

Neo-Aramaic and Kurdish Folklore from Northern Iraq

A Comparative Anthology with a Sample of Glossed Texts

VOLUME 1



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NORTHERN KURDISH OF ZAKHO

Text 11: §1-24

Masoud Mohammadirad

Speaker: Saeid Rezvan

Audio: <https://kurdic.ames.cam.ac.uk/audio/245/>

(1) *az nāv-ē mən Saʿid Hajī Sadīq[|] Zāxoyī*
1SG.DIR name-EZ.M 1SG.OBL PN PN PN PN

I—my name [is] Saʿid Hajī Sadiq Zakhoyi

žə bənamāl-ak-ē Zāxo yā-t kavən[|] nāv-ē
from family-INDF-EZ.F PN EZ.F=EZ.PL old name-EZ.M

bənamāl-ā Ğazvān-ā[|]
family-EZ.F PN-PL.OBL

[I am from] an old family in Zakho, called the Razvans' family.

t-ē-m bar-nīyāsīn Saʿid Ğazvānī[|]
IND-come.PRS-1SG front-know.PST.INF PN PN

I am known as Saʿid Razvani.

(2) *az dē nūka sar afsānā pər-ā Dalāl*
1SG FUT now on tale.EZ.F bridge-EZ.F PN

Ø-āxav-əm.[|]
SBJV-speak.PRS-1SG

Now, I will talk about the myth of 'the bridge of Dalal'

mən pēnj šàš partūk sar Zāxo čē
 1SG.OBL five six book on PN good

kər-ī-na[|]
 do.PST-PTCP=COP.3PL

I have written (lit. produced) five, six books on Zakho,

žə kalapòr=o[|] afsānà=w[|] mažû=w[|] pēzānî-yē
 from heritage-and myth-and history-and knowing-EZ.M

Zāxo[|] bə zəmənan-ē Kurdî=o ʿArabî[|]
 PN in language-EZ.M Kurdish-and Arabic

in Kurdish and in Arabic, on its heritage, myths, history, and general information.

(3) *afsānā pər-ā Dalāl[|] bûčî nāv-ē wē*
 tale.EZ.F bridge-EZ.F PN why name-EZ.M 3SG.OBL.M

kər-ī-na pər-ā Dalāl?[|]
 do.PST-PTCP=COP.3PL bridge-EZ.F PN

The myth of the bridge of Dalal —why is it (i.e., the bridge) called the bridge of Dalal?

ākənji-yēt Zāxo yēt kavən[|] yēt Zāxo āvā
 inhabitant-EZ.PL PN EZ.PL old EZ.PL PN prosperous

kər-ī-n[|] Juhî bî-n[|]
 do.PST-PTCP=COP.3PL Jew COP.PST-3PL

The old inhabitants of Zakho, the ones who built Zakho were Jewish.

av afsānà[|] yā Jəhî-yàn-a[|]
 DEM.PROX.3SG.DIR myth EZ.F Jew-PL.OBL=COP.3SG

This myth belongs to the Jews.

- (4) *ū ma aš Jəhī-yā go lē*
 and 1PL.OBL from Jew-PL.OBL ear at.it
bī-ya.[|]
 be.PST.PTCP=PERF

We have heard it [the myth] from the Jews.

- ū ma aš day bāb-ēt xo[|] əb*
 and 1PL from mother father-EZ.PL REFL in
vī šəkl-ī go lē bī-ya.[|]
 DEM.PROX.3SG.OBL.M manner-OBL.M ear at.it be.PST.PTCP=PERF

We have heard it from our parents

- awē às bo wa t-bēž-əm.*[|]
 3SG.OBL.F 1SG.DIR for 2PL.OBL IND-say.PRS-1SG

in the manner I am going to tell you about.

- (5) *ət-bēž-ən pər-ək dī wusā əl Jəzīr-ā*
 IND-say.PRS-3PL bridge-INDF other such in PN-EZ.F

- Botā hāt-bī-Ø āvākərən-ē*[|]
 PN come.PST-COP.PST-3SG build.PST.INF-OBL.F

- nāv-ē wē pər-ā Bāfət.*[|]
 name-EZ.M 3SG.OBL.F bridge-EZ.F PN

It is said that another bridge like this (i.e. the bridge of Dalal) had been built in Cizre Bohtan, called the bridge of Bafit.

