



AVROMANI

AVROMANI, the dialect of **Avroman**, properly Hawrāmi, is the most archaic of the **Gōrāni** group. All Gōrāni dialects exhibit a number of phonological features which link them with the dialects of central Iran and distinguish them from Kurdish. While the main Gōrāni language area, to the west of Kermānāh, is an island in a sea of chiefly Kurdish dialects, the Hawrāmān now forms a separate islet to the north. It is clear, however, that the neighboring Kurdish dialects have encroached on a much wider Gōrāni area and have been considerably affected in the process. There has also been much interchange of vocabulary.

Phonologically Hawrāmi is distinguished from Kurdish and Persian alike by (i) the preservation of initial *y-* and *w-*, (ii) the development of *hw-* to *w-*, (iii) *wy-* to *y-*, (iv) *x-* to *h-*, and (v) *dw-* to *b-*; e.g. (i) *yawa* “barley,” *yahar* “liver,” *wā* “wind,” *wahār* “spring,” *wīs* “twenty,” (ii) *wārdāy* “to eat,” *wāstay*, *wāz-* “to want,” *witay*, *ūs-* “to sleep,” *wē-* “self,” (iii) *yāgē* “place,” *yāw-* “arrive” (< **wayp-*), (iv) *har* “ass,” *hāna* “spring, source,” (v) *bara* “door.” In common with Kurdish, etc., it has (vi) the preservation of *s*, *z* < IE, *k*, *g* and (vii) the development of *ǰ-* to *ǰ-*, e.g., (vi) *āsin* “iron,” *aska* “gazelle,” *zānāy* “to know,” *zamā* “bridegroom,” (vii) *žanī* “woman,” *ǰīw-* “to live.” The preservation of intervocalic *-č-*, especially in some verb stems, is noteworthy, e.g., *sōč-* “burn,” *wāč-* “speak,” *wēč-* “sift”; otherwise to *-ǰ-*, or lost, e.g., *tēǰ* “sharp,” *miǰ-* “to suck,” *rō* “day” (perhaps loanwords).

The vowel system comprises seven long and three short vowels, with a distinction, morphologically important, between open and close *e* and *o*, thus *ī*



ē e ā o ū, i a u. The consonant phonemes, 26 in number, are similar to those of the neighboring Kurdish dialects, particularly the continuant allophones of *d* and *t*, the distinction between flapped *r* and rolled *r*, and *l* and *l̥*. Stress plays a vital part in the morphology, often distinguishing otherwise identical forms, e.g., *č'anī* “needle”: *č'anī* “with,” *lū'ē* “they went”: *l'ūē* “if he had gone” (cf. *lū'ē* “he was going”).

The dialect preserves a distinction of number (singular and plural), gender (masculine and feminine), and case (direct and oblique) for nouns, pronouns, and adjectives (including the “indefinite article” suffix, masc. *-ēw*, fem. *-ēwa*): thus, *kitēb* (*-ēw*) *-ī si'āw* “(a) black book,” plur. *kitēbē si'āwē*, *tawanī* (*tawanēwa-y*) *si'āwa* “(a) black stone,” plur. *tawanī si'āwē*, obl. *ja tawanē si'āwē* “from black stone”; *dagā-y gawr'ē* “a big village,” plur. *dagē gawr'ē*. Besides the epithetic particle *ī* there is a genitival (*ežāfa*) *ū*: *yāna-y* (*yānēw-ī*) *gawr'a* “(a) big house,” *yāna-w æūān'ay* “the shepherd’s house.”

In conjunction with various defining and pronominal suffixes these endings form some very intricate inflexional patterns.

The verbal system presents further complications, having two distinct sets of personal endings used with each of the present and past stems. They are (i-a) Present sing. 1 *-u*, 2 *-ī*, 3 *-ō*, plur. 1 *-(y)mē*, 2 *-(y)dē*, 3 *-ā*, (i-b) Imperfect, *-ēnē*, *-ēnī*, *-ē*, *-ēnmē*, *-ēndē*, *-ēnē*, (ii-a) Past, *-ā(nē)*, *-ī*, *-∅* masc. *~ -a* fem., *-īmē*, *-īdē*, *-ē*, and (ii-b) Past Conditional *ēnē*, etc. (like i-b).

The copula is characterized by the presence of *n*, thus *-anā*, *-anī*, *-ā/-n(a)* masc. *~ -ana* fem., *-anmē*, *-andē*, *-anē*.

The modal prefixes, *m(i)-* pres. indicative, *b(i)-* subjunctive, are regularly omitted with some verbs, thus *m-ūs'ū* “I sleep,” *b'i-daw* “should I give,” but *kar'ū* “I do,” *k'arū* “if I do”: the corresponding negative forms are generally *ma-*, *na-* respectively, thus *m'a-wsū*, *n'a-daw*, *m'a-karū*, *n'a-karū*. Verbs may also take adverbial suffixes and a pronominal suffix, as agent in the regular construction of the past tenses of transitive verbs, otherwise as object, e.g., *wizū-æ-arāwa wār* “I shall throw it (*-æ*) down (*-ara*) again (*-awa*),” *wist-im-ara wār* “I threw it down,” *warō-æ-ō* “if he drinks it,” *agar na-wārda-bīē-m-ō* “if I had not drunk it.”



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