                                     here
                             gawət ixala?
galiz-i
          là-naxθ-i-wa
saliva-my NEG-descend-3PL-PST inside
                                     food
```

He said, 'Hey, poor man, we had food together here every day. Did my drool never run down into food?

```
d-mte-li
                             l-gebòxun
          SBR-arrive.PFV-1SG
                            to-vou.PL
OBL.that.F
kəm-'azm-èt-ti,'
PFV-invite-2sg.m-o.1sg
dre-lux
             iŭda
                                      gyàn-ux'
                       ta-li
                              u ta
put.PFV-2sg.m portion to-me
                              and to
                                      self-your.sg.m portion
```

When you invited me, you served me separately and yourself separately.

iŭda.

(14) 'e, g-mestànkəf-ət mən galiz-i?' yes IND-be.revolted-2sg.M of saliva-my

You find my [drool] revolting?

'ay, 'ày=ila faðl diyi 'all-ux?' that.F that.F=cop.3sg.F favour my to-you.sg.M

Is this [how you pay back] my favour to you?

 $^{\circ}axxa$  k- $\partial xl$ - $\partial t$ -wa m- $\partial r$ -i h-i h-i

When you used to eat with me at my expense, [then] my drool was not dripping on food.

'aygət  $\theta e$ -li gèb-ux, galiz-i nx $\partial t$ -le when come.pfv-1sg to-your.sg.m saliva-my descend.pfv-3sg.m gu 'ixala, g-yarəm- $\emptyset$  ləbb-ux mənn-i.' in food IND-elevate-3sg.m heart-your.sg.m from-me

When I came over to yours, my drool ran down into food, you became proud.'

(15) k-imər- $\emptyset$  țà-le, 'xzi d-amr- $\partial$ n-nux, ' IND-say-3sg.m to-him see.IMP.sg.m SBR-say-1sg.m-o.2sg.m

He said to him, 'Listen to what I say.

'màθi-le năr-ux,
bring.IMP.SG.M-O.3SG.M axe-your.SG.M

mxi-le gu rèš-i.''
hit.IMP.SG.M-O.3SG.M in head-my

Bring your axe and hit me with it on the head.'

```
'dàxi māx-ən-ne b-reš-ux?' how hit-1sg.m-o.3sg.m in-head-your.sg.m
```

'How should I hit you with it on the head?'

```
'an là-max-ət-te b-reš-i, dằha b-axl-ən-nux.'
if NEG-hit-1SG.M-O.3SG.M in-head-my now FUT-eat-1SG.M-O.2SG.M
```

'If you don't hit me with it on the head, I'll devour you right now.

```
lazəm māx-ət-te b-rèš-i.'
must hit-2sg.m-o.1sg.m in-head-my
```

You must hit me with it on the head.'

```
kəm-māxe-Ø-le b-reš-eḥ. PFV-hit.3sg.M-0.3sg.M in-head-his
```

He hit him on his head.

```
'u arya zəl-le ta gyàn-eḥ.' and lion go.pfv-3sg.m to self-his
```

The lion went away to his own [place].

```
^{2}u faqira \thetaè-le, ^{1} and poor.man come.pfv-3sg.m

wəd-le qàyse ^{1} ^{2}u \thetae-le ^{1}-bày\thetaa. ^{1} do.pfv-3sg.m wood and come.pfv-3sg.m to-house
```

The poor man came, cut the wood and came back home.

```
(16) pəd-le xen-a faqira, pass.pfv-3sg.m other-sg.m poor.man

'u 'arya l-àt-te 'alaqa gaw-e.'

and lion NEG-EXIST-3sg.m relation to-him
```

The poor man went [to] another [place] while the lion had nothing to do with him.

```
hal xa yòma,'
until one day
'àrya,' nàx-le reš-eḥ.' reš-eḥ nàx-le.'
lion heal.pfv-3sg.m head-his head-his heal.pfv-3sg.m
```

Until, one day, the lion's head recovered. His head recovered.