- (6) *waxt-ē pər bə dumāhī inā-yī*[|]
 when-EZ.M bridge to end bring-PST-PTCP

When the construction of the bridge was finished,

- mīr-ē yē Jəzīr-ā Botā[|] gāzī hostā-yī kər.*[|]
 prince-EZ.M EZ.M PN-EZ.F PN calling master-OBL.M do.PST

the emir of Cizre Bohtan summoned the builder (the master)

got-ē, 'dē ta xalāt Ø-kə-m.¹
 say.PST=3SG.OBL FUT 2SG.OBL gift SBJV-do.PRS-1SG

[and] said, 'I will give you a gift.' (lit. I will gift you)

(7) dast-ē wī yē řāst-ē žē va-kər¹
 hand-EZ.M 3SG.OBL.M EZ.M right-OBL.F from.it TELIC-do.PST

[The emir] cut off his right hand

got-ē, 'tā tu čə pər-ē dī¹ əl čə
 say.PST=3SG.OBL so.that 2SG.DIR no bridge-EZ.M other in no

jəh-ē dī āvā nə-kī!¹
 place-EZ.M other prosperous NEG.SBJV-do.PRS.2SG

[and] said to him, 'Lest you make another bridge [like] this anywhere else!

az šānāzī-yē bə vē pər-ē..¹
 1SG.DIR pride-OBL.F to DEM.PROX.3SG.OBL.F bridge-OBL.F

I [take] pride in this bridge.'

(8) dam-à hāt-ī-Ø Zāxo¹ řāvī-Ø
 time-EZ.F come.PST-PTCP-3SG PN flee.PST-3SG

hāt-Ø Zāxò bə xo¹
 come.PST-3SG PN by REFL

When the builder (lit. he) came to Zakho—he fled and simply came to Zakho—

mūr-ē Zāxo dāxoz žē kər¹
 prince-EZ.M PN request from.3SG.OBL do.PST

the emir of Zakho demanded that

pər-ak-ē *lə-sar* *ġābīr-ī* *čē* *Ø-kə-t^l*
 bridge-INDF-OBL.F on-top river-OBL.M good SBJV-do.PRS-3SG
əl *rožhalāt-ē* *bāžēr-ī.^l*
 in east-EZ.M city-OBL.M

he build a bridge on the Khabur river in the east of the city.

(9) *aw* *bə-^caks-ē=t* *mīr-ē* *Jəzīr-ē^l* *got,*
 3SG.DIR in-reverse-OBL.F=EZ.PL prince-EZ.M PN-OBL.F say.PST
‘bālā *az* *dē* *āvā* *Ø-kə-m.^ʔ*
 alright 1SG.DIR FUT prosperous SBJV-do.PRS-1SG

Contrary to [what] the emir of Cizre [had told him], he (i.e., the builder) said, ‘Alright, I will build [one].’

aw *čū-Ø* *bə xo* *hustā* *lə xo* *kòm* *kər.^l*
 3SG.DIR go.PST-3SG by REFL master at REFL collection do.PST

He went and gathered some builders around him.

aw *banā* *bī-Ø^l*
 3SG.DIR mason COP.PST-3SG

He himself was a mason,

ya‘nī [*əp* *hang-ē*] *andāzyār* *nà-bī-Ø^l*
 that.is as much-EZ.M architect NEG-COP.PST-3SG

that is, he was not an architect.

bas *àw* *yē* *āvā* *kər-ī.^l*
 but 3SG.DIR EZ.M prosperous do.PST-PTCP

However, he had built that the bridge.

(10) *lē* *gařā-Ø^l*
 at.it search.PST-3SG

He looked around.

əl darkār-ē bākòr-ē Zāxū^l bə taqriban
 in surrounding-EZ.M north-EZ.M PN by approximately
pāzda bīst kilomatr-ā^l bar
 fifteen twenty kilometers-PL.OBL rock
žə wē-rē inā-n.^l
 from DEM.DIST.3SG.OBL.F-POST bring.PST-3PL

He brought the stones [necessary for the construction of the bridge] from [a distance of] around 15–20 kilometres north of Zakho.

du bar ži bə řē-vē ət-katī-n^l
 two stone add at road-POST TAM-fall.PST.PTCP=COP.3PL

Two of the stones were dropped on the road [to Zakho];

hatā nūkà ži lə Dārozān-ē mawjud-ən.^l
 until now ADD in PN-OBL.F existent=COP.3PL

they can still be seen (lit. are existent) in Darozan.

