



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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D 188 (Diss. Freie Universität Berlin)

Shaker Verlag
Aachen 2009

Bibliographic information published by the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek

The Deutsche Nationalbibliothek lists this publication in the Deutsche Nationalbibliografie; detailed bibliographic data are available in the Internet at <http://dnb.d-nb.de>.

Zugl.: Berlin, Freie Univ., Diss., 2006

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Printed in Germany.

ISBN 978-3-8322-8399-5

ISSN 1616-525X

Shaker Verlag GmbH • P.O. BOX 101818 • D-52018 Aachen

Phone: 0049/2407/9596-0 • Telefax: 0049/2407/9596-9

Internet: www.shaker.de • e-mail: info@shaker.de

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

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