

Semitica et Semitohamitica Berolinensia (SSHB)

hrsg. im Seminar für Semitistik und Arabistik der Freien Universität Berlin von Rainer Voigt

Band 11

Mohammad Ali Ababneh

A Study of Toponyms in Irbid Governorate of Jordan An Etymological and Grammatical Analysis in the Light of Near Eastern Languages

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Preface

This study was conducted as a doctoral thesis for the Seminar für Semitistik und Arabistik of the Free University of Berlin (Freie Universität Berlin). It is a result of a long and continuous compilation of place names, which has been prepared within a general survey covering a large area of the Irbid district of Northern Jordan.

It is concerned with the linguistic scientific domain of "toponomastic" which includes etymology, phonology, morphology and other aspects in this research stream. It is a survey of those place names that are found in the fore-mentioned area and provides documentation of these names, records, directly from the lips of the people of the area.

The primary goal of the study is to put reliable linguistic forms and locations of place names together in order to correct and verify their pronunciation. As a further step, through examining and analyzing place names on a lexicographical and grammatical basis, it aims at determining the main formal classes of this collection.

The first and greatest debt of gratitude, which I think I cannot adequately express, is owed to Prof. Dr. Rainer Voigt of the Seminar für Semitistik und Arabistik of the Free University of Berlin who did not hesitate to give me any kind of assistance in recognition of the importance of this subject. He kindly encouraged me to recover and study in particular those place names, which had not been listed before.

My thanks are also due to Prof. Dr. E. A. Knauf of the University of Bern for his invaluable comments borne from his long experience of this respective area of study.

I would also like to express my thanks to the officials and governmental institutions and departments, in particular the Department of Lands and Surveys in Amman, Irbid and Bani Kananah who granted me their assistance and allowed me to use their records and compare them with my list.

I furthermore wish to express my gratitude to those respected grandfathers and old people who successively lived on this earth and dedicated their love and life to it, leaving this linguistic legacy for us. Most of them have left life, so I cannot communicate with them any better than mention them in this way. They have helped me a lot.

Finally, my thanks and gratitude go to all those who assisted this study in any way.