(11) *ū dās āvēt-a pər-ē^l ā*
 and hand throw.PST=DRCT bridge-OBL.F EZ.F

čēkarən-ā pər-ē.^l
 build.PST-INF-EZ.F bridge-OBL.F

He started building the bridge (lit. He threw hands at the bridge, at building the bridge)

dam-ā t-gahašt-Ø=a kəvān-ā nīv-ē^l dā
 time-EZ.F IPFV-arrive.PST-3SG=DRCT arch-EZ.F half-OBL.F AUX
tamām Ø-kə-t.^l
 finished SBJV-do.PRS-3SG

Whenever he completed constructing the arch in the middle of the bridge,

<i>řož-ā</i>	<i>dī</i>	<i>dā</i>	\emptyset - <i>ě-t</i> [†]
day-EZ.F	other	AUX	SBJV-come.PRS-3SG

<i>aw</i>	<i>kəvān</i> ¹	<i>wē</i>	<i>həl-wəšā-yî-Ø</i> ¹
DEM.DIST.3SG.DIR	arch	FUT	PVB-pour.PST-PTCP-3SG

the next day, he would come to the bridge [and] the arch had collapsed.

(12) *awī* *pərsyār-ā* *əb* *ʿArabī* *t-bēž-n-e*
 3SG.OBL.M question-EZ.F in Arabic IND-say.PRS-3PL-3SG.OBL

“*arrāf*”
fortune.teller

The builder (lit. he) asked [a fortune-teller, who is] called ‘*arāf*’ in Arabic.

<i>bə</i>	<i>kurdi</i>	<i>am</i>	<i>ət-bēž-n-ē</i>	‘xēvzānk’ ¹
in	Kurdish	1PL.DIR	IND-say.PRS-1PL=3SG.OBL	fortune.teller

In Kurdish, we call them *xêvzānk*,

<i>yān</i>	<i>aw-ē</i>	<i>təšt-ī</i>	<i>bə xo</i>	<i>b-zān-ət</i> ¹
or	3SG.DIR-EZ.M	thing-OBL.M	by REFL	SBJV-know.PRS-3SG

meaning ‘someone who knows about things by themselves.’

<i>got=ē,</i>	<i>‘az</i>	<i>pər-ē</i>	<i>husā</i>	<i>āvā</i>
say.PST=3SG.OBL	1SG.DIR	bridge-OBL.F	such	prosperous

*t-kə-m*¹
IND-do.PRS-1SG

He said, ‘I am building such a bridge,

*ət-həl-waš-ət!*¹
IND-PVB-pour.PRS-3SG

[but] it keeps collapsing.'

- (13) *got=ē*, *‘şəbà*^l *kī* *xodān* *gīyān*^l
 say.PST-3SG.OBL tomorrow.morning who owner soul
awəl *b-ē* *sar* *pər-ē*^l
 first SBJV-come.PRS.3SG on bridge-OBL.F

[The fortune-teller] said, ‘Tomorrow morning, any living soul (lit. the owner of soul) that comes onto the bridge—

- dù* *got-got=ēt* *hay=n*^l
 two said-said=EZ.PL EXIST=COP.3PL

there are two sayings [regarding the fortune-teller’s advice].

- êk* *žə* *wān* *ət-bēž-ət*,^l *‘sār* *žē* *ka=w*^l
 one of 3PL.OBL IND-say.PRS-3SG head from.it do.IMP.2SG=and

the first is [the fortune-teller] said, ‘Bhead the living soul

- xwīn-ā* *wī* *pē* *řā* *dà.*^{’l}
 blood-EZ.F 3SG.OBL to.it POST give.IMP.2SG

and rub its blood on the bridge.’

- yā* *du-è* *pətar*^l *ya‘nī* *ət-hāt-Ø=a* *gotən-ē*^l
 EZ.F two-OBL.F more that.is IPFV-come.PST-3SG-DRCT say.INF-OBL.F

The second saying is narrated more frequently.

- tə-bēž-ət* *sāxēnì* *haykal-ē* *pər-ē* *bə-ka-t*^l
 IND-say.PRS-3SG alive body-EZ.M bridge-OBL.F SBJV-do.PRS-3SG

[According to this the fortune-teller] said that he (i.e. the builder) should put [the living soul] alive into the bridge.

- ‘haykal* *dà*^l *ū* *farš-ā* *da-yn-a*
 body give.IMP.2SG and carpet-PL.OBL PVB-put.PRS-IMP.2SG

- sar=ū*^l *ū* *bə-gr-à!*^{’l}
 on=and and SBJV-seal.PRS-IMP.2SG

[The fortune-teller said,] ‘Cover it with a carpet, and seal it (i.e. the bridge).