```
'u θe-le, xaze-∅ faqira
and come.pfv-3sg.m see-3sg.m poor.man

hole '∂θy-a l-ṭura b-waða qàyse.'

DEIC.COP.3sg.m come.ptcp-sg.m to-mountain in-do.inf wood
```

He came and saw—the poor man had come to the mountain, cutting wood.

```
mṭè-le faqira, k-imər-Ø, 'hà faqira!' arrive.pfv-3sg.m poor man IND-say-3sg.m aha poor man
```

He said, 'Hello, poor man!

```
''uhu, ''ahlan wa-sàhlan,'
oh welcome

dằxi=wəθ?' maqṣad: mroḥəb-le gàw-e.'
how=COP.2SG.M meaning welcome.PFV-3SG.M to-him
```

Welcome, how are you?' I mean, he welcomed him.

```
(17) k-imər-\emptyset, 'faqira,' IND-say-3sg.M poor.man də xur-\emptyset gu rèš-i,' SBR look.IMP-sg in head-my
```

He said, 'Oh poor man, come and look at my head.

```
xz-i nìx-a reš-i, 'an là.' look.imp-sg.m heal.ptcp-sg.m head-my or not
```

See whether or not my head has recovered.'

```
xayer-\varnothing gu rès-eh. k-imər-\varnothing, 'mhàymən-\varnothing¹ look-3sg.m in head-his IND-say-3sg.M believe.IMP-sg hole pis-a bàs tu m-qamay\theta a.¹ DEIC.COP.3sg.M become.PTCP-sg.M better than-before
```

He looked at his head and said, 'Believe me, it's better now than it was before.

```
AmašaļļaA... škir 'alaha.' what.god.willed thank.PTCP God
```

#### Thank God!'

```
k-imər-∅, 'l-àwa b-kayp-i bas'

IND-say-3sg.M NEG-COP.3sg.F in-desire-my but

'ati kəm-jabr-àt-ti d-max-ən-wa 'əll-ux.'

you.sg PFV-force-2sg.M-o.1sg SBR-hit-1sg.M-PST to-you.sg.M
```

He said, 'It wasn't what I wanted, but you forced me to hit you.'

He said, 'Look, poor man, my head has recovered.

```
bas xabr-ux həš l-èle nix-a, but word-your.sg.m still NEG-COP.3sg.m heal.ptcp-sg.m d-ana... k-əmr-ət-wa sbr-I IND-say-2sg.m-pst galiz-i naxθ-i gawət 'ixàla. saliva-my descend-3pl inside food
```

But [the impact of] your words [when] you said that my drool was dripping into food has not yet healed.

```
nax-le
                                  reš-i
bă⊕ər
         mət
after
         when
                 heal.pfv-3sg.m
                                  head-mv
                      l-èle
                                       nix-a,'
u xabr-ux
and word-your.sg.m
                      NEG-COP.3SG.M
                                       heal.PTCP-SG.M
<sup>A</sup>haq ³u mustahàq<sup>A</sup>₌ile
                           d-axl-ən-nux.'
justified=cop.3sg.m
                            SBR-eat-1SG.M-O.2SG.M
```

Since my head has recovered and [the wound] of your word has not, it is my full right to devour you.'

```
qəm-le k \rightarrow m^{-1} \bar{a} x \rightarrow l - \emptyset - le b - e d \rightarrow a r ise. PFV - 3SG.M pFV - eat - 3SG.M - 0.3SG.M in-this. f time
```

He devoured him immediately.

Yes, it is so.

```
šawpa, šawp-ət saypa g-nàyəx-Ø. Impact impact-of sword IND-heal-3SG.M
```

The impact of a sword heals.

```
šawp-ət xabra là-g-nayəx-∅. 
impact-of word NEG-IND-heal-3SG.M
```

[But] the impact of words does not heal.

```
xabra nàxwaš, nàxwaš=ile, 'e.'
word evil evil=cop.3sg.m yes
```

A word can be very evil, yes.