Mohammad Ali Ababneh

Contents

3. General index of the Place names 354 4. Index of the elements of the place names and their occurrences in the towns in English alphabetical order 379 5. Index of the elements of the place names according to their roots 406 6. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names in English alphabetical order 417 7. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names according to their occurrences 420 8. Index of possible Syriac place names 422 9. Index of possible Canaanite place names 424	Preface Contents	
Subject of the dissertation13Area of study14Purpose of the study17History of research and related literature17Methodology22I. Database22II. Analysis28Semitic place names/ Grammatical remarks34Arabic34Arabic (Syriac)77Canaanite83Non-Semitic Place names85I. Greek and Latin85II. Persian86IV. Italian, English and French87Conclusion88The structure and the technicalities of the study92II. Lexicon95III. The Survey309IV. Indexes353a. General index of the Place names3531. Index of boroughs According to the Department of Lands and Survey registers3532. Index of boroughs In English alphabetical order3533. General index of the Place names3544. Index of the elements of the place names and their occurrences in the towns in English alphabetical order3795. Index of the elements of the place names according to their roots4066. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names in English alphabetical order3797. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names 	Abbreviations	9
Area of study14Purpose of the study17History of research and related literature17Methodology22I. Database22II. Analysis28Semitic place names\ Grammatical remarks34Arabic34Aramaic (Syriac)77Canaanite83Non-Semitic Place names85I. Greek and Latin85II. Persian86III. Turkish86TV. Italian, English and French87Conclusion88The structure and the technicalities of the study92II. Lexicon95III. The Survey309IV. Indexes3532. Index of boroughs According to the Department of Lands and Survey registers3533. General index of the Place names and their occurrences in the towns in English alphabetical order3795. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names in English alphabetical order3795. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names in 	I. Introduction	13
Area of study14Purpose of the study17History of research and related literature17Methodology22I. Database22II. Analysis28Semitic place names\ Grammatical remarks34Arabic34Aramaic (Syriac)77Canaanite83Non-Semitic Place names85I. Greek and Latin85II. Persian86III. Turkish86TV. Italian, English and French87Conclusion88The structure and the technicalities of the study92II. Lexicon95III. The Survey309IV. Indexes3532. Index of boroughs According to the Department of Lands and Survey registers3533. General index of the Place names and their occurrences in the towns in English alphabetical order3795. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names in English alphabetical order3795. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names in encording to the in occurrences in the towns in English alphabetical order3795. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names in English alphabetical order4177. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names according to their occurrences in the towns in English alphabetical order4206. Index of possible Syriac place names4249. Index of possible Syriac place names4240. Index of place name elements of Greek origin424		
Purpose of the study17History of research and related literature17Methodology22I. Database22II. Analysis28Semitic place names/ Grammatical remarks34Arabic34Arabic34Arabic34Aramaic (Syriac)77Canaanite85I. Greek and Latin85I. Greek and Latin86III. Turkish86IV. Italian, English and French87Conclusion88The structure and the technicalities of the study92II. Lexicon95III. The Survey309IV. Indexes3531. Index of boroughs According to the Department of Lands and Survey registers3532. Index of the Place names and their occurrences in the towns in English alphabetical order3795. Index of the elements of the place names according to their roots4066. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names in English alphabetical order3795. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names in according to their occurrences in the towns in English alphabetical order3797. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names in according to their occurrences according		14
Methodology 22 I. Database 22 II. Analysis 28 Semitic place names\ Grammatical remarks 34 Arabic 34 Aramaic (Syriac) 77 Canaanite 83 Non-Semitic Place names 85 I. Greek and Latin 85 II. Persian 86 III. Turkish 86 IV. Italian, English and French 87 Conclusion 88 The structure and the technicalities of the study 92 II. Lexicon 95 III. The Survey 309 IV. Indexes 353 1. Index of boroughs According to the Department of Lands and Survey registers 353 2. Index of boroughs In English alphabetical order 353 3. General index of the Place names 354 4. Index of the elements of the place names and their occurrences in the towns in English alphabetical order 379 5. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names in English alphabetical order 379 5. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names according to their roots 406 6. Index of more frequent composing elements in	Purpose of the study	17
I. Database 22 II. Analysis 28 Semitic place names\ Grammatical remarks 34 Arabic 34 Aramic (Syriac) 77 Canaanite 83 Non-Semitic Place names 85 I. Greek and Latin 85 I. Persian 86 III. Turkish 86 IV. Italian, English and French 87 Conclusion 88 The structure and the technicalities of the study 92 II. Lexicon 95 III. The Survey 309 IV. Indexes 353 2. Index of boroughs According to the Department of Lands and Survey registers 353 3. General index of the Place names 353 3. General index of the Place names 353 3. Index of boroughs In English alphabetical order 379 5. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names in the towns in English alphabetical order 379 5. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names according to their roots 406 6. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names according to their occurrences according to their occurrences 410 <td< td=""><td>History of research and related literature</td><td>17</td></td<>	History of research and related literature	17