- (14) *řož-ā dī səpè dē[|] Dalāl-ē bo yē*
 day-EZ.F other morning POST PN-OBL.F for EZ.M
xārən ināt.[|]
 food bring.PST

The next day, in the morning, Dalal brought him (the builder) food.

- Dalāl bīk-ā wī bī-Ø.[|]*
 PN daughter.in.law-EZ.F 3SG.OBL.M COP.PST-3SG

Dalal was his daughter-in-law.

- ša-ē Dalāl-ē əl pēšī-yè bī-Ø.[|]*
 dog-EZ.M PN-OBL.F in front-OBL.F COP.PST-3SG

Dalal's dog was in front of her.

- (15) *kayf-ā hustā-yī galàk hāt-Ø.[|]*
 pleasure-EZ.F master-OBL.M very come.PST-3SG

The builder was very pleased.

- dam-ā gahašt-ī-Ø nēzik pər-ē[|]*
 time-EZ.F arrive.PST-PTCP-3SG near bridge-OBL.F

When they came closer to the bridge,

- ša-yī məšk-àk dīt[|] bār dā=yē[|]*
 dog-OBL.M mouse-INDF see.PST front give.PST-3SG.OBL

the dog saw a mouse [and] headed towards it.

- Dalāl ət-sar pər-ē kat-Ø.[|]*
 PN on-top bridge-OBL.F fall.PST-3SG

Dalal walked onto the bridge (lit. Dalal fell on the bridge).

- ava dē b-ət=a qurbānē.[|]*
 DEM.PROX.3SG.DIR FUT be.PRS-3SG=DRCT sacrifice

[meaning that] she was going to be the sacrifice [for the bridge].

- (16) *mām-ē* *wē* *got=ē*[|]
 uncle-EZ.M 3SG.OBL.F say.PST=3SG.OBL

Her uncle (i.e., her father's brother) said to her—

- waxt-ē* *čūyī-Ø* *mām-ē* *wē* *garî-Ø*[|]
 time-EZ.M go.PST.PTCP-3SG uncle-EZ.M 3SG.OBL.F cry.PST.3SG

when she came, her uncle cried,

- řāndāk* *əž* *čāv-ē* *wī* *hāt-n-a* *xār-ē.*[|]
 teardrop from eye-EZ.M 3SG.OBL.M come.PST-3PL=DRCT down-OBL.F

tears streamed down his face (lit. teardrops came down from his eyes).

- got=a* *mām-ē* *xo,*[|]
 say.PST=DRCT uncle-EZ.M REFL

She said to her uncle,

- ‘mām,* *tu* *bočî* *t-garî?*[|]
 uncle 2SG.DIR why IND-cry.PRS.2SG

‘Uncle, why are you crying?’

- (17) *got=ē,* *‘hāl=ū* *masal=ēt* *‘arrāf-i*
 say.PST=3SG.OBL state-and problem=EZ.PL fortune.teller-OBL.M

- yēt* *xēxzānk-i* *avā=na*[|]
 EZ.PL fortune.teller-OBL.M DEM.PROX.3SG.DIR=COP.3PL

He said, ‘The fortune-teller’s saying is like this (lit. the state and problem of the fortune-teller is such).

- ət-vē-t* *az* *tà* *bə-kə-m* *haykal-ē*
 IND-be.necessary.PRS-3SG 1SG.DIR 2SG.OBL SBJV-do.PRS-1SG body-EZ.M

- pər-ē* *dā.*[†]
 bridge-OBL.F POST

I must put you into the construction of the bridge.’

- (18) *ē* *got=ē*, *‘bəlā!*^l
 INTJ say.PST=3SG.OBL alright

She said, ‘Alright!

akar av pār-a sar mē čē
 if DEM.PROX.3SG.DIR bridge-DEM on 1SG.OBL good
bə-b-ət!^l
 SBJV-be.PRS-3SG

If this bridge is going to be built on me,

az=ē xo Ø-kə-m qurbānī-yā
 1SG.DIR=FUT REFL SBJV-do.PRS-1SG sacrifice-EZ.F
vī bāžēr-ī.^l
 DEM.PROX.3SG.OBL.M city-OBL.M

[then] I will make myself a sacrifice on behalf of the city.

ya‘nī čūnko az žən-ək=əm!^l
 that.is because 1SG.DIR woman-DIM=COP.1SG

Just because I am a woman,

hīn mē bə čāv-ak-ī nērīnī əl
 2PL.DIR 1SG.OBL in eye-INDF-EZ.M negative at
mə ət-fəkər-ən?^l
 1SG.OBL IND-think.PRS-2PL

do you have a false belief in me (lit. You think of me through a negative eye)?

