



AČĀREAN, HRAČ'EAY YAKOBI

AČĀREAN, HRAČ'EAY YAKOBI, Armenian linguist, born 8 March 1876 (O. S.; 20 March N. S.) at Constantinople. He studied general linguistics and Indo-European at the Sorbonne under [Antoine Meillet](#), was elected a member of the Société de Linguistique de Paris in 1897, and in 1898 attended Heinrich Hübschmann's lectures at Strasbourg. Between 1902 and 1923, Ačārean lived at Šūša (Azarbaijan), Tabrīz, Nor Bayazet (now Kamo), Rostov (Arm. Nor Naxijewan), Tehran, and again at Tabrīz, teaching Armenian studies and continuing his research in Armenian dialectology and historical and comparative linguistics. In 1923 Ačārean was appointed professor at the newly founded Erevan State University, where he remained until his death on 16 April 1953.

Ačārean's early work and doctoral dissertation (*Classification des dialectes arméniens*, Sorbonne, 1911) in modern Armenian dialects laid the foundation for his four encyclopedic works: *Hayerēn armatakan baṛaran* ("Armenian etymological dictionary"), 7 vols., Erevan, 1926-35 (repr. Erevan, 1971-79 in 4 vols.); *Hayoc' lezvi patmut'yun* ("History of the Armenian language"), 2 vols., Erevan, 1940-51; *Hayoc' anjnanunneri baṛaran* ("Dictionary of Armenian proper names"), 5 vols., Erevan, 1942-62 (repr. Beirut, 1972); and *Liakatar k'erakanut'yun Hayoc' lezvi* ("Complete grammar of the Armenian language"), 6 vols., Erevan, 1952-71. The dictionary lists about 11,000 root entries; each article is divided into five parts: 1. literary sources; 2. lexical value; 3. critical survey of previous research and etymology; 4. dialect forms; 5. borrowings from Armenian in other languages. Together with the works of Hübschmann,



Lagarde, Benveniste, Bailey, et al., it is an important source for the study of Iranian material in Armenian. The dictionary of proper names is unrivaled as a source of reference for medieval Armenian letters and learning (it may be superseded only by Anasyan's *Haykakan matenagitut'yun* ["Armenian bibliology"], of which only the first two volumes have been published), and is a valuable complement to the etymological studies of Hübschmann and Justi. The complete grammar has many valuable sections dealing with Indo-European comparative linguistics and Indo-Iranian. Ačarean's *Hayerēn gawaṛakan baṛaran* ("Armenian dialect dictionary," Tiflis, 1913) is still an important source with its 30,000 entries in a field which has advanced considerably since his time (rev. Meillet, *BSL* 25, 1925, pp. 66-67; *Revue des études arméniennes* 7, 1927, pp. 313-15).

Ačarean was a warm and modest man. His all-embracing interest in the culture of the Armenian people is reflected in his works *Patmut'iwn Hayoc' nor grakanut'ean* ("History of modern Armenian literature") in 3 parts, 1906-12; *Tačkahayoc' harc'i patmut'iwnə* ("The History of the Turkish Armenian question"), 1915; *Hay galt'akanut'yan patmut'yun* ("History of the Armenian diaspora"); and *Havak'acu polsahay folklori* ("Collection of the folklore of the Armenians of Constantinople"). Among his approximately 200 works are catalogues of the Armenian MSS of Tabrīz (1910), Nor Bayazet (1924), and Tehran (1936). His autobiography, *Kyank'is hušeric'* ("From the memories of my life"), was published in Erevan in 1967.

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