II. Analysis 28 Semitic place names\ Grammatical remarks 34 Arabic 35 Aramic (Syriac) 77 Canaanite 83 Non-Semitic Place names 85 I. Greek and Latin 85 II. Persian 86 IV. Italian, English and French 87 Conclusion 88 The structure and the technicalities of the study 92 II. Lexicon 95 III. The Survey 309 IV. Indexes 353 1. Index of boroughs According to the Department of Lands and Survey registers 353 2. Index of broughs In English alphabetical order 353 3. General index of the Place names 354 4. Index of the elements of the p	Methodology	22
Semitic place names\ Grammatical remarks34Arabic34Arabic34Aramaic (Syriac)77Canaanite83Non-Semitic Place names85I. Greek and Latin85II. Persian86IV. Italian, English and French87Conclusion88The structure and the technicalities of the study92II. Lexicon95III. The Survey309IV. Indexes3531. Index of boroughs According to the Department of Lands and Survey registers3532. Index of boroughs In English alphabetical order3533. General index of the Place names3544. Index of the elements of the place names and their occurrences in the towns in English alphabetical order3795. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names in English alphabetical order4177. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names according to their roots4066. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names according to their occurrences in the town sine frequent composing elements in place names according to their occurrences in the alphabetical order4177. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names according to their occurrences according to their occur	I. Database	22
Arabic34Aramaic (Syriac)77Canaanite83Non-Semitic Place names85I. Greek and Latin85II. Persian86IV. Italian, English and French87Conclusion88The structure and the technicalities of the study92II. Lexicon95III. The Survey309IV. Indexes3531. Index of boroughs According to the Department of Lands and Survey registers3532. Index of boroughs In English alphabetical order3533. General index of the Place names3544. Index of the elements of the place names and their occurrences in the towns in English alphabetical order3795. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names in English alphabetical order3797. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names according to their occurrences in the towns in Englishelphabetical order4177. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names according to their occurrences in Lenglish alphabetical order4177. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names according to their occurrences in the town of possible Syriac place names4229. Index of possible Syriac place names according to their occurrences in lindex of place name elements of Greek origin424	II. Analysis	28
Aramaic (Syriac)77Canaanite83Non-Semitic Place names85I. Greek and Latin85II. Persian86III. Turkish86IV. Italian, English and French87Conclusion88The structure and the technicalities of the study92II. Lexicon95III. The Survey309IV. Indexes3531. Index of boroughs According to the Department of Lands and Survey registers3532. Index of boroughs In English alphabetical order3533. General index of the Place names3544. Index of the elements of the place names and their occurrences in the towns in English alphabetical order3795. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names in English alphabetical order3795. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names according to their occurrences in the towns in English alphabetical order4177. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names according to their occurrences 4204108. Index of possible Syriac place names according to their occurrences 420424	Semitic place names\ Grammatical remarks	34
Canaanite83Non-Semitic Place names85I. Greek and Latin85II. Persian86III. Turkish86IV. Italian, English and French87Conclusion88The structure and the technicalities of the study92II. Lexicon95III. The Survey309IV. Indexes3531. Index of boroughs According to the Department of Lands and Survey registers3532. Index of boroughs In English alphabetical order3533. General index of the Place names3544. Index of the elements of the place names and their occurrences in the towns in English alphabetical order3795. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names in English alphabetical order4177. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names according to their occurrences according to their occurrences4208. Index of possible Syriac place names4229. Index of place name elements of Greek origin424	Arabic	34
Non-Semitic Place names85I. Greek and Latin85II. Persian86III. Turkish86IV. Italian, English and French87Conclusion88The structure and the technicalities of the study92II. Lexicon95III. The Survey309IV. Indexes3531. Index of boroughs According to the Department of Lands and Survey registers3532. Index of boroughs In English alphabetical order3533. General index of the Place names3544. Index of the elements of the place names and their occurrences in the towns in English alphabetical order3795. Index of the elements of the place names according to their roots4066. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names in English alphabetical order4177. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names according to their occurrences 4204208. Index of possible Syriac place names4229. Index of possible Syriac place names 424424		77
I. Greek and Latin85II. Persian86III. Turkish86IV. Italian, English and French87Conclusion88The structure and the technicalities of the study92II. Lexicon95III. The Survey309IV. Indexes3531. Index of boroughs According to the Department of Lands and Survey registers3532. Index of boroughs In English alphabetical order3533. General index of the Place names3544. Index of the elements of the place names and their occurrences in the towns in English alphabetical order3795. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names in English alphabetical order4177. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names according to their occurrences according to their occurrences <br< td=""><td></td><td></td></br<>		