- (19) *řā-bī jəh-ē wē čē kər=ō!*^l
 PVB-COP.PST.3G place-EZ.M 3SG.OBL.F good do.PST-and

[The builder] made her a place [in the bridge],

dərêž kər=ol fârš da-ynā-n sar.[|]
 long do.PST=and carpet PVB-put.PST-3PL on

laid her down and put a carpet on her [and successfully built the bridge].

(20) *havžîn-ē wēl zalām-ē wēl nà l*
 spouse-EZ.M 3SG.OBL.F husband-EZ.M 3SG.OBL.F NEG at
māl bî-Ø.[|]
 home COP.PST-3SG

Her (i.e., Dalal's) spouse, her husband, was not home.

pəšt-î řož-ak-ē zəvərî-Ø-va[|]
 after-EZ day-INDF.OBL.F turn.PST-3SG-TELIC

He returned [home] a day later

pərsyār kər, 'kâ havžîn-ā mən?[|]
 question do.PST where.is spouse-EZ.F 1SG.OBL

[and] asked, 'Where is my spouse?'

(21) *bâb-ē wî got-ē,*[|] *hâl-û*
 father-EZ.M 3SG.OBL.M say.PST=3SG.OBL state=and
masala avâ=ya[|]
 problem DEM.PROX.3SG=COP.3SG

His (Dalal's husband's) father (i.e., the builder) said, 'The story is as follows:

ma yē kər-î at pər-ê dâ.[|]
 1PL.OBL EZ.M do.PST-PTCP in bridge-OBL.F POST

we have put her into the bridge [for the bridge to hold together].'

(22) *'čāwâ wa wa kər?*[|] *čāwâ?*[|]
 how 2PL.OBL such do.PST how

[Dalal's husband said] 'How could you do this? How?!'

das hāvēt-a māhūl-ī
 hand throw.PST=DRCT stone.hammer-OBL.M

He grabbed the stone hammer.

got, 'dē Ø-č-am Ø-īn-m-a dār.[†]
 say.PST FUT SBJV-go.PRS-1SG SBJV-bring.PRS-1SG=DRCT out

[and] said, 'I will go and take her out.'

(23) *čò-Ø[†] hāndī māhol-ā da-ynād=ē.*[†]
 go.PST-3SG much stone.hammer-PL.OBL PVB-put.PST=3SG.OBL

[Dalal's husband] went and hammered the bridge so much.

awē kār-a gāzī[†] got=ē, 'bās=a![†]
 3SG.OBL.F do.PST=DRCT call say.PST=3SG.OBL enough=COP.3SG

Dalal (lit. she) started to call him [and] said to him, 'That's enough!

tu wusā mā pətār dā-ēšī-n-ī![†]
 2SG.DIR such 1SG.OBL more IND-hurt.PRS-CAUS-2SG

You are hurting me more by doing so!

āv pār-a dē Ø-mīn-t-a sar
 DEM.PROX.3SG.DIR bridge-DEM FUT SBJV-remain.PRS-3SG=DRCT on

māl-ēt mən[†]
 shoulder-EZ.PL 1SG.OBL

This bridge will stand on my shoulders

hāndī mən šīyā-yī.[†]
 much 1SG.OBL can.PST-PTCP

as long as I am able [to hold it].'

(24) *ya'ni* *ava* *kurtî-yā* *afsānā*
 DISC DEM.PROX.3SG summary-EZ.F myth.EZ.F

pər-ā *Dalāl.*[|]
 bridge-EZ.F PN

This [was] a summary of the myth of the bridge of Dalal's myth.

bas *wak* *mə* *got-î* *ta*[|]
 but as 1SG.OBL say.PST-PTCP 2SG.OBL

However, as I had told you,

ava *əž* *Jəhi-yā* *hāt-î-Ø=ya*
 DEM.PROX.3SG from Jew-PL.OBL come.PST-PTCP-3SG=DRCT

sətāndən.[|]
 take.PST.INF

the myth has been transmitted (lit. taken) from the Jews.