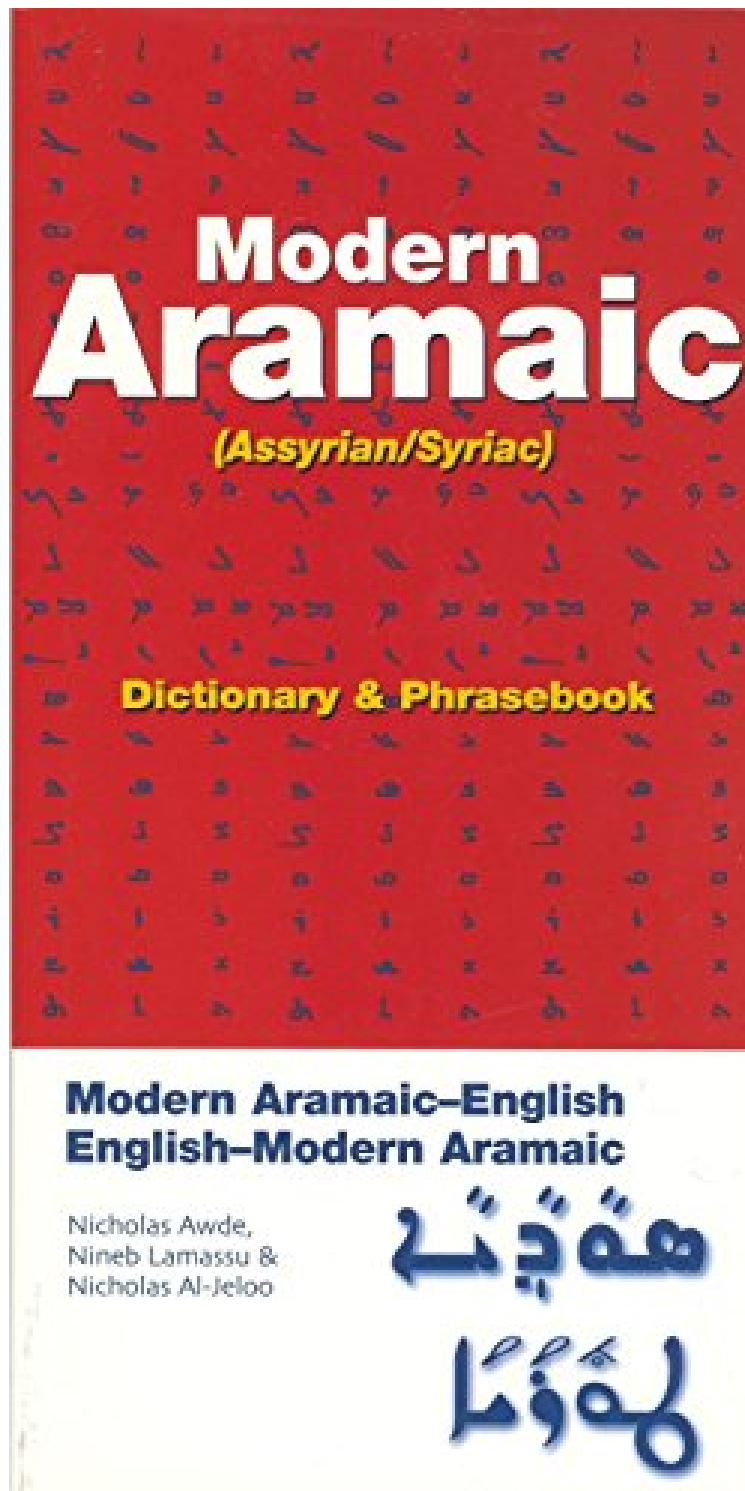


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Modern Aramaic-English/English-Modern Aramaic Dictionary Phrasebook: Assyrian/Syriac

Nicholas Awde

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1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good for travelling or small conversation, not for learning the language. By Customer I am an American trying to learn modern Assyrian. I bought the Turoyo Aramaic translation of 'Alice's adventures in Wonderland' which was translated very recently to coincide with the 150th anniversary of the book. To my disappointment, I couldn't locate even the first three words of the book in this dictionary in the Turoyo dialect. This dictionary is only a couple hundred pages, AND the dictionary part of it is only about half of the book and on top of that the dictionary is obviously divided into the Swadaya and Turoyo dialect, making it impossible to include most of the words in modern Assyrian/Aramaic. Therefore, this is more of a travel guide. Say you have a boyfriend/girlfriend who's Assyrian and you want to impress his/her parents with speaking their language, or say you're travelling to the Levant and will encounter some Aramaic speakers, or perhaps you go to a grocery store in the Levant where the workers speak Neo-Aramaic, then this is for you. It is NOT for language learners trying to actually adopt and speak the language as a conversational vernacular. Also, I really didn't like the syllabification system because there absolutely is none. You have no clue whether a letter ends or begins a syllable when they are ambiguous. So to conclude, this book is a great work as a travel guide or to assist with understanding and speaking to natives on a basic level for occasional situations you may run into no more than a few times in your life. Comparing a phrasebook/travel guide to a full dictionary is comparing apples to oranges, but still, when customers type in 'Aramaic dictionary' and see this one, they have no idea it's so vague and unfulfilling. They, like me, probably assume it's a full dictionary with at least most Assyrian words. Again, it's not even close and I could not even locate the first 3 words of 'Alis bu Celmo dac Cojube w dat Tantelat', or the Turoyo Aramaic version of 'Alice's adventures in Wonderland'. On the other hand, I have heard that Robert Payne Smith's Aramaic dictionary rarely has words that cannot be found, if you wish to learn Syriac (Turoyo dialect) then you must get something more comprehensive like that. As for Swadaya, I don't think there are even any Swadaya dictionaries available, at least on .3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Good book could have been great. By Noy Great book. My qualm - why explain the alphabets in the beginning, only to discard them for the remainder of the entire book. If this had actual Aramaic writing (with vowels), it would be 4 stars. If, on the other hand, it had 1) estrangela 2) madenkaya for swadaya and serto for maarboyo 3) transliteration...for each phrase, I would give it seven stars... you heard (or read) me...seven. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The best of its kind given the price. By Samuel Cassin This small book is the best (and only) publication available for those who would like to acquire some spoken Aramaic without struggling through the process of learning the Syriac/Hebrew alphabet. It accommodates the needs of diverse learners because it covers simultaneously the two leading Aramaic modern dialects. It also dispenses with the need for profound grammar study and memorization since its focus is on practical and rapid verbal communication. The entire book is transliterated leaving the student only with the task of studying and memorizing the sentences and or/vocabulary he/she thinks will be needed most. This is not a book designed to make a person "fluent" in any of the Aramaic modern dialects, but it enables a diligent student to function on the level of basic communication; it also enables a person who likes to get deeper into modern Aramaic to have a good starting point. The price of this book is very reasonable and the authors are to be commended for the effort they made to allow persons access to this fascinating language.

Aramaic is now recognised throughout the world as the language spoken by Christ and the Apostles. Contrary to popular belief, however, it is very much a 'living' language spoken today by the Assyrian peoples in Iran, Iraq, Syria and Turkey. It is also heard in Assyrian emigre communities of the US, Europe and Australia. Modern Aramaic or Assyrian is made up of a number of dialects. The two major ones are Swadaya (Eastern) and Turoyo (Western). This unique dictionary and phrasebook incorporates both dialects in a way that illustrates the differences and gives the reader a complete understanding of both. The dialects are presented in an easy-to-read romanised form that will help the reader to be understood.