II. Persian86III. Turkish86IV. Italian, English and French87Conclusion88The structure and the technicalities of the study92II. Lexicon95III. The Survey309IV. Indexes3531. Index of boroughs According to the Department of Lands and Survey registers3532. Index of boroughs In English alphabetical order3533. General index of the Place names3544. Index of the elements of the place names and their occurrences in the towns in English alphabetical order3795. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names in English alphabetical order4177. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names according to their occurrences according to their occurrences4208. Index of possible Syriac place names according to their occurrences according to their occurrences4209. Index of place name elements of Greek origin424		
III. Turkish86IV. Italian, English and French87Conclusion88The structure and the technicalities of the study92II. Lexicon95III. The Survey309IV. Indexes3531. Index of boroughs According to the Department of Lands and Survey registers3532. Index of boroughs In English alphabetical order3533. General index of the Place names3544. Index of the elements of the place names and their occurrences in the towns in English alphabetical order3795. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names in English alphabetical order4177. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names according to their occurrences4208. Index of possible Syriac place names4229. Index of possible Syriac place names42410. Index of place name elements of Greek origin424		
IV. Italian, English and French87 Conclusion88 The structure and the technicalities of the study92II. Lexicon95III. The Survey309IV. Indexes353 and Survey registers353 and Survey registers2. Index of boroughs According to the Department of Lands and Survey registers353 and Survey registers3. General index of the Place names354 and 4.4. Index of the elements of the place names and their occurrences in the towns in English alphabetical order379 3795. Index of the elements of the place names according to their roots406 6.6. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names according to their occurrences417 4177. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names according to their occurrences420 420 4218. Index of possible Syriac place names422 424 410. Index of place name elements of Greek origin424		
Conclusion88 The structure and the technicalities of the study92II. Lexicon95III. The Survey309IV. Indexes3531. Index of boroughs According to the Department of Lands and Survey registers3532. Index of boroughs In English alphabetical order3533. General index of the Place names3544. Index of the elements of the place names and their occurrences in the towns in English alphabetical order3795. Index of the elements of the place names according to their roots4066. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names according to their occurrences4177. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names according to their occurrences4208. Index of possible Syriac place names4229. Index of possible Canaanite place names42410. Index of place name elements of Greek origin424		
The structure and the technicalities of the study92II. Lexicon95III. The Survey309IV. Indexes3531. Index of boroughs According to the Department of Lands and Survey registers3532. Index of boroughs In English alphabetical order3533. General index of the Place names3544. Index of the elements of the place names and their occurrences in the towns in English alphabetical order3795. Index of the elements of the place names according to their roots4066. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names in English alphabetical order4177. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names according to their occurrences4208. Index of possible Syriac place names4229. Index of possible Canaanite place names42410. Index of place name elements of Greek origin424		
II. Lexicon 95 III. The Survey 309 IV. Indexes 353 1. Index of boroughs According to the Department of Lands and Survey registers 353 2. Index of boroughs In English alphabetical order 353 3. General index of the Place names 354 4. Index of the elements of the place names and their occurrences in the towns in English alphabetical order 379 5. Index of the elements of the place names according to their roots 406 6. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names in English alphabetical order 417 7. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names according to their occurrences 420 8. Index of possible Syriac place names 422 9. Index of possible Canaanite place names 424 10. Index of place name elements of Greek origin 424		
III. The Survey 309 IV. Indexes 353 1. Index of boroughs According to the Department of Lands and Survey registers 353 2. Index of boroughs In English alphabetical order 353 3. General index of the Place names 354 4. Index of the elements of the place names and their occurrences in the towns in English alphabetical order 379 5. Index of the elements of the place names according to their roots 406 6. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names in English alphabetical order 417 7. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names according to their occurrences 420 8. Index of possible Syriac place names 422 9. Index of possible Canaanite place names 424 10. Index of place name elements of Greek origin 424	The structure and the technicalities of the study	92
IV. Indexes 353 1. Index of boroughs According to the Department of Lands and Survey registers 353 2. Index of boroughs In English alphabetical order 353 3. General index of the Place names 354 4. Index of the elements of the place names and their occurrences in the towns in English alphabetical order 379 5. Index of the elements of the place names according to their roots 406 6. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names in English alphabetical order 417 7. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names according to their occurrences 420 8. Index of possible Syriac place names 422 9. Index of possible Canaanite place names 424 10. Index of place name elements of Greek origin 424	II. Lexicon	95
1. Index of boroughs According to the Department of Lands and Survey registers3532. Index of boroughs In English alphabetical order3533. General index of the Place names3544. Index of the elements of the place names and their occurrences in the towns in English alphabetical order3795. Index of the elements of the place names according to their roots4066. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names according to their occurrences4177. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names according to their occurrences4208. Index of possible Syriac place names4229. Index of possible Canaanite place names42410. Index of place name elements of Greek origin424	III. The Survey	
1. Index of boroughs According to the Department of Lands and Survey registers3532. Index of boroughs In English alphabetical order3533. General index of the Place names3544. Index of the elements of the place names and their occurrences in the towns in English alphabetical order3795. Index of the elements of the place names according to their roots4066. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names according to their occurrences4177. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names according to their occurrences4208. Index of possible Syriac place names4229. Index of possible Canaanite place names42410. Index of place name elements of Greek origin424	IV. Indexes	353
and Survey registers3532. Index of boroughs In English alphabetical order3533. General index of the Place names3544. Index of the elements of the place names and their occurrences in the towns in English alphabetical order3795. Index of the elements of the place names according to their roots4066. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names according to their occurrences4177. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names according to their occurrences4208. Index of possible Syriac place names4229. Index of possible Canaanite place names42410. Index of place name elements of Greek origin424		555
2. Index of boroughs In English alphabetical order3533. General index of the Place names3544. Index of the elements of the place names and their occurrences3795. Index of the elements of the place names according to their roots4066. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names4177. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names4208. Index of possible Syriac place names4229. Index of possible Canaanite place names42410. Index of place name elements of Greek origin424	6 6 1	353
3. General index of the Place names3544. Index of the elements of the place names and their occurrences in the towns in English alphabetical order3795. Index of the elements of the place names according to their roots4066. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names in English alphabetical order4177. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names according to their occurrences4208. Index of possible Syriac place names 		353
4. Index of the elements of the place names and their occurrences in the towns in English alphabetical order3795. Index of the elements of the place names according to their roots4066. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names in English alphabetical order4177. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names according to their occurrences4208. Index of possible Syriac place names 9. Index of place name elements of Greek origin424		354
in the towns in English alphabetical order3795. Index of the elements of the place names according to their roots4066. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names in English alphabetical order4177. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names according to their occurrences4208. Index of possible Syriac place names 9. Index of place name elements of Greek origin424		
5. Index of the elements of the place names according to their roots4066. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names in English alphabetical order4177. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names according to their occurrences4208. Index of possible Syriac place names 9. Index of place name elements of Greek origin424		379
6. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names in English alphabetical order4177. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names according to their occurrences4208. Index of possible Syriac place names4229. Index of possible Canaanite place names42410. Index of place name elements of Greek origin424		406
English alphabetical order4177. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names according to their occurrences4208. Index of possible Syriac place names4229. Index of possible Canaanite place names42410. Index of place name elements of Greek origin424	6. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names in	
7. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names according to their occurrences4208. Index of possible Syriac place names4229. Index of possible Canaanite place names42410. Index of place name elements of Greek origin424	English alphabetical order	417
8. Index of possible Syriac place names4229. Index of possible Canaanite place names42410. Index of place name elements of Greek origin424	7. Index of more frequent composing elements in place names	
8. Index of possible Syriac place names4229. Index of possible Canaanite place names42410. Index of place name elements of Greek origin424	according to their occurrences	420
10. Index of place name elements of Greek origin424	8. Index of possible Syriac place names	422
1 6	9. Index of possible Canaanite place names	424
11. Index of place name elements of Latin origin 425	10. Index of place name elements of Greek origin	424
	11. Index of place name elements of Latin origin	425

12. Index of place name elements of Persian origin	425
13. Index of place name elements of Turkish origin	425
14. Index of place name elements of Italian origin	425
15. Index of place name elements of English origin	425
16. Index of place name elements of French origin	425
V. Maps and Illustrations	427
1. Čuḥfiyyih	427
2. Kufr Ğāyiz	428
3. Kitim	429
4. Irbid	430
5. 'Aydūn	431
6. Sāl	432
7. ʿAlʿāl	433
8. Kufr 'Asad	434
9. Bušrā	435
10. Hawfā əl-Wușțiyyih	436
11. Samā	437
12. Dayr Yūsuf	438
13. Kufr Yūbā	439
14. Area of study	440
15. The 65 towns of the study	441
Pages from the Ottoman registers	442
Bibliography	445