زمانی کوردیی سۆرانی

—Sorani Kurdish—

A Reference Grammar

with Selected Readings

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PREFACE

KURDISH BELONGS to the Western Iranian group of the Indo-Iranian branch of the Indo-European family. The two principal branches of modern literary Kurdish are (1) Kurmanji, the language of the vast majority of Kurds in Turkey, Syria, Armenia, and Azerbaijan, the area designated by Kurdish nationalists as "North Kurdistan," with an estimated fifteen to seventeen million speakers, and (2) Sorani, the language of most Kurds in Iraq (four to six million speakers) and Iran (five to six million speakers), the area designated as "South Kurdistan." Although the two are closely related, Kurmanji and Sorani are not mutually intelligible and differ at the basic structural level as well as in vocabulary and idiom. Since Kurdish is fairly closely related to and has been massively influenced by Persian, the dominant literary and cultural language of the area for the last millennium, Kurdish is best approached with a basic knowledge of Persian.

While Kurmanji is still far from being a unified, normalized, or standardized language, Sorani has been the second official language of Iraq since the creation of that country after World War I and has many decades of literary activity behind it. In Iran, Kurdish has never been accorded official status, but in Iranian Kurdistan there has been noteworthy publication in Kurdish, particularly after the Iranian revolution. The area in which Sorani is spoken in Iran is more or less the region designated as Kurdistan. Outside of that area, south to Kermanshah and east as far as Bijar, the language is known as Gorani, or South Sorani, which is a *Mischsprache* that is basically Persian in structure but Kurdish in vocabulary.

The readings, chosen to give samples of a broad range of prose writing ranging from fairy tales to the internet, are provided with running glosses beneath the texts, and the glosses in the readings are also contained in the Kurdish–English vocabulary at the end of the book. Words considered to be absolutely basic vocabulary are not glossed in the notes, since it is assumed that these words either are known already or will be actively acquired by looking them up in the vocabulary in the back. Generally words are not glossed more than once in the notes because any word encountered a second

time should be learned actively. Words are glossed after the first instance only if they are considered rare enough to warrant being ignored for acquisition. Because Sorani Kurdish dictionaries are not easily obtainable, I have made the vocabulary as large as possible. It contains around 4,000 words, which represent a basic working vocabulary for the language.

For dictionaries of Sorani, the following may be consulted:

Hazhâr, *Hanbâna borîna: Farhang-i Kurdî–Fârsî*, 2 vols. Tehran: Surûsh, 1368 [1989]. With definitions in both Kurdish and Persian, this is by far the most comprehensive dictionary of Kurdish, but Kurmanji words are also included without any differentiation. Hazhâr uses ُو instead of وو for *û*; otherwise the orthography is standard.

McCarus, Ernest N. *Kurdish–English Dictionary, Dialect of Sulaimania*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1967.

Qazzaz, Shafiq. *The Sharezoor Kurdish–English Dictionary*. Erbil: Aras, 2000.

Sulaymân, Mustafâ. *Ferhengî zarawey zanistî*. Sulaymani, 2001.

Wahby, Taufiq. *A Kurdish–English Dictionary*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1966.

An on-line Sorani dictionary is available at www.namonet.com.

The Phonology of Sorani Kurdish

Vowels:

î	*û*
i	*u*
e	*o*
a	*â*

î   is like the 'ee' in 'beet' and 'tree,' International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) [i], as in *hîch* [hitʃ] 'nothing.'

i   is like the 'i' in 'bit,' IPA [ɪ], as in *girtin* [gɪrˈtɪn] 'to take'

e   is like the 'ai' in 'bait,' IPA [e], without the *y*-offglide of English, as in *hez* [hez] 'power'

a   is like the 'a' in 'bat,' IPA [æ], as in *tanaka* [tænæˈkæ] 'tin can,' except (1) in the sequence *aw,* where it is pronounced [ə], (2) when it is followed in the same syllable by *y*, in which case it is pronounced [ə], as in *tanakakay* [tænækæˈkəy] 'his tin can,' and (3) when it is followed by *y* but not in the same syllable, in which case it is pronounced [ɛ], as in *tanakayek* [tænæˈkɛyek] 'a tin can.'

û   is like the 'oo' in 'boot,' IPA [u], as in *gûr* [guɾ] 'calf'

u   is like the 'u' in 'put' and 'pull,' IPA [ʊ], as in *gurg* [gʊrg] 'wolf'

o   is like the 'oa' in 'boat,' IPA [o], without the *w*-offglide of English, as in *goř* [gor] 'level'

â   is like the 'a' in 'father' and 'balm,' IPA [ɑ], as in *gâ* [gɑ] 'cow'

Consonants:

	bilabial	labiodental	dental/alveolar	palatal	velar	uvular	glotto-pharyngeal
plosive	*p*		*t*		*k*	*q*	
	b		*d*		*g*		
fricative		*f*	*s*		*kh*		*ḥ, h*
		v	*z*		*gh*		

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		sh	ch
		zh	j
nasal	m	n	
approximants	w		y
flap, trill		r, ř	
laterals		l	ł

b   is like the 'b' of English, IPA [b]

ch is like the 'ch' in 'church,' IPA [tʃ]

d   is like the 'd' of English, IPA [d]

f   is like the 'f' of English, IPA [f]

g   is the hard 'g' of English in 'go' and 'get,' IPA [g]

gh is a voiced velar fricative, IPA [ɣ], like the Arabic غ; it rarely occurs word-initially and is usually replaced by *kh* in borrowed words (*e.g.* غم *gham* 'grief' > *kham)*; word-finally it is often in free variation with *kh*.

h   is like the 'h' of English, IPA [h]

ḥ   where it exists (according to regional dialect: fairly generalized in Iraq, rare in Iran), it is a voiceless pharyngeal fricative, IPA [ħ], like the Arabic ح ; otherwise it is not distinguished from *h*

j   is like the 'j' in 'judge,' IPA [dʒ]

k   is like the 'k' of English, IPA [k]

kh is a voiceless velar fricative, IPA [x], like the *ch* in German *Bach* and the Arabic خ

l   is a liquid 'l' [l] as in Persian, like the 'l' in 'lee'

ł   is like the dull 'l' of English in 'all' [ɫ]; in some areas it is a lateral fricative, like the *ll* of Welsh [ɬ]; it does not occur word-initially (cf. *gul* 'leper' with *guł* 'flower' and *chil* 'forty' with *chił* 'stalk')

m is like the 'm' of English, IPA [m]

n   is like the 'n' of English, IPA [n]

p   is like the 'p' of English, IPA [p]

q   is a voiceless uvular stop, like the Arabic ق, IPA [q]

r   is a flap as in Persian and Italian, IPA [ɾ]; does not occur word-initially

ř   and *rr* are trills, IPA [r], like the *rr* of Spanish (cf. *khor* [xoɾ] 'sun' with *khoř* [xor] 'blood' and *bar* [bæɾ] 'breast' with *bař* [bær] 'rug'); all initial *r*'s are trilled (verbal stems beginning with *r* are trilled regardless of prefixes, as in *řoysht* 'he went' and *dařoysht* 'he was going')

s   is like the 's' of English in 'see,' IPA [s]

sh is like the 'sh' in 'ship,' IPA [ʃ]

t   is like the 't' of English, IPA [t]

v   is like the 'v' of English, IPA [v], but it is of rare occurrence in Sorani

w   is like the English 'w' except before *e, i,* and *î,* when it is a close back unrounded semivowel, IPA [ɯ], like the 'u' in French *cuire* and *huit.*

y   is like the 'y' of English, IPA [j]

z   is like the 'z' of English, IPA [z]

zh is like the French 'j' and the 'g' in 'beige,' IPA [ʒ]

Stress. All nouns and adjectives are stressed on the final syllable: *tanaká* [tænæˈkæ] 'tin can,' *gawrá* [gəwˈɾæ] 'big'. When enclitic endings are added, stress remains on the final syllable of the base word: *tanakáyèk* [tænæˈkɛyek] 'a tin can,' *tanakáyèk i gawrá* [tænæˈkɛyeki gəwˈɾæ] 'a big tin can.' The definite suffix is stressed: *tanakayaká* [tænækɛyæˈkæ] 'the tin can.'

The hierarchy of stress in verbs is as follows:

(1) The negative prefixes *na-* and *nâ-,* as in *náchû* [ˈnætʃu] 'he didn't go' and *nâ´che* [ˈnatʃe] 'he doesn't go.'

(2) Preverbs like *war-*, *hał-*, and *dâ-*, as in *wárgeřâm* [ˈwærgeram] 'I returned,' *háłdagirim* [ˈhæłdægɪɾɪm] 'I pick up,' and *dâ´nîshtim* [ˈdaniʃtɪm] 'I sat down.'

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(3) The modal prefixes *(d)a-* and *bi-* as in *dábînim* [ˈdæbinɪm] 'I see' and *bíbînim* [ˈbɪbinɪm] 'let me see.'

(4) When there are no prefixes on finite verbal forms, the final syllable of the verb stem is stressed, as in *hâ´tin* [ˈhɑtɪn] 'they came' and *kírdibet-mânawa* [ˈkɪɾdɪbetmɑnəwæ] 'that we have opened it.'

(5) The infinitive is stressed on the final syllable, as in *hâtín* [hɑˈtɪn] 'to come.'

The Writing System

The Kurdo-Arabic alphabet consists of the following letters:

ا	*alif*	د	*d*	(ض	*z)*	گ	*g*
ب	*b*	(ذ	*z)*	(ط	*t)*	ل	*l*
پ	*p*	ر	*r*	(ظ	*z)*	ڵ	*ł*
ت	*t*	ڕ	*ř*	ع	*'*	م	*m*
(ث	*s)*	ز	*z*	غ	*gh*	ن	*n*
ج	*j*	ژ	*zh*	ف	*f*	و	*w*
چ	*ch*	س	*s*	ڤ	*v*	ه	*h*
ح	*ḥ*	ش	*sh*	ق	*q*	ى	*y*
خ	*kh*	(ص	*s)*	ك	*k*	ئ	*hamza*

Letters in parentheses are not normally used. Some writers occasionally "import" these specifically Arabic letters for use in words borrowed from Arabic, even though the vowels are written in the Kurdish manner. Thus, *khâsatan* 'especially' (from the Arabic خاصّةً), usually written خاسەتەن, may be written خاصەتەن; and *khat* 'line' (from the Arabic خط), usually written خــەت, may be written as خــەط. There are very few doubled consonants in Kurdish; the few that exist are written with a double consonant, as in شــاڵڵا *shâłłâ* 'God willing.' *'Ayn* (ع) is almost always retained in Arabic words (مەعنا *ma'nâ* 'meaning' and عەرەب *'arab* 'Arab'); in Iraq the *'ayn* is usually pronounced as it is in Arabic; in Iran it is either a glottal stop or a prolonga-

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tion of a preceding vowel, as in Persian.

The vowels are written as follows:

a   is written   (1) word-initially with *hamza* + final *h,* as in ئەم *am*

                            (2) elsewhere with a final (or alone) *h*, as in بــەر *bar* and دەم *dam*

â   is written   (1) word-initially with *hamza* + *alif,* as in ئـاوات *âwât,* or, alternatively, with *alif-madda*, as in آوات *âwât*

                            (2) elsewhere with an *alif*, as in بار *bâr*

e   is written   (1) word-initially with *hamza* + *y* with a caret above, as in ئێواره *ewâra*

                            (2) elsewhere with *y* with a caret above, as in بێر *ber*

i   is written   (1) word initially as *alif,* as in ئمرو *imřo*

                            (2) elsewhere *i* is not indicated in the writing system, as in بر *bir* and گـرتــن *girtin*; it is the only vowel not indicated in the writing system (see below)

î   is written   (1) word-initially with *hamza* + *y,* as in ئێتر *îtir*

                            (2) elsewhere with *y*, as in بیر *bîr*

o   is written   (1) word-initially as *hamza* + *vâv* with a caret above, as in ئۆده *oda*

                            (2) elsewhere with a *wâw* with a caret above, as in بۆر *bor*

u   is written   (1) word-initially as *hamza* + *vâv,* as in ئومێد *umed;* alternatively initial *u* can be written as *alif* + *vâv*, as in اومــــیّـــد *umed*

                            (2) elsewhere with one *wâw*, as in بور *bur*

û   is written with two *wâw*s, as in بوور *bûr.*

The vowel *i* of the *izâfa* is written as *y* (ی) attached directly to words ending in letters that join to the left. Thus, *kurdakân i kurdistân i 'erâq* ('the Kurds of Iraqi Kurdistan') is written: کوردهکانی کوردستانی عێراق. When added to words ending in letters that do not join to the left, the *y* is written in the alone form, as in *tanaka i gawraká,* written تەنەکەی گەورەکە.

The trilled *ř* is indicated by a caret over or under the *r*, as in فرۆکه or فڕۆکه *fiřoka* 'airplane.' Since all initial *r*'s are trilled, they are rarely marked.

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The "dull *l*," called *lâm i qaɫaw* "fat l" in Kurdish, is indicated by a caret over the *l*, as in قەڵو *qaɫaw*.

The only illogicality in the system lies in the writing of the sequence *ye*, which is written یه, as though it were *ya*, as in *nâmayek*, written نامەیەك, and دایه *dâyè*. For this and other orthographic peculiarities and variants, see §41.

The letters with their various initial, medial, final, and alone shapes are as follows (those marked with an asterisk do not connect to the left and are followed by an initial or alone form):

NAME	ALONE	FINAL	MEDIAL	INITIAL
alif*	ا	ـا	ـا	ا
alif + madda (initial only)				آ
hamza	ء	ء	� ئـ	ئـ
b	ب	ـب	ـبـ	بـ
p	پ	ـپ	ـپـ	پـ
t	ت	ـت	ـتـ	تـ
s	ث	ـث	ـثـ	ثـ
j	ج	ـج	ـجـ	جـ
ch	چ	ـچ	ـچـ	چـ
ḥ	ح	ـح	ـحـ	حـ
kh	خ	ـخ	ـخـ	خـ
d*	د	ـد	ـد	د
z*	ذ	ـذ	ـذ	ذ
r*	ر	ـر	ـر	ر
ř*	ڕ	ـڕ	ـڕ	ڕ
z*	ز	ـز	ـز	ز
zh*	ژ	ـژ	ـژ	ژ
s	س	ـس	ـسـ	سـ
sh	ش	ـش	ـشـ	شـ
s	ص	ـص	ـصـ	صـ
z	ض	ـض	ـضـ	ضـ
t	ط	ـط	ـطـ	طـ

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z	ظ	ظ	ظ	ظ
'	ع	ح	ع	ع
gh	غ	خ	غ	غ
f	ف	ف	ف	ف
v	ڤ	ڤ	ڤ	ڤ
q	ق	ق	ق	ق
k	ك	ك	ک	ک
g	گ	گ	گ	گ
l	ل	ل	ل	ل
ł	ڵ	ڵ	ڵ	ڵ
m	م	م	م	م
n	ن	ن	ن	ن
w*	و	و	و	و
h	ه	ه	ھ	ھ
y	ى	ى	ی	ی

Vowels:

a	ه	ه	ه	ئە
â	ا	ا	ا	ئا
e	ێ	ێ	ێ	ئێ
i	―	―	―	ئ
î	ى	ى	ی	ئی
o	ۆ	ۆ	ۆ	ئۆ
u	و	و	و	ئو
û	وو	وو	وو	ئوو

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THE GRAMMAR OF SORANI KURDISH

SUBSTANTIVES

§ 1. The Absolute State of the Noun. A Kurdish noun in the absolute state, i.e. without any ending of any kind, gives a generic sense of the noun. It is also the "lexical" form of the noun, i.e. the form in which a noun is given in a vocabulary list or dictionary. The absolute state is normally used for the generic sense, as in قاوه رهشه *qâwa rash a* 'coffee is black' and وهفر سپییه *wafr spî a* 'snow is white'.

§ 2. The Indefinite State. The sign of the indefinite singular ('a, any, some') is an unstressed enclitic *-(y)èk* (i.e. یـهك *-èk* after consonants and یـهك *-yèk* after vowels) added to the end of the absolute singular noun.

<div align="center">

پیاو *pyâw* 'man' > پیاویك *pyâwèk* 'a man'

رۆژ *rozh* 'day' > رۆژیك *rozhèk* 'a day'

دهرگا *dargâ* 'door' > دهرگایهك *dargâyèk* 'a door'

نامه *nâma* 'letter' > نامهیهك *nâmayèk* 'a letter'

</div>

Among the modifiers that demand that a following noun be indefinite are چهند *chand* 'a few,' هـهموو *hamû* 'every,' چ *chi* 'what?,' and هـهر *har* 'each,' as in

<div align="center">

چهند پیاویك *chand pyâwèk*   a few men

هەموو رۆژیك *hamû rozhèk*   every day

چ لاپەرەیهك *chi lâpařayèk?*   what page?

هەر لایهك *har lâyèk*   each direction

</div>

The construction *...i zor* 'many, a lot of' also takes a preceding indefinite singular noun:

<div align="center">8</div>

کوردێکی زۆر *kurdèk i zor*   a lot of Kurds

پیاوێکی زۆر *pyâwèk i zor*   many men

The indefinite plural is formed by adding *-ân* to the absolute singular. If the absolute singular ends in *-â*, the indefinite plural ending is *-yân*. Nouns with absolute singulars ending in *-a*, like *nâma*, form the indefinite plural by dropping the final *-a* and adding *-ân*.

پیاو *pyâw* >   پیاوان *pyâwân* (some) men

دەرگا *dargâ* >   دەرگایان *dargâyân* (some) doors

نامه *nâma* >   نامان *nâmân* (some) letters

ئەمەریکی *amarîkî* >   ئەمەریکیان *amarîkîân* (some) Americans

§ 3. The Definite State. Singular nouns are made definite ('the') by adding the suffix *-(a)ká* (i.e. *-aká* after consonants, *u, e,* and *î*, and *-ká* after the vowels *a, â,* and *o*). The combination *îaká* often results in a vowel contraction to *eká*, sometimes so spelled in Kurdish.

پیاوەکه *pyâw* >   پیاوەکه *pyâwaká* the man

ئەمەریکی *amarîkî* >   ئەمەریکیەکه *amarîkîaká* the American

کتاوی *ktâwî* >   کتاویەکه *ktâwîaká* the student

دێ *de* >   دێیەکه *deaká* the village

دەرگا *dargâ* >   دەرگاکه *dargâká* the door

نامه *nâma* >   نامەکه *nâmaká* the letter

The definite plural is made by adding *(a)kân* to the singular, i.e. by changing the *-(a)ká* of the definite singular to *-(a)kân*.

پیاوەکه *pyâwaká* >   پیاوەکان *pyâwakân* the men

کتاویەکه *ktâwîaká* >   کتاویەکان *ktâwîakân* the students

دەرگاکه *dargâká* >   دەرگاکان *dargâkân* the doors

نامەکه *nâmaká* >   نامەکان *nâmakân* the letters

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§ 4. Demonstratives. As attributive adjectives the demonstratives ('this, that') envelop the nouns they modify. 'This' is ئــهم(یــ)...ـه *am...(y)á*, and 'that' is ئـهو(یــ)...ـه *aw...(y)á*. The forms of nouns enveloped by demonstratives are the absolute singular and the indefinite plural.

پیاو *pyâw* > ئهم پیاوه *am pyâwá* this man, ئهم پیاوانه *am pyâwâná* these men

کتاوی *ktâwî* > ئهم کتاویه *am ktâwîá* this student, ئهم کتاویانه *am ktâwîâná* these students

دهرگا *dargâ* > ئهم دهرگایه *am dargâyá* this door, ئهم دهرگایانه *am dargâyâná* these doors

نامه *nâma* > ئهو نامهیه *aw nâmayá* that letter, ئهو نامانه *aw nâmâná* those letters

The demonstrative pronouns are ئهمه *amá* 'this,' ئهمـانـه *amâná* 'these,' ئهوه *awá* 'that,' and ئهوانه *awâná* 'those.'

§ 5. Attributive Adjectives: The Open Adjectival *Izâfa*. The attributive adjective following a noun that is (1) absolute singular, (2) indefinite singular, or (3) indefinite plural is linked to the noun by the unstressed vowel *i* (called the *izâfa* vowel). The *izâfa* is written as ی added directly to words that end in joining letters or an alone ی after non-joining letters.

هۆتێلی باش	*hotel i bâsh*	good hotel[1]
هۆتێلێکی باش	*hotelèk i bâsh*	a good hotel
هۆتێلانی باش	*hotelân i bâsh*	(some) good hotels
نامهی دریژ	*nâma i drezh*	long letter
نامهیهکی دریژ	*nâmayèk i drezh*	a long letter
نامانی دریژ	*nâmân i drezh*	(some) long letters

§ 6. Possession: The *Izâfa* Construction. The same *izâfa* vowel *i* links the two parts of a possessive construction and is equivalent to the English 'of.'

کتاویهکانی قوتابخانهیهك *ktâwîakân i qutâbkhâna-* the students of a school
yèk

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[1] This also has the generic sense, as in "good hotels are hard to find" or "a good hotel is hard to find." It contrasts with the following indefinite *hotelek i bâsh*, as in "there is a good hotel on the corner."

دیٚهکهی ئهو پیاوه	*deaká i aw pyâwá*	that man's village
مالٚهکانی پیاوهکانی دیٚهکه	*mâłakân i pyâwakân i deaká*	the houses of the men of the village
دهرگاکهی چایخانهکه	*dargâká i châykhânaká*	the door of the teahouse
دهرسهکانی ئهم کتاوه	*darsakân i am ktâwá*	the lessons of this book

§ 7. Attributive Adjectives with Demonstratives and Definites: The Close *Izâfa* Construction.

When noun-adjective constructions are enveloped by the demonstratives or modified by the definite suffix, the linking vowel changes to *a*. The indefinite is, of course, excluded from this category.

هۆتیٚله باشهکه	*{hotel a bâsh}aká*	the good hotel
ئهم هۆتیٚله باشه	*am {hotel a bâsh}á*	this good hotel
پیاوه ئهمهریکیهکه	*{pyâw a amarîkî}aká*	the American man
ئهو پیاوه ئهمهریکیه	*aw {pyâw a amarîkî}á*	that American man
دهرسانه ئاسانهکه	*{darsân a âsân}aká*	the easy lessons
ئهم دهرسانه ئاسانه	*am {darsân a âsân}á*	these easy lessons
دهرسانه سهختهکه	*{darsân a sakht}aká*	the hard lessons
ئهو دهرسانه سهخته	*aw {darsân a sakht}á*	those hard lessons

If the noun in a close-*izâfa* construction ends in *-a*, the linking *a* is omitted, as in the following:

قوتابخانه ابتدائیهکان[1]	*{qutâbkhâna ibtidâî}akân*	the elementary schools
چایخانه گهورهکه	*{châykhâna gawra}ká*	the big teahouse
ئهم چایخانه گهورهیه	*am {châykhâna gawra}yá*	this big teahouse
نهتهوه یهکگرتووهکان	*{natawa yekgirtû}akân*	the United Nations

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[1] *ibtidâîakân* may contract to ابتـدائیـکان *ibtidâekân.* For the contraction *îa > e,* see §42.

The envelopment of the demonstrative is extendable indefinitely and includes all matter immediately related to a demonstrative phrase.

بـۆ تـوانـیـنی ئـهم دیاری کردنی	*bo twânîn i **am** {dyârî*	in order to enable this
جێگای میر گهورهیه	*kirdin i jegâ i Mîr Gaw-*	clarification of Mir
	*ra}**yá***	Gawra's position

Close *izâfa* constructions may be mixed with open *izâfa* constructions, as in the following:

چایخانه گهورهکهی سهر شهقامه	*{châykhâna gawraká} i*	the big teahouse on the
سهرهکیهکهی شار	*sar {shaqâm a sarakî-*	major street in town
	aká} i shâr	

§ 8. Attributive Adjectives with Definite Nouns. Attributive adjectives modifying definite nouns also are linked to the noun by the *izâfa* vowel *i*, but the placement of the definite suffix, both singular and plural, is variable.

دهرسهکانی سهخت *dars**akân** i sakht*	
دهرسانه سهختهکه *dars**ân** a sakht**aká***	the hard lessons[1]
دهرسه سهختهکان *dars a sakht**akân***	

Noun–adjective constructions in which the *izâfa* is embedded (the second and third examples above), where plural and definite suffixes fall at the end of the *izâfa* "string," represent a very close connection, inseparable in the mind of the speaker, between noun and adjective.

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[1] These three examples all have the same meaning in English, but they connote different aspects of noun-adjective linkage to the speaker of Kurdish. دهرسهکانی سهخت *darsakân i sakht* are the lessons (about which we already know), which happen to be hard, not necessarily in contrast to anything else. دهرسانه سهختهکه *darsân a sakhtaká* points out the specific lessons that are hard, as in دهرسی چوارهم و دهرسی حهوتهم دهرسانه سهختهکهی ئهم کتاوهن *dars i chwâram u dars i ḥawtam darsân a sakhtaká i am ktâwán* "lesson four and lesson seven are the hard lessons in this book." دهرسه سهختهکان *dars a sakhtakân* is "the hard lessons" as opposed to, say, دهرسه ئاسانهکان *dars a âsânakân* "the easy lessons," where the adjectives "hard" and "easy" are inextricably linked to "lessons," i.e. we are considering "hard-lessons" vs. "easy-lessons."

A good example is گوڵی سوور *guł i sûr* 'red flower, rose.' If the speaker is thinking of a flower that simply happens to be red, say a red carnation, the indefinite is گوڵەکەی سوور *gułèk i sûr*, the definite is گوڵێکی سوور *gułaká i sûr*, the indefinite plural is گـــوڵانی ســـوور *gułân i sûr*, and the definite plural is گــوڵەکانی سوور *gułakân i sûr*. If by *guł i sûr* the speaker means the 'rose,' in which case *sûr* is inseparable from *guł*, the indefinite is گـوڵه سووریـك *guł a sûrèk*, the definite گـوڵه سوورەکه is *guł a sûraká*, the indefinite plural is گـوڵه سووران *guł a sûrân*, and the definite plural is گـوڵـه ســوورەکان *guł a sûrakân*. Similar close constructions are the following:

میژوونووسه عەرەبەکان *mezhûnûs a 'arabakân*   the Arab historians

Here we are considering only Arab historians, not historians who happen to be Arabs, who would be میژوونووسەکانی عەرەب *mezhûnûsakân i 'arab*.

قوتابیه کوردەکان *qutâbî a kurdakân*   the Kurdish students

Similarly here only students who are Kurdish are under consideration. The students who happen to be Kurdish, but not as an exclusive category, would be قوتابیەکانی کورد *qutâbîakân i kurd*.

§ 9. Synopsis of Noun States.

	SINGULAR	PLURAL
absolute	کتاو **ktâw** 'book'	—
	نامه **nâma** 'letter'	—
indefinite	کتاویك **ktâwèk**	کتاوان **ktâwân**
	نامەیەك **nâmayèk**	نامان **nâmân**
definite	کتاوەکه **ktâwaká**	کتاوەکان **ktâwakân**
	نامەکه **nâmaká**	نامەکان **nâmakân**
demon-strative	ئەم کتاوه **am ktâwá**	ئەم کتاوانه **am ktâwâná**
	ئەم نامەیه **am nâmayá**	ئەم نامانه **am nâmâná**

LOOSE-*IZÂFA* NOUN-ADJECTIVE CONSTRUCTIONS

absolute	کتاوی گەوره **ktâw i gawra**	—
	نامەی دریژ **nâma i drezh**	—

indefi- nite	كتاوێكی گەوره **ktâwèk i gawra**	كتاوانی گەوره **ktâwân i gawra**	
	نامەیەکی دریژ **nâmayèk i drezh**	نامانی دریژ **nâmân i drezh**	
definite	كتاوهكهی گەوره **ktâwaká i gawra**	كتاوهكانی گەوره **ktâwakân i gawra**	
	نامەكەی دریژ **nâmaká i drezh**	نامەكانی دریژ **nâmakân i drezh**	
demon- strative	ئەم كتاوه گەورەیه **am ktâw a gaw- rayá**	ئەم كتاوانه گەورەیه **am ktâwân a gawrayá**	
	ئەم نامه دریژه **am nâma drezhá**	ئەم نامانه دریژه **am nâmân a drezhá**	

CLOSE-*IZÂFA* NOUN-ADJECTIVE CONSTRUCTIONS

absolute	كتاوه گەوره **ktâw a gawra**	—	
	نامه دریژ **nâma drezh**		
indefi- nite	كتاوه گەورەیەك **ktâw a gawrayèk**	كتاوه گەوران **ktâw a gawrân**	
	نامه دریژیك **nâma drezhèk**	نامه دریژان **nâma drezhân**	
definite	كتاوه گەورەكە **ktâw a gawraká**	كتاوه گەورەكان **1. ktâw a gawrakân**	
		كتاوانه گەورەكه **2. ktâwân a gawraká**	
	نامه دریژەكە **nâma drezhaká**	نامه دریژەكان **1. nâma drezhakân**	
		نامانه دریژەكه **2. nâmân a drezhaká**	
demon- strative	ئەم كتاوه گەورەیه **am ktâw a gaw- rayá**	ئەم كتاوه گەورانه **am ktâw a gawrâná**	
	ئەم نامه دریژه **am nâma drezhá**	ئەم نامه دریژانه **am nâma drezhâná**	

§ 10. Personal Pronouns. The independent personal pronouns are as fol-
lows:

من	**min** I	ئێمه	**ema** we
تۆ	**to** you (sing.)	ئێوه	**ewa** you (pl.)
ئەو	**aw** he, she, it	ئەوان	**awân** they

The independent personal pronouns are used as (1) subjects of equational
sentences:

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من کوردم. *Min kurdim.*   **I**'m a Kurd.

(2) emphatic subjects of verbs and topics of topic-comment sentences:

ئەو هات، ئێوه نەهاتن. *Aw hât; ewa náhâtin.*   **He** came; **you** didn't.

من ئەوم بەلاوه گرنگ نیه. *Min awim balâwa giring niya.*   For **me**, that's not important.

and (3) emphatic possessors in an *izâfa* string:

کتاوەکەی من *ktâwaká i min*   *my* book

نیشتیمانەکەی ئێمه *nîshtimânaká i ema*   *our* homeland

For pronominal objects of verbs, see §23.

§ 10.1. Possessive Pronouns. The normal possessive pronouns are unstressed enclitics added to the noun. They take the following forms:

AFTER CONSONANTS		AFTER VOWELS	
م **-im**	مان **-mân**	م **-m**	مان **-mân**
ت **-it**	تان **-tân**	ت **-t**	تان **-tân**
ی **-î**	یان **-yân**	ی **-y**	یان **-yân**

Examples of possessive pronouns with *kuř* 'son' and *pâra* 'money':

کورِم **kúřim**	کورمان **kúřmân**	پارەم **pârám**	پارەمان **pârámân**
کورِت **kúřit**	کورتان **kúřtân**	پارەت **pârát**	پارەتان **pârátân**
کورِی **kúřî**	کوریان **kúřyân**	پارەی **pâráy**	پارەیان **pâráyân**

The enclitic possessive pronouns may be added to the absolute (کــورِم *kúřim*, پارەم *pârám*), the definite (کورەکەم *kuřakám,* پارەکەم *pârakám)*, or the indefinite (کورێکم *kúřekim,* پارەیەکم *pâráyekim)* forms of the noun. When added to the absolute, the noun has a figurative meaning; for actual, concrete meanings the definite form is used. For instance, money (پــــاره *pâra*) you can hold in your hand you would call پارەکەم *pârakám* 'my money,' while پارەم *pâram* is figurative, more like 'my wealth.' Someone who writes for a living can be said to earn his livelihood by means of قەڵەمی *qałamî* 'his pen,' but what he actually holds in his hand is قەڵەمەکەی *qałamakay* 'his pen.' Compare and contrast the following:

FIGURATIVE	ACTUAL
پاره‌ت *pârat* your money, your wealth	پاره‌که‌ت *pârakát* your (real) money, your cash
کوڕم *kuřim* my son, "sonny"	کوڕه‌که‌م *kuřakám* my (real) son
نانمان *nânmân* our livelihood	نانه‌که‌مان *nânakámân* our bread
مالْتان *mâłtân* your home	مالْه‌که‌تان *mâłakátân* your house

Exceptions to the general rule. Prominent exceptions to the general formation are the family members (باوك *bâwk* 'father,' دایك *dâyik* 'mother,' برا *birâ* 'brother' and خوه‌یشك *khwayshk* 'sister') and ناو *nâw* 'name.' When modified by pronominal possessives, these nouns are the reverse of the formation described above. براکه‌م *Birâkám* and خوه‌یشکه‌که‌م *khwayshkakám* are used to address or refer to anyone other than one's real brothers and sisters, who are called بـرام *birâm* and خـوه‌یـشـکم *khwayshkim*. ناوی *Nâwî* means 'his (real) name,' as opposed to ناوه‌که‌ی *nâwakáy*, which means 'his name' in the sense of a label or sobriquet given to someone, not his actual name.

When possessives are added to the indefinite form of the noun, they mean 'a … of mine,' &c., e.g. کوڕێکم *kuřekim* 'a son of mine,' کتاوێکت *ktâwekit* 'a book of yours,' and قه‌له‌مێکی *qalamekî* 'a pen of his,' &c.

§ 11. Enclitic *-îsh*. The enclitic particle *-îsh* ('too, also, even' and often equivalent to a simple raised voice inflection in English) is added to nouns, noun–adjective phrases and pronouns. It cannot follow a finite verb form. When added to words ending in vowels, *-îsh* loses its own vowel in favor of the preceding vowel, becoming *'sh*. When added to words that have an enclitic pronoun attached, *-îsh* intervenes between the noun and pronoun.

من *min* I/me >	منیش *mínîsh* I/me too
ئێمه *ema* we/us >	ئێمه‌ش *ema'sh* we/us too
باوکی *bâwkî* his father >	باوکیشی *bâwkîshî* his father too
پاره‌که‌یان *pârakáyân* their money >	پاره‌که‌شیان *pâraká'shyân* their money too

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رەفیقەکانم *rafîqakânim* my friends > رەفیقەکانیشم *rafîqakânîshim* even my friends

§ **12. Cardinal Numbers.** The cardinal numbers are as follows:

١	یەك	**1 yek**	٢٠	بیست	**20 bîst**
٢	دوو	**2 dû**	٢١	بیست و یەك	**21 bîst u yek**
٣	سێ	**3 se**	٢٢	بیست و دوو	**22 bîst u dû**
٤	چوار	**4 chwâr**	٢٣	بیست و سێ	**23 bîst u se, &c.**
٥	پێنج	**5 penj**	٣٠	سی	**30 sî**
٦	شەش	**6 shash**	٣١	سی و یەك	**31 sî u yek**
٧	حەوت	**7 ḥawt**	٣٢	سی و دوو	**32 sî u dû**
٨	هەشت	**8 hasht**	٣٣	سی و سێ	**33 sî u se, &c.**
٩	نۆ	**9 no**	٤٠	چل	**40 chil**
١٠	دە	**10 da**	٥٠	پەنجا	**50 panjâ**
١١	یانزه	**11 yânza**	٦٠	شەست	**60 shast**
١٢	دوانزه	**12 dwânza**	٧٠	حەفتا	**70 ḥaftâ**
١٣	سیانزه	**13 syânza**	٨٠	هەشتا	**80 hashtâ**
١٤	چوارده	**14 chwârda**	٩٠	نەوەد	**90 nawad**
١٥	پانزده	**15 pânza**	١٠٠	سەد	**100 sad**
١٦	شانزه	**16 shânza**	١٠٠٠	هەزار	**1000 hazâr**
١٧	حەڤده	**17 ḥavda**	٢٠٠٠	دوو هەزار	**2000 dûhazâr**
١٨	هەژده	**18 hazhda**	٣٠٠٠	سێ هەزار	**3000 sehazâr**
١٩	نۆزده	**19 nozda**	٤٠٠٠	چوار هەزار	**4000 chwârhazâr, &c**

All words having to do with time and instance follow the cardinal number immediately in the absolute state:

دوو ڕۆژ	*dû rozh*	two days
شەش مانگ	*shash mâng*	six months
سەد ساڵ	*sad sâł*	a hundred years

With other words the cardinal number is followed by a classifier, which is followed by the singular noun in the absolute state, as in Persian. The most common classifiers, and those which can be used, practically speaking, for almost anything are دانه *dâna* for things, نەفەر *nafar* for people, and سەر *sar*

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for animate beings other than people.

چوار دانه کتاو	*chwâr dâna ktâw*	four books
پێنج نهفهر	*penj nafar*	five people
ده سهر مهڕ	*da sar mař*	ten sheep

§ 12.1 Ordinal numbers. The ordinal numbers are formed from the cardinal numbers plus the suffix *-(h)am*, as follows:

1st	یهکهم	**yekam**	7th	حهوتهم	**ḥawtam**
2nd	دووههم	**dûham**	8th	ههشتهم	**hashtam**
3rd	سێههم	**seham**	9th	نۆههم	**noham**
4th	چوارهم	**chwâram**	10th	دهههم	**daham**
5th	پێنجهم	**penjam**	11th	یانزهههم	**yânzaham**
6th	شهشهم	**shasham**	12th	دوانزهههم	**dwânzaham**, &c.

§ 12.2 Days of the Week and Months of the Year. The days of the week, made up mostly of cardinal numbers and شهممه *shamma,* are as follows:

شهممه	**shamma**	Saturday	چوارشهممه	**chwârshamma**	Wednesday
یهکشهممه	**yekshamma**	Sunday	پێنجشهممه	**penjshamma**	Thursday
دووشهممه	**dûshamma**	Monday	جومعه	**jum'a**	Friday
سێشهممه	**seshamma**	Tuesday			

§ 12.3 Months of the Year and the Kurdish Calendar. The traditional months of the year, which correspond to the signs of the zodiac, are as follows:

بههار **BAHÂR** SPRING	تاوستان **TÂWISTÂN** SUMMER
خاکهلێوه **khâkalêwa** Aries, March 21– April 20	پوشپهڕ **pushpař** Cancer, June 22– July22
بانهمهڕ **bânamař** or گولان **gulân** Taurus, April 21–May 21	گهلاوێژ **galâwezh** Leo, July 23– August 22
جۆزهردان **jozardân** Gemini, May 22– June 21	خهرمانان **kharmânân** Virgo, August 23–September 22

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SUBSTANTIVES

خەزان **XAZÂN** AUTUMN

رەزبەر **razbar** Libra, September 23–October 22

khazałwar خەزەڵوەر or گەلاریزان **galâ-rezân** Scorpio, October 23–November 21

سەرماوەز **sarmâwaz** Sagittarius, November 22–December 21

زستان **ZISTÂN** WINTER

بەفرانبار **bafrânbâr** Capricorn, December 22–January 20

ریبەندان **rebandân** Aquarius, January 21–February 19

رەشەمە **rashama** Pisces, February 20–March 20

The names of the Western (Roman) months are as follows:

کانونی دووهەم **kânûn i dûham** January

شوبات **shubât** February

ئادار **âdâr** March

نیسان **nîsân** April

ئایار **âyâr** May

حەزیران **ḥuzayrân** or حوزەیران **ḥazîrân** June

تەمووز **tamûz** July

ئاب **âb** August

ئەیلوول **aylûl** September

تشرینی یەکەم **tishrîn i yekam** October

تشرینی دووهەم **tishrîn i dûham** November

کانونی یەکەم **kânûn i yekam** December

The recently instituted "Kurdish era" dates from 612 B.C., and the Kurdish year, like the Iranian, begins on نـــــەورۆز *nawroz,* the vernal equinox, on or about March 21.

§ 13. Comparative and Superlative Adjectives. The comparative degree of the adjective is made by suffixing تر *-tir*, e.g. گەوره *gawra* 'big' > گەورەتر *gawratir* 'bigger,' گەرم *garm* 'warm' > گەرمـتر *garmtir* 'warmer,' and زیا *zyâ* 'much' > زیاتر *zyâtir* 'more.' The preposition of comparison is لە *la*, as in the following examples.

ئەمڕۆ لە دوێنێ ساردتره. *Amřo la dwene sârdtir a.*   Today is colder than yesterday.

ئەمە لەوه چاکتره. *Ama l' awa châktir a.*   This is better than that.

The superlative degree is formed by suffixing تـــرین *-tirîn*. Superlative adjectives so formed precede the nouns they modify, as in

ساردترین رۆژ *sârdtirîn rozh*   the coldest day

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چاکترین شتان *châk**tirîn** shitân*	the best things
جواترین منداڵ *jwân**tirîn** mindâł*	the most beautiful child

§ 14. Prepositions, Postpositions, Circumpositions. Certain prepositions, in particular the prepositions به *ba* 'in, at,' ده *da* 'to, in, into' and له *la* 'by, to, in, at' and 'from,' occur as circumpositions that envelop the complement, that is, the preposition itself marks the beginning of the prepositional phrase, and the end of the complement is marked by a postpositional element like *-awa, -(d)â,* or *-râ*.

له دوورهوه *la dûr**awa***	from afar
له خۆهوه *la kho**awa***	by itself, by oneself
ده ئهرزیدا *da arzî**dâ***	on the ground
لهخۆرا *la khor'**â***	by itself, by oneself
له نیوهشهودا *la nîwashaw**dâ***	in the middle of the night
لهم وهختهدا *l' am wakhtá**dâ***	at this time

The *d* of *dâ* is often dropped, particularly but not necessarily after *n*, giving *-'â*, as in

له کوردستانا *la Kurdistân'**â***	in Kurdistan
له ناوچهی سۆرانا *la nâwcha i Sorân'**â***	in the district of Soran
له شـــوێنـــهوارهکانی ناحیــهی خۆرماڵیشا *la shwenawârakân i nâḥiya i Khormâl'îsh'**â***	in the monuments of the Khormal region too
له پاشا *la pâsh'**â***	after(wards)
لهگهڵ منا *lagał min'**â***	with me

The postpositional element does not usually, in and of itself, add anything substantial to the meaning of the prepositional phrase, and most prepositions occur without the postpositional element without any significant change in meaning—with the important exception of *la...dâ* 'in, at' and *la...awa* 'from,' where the postpositions define the meaning of *la*. When *la* lacks the postpositional element, the meaning must be ascertained from con-

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text.

Common prepositions and circumpositions:

به	*ba* (پیٚ *pe*) to; with, by (instrumental)	لەبابەت ...ـەوه	*labâbat ...awa* concerning, about
بەبیٚ ...ـەوه	*babe ...awa* without	لەبارەی ...ـەوه	*labâra i ...awa* concerning
بەدەم ...ـەوه	*badam ...awa* along with, while, during	لەباتی	*labât i* instead of
		لەبن	*labin* beside
بەلای ...ـەوه	*balâ i ...awa* in the opinion of	لەبریٚتی	*labiret i* instead of
بەپیٚی	*bape i* according to	لەدەم ...دا	*ladam ...dâ* behind
بەر لە	*bar la* before (temporal)	لەگەڵ ...(دا)	*lagał ...(dâ)* with, together with
بەرەوی ...دا	*baraw i ...dâ* in the direction of		
بەرەوه	*baraw* in front of, toward	لەلایەن ...ـەوه	*lalâyan ...awa* by (passive agent)
بەردەم	*bardam* before, in the face of	لەناو	*lanâw* within
بیٚ	*be* without	لەنیٚو ...دا	*lanew ...dâ* between, among
بیٚجگه له ...ـەوه	*bejiga la ...awa* except for	لەپیٚناوی ...دا	*lapenâw i ...dâ* for the sake of
بۆ	*bo* for	لەرەوی	*laraw i* with respect to
ده (تیٚ)	*da (te)* on, in	لەریٚ ...ـەوه	*lare i ...awa* by means of; for
دەگەڵ	*dagał* with		
دوای	*dwâ i* after	لەریٚگا ...دا	*laregâ ...dâ* for the sake of
جگه له	*jiga la* except for, aside from		
		لەسەر	*lasar* on, on top of; according to
له (لیٚ)	*la (le)* in, from		
له ...(دا)	*la ...(dâ)* in, at	لەژیٚر ...دا	*lazher ...dâ* under
له ...ـەوه	*la ...awa* from, than	ناو	*nâw* between, among
لەبەر ...(دا)	*labar ...(dâ)* in front of, before	نیٚوان	*newân* between, among
		پاش	*pâsh* after
لەبەر ...ـەوه	*labar ...awa* because of	پیٚش	*pesh* before (spacial)
لەبەینی ...دا	*labayn i ...dâ* between, among	وەك	*wak* like

§ 14.1. Preposed Pronominal Prepositional Complements. When pro-

nouns are complements of prepositions, they occur as enclitics unless they are to be particularly stressed. Pronominal compliments may be either pre-posed, i.e. added to the word preceding the preposition, or postposed, i.e. added to the preposition itself. When the following prepositions have enclitic complements, either pre- or postposed, they change their forms as follows:

- به **ba** becomes پێ **pe**
- ده **da** becomes تێ **te**
- له **la** becomes لێ **le**
- ـه **-à** becomes ئ **-è** (see §35 below)

All prepositions may take an independent pronoun as complement, as in له من *la min* 'from me.' If the pronoun is enclitic, the preposition changes to لێ *le*. When the enclitic pronoun is postposed the phrase is لـيـم *lem* 'from me,' and such phrases with postposed complements generally occur as tag phrases, i.e. falling after the verb, or at the end of a clause or sentence. When the prepositional phrase falls before the verb, or before the end of a clause or sentence, the enclitic pronoun is usually preposed as ـم لــــێ *-im le*, and the enclitic pronoun must be attached to some available preverbal matter.

For instance, in the sentence

| پرسیاریك له رهفیقهكهی دهكا *pirsyârèk **la rafîqakay** dákâ* | he asks a question **of his friend** |

if *rafîqakay* is changed to a pronoun and the prepositional phrase is a tag, the sentence becomes

| پرسیاریك دهكا لێی *pirsyârèk dákâ **ley*** | he asks a question **of him** |

Normally, however, the prepositional phrase would have a preposed complement as

| پرسیاریكی لێ دهكا *pirsyârèkî **le** dákâ* | he asks a question **of him** |

In the sentence

| پرسیاریك له من دهكا *pirsyârèk **la min** dákâ* | he asks a question **of me** |

min 'me' is stressed, but it could be expressed with an enclitic pronoun (and

therefore not particularly stressed) as

پرسیاریکم لێ دەکا	*pirsyârèkim le dákâ*	he asks a question **of me**

It is important to realize that, for Kurdish speakers, the preposed enclitic pronoun is inextricably linked to the word to which it is attached—i.e., in the example above *pirsyârèkim* must be pronounced as one word. If there is any pause, the place for it is between the pronoun and the preposition.

Other examples are:

لەوان گوێ دەگرم > گوێیان لێ دەگرم	*l' awân gwe dágirim > gweyân le dágirim.*	I'm listening **to them**.
دەرگا بکەنەوە بۆ من > دەرگام بۆ بکەنەوە	*dargâ bikanawa bo min > dargâm bo bikanawa.*	Open the door **for me**.
پووڵەکـه لەو وەر دەگـرێ > پوولەکەی لێ وەر دەگرێ	*pûɫaka l' aw war dagire > pûɫakay le war dagire.*	He takes the money **from him**.
قسه بکەم بۆ تۆ > قسەت بۆ بکەم	*qsa bikam bo to > qsat bo bikam.*	Let me tell **you** a story.
ئەمە بڵێم به تۆ > ئەمەت پێ بڵێم.	*ama bíɫem ba to > amat pe bíɫem.*	Let me say this **to you**.
راوچیـیەك هێندەی نەماوە بگاتە رێوی > راوچیـیەك هێندەی نەماوە بیگاتێ.	*râwchîyèk henday namâwa bigâtà rewî > râwchî-yèk henday namâwa biygâtè.*	A hunter almost came upon the fox > A hunter almost came **upon it**.
بەڵکوو شتێك بداتە من > بەڵکوو شتێکم بداتێ.	*baɫkû shitèk bidâtà min > baɫkû shitèkim bidâtè.*	Maybe he'll give **me** something.
قسه دەکا دەگەڵ تۆ > قسەت دەگەڵ دەکا	*qsa dakâ dagaɫ to > qsat dagaɫ dakâ.*	He speaks **with you**.
ئەو به لای منەوە گرنگترە > ئەوم بەلاوە گرنگترە	*aw balâ i minawa giring-tir a > awim balâwa giringtir a.*	He is more important **to me**.

Similar is the construction involved in the idiom *khaw- le kawtin*—literally "for sleep to fall on (someone)"—'to fall asleep,' as in خەوی لێ کەوت *kha-*

wî le kawt 'he fell asleep,' خەوم لێ نەکەوت *khawim le nákawt* 'I didn't/could-n't fall asleep.' In this construction the person upon whom sleep falls is expressed by a pronominal enclitic on *khaw-*; if a 3rd-person "subject" is expressed, the resumptive construction is used, as in

کچەکان خەویان لێ کەوت *kichakân khaw****yân le*** *kawt*   the girls fell asleep (lit., "the girls—sleep fell upon them")

In all the previous examples, the preposed complement has preceded the preposition immediately, and generally this is the position it takes. However, a preposed complement separated from the preposition by other matter also occurs.

دەبێ خێوەتێکم لە دەرەوەی شار *Dabe khewatè****kim*** *la dara-*   They will have to pitch a
بۆ هەڵبدەن. *wa i shâr* ***bo*** *hałbidan.*   tent **for me** outside the city.

For the special cases in which preposed postpositional complements displace enclitic possessive pronouns, see §27.4.

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§ 15. Present Copulas. The present-tense copulas ('am, is, are') consist of the following enclitics:

POSTCONSONANTAL				POSTVOCALIC			
-im م	**-în** ین			**-m** م	**-yn** ین		
-î(t) ی، یت	**-in** ن			**-y(t)** ی، یت	**-n** ن		
-a ه	**-in** ن			**-ya** یه	**-n** ن		

Examples are with کورد *kurd* 'Kurdish' and لێره *l'era* 'here':

کوردم **kúrdim** 'I am Kurdish'   کوردین **kúrdîn** 'we are Kurdish'

کوردی **kúrdî**
کردیت **kúrdît** } 'you are Kurdish'   کوردن **kúrdin** 'you are Kurdish'

کورده **kúrda** 's/he is Kurdish'   کوردن **kúrdin** 'they are Kurdish'

لێرهم **l'erám** 'I am here'   لێرهین **l'eráyn** 'we are here'

لێرهی **l'eráy**
لێرهیت **l'eráyt** } 'you are here'   لێرهن **l'erán** 'you are here'

لێرهیه **l'eráya** 's/he is here'   لێرهن **l'erán** 'they are here'

When the 3rd-person possessive enclitic *(-î/-y)* is followed by the 3rd-person copula *(-a),* a special form, *-yatî,* is used.

کتاوه. *ktâw-a.*   It's a book.

کتاوی > کتاویهتی. *ktâwî > ktâwyatî.*   his book > It's his book.

The negative copula is formed on the base *níy-:*

نیم **níyim**	I am not	نیین **níyîn**	we are not
نی، نیت **níyî(t)**	you are not	نین **níyin**	you are not
نیه **níya**	he/she/it is not	نین **níyin**	they are not

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§ 16. 'To Have.' There is no verb in Kurdish equivalent to the English verb 'to have.' Kurdish expresses possession through the following formula:

noun possessed (indefinite or absolute) + possessive pronoun + *háya/níya* (present) or *hábû/hanábû* (past) or some form of the verb *bûn* 'to be'

پرسیارێکم ھەیە.	*Pirsyârèkim háya.*	I have a question.
پرسیارێکم ھەبوو.	*Pirsyârèkim hábû.*	I had a question.
پارەت ھەیە.	*Pârat háya.*	You have money.
کتاوێک ی باشی نیه.	*Ktâwèk i bâshî níya.*	He doesn't have a good book.
قەڵەمانمان ھەبوو.	*Qałamânmân hábû.*	We had some pens.
چەند کوڕتان ھەیە؟	*Chand kuřtân háya?*	How many sons do you have?
زۆر پارەیان ھەنەبوو.	*Zor pârayân hanábû.*	They didn't have much money.
تاقه کوڕێکی دەبێ.	*Tâqa kuřekî dabe.*	He has an only son.

§ 17. The Present Habitual/Progressive. The present habitual tense corresponds to the English simple present used for habitual action ('I go'), progressive action ('I'm going'), and the future ('I'll go, I'm going to go'[1]). It is formed from the present stem of the verb with a prefixed modal marker, which receives the stress, and the following suffixed personal endings.

CONSONANT STEMS		VOWEL STEMS	
-im	**-în**	**-m**	**-yn**
-î(t)	**-in**	**-y(t)**	**-n**
-e(t)	**-in**	**-â(t)/-(t)**	**-n**

The inherent *(t)* shown for the 2nd- and 3rd-persons singular is characteristic of literary Kurdish and seldom appears in the more informal spoken lan-

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[1] Unlike Kurmanji, Sorani Kurdish has no future tense. The future may be expressed periphrastically ("I want to go," e.g.), but normally the future sense is gained from context.

guage. It is recovered, however, when any enclitic or suffix is added to the verb form (see §18 below).

The modal prefix in Sulaymani Kurdish is ئه‌ *á-*; in most other dialects the modal prefix is ده *dá-*. Since otherwise verbs are conjugated identically in all varieties of Sorani Kurdish, the modal marker will be shown in this book as *dá-,* and examples will be given with *á-* or *dá-* as they occur in the texts from which they have been taken. Examples of the conjugation of verbs with present stems ending in a consonant are as follows (examples are *-ch-* 'go' and *-nûs-* 'write'):

	چوون **chûn** 'to go'			نووسین **nûsîn** 'to write'	
1	دەچم **dáchim**	دەچین **dáchîn**	دەنووسم **dánûsim**	دەنووسین **dánûsîn**	
2	دەچیت **dáchît** دەچی **dáchî**[1]	دەچن **dáchin**	دەنووسیت **dánûsît** دەنووسی **dánûsî**	دەنووسن **dánûsin**	
3	دەچیت **dáchet** دەچێ **dáche**	دەچن **dáchin**	دەنووسێت **dánûset** دەنووسێ **dánûse**	دەنووسن **dánûsin**	

In the negative, the modal marker *á-* is replaced by stressed *nâ´- (< na + a-).*

ناچم **nâchim**	ناچین **nâchîn**	نانووسم **nânûsim**	نانووسین **nânûsîn**
ناچیت **nâchî(t)**	ناچن **nâchin**	نانووسیت **nânûsî(t)**	نانووسن **nânûsin**
ناچێت **nâche(t)**	ناچن **nâchin**	نانووسێت **nânûse(t)**	نانووسن **nânûsin**

The negative of the modal marker *dá-* is *náda-*:

نەدەچم **nádachim**	نەدەچین **nádachîn**	نەدەنووسم **nádanûsim**	نەدەنووسین **nádanûsîn**
نەدەچیت **nádachî(t)**	نەدەچن **nádachin**	نەدەنووسیت **nádanûsî(t)**	نەدەنووسن **nádanûsin**
نەدەچێت **nádache(t)**	نەدەچن **nádachin**	نەدەنووسێت **nádanûse(t)**	نەدەنووسن **nádanûsin**

The negative of the Sulaymani habitual is occasionally used as an emphatic

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[1]Henceforth the second- and third-person singular forms will normally be given as دەچیت *dáchî(t)* and دەچێت *dáche(t),* with only the literary form in Arabic script but with both forms in transcription.

negative in dialects that normally have the negative in *náda-*, as in نانـــــووسم *nânûsim* 'I don't ever write' (which would then contrast with نـەدەنـووسم *ná-danûsim* 'I'm not writing') and قـــەیــــدێ ناکا *qaydè nâkâ* 'it doesn't matter at all.'

For verbs with stems ending in a vowel, the personal endings combine with stems in *-a, -o*, and *-e* as follows (examples, کردن *kirdin* 'to do,' present stem که *ka-*; رۆیشتن *royshtin* 'to go away,' present stem رۆ *ro-*; گەڕان *gařân* 'to turn,' present stem گەڕێ *gaře-*). The only forms that show changes in the stem vowel are the 3rd-person singular of the *-a-* and *-o-* stems, which change to *-â(t)* and *-wâ(t)* respectively.

A-STEMS

دەکەم	**dákam**	دەکەین	**dákayn**
دەکەیت	**dákay(t)**	دەکەن	**dákan**
دەکا(ت)	**dákâ(t)**	دەکەن	**dákan**

Common verbs conjugated in the present tense like *kirdin/ka-* are خـــــــتن *khistin/* خـه *kha-* 'to throw,' بـردن *birdin/* بـە *ba-* 'to carry,' دان *dân/* دە *da-* 'to give,' and گەیشتن *gayshtin/* گە *ga-* 'to reach.'

O-STEMS

دەرۆم	**dárom**	دەرۆین	**dároyn**
دەرۆیت	**dároyt**	دەرۆن	**dáron**
دەروا(ت)	**dárwâ(t)**	دەرۆن	**dáron**

Like *ro-* are شـــوردن *khwârdin/* خـــۆ *kho-* 'to eat' and شـــتن *shitin* (or *shurdin*)/ شۆ *sho-* 'to wash.'

Verbs with present stems in *-e*, of which there are many, keep the theme vowel unchanged throughout the conjugation, and in the 3rd-person singular nothing is added other than the inherent *-t*.

E-STEMS

دەگەڕێم	**dágařem**	دەگەڕێن	**dágaředyn**
دەگەڕیی، دەگەڕێت	**dágařey(t)**	دەگەڕێن	**dágaředn**
دەگەڕێ، دەگەڕێت	**dágaře(t)**	دەگەڕێن	**dágaředn**

Like *gaře-* are all verbs with infinitives ending in *-ân*.

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THE VERB

One verb with a peculiar present tense is هــــاتــــن *hâtin* 'to come' (present stem یـه *-ye*). In Sulaymani Kurdish the present stem, *ye-*, is regularly conjugated but without the modal marker *a-*. In most other dialects, particularly Iranian varieties, the present stem combines with the modal marker *da-* to become *de-*. The two variants are conjugated in the present as follows:

SULAYMANI		NON-SULAYMANI	
یهم **yem**	یهین **yeyn**	دێم **dem**	دێن **deyn**
یهی، یهیت **yey(t)**	یهن **yen**	دیی، دێیت **dey(t)**	دێن **den**
یه(ت) **ye(t)**	یهن **yen**	دێ(دێت) **de(t)**	دێن **den**

The negative is regularly conjugated on the stem *nâye-:*

نایهم **nâyem**	نایهین **nâyeyn**
نایهی، نایهیت **nâyey(t)**	نایهن **nâyen**
نایه، نایهت **nâye(t)**	نایهن **nâyen**

§ 18. Verbs in -*awa*. Many Kurdish verbs end with the suffix -*awa*, which has the following basic meanings: (1) 'again, back, re-,' as مــــان *mân* 'to remain, be left' > مـانـهوه *mânawa* 'to be left behind,' وتـن/گـۆتـن *gotin/witin* 'to say' > گۆتنهوه/وتنهوه *gotinawa/witinawa* 'to say again, repeat,' گهڕان *gařân* 'to turn' > گـهڕانـهوه *gařânawa* 'to return,' (2) 'open,' as in کردنـهوه *kirdinawa* 'to open,' and (3) to give a nuance of meaning to a verb, as سـوور کردن *sûr-kirdin* 'to make red' > سـوور کـردنــهوه *sûr-kirdinawa* 'to sauté.' This said, it should also be noted that -*awa* often adds nothing of any real lexical significance to the verb but gives a perfective aspect instead. All such verbs are regularly conjugated. With verbs ending in -*awa*, the -*awa* suffix is added after the personal ending, as in

دهرگا دهکهمهوه *dargâ dakamawa*	I('ll) open the door
دهگهڕێنهوه *dágařenawa*	you/they('ll) return

Second- and third-person forms always recover the *t* inherent in the personal endings before -*awa*, as in

دهگهڕێتهوه *dágařetawa*	he'll return

دەكەیتەوە *dakaytawa*   you open

Full inflections of گەرانەوە *gařânawa* and كردنەوە *kirdinawa* are as follows:

دەگەرێمەوە **dágařemawa**	دەگەرێينەوە **dágařeynawa**
دەگەرێيتەوە **dágařeytawa**	دەگەرێنەوە **dágařenawa**
دەگەرێتەوە **dágařetawa**	دەگەرێنەوە **dágařenawa**
دەكەمەوە **dákamawa**	دەكەينەوە **dákaynawa**
دەكەیتەوە **dákaytawa**	دەكەنەوە **dákanawa**
دەكاتەوە **dákâtawa**	دەكەنەوە **dákanawa**

§ 19. The Present Subjunctive. Like the present habitual, the present subjunctive is formed from the present stem of the verb and the personal suffixes. The modal marker for the subjunctive is *bí-*.

چوون *chûn*   كردنەوە *kirdinawa*

بچم **bíchim**	بچين **bíchîn**	بكەمەوە **bíkamawa**	بكەينەوە **bíkaynawa**
بچی ، بچيت **bíchî(t)**	بچن **bíchin**	بكەیتەوە **bíkaytawa**	بكەنەوە **bíkanawa**
بچێ ، بچيت **bíche(t)**	بچن **bíchin**	بكاتەوە **bíkâtawa**	بكەنەوە **bíkanawa**

In compound verbs, the *bí-* prefix is optional, and when it is omitted the lack of a modal prefix identifies the verb as subjunctive. The modal prefix is regularly omitted with close compound verbs with prefixes like *war-* and *hał-*.

بانگ بكەم **bâng (bí)kam**	بانگ بكەين **bâng (bí)kayn**
بانگ بكەيت **bâng (bí)kay(t)**	بانگ بكەن **bâng (bí)kan**
بانگ بكا(ت) **bâng (bí)kâ(t)**	بانگ بكەن **bâng (bí)kan**
وەرگرم **wargirim**	وەرگرين **wargirîn**
وەرگری، وەرگريت **wargirî(t)**	وەرگرن **wargirin**
وەرگرێ، وەرگريت **wargire(t)**	وەرگرن **wargirin**

When the preceding word ends in a vowel and the verb stem begins with a

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single consonant, the vowel of the modal prefix may be elided, giving, e.g.,

وا بزانم	*wâ b'zânim*	I think (lit., if I know thus)
ئەم ووشەیە بنووسین	*am wushayá b'nûsîn*	let's write this word

This feature is not represented in the Kurdo-Arabic writing system.

The negative prefix for the subjunctive is *ná-,* which replaces *bí-* where it occurs.

نەچم	**náchim**	نەچین	**náchîn**	نەکەم	**nákam**	نەکەین	**nákayn**
نەچی، نەچیت	**náchî(t)**	نەچن	**náchin**	نەکەی، نەکەیت	**nákay(t)**	نەکەن	**nákan**
نەچێ، نەچێت	**náche(t)**	نەچن	**náchin**	نەکا(ت)	**nákâ(t)**	نەکەن	**nákan**

The present subjunctive of the verb *bûn* 'to be' is based on the stem *b-*. It occurs both with and without the *bí-* prefix with the following conjugations:

	WITHOUT PREFIX				WITH PREFIX		
بم	**bim**	بین	**bîn**	بیم	**bíbim**	بیین	**bíbîn**
بی، بیت	**bî(t)**	بن	**bin**	بی، بیبت	**bíbî(t)**	بین	**bíbin**
بێ، بێت	**be(t)**	بن	**bin**	بێ، بیبێت	**bíbe(t)**	بین	**bíbin**

When the verb means 'to be' the *bí-* prefix is omitted, but when it means 'to become' or is part of a compound verb like نیزین بوون *nîzîk-bûn* 'to get near' or ئاشکرا بوون *âshkirâ-bûn* 'to be revealed' in the following examples, the *bí-* prefix is present.

مرۆڤ نابێ ناهومێد بێ.	*Mirov nâbe nâhumed be.*	One should not be despondent.
نەیاندەوێرا نیزیکی مالەکانیان بینەوە.	*Náyândawerâ nîzîk i mâłakânyân bibinawa.*	They didn't dare get near their houses.
دەترسێ رۆژێك بێت ئەم نهێنییە ئاشکرا بێ.	*Dátirse rozhèk bet am nihenîá âshkirâ bibe.*	She fears there will come a day this secret will be revealed.

The present subjunctive of *hâtin* 'to come' is regularly conjugated on the stem *be-* (for **bíye-*). Note that the 3rd-person singular subjunctive of *hâtin* is identical to the 3rd-person singular subjunctive of *bûn*, i.e. both are *be(t)*.

SORANI KURDISH

هاتن **hâtin**

بێم	**bem**	بێین	**beyn**
بیی، بێیت	**bey(t)**	بێن	**ben**
بێ، بێت	**be(t)**	بێن	**ben**

The verbs *henân* 'to bring' and *heshtin* 'to let' have subjunctives formed both on the regular stems *bíhen-* and *bíheł-* and on the contracted stem*s ben-* and *beł-:*

REGULAR SUBJUNCTIVE	CONTRACTED SUBJUNCTIVE

هێنان **henân**

بهێنم	**bíhenim**	بهێنین	**bíhenîn**	بێنم	**benim**	بێنین	**benîn**
بهێنیت	**bíhenî(t)**	بهێنن	**bíhenin**	بێنیت	**benî(t)**	بێنن	**benin**
بهێنێت	**bíhene(t)**	بهێنن	**bíhenin**	بێنێت	**bene(t)**	بێنن	**benin**

هێشتن **heshtin**

بهێڵم	**bíhełim**	بهێڵین	**bíhełîn**	بێڵم	**bełim**	بێڵین	**bełîn**
بهێڵیت	**bíhełî(t)**	بهێڵن	**bíhełin**	بێڵیت	**bełî(t)**	بێڵن	**bełin**
بهێڵێت	**bíhełe(t)**	بهێڵن	**bíhełin**	بێڵێت	**bełe(t)**	بێڵن	**bełin**

The present subjunctive is used in the following instances:

(1) independently—i.e. not dependent upon a preceding construction—as a deliberative (English 'should'). In literary style, the interrogative particle ئایا *âyâ* often introduces the construction.

ئایا پاشەوپاش بگەڕێتەوە؟ *Âyâ pâshawpâsh **bígaře-tawa**?*	Should he retrace his steps?
سبەینی بێم؟ *Sbaynî **bem**?*	Should I come tomorrow?
دەرگا بکەینەوە؟ *Dargâ **bíkaynawa**?*	Should we open the door?

(2) in the 1st persons as a cohortative ('let me, let's') and in the 3rd persons as a hortatory ('let him…, may he …'). The 1st-person is often preceded by با *bâ* or وەره *wára* ('c'mon').

با بڕۆین. *Bâ **bíroyn**.*	C'mon, let's go.
وەره، فێڵێکی لێ بکەین. *Wára, fełèkî le **bikayn**.*	C'mon, let's play a trick on him.
نەبێته دی. *Nábetà dî.*	May it not happen.

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THE VERB

دابنیشـنهوه.	*Dâ-***binîshinawa.**	Let them sit back down.

(3) as complement to all verbs and constructions of wanting (see §20), ability (see §21), necessity, etc.

ئهمهوی بچمه مالْی.	*Amawe* **bíchim***à mâłe.*	I want to go home.
دەتوانم بتبینم.	*Datwânim* **bítbînim.**	I can see you.
پێویسـتهکه سـهری لهو مرۆڤه کلۆلۀ بدات که چاوەروانی ئهکا.	*Pewîst a ka sar i l' aw mirov a kiłołá* **bídât** *ka châwařwânî akâ.*	It is necessary for her to pay a visit to that miserable man who is waiting.
پێویست نیه که بلْێم …	*Pewîst níya ka* **bíłem***…*	It is not necessary that I say…

(4) after a number of conjunctions like بــهرلهوهی *bar l' awaî* 'before' and بهبێ ئهوهی *ba be awaî* 'without'[1]

بهرلهوهی بچێ …	**bar l' awaî** *biche…*	before he goes/went…
بهرلهوهی ئێوه دابنیشن …	**bar l' awaî** *ewa dâ-***binîshin***…*	before you sit/sat down…
به بێ ئهوهی قسه بکا، رۆیشت.	*Ba* **be awaî** *qsa* **bikâ,** *roysht.*	Without speaking, he left.
به بێ ئهوهی بتبینێ …	*ba* **be awaî** *bitbîne…*	without his/her seeing you…

(5) in the protasis of a possible conditional:

ئهمه ئهگهر بێته دی، ئهتوانین بلْێین …	*Ama agar* **bet***à dî, atwânîn* **bíłeyn***…*	If this should come about, we can say that…
ئهگهر بتهوێ، دەتوانی.	*Agar* **bitawe***, datwânî.*	If you want to, you can.

_____

[1] *Bar l' awaî* is always followed by the present subjunctive; the proper tense for English translation is gained from context. In English 'without' is followed by a gerund, but in Kurdish it is followed by a subjunctive clause, which is necessarily personal.

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ئەگەر بێت و هێزی ئەتۆم بۆ شەڕ و کوشتار و لە ناو بردن بە کار بهێنرێ ...	*Agar **bet** u hez i atom bo shař u kushtâr u la nâw birdin ba kâr **bíhenre**...*	If it **should be** that the power of the atom **be used** for war, slaughter, and destruction…

§ 20. 'To Want.' The Kurdish verb corresponding to the English verb 'want' is *wîstin* (present stem *we-*). The construction that serves as the present tense of this verb is compounded of the prefix *(d)á-* (negative *ná-*) + possessive pronoun enclitic + *-awe*. The full inflection of the present tense is as follows:

<div align="center">

AFFIRMATIVE PRESENT

دەمانەوێ **dámânawe**   دەمەوێ **dámawe**

دەتانەوێ **dátânawe**   دەتەوێ **dátawe**

دەیانەوێ **dáyânawe**   دەیەوێ **dáyawe**

NEGATIVE PRESENT

نەمانەوێ **námânawe**   نەمەوێ **námawe**

نەتانەوێ **nátânawe**   نەتەوێ **nátawe**

نەیانەوێ **náyânawe**   نەیەوێ **náyawe**

PRESENT SUBJUNCTIVE

بمانەوێ **bímânawe**   بمەوێ **bímawe**

بتانەوێ **bítânawe**   بتەوێ **bítawe**

بیانەوێ **bíyânawe**   بیەوێ **bíyawe**

</div>

When the complement, or logical object, of *wîstin* (i.e. what one wants) precedes the verb, the "subject" pronominal enclitics are usually attached to the complement, and the verb is the invariable 3rd-person singular *(d)awe* (negative *nâwe*). The full present "conjugation" of this construction is:

<div align="center">

AFFIRMATIVE   NEGATIVE

م دەوێ **-im dáwe**   مان دەوێ **-mân dáwe**   م ناوێ **-im nâwe**   مان ناوێ **-mân nâwe**

ت دەوێ **-it dáwe**   تان دەوێ **-tân dáwe**   ت ناوێ **-it nâwe**   تان ناوێ **-tân nâwe**

ی دەوێ **-î dáwe**   یان دەوێ **-yân dáwe**   ی ناوێ **-î nâwe**   یان ناوێ **-yân nâwe**

</div>

as in the following examples:

ئەوەم ئەوێ	*Awám awe.*	**I** want that.
ئەم شتانەی ناوێ	*Am shitânáy nâwe.*	**He** doesn't want these things.

All verbal complements of 'want' are in the subjunctive, as in the following paradigm of 'want to go':

دەمەوێ بچم	**dámawe bíchim**	دەمانەوێ بچین	**dámânawe bíchîn**
دەتەوێ بچیت	**dátawe bíchî(t)**	دەتانەوێ بچن	**dátânawe bíchin**
دەیەوێ بچێت	**dáyawe bíche(t)**	دەیانەوێ بچن	**dáyânawe bíchin**

Other examples are as follows:

ئەتەوێ نامەیەك بنووسی.	*Atawe nâmayèk binûsî.*	You want to write a letter.
ئەیەوێ کتاوێك بکڕی.	*Ayawe ktâwèk bikře.*	He wants to buy a book.
دەمانەوێ نامەیەك بنووسین.	*Damânawe nâmayèk binûsîn.*	We want to write a letter.
ئەتانەوێ پرسیارێك بکەن؟	*Atânawe pirsyârèk bikan?*	Do you (pl) want to ask a question?
نەیانەوێ دەرس بخوێنن.	*Náyânawe dars bikhwenin.*	They do not want to study.

Wîstin is conjugated as a transitive verb in the past (see §27 below).

§ 21. 'To Be Able.' The verb 'to be able' is توانــین *twânîn* (pres. stem توان *twân-*). *Twânîn* is regularly conjugated in the present, and it is necessarily followed by a subjunctive complement. Below is given the full present conjugation, affirmative and negative, of 'can/can't say':

دەتوانم بڵێم	**dátwânim bíłem**	دەتوانین بڵێین	**dátwânîn bíłeyn**
دەتوانیت بڵێیت	**dátwânî(t) bíłey(t)**	دەتوانن بڵێن	**dátwânin bíłen**
دەتوانێت بڵێت	**dátwâne(t) bíłe(t)**	دەتوانن بڵێن	**dátwânin bíłen**
ناتوانم بڵێم	**nâtwânim bíłem**	ناتوانین بڵێین	**nâtwânîn bíłeyn**
ناتوانیت بڵێیت	**nâtwânî(t) bíłey(t)**	ناتوانن بڵێن	**nâtwânin bíłen**

ناتوانیٚت بلیٚت **nâtwâne(t) bɫe(t)**   ناتوانن بلیٚن **nâtwânin bɫen**

The subjunctive is regularly formed: بتوانم *bítwânim,* بتوانیت *bítwânî(t),* بتوانیٚت *bítwâne(t), &c.*, negative subjunctive: نەتوانم *nátwânim,* نەتوانیت *nátwânî(t), &c. Twânîn* is conjugated as a transitive verb in the past (see §27 below).

§ 22. 'To Remember.' The idiom used for 'to remember' is لە بیر بوون *la bîr bûn*, literally "to be in the mind." The construction of the idiom, like the present of *wîstin*, depends upon whether or not there is preposed matter.

	NOTHING PREPOSED			WITH PREPOSED MATTER	
la bîrim a لە بیرمە	**la bîrmân a** لەبیرمانە	**-im la bîr a** ـم لە بیرە	**-mân la bîr a** ـمان لە بیرە		
la bîrit a لە بیرتە	**la bîrtân a** لەبیرتانە	**-it la bîr a** ـت لە بیرە	**-tân la bîr a** ـتان لە بیرە		
la bîrî a لە بیریە	**la bîryân a** لە بیریانە	**-î la bîr a** ـی لە بیرە	**-yân la bîr a** ـیان لە بیرە		

Simple 'I remember,' 'you remember,' &c. (without mentioning what one remembers) are لە بیرمە *la bîrim a,* لە بیرتە *la bîrit a*, &c. (negative لە بیرم نیە *la bîrim níya,* لە بیرت نیە *la bîrit níya*). However, if anything is preposed to the construction, that is, what one remembers, the enclitic pronouns are detached from *bîr* and attached to the preposed matter, as in the following:

ئەو رۆژانەم لە بیرە. *Aw rozhánám **la bîr** a.*   **I remember** those days.

Hence, the prepositional phrase is actually *-m la bîr*, where the complement to *la bîr*, *-(i)m,* has been preposed, or placed before the preposition. Other examples are the following:

ناوی لە بیر نیە. *Nâwimî **la bîr** níya.*   **He doesn't remember** my name.

وەڵامی پرسیارەکەت لە بیر *Waɫâm i pirsyârakát **la bîr** nábû.* نەبوو.   **You didn't remember** the answer to the question.

Other constructions involving *bîr* are *-î ba bîrâ hâtin* and *-î bîr kawtinawa* 'to remember,' all of which usually take preposed pronominal enclitics.

وات بە بیرا هات کە … *Wât ba bîrâ hât ka...*   Thus you remembered that…

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شتێكم هات به بیرا.	*Shitèkim hât ba bîrâ.*	I remembered something.
دایكیان كهوتهوه بیر.	*Dâykyân kawtawa bîr.*	They remembered their mother.
وهكوو شتێكیان بیر كهوتیتهوه.	*wakû shitèkyân bîr kawti-betawa*	as though they remembered something

and *la bîr chûn* 'to forget.'

ناوی ئهو پیاوهم له بیر چوو.	*Nâw i aw pyâwám la bîr chû.*	**I forgot** that man's name.
شتێكت له بیر چوو؟	*Shitèkit la bîr chû?*	**Did you forget** something?

§ 23. Pronominal Objects of Verbs. Direct-object pronouns of verbs in the present tense and the present subjunctive mood are normally enclitics attached to some part of the verbal conglomerate (i.e. the verb, any preverbal prefixes, compounding agent). Identical to the possessive enclitic pronouns, the direct-object pronouns are as follows:

AFTER CONSONANTS				AFTER VOWELS			
ـم	**-im**	ـمان	**-mân**	م	**-m**	مان	**-mân**
ـت	**-it**	ـتان	**-tân**	ت	**-t**	تان	**-tân**
ـی	**-î**	ـیان	**-yân**	ی	**-y**	یان	**-yân**

The enclitic pronouns are attached in the following order:

1. If the verb is compound, the pronoun object is added to the preverb:[1]

بانگم دهكهن.	*bângim dákan.*	They are calling **me**.
وهری دهگرین.	*warî dágirîn.*	We'll take **it** up.
ئهحمهد ههڵیان دهگرێ.	*Aḥmad haḷyân dágire.*	Ahmad will pick **them** up.
فێری ئهبم.	*ferî ábim.*	I'll learn **it**.

---

[1]A preverb may be (1) a noun like *bâng* 'call' as in *bâng kirdin* 'to call,' (2) an adjective like *âshkirâ* 'obvious' as in *âshkirâ kirdin* 'to clarify,' or (3) a directional element like *war* 'up' as in *war-girtin* 'to take up.'

2. If the verb is not compound, the pronoun object is added to the model prefix (*á-, dá-, bí-*) or the negative prefix (*nâ-, ná*):

دەیانبینێ.	*dáyânbîne.*	He'll see **them**.
دەتبینم.	*dátbînim.*	I'll see **you**.
نایناسم، نەیدەناسم.	*nâynâsim/náydanâsim.*	I don't know **him**.
نایکرم.	*nâykřim.*	I'm not going to buy **it**.
ئەمەوێ بیکرم.	*amawe bíykřim.*	I want to buy **it**.
هەز ئەکەم بینێرمەوه بۆ رەفیقێکم.	*Haz akam bíynerimawa bo rafîqèkim.*	I'd like to send **it** to a friend of mine.
روو بکەینه ولاتێك کەس نەماننناسێ.	*Rû bikaynà wiłâtèk kas namânnâse.*	Let's go to a country where nobody knows **us**.

§ 24. The Imperative. The singular imperative of verb stems ending in vowels is formed from *bí-* + the present stem. The plural imperative is exactly like the 2nd-person plural subjunctive. As in the subjunctive of close compound verbs, the *bí-* prefix is usually omitted; in open compounds it is generally found but may be omitted.

INFINITIVE	PRES. STEM	SINGULAR IMPERATIVE		PLURAL IMPERATIVE	
kirdin	**ka-**	بکە	**bíka**	بکەن	**bíkan**
royshtin	**ro-**	برۆ	**bíro**	برۆن	**bíron**
tawâw-kirdin	**tawâw-ka-**	تەواو (بـ)کە	**tawâw-(bi)ka**	تەواو (بـ)کەن	**tawâw-(bi)kan**

If the present stem ends in a consonant, the singular imperative is formed from *bí-* + present stem + *-a*. The plural imperative is identical to the 2nd-person plural subjunctive.

bûn	**b-**	ببه	**bíba**	بین	**bíbin**
chûn	**ch-**	بچه	**bícha**[1]	بچن	**bíchin**

_____

[1] In addition to *bícha, chûn* has several alternative imperatives, viz. بچۆ *bícho* and بچۆره *bíchora.*

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girtin	gir-	بگره **bígira**	بگرن **bígirin**
nûsîn	nûs-	بنووسه **bínûsa**	بنووسن **bínûsin**
gwe-girtin	gwe-gir-	کوێ (ب)گره **gwe-(bi)gira**	کوێ (ب)گرن **gwe-(bi)girin**
dâ-nîshtin	dâ-nîsh	دا(ب)نیشه **dâ-(bi)nîsha**	دا(ب)نیشن **dâ-(bi)nîshin**
wis-bûn	wis-b-	وس به **wis-ba**	وس بن **wis-bin**

Note the irregular singular imperatives of *birdin, dân, khistin,* and the totally irregular imperative of *hâtin*:

birdin	ba-	ببەره **bíbara**	ببەن **bíban**
dân	da-	بدەره **bídara**	بدەن **bídan**
khistin	kha-	بخەره **bíkhara**	بخەن **bíkhan**
hâtin	ye-	وەره **wára**	وەرن **wárin**

The *bí-* prefix of the imperative takes pronominal direct objects exactly like the subjunctive prefix:

به چاوی خۆت ببینه چۆن پیاوێکم!	*Ba châw i khot bímbîna chon pyâwèkim!*	See (**me**) with your own eyes what kind of man I am!
ببینه لەگەڵ خۆت!	*Bíyhena lagał khot!*	Bring **him/her/it** with you!

Imperatives are often preceded by the "attention-getting" particle دە *da*.

The negative imperative prefix is *má-*, which replaces *bí-* where it occurs.

مەگری! *Mágrî!*	Don't cry!
مەیبینه! *Máyhena!*	Don't bring it!
دامەنیشه! *Dâ-mánîsha!*	Don't sit down!

§ 25. The Simple Past (Intransitive). The simple past (preterite) of intransitive verbs is formed by adding unstressed personal suffixes to the past stem of the verb. The past stem is derived by deleting the *-(i)n* ending of the infinitive, e.g., *hâtin > hât-, bûn > bû-*.

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AFTER CONSONANTS		AFTER VOWELS	
-im	**-în**	**-m**	**-yn**
-î(t)	**-in**	**-y(t)**	**-n**
—	**-in**	—	**-n**

Examples of the simple past inflection are from هاتن *hâtin* 'to come,' بوون *bûn* 'to be,' گەيين *gayîn* 'to arrive' (int.), and مان *mân* 'to remain.'

hâtim هاتم	**hâtîn** هاتين	**bûm** بووم	**bûyn** بووين
hâtî(t) هاتيت	**hâtin** هاتن	**bûy(t)** وويت	**bûn** بوون
hât هات	**hâtin** هاتن	**bû** بوو	**bûn** بوون
gayîm گەيم	**gayîyn** گەييين	**mâm** مام	**mâyn** ماين
gayîy(t) گەييت	**gayîn** گەيين	**mây(t)** مايت	**mân** مان
gayî گەيى	**gayîn** گەيين	**mâ** ما	**mân** مان

The negative is formed by prefixing *ná-*:

náhâtim نەهاتم	**náhâtîn** نەهاتين	**nábûm** نەبووم	**nábûyn** نەبووين
náhâtî(t) نەهاتيت	**náhâtin** نەهاتن	**nábûy(t)** نەبوويت	**nábûn** نەبوون
náhât نەهات	**náhâtin** نەهاتن	**nábû** نەبوو	**nábûn** نەبوون
nágayîm نەگەيم	**nágayîyn** نەگەييين	**námâm** نەمام	**námâyn** نەماين
nágayîy(t) نەگەييت	**nágayîn** نەگەيين	**námây(t)** نەمايت	**námân** نەمان
nágayî نەگەيى	**nágayîn** نەگەيين	**námâ** نەما	**námân** نەمان

The *t* of the 2nd-person singular form is recovered if the verb has any suffixed ending like *-awa* or the directional suffix *-à*. For example, the verbs *hâtinawa* 'to come back' and *chûnà mâł* 'to go home' are conjugated as follows:

hâtimawa هاتمەوە	**hâtînawa** هاتينەوە	**chûmà mâł** چوومە مال	**chûynà mâł** چووينە مال
hâtîtawa هاتيتەوە	**hâtinawa** هاتنەوە	**chûytà mâł** چوويتە مال	**chûnà mâł** چوونە مال
hâtawa هاتەوە	**hâtinawa** هاتنەوە	**chûà mâł** چووە مال	**chûnà mâł** چوونە مال

§ 26. The Past Habitual/Progressive (Intransitive). The past habitual ('I used to go') and progressive ('I was going') is formed by adding the habitu-

al/progressive prefix *(d)á-* to the simple past.

dáhâtim دەهاتم	**dáhâtîn** دەهاتین	**dágayîm** دەگەیم	**dágayîyn** دەگەیین
dáhâtî(t) دەهاتیت	**dáhâtin** دەهاتن	**dágayîy(t)** دەگەییت	**dágayîn** دەگەین
dáhât دەهات	**dáhâtin** دەهاتن	**dágayî** دەگەی	**dágayîn** دەگەین

For past habituals in *á-*, the negative is formed by prefixing *ná-* to the affirmative, but, unlike the present, the negative prefix does not combine with the modal prefix:

náahâtim نەئەهاتم	**náahâtîn** نەئەهاتین	**náagayîm** نەئەگەیم	**náagayîyn** نەئەگەیین
náahâtî(t) نەئەهاتیت	**náahâtin** نەئەهاتن	**náagayîy(t)** نەئەگەییت	**náagayîn** نەئەگەین
náahât نەئەهات	**náahâtin** نەئەهاتن	**náagayî** نەئەگەی	**náagayîn** نەئەگەین

For past habituals in *dá-*, the negative is regularly formed by prefixing *ná-* to the affirmative:

nádahâtim نەدەهاتم	**nádahâtîn** نەدەهاتین
nádahâtî(t) نەدەهاتیت	**nádahâtin** نەدەهاتن
nádahât نەدەهات	**nádahâtin** نەدەهاتن
nádagayîm نەدەگەیم	**nádagayîyn** نەدەگەیین
nádagayîy(t) نەدەگەییت	**nádagayîn** نەدەگەین
nádagayî نەدەگەی	**nádagayîn** نەدەگەین

As in the present tense, in the Suleymani dialect the marker is *á-*, and it is used as both past habitual and past progressive; in other dialects the marker is *dá-*.

§ 27. The Simple Past (Transitive): The Ergative. The simple past tense of transitive verbs is formed from the past stem of the verb and an agent affix—the ergative construction.[1] The agent affixes are identical to the enclitic

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[1] In ergative-type constructions what we think of as the subject is the "agent" (or "logical subject") and what we think of as the direct object is the "patient" (for Sorani we will also call it "logical object"). In ergative languages that also have case, the agent is in an oblique case (and/or otherwise marked) and the patient is in the nominative (or subjective) case with the verb agreeing in number (and gender if applica-

possessive pronouns:

-mân مان	**-(i)m** م		
-tân تان	**-(i)t** ت		
-yân یان	**-î/-y** ی		

The agent affix usually precedes the verb and is attached to some preverbal matter (more about which shortly) to give the following "conjugation" of *khwârdin* 'to eat.'

-mân khwârd مان خوارد	**-im khwârd** م خوارد		
-tân khwârd تان خوارد	**-it khwârd** ت خوارد		
-yân khwârd یان خوارد	**-î khwârd** ی خوارد		

If only the verb is expressed, or only the verb and its logical subject, the agent affixes are added to the end of the past stem, as

khwârdmân خواردمان	**khwârdim** خواردم		
khwârdtân خواردتان	**khwârdit** خواردت		
khwârdyân خواردیان	**khwârdî** خواردی		

If anything other than the verb is expressed, then the agent is affixed to the first available preverbal matter—"available preverbal matter" includes the following categories in hierarchical order:

(1) the negative prefix, as in

ن‌ه‌**م**خوارد *ná**m**khwârd*	**I** didn't eat (it).
ن‌ه‌**ت**دیت *ná**t**dît*	**you** didn't see (him/her/it).

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ble) with the patient. In Kurmanji Kurdish, for example, where a distinction between independent subject and oblique pronouns has been retained, the subject pronoun for 'he' is *ew*, and the oblique 'him' is *wî*; the subject 'I' is *ez*, and the oblique 'me' is *min*. 'He saw me' in Kurmanji is *wî ez dîtim* (where *dîtim* agrees with the patient *ez*), and 'I saw him' is *min ew dît*. Sorani, having lost independent oblique pronouns, resorts to pronominal enclitics to express the agent. An oversimplification is to think of the ergative as a passive (e.g., 'the dog bit the man' expressed as 'by the dog the man was bit'), but it is important to realize that speakers of ergative-type languages by no means think of the construction as passive (particularly since Sorani Kurdish has a passive, see §34 below).

نەینووسی	*náynûsî*	**he** didn't write (it).

Full inflection of the negative past tense of *khwârdin* is as follows:

نەمخوارد	**námkhwârd**	نەمانخوارد	**námânkhwârd**
نەتخوارد	**nátkhwârd**	نەتانخوارد	**nátânkhwârd**
نەیخوارد	**náykhwârd**	نەیانخوارد	**náyânkhwârd**

(2) the progressive prefix, as in

دەمنووسی	*dámnûsî*	**I** was writing (it).
دەیبەست	*daybast*	**he** was tying (it).

Full inflection of the progressive past tense of *khwârdin* is as follows:

دەمخوارد	**dámkhwârd**	دەمانخوارد	**dámânkhwârd**
دەتخوارد	**dátkhwârd**	دەتانخوارد	**dátânkhwârd**
دەیخوارد	**dáykhwârd**	دەیانخوارد	**dáyânkhwârd**

(3) a compounding preverb as in

هەڵمگرت	*haɫimgirt.*	**I** took (it).
دەریهێنا	*darîhenâ*	**he** took (it) off/out.

Full inflections of the past tenses of *haɫ-girtin* 'to pick up' and *nâma-nûsîn* 'to write letters' are as follows:

هەڵمگرت	**haɫimgirt**	هەڵمانگرت	**haɫmângirt**
هەڵتگرت	**haɫitgirt**	هەڵتانگرت	**haɫtângirt**
هەڵیگرت	**haɫîgirt**	هەڵیانگرت	**haɫyângirt**
نامەم نووسی	**nâmam nûsî**	نامەمان نووسی	**nâmamân nûsî**
نامەت نووسی	**nâmat nûsî**	نامەتان نووسی	**nâmatân nûsî**
نامەی نووسی	**nâmay nûsî**	نامەیان نووسی	**nâmayân nûsî**

(4) the logical object (patient) of the verb, as in

نامەکەم نووسی.	*nâmakám nûsî.*	**I** wrote the letter.
ئەو کارەی نەکرد.	*aw kâráy nákird.*	**He** didn't do that.

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When the logical object is modified by the enclitic *-îsh/-ysh* 'too, also,' the enclitic comes between the logical object and the agent affix:

براكانى ژنهكهيشى بانگ كرد.	*birâkân i zhinakáyshî*	**He** invited his wife's
	bâng kird.	brothers also.

(5) a prepositional phrase other than temporal or manner,[1] as in

بۆ رەفیقێکیان نووسی.	*Bo rafîqèkyân nûsî.*	**They** wrote it to a friend.
به پێویستم زانی بیاننووسمهوه و	*Ba pewîstim zânî bíyân-*	**I** considered it necessary
چاپیان بکهم.	*nûsimawa u châpyân*	to write them down and
	bikam.	get them printed.

Generally speaking, the only things to which the agent affix cannot be joined are (1) the expressed logical subject to which the agent affix refers *(pyâwaká witî* 'the man said'), (2) temporal adverbs and phrases like 'today' and 'at that time,' and (3) prepositional phrases of manner (generally with the preposition *ba*) like به تـوورهئیـهوه *ba tûřaîawa* 'in anger,' به پهله *ba pala* 'in haste,' and به ههڵه *ba hała* 'in error.'

An overtly expressed logical subject in no way obviates the necessity for a third-person agent affix, but the agent affix cannot be attached to the logical subject.

كابرای پیر درهمهكانی وهرگرت.	*Kâbrâ i pîr diramakânî*	The old gent took the dir-
	wargirt.	hems.
كوڕهكان به منیان وت.	*Kuřakân ba minyân wit.*	The boys said to me.
من به كوڕهكانم وت.	*Min ba kuřakânim wit.*	I said to the boys.

Each and every transitive verb in the past tense must have its own agent affix, i.e. one agent affix cannot serve more than one verb. For example, in the phrase رووی كرد و گوتی *rûy kird u gutî* ('he faced him and said'), the first agent affix, *-y,* serves only the verb *rû-kird;* the second verb, *gut,* must also have an agent affix, and since there is no preposed matter, the affix is on the end of the verb.

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[1] Prepositional phrases with pronominal complements present a special problem. See §27.3 below.

When a phrase consists only of an expressed logical subject (agent), prepositional matter to which the agent affix cannot be attached, and verb, then the agent affix is attached to the verb:

کچەکە بە توورەییەوە وتی … *kichaká ba tûřaîawa witî*...   the girl said angrily…

§ 27.1. The Ergative in South Sorani. In North Sorani the past tense of all transitive verbs is made on the ergative model with agent affixes as described above. In South Sorani, however, a split has occurred. Generally, the ergative construction has been displaced by the non-ergative construction on the model of intransitive past verbs (and doubtlessly under the influence of Persian). However, the older ergative construction has remained for certain figurative expressions. Although the ergative is theoretically available for any past transitive verb, its use may produce a statement on the figurative plane that sounds "funny" or odd—i.e. a figurative use that really has no conventional application. For instance, the verb مـاڵ سـووتـن *mâł sûtin* 'to burn someone's house' may have an actual, literal application, as in

مالەکەی دارا سووتم *mâłaká i Dârâ sûtim*   I burned Dara's house down

or it may have a figurative application, as in

مالەکەی دارام سووت *mâłaká i Dârâm sût*   "I burned Dara's house"

but here, since it is ergative, it is figurative and really means "I ruined him," "I did him in." The verb نان خــــواردن *nân-khwârdin* 'to eat bread' may be either actually 'to eat (some) bread' or figuratively 'to break bread, have a meal, enjoy someone's hospitality.' On the actual level the past tense is *nân khwârdim*, as in

نان خواردم *nân khwârdim*   I ate bread.

while on the figurative level the past tense is *nânim khwârd*, as in

لەتەك ئێوە نانم خوارد *Latak ewa nânim khwârd.*   I broke bread with you (I enjoyed your hospitality).

North Sorani, with no such differentiation, expresses these two examples as

mâłaká i Dârâm sûtâ and *nânim khwârd* in all situations (*nân khwârdim* is meaningless in North Sorani).

§ 27.2. Pronouns as Logical Objects of Past Transitive Verbs. With past transitive verbs, when the agent affix precedes the verb, enclitic pronominal logical objects are attached to the past stem of the verb, but the enclitics used are the subject endings for the intransitive past,[1] as in the following paradigm of the verb *âgâ-kirdin* 'to inform' with the 3rd-person singular agent affix -*y*.

ئاگای کردم *âgây kirdim* he informed **me**   ئاگای کردین *âgây kirdîn* he informed **us**

ئاگای کردیت *âgây kirdî(t)* he informed **you**   ئاگای کردن *âgây kirdin* he informed **you**

ئاگای کرد *âgây kird* he informed **him/her**   ئاگای کردن *âgây kirdin* he informed **them**

A 3rd-person singular logical object is not overtly expressed with a pronominal suffix since it is implicit in the zero ending of the verb (as in the second example below).

نهمدیتی، نهمدیتیت *námdîtî(t)*	I didn't see you
نهمدیت *námdît*	I didn't see him/her/it
ههڵتگرتن *hałitgirtin*	you picked them up
نهماندیتن *námândîtin*	we didn't see you (pl)
دهتانکێشان *dátânkeshân*	you (pl) were pulling them

With a 3rd-person plural inanimate logical object, the verb optionally agrees in number with the logical object. In the example, کابرای پیر درهمهکانی وهرگرت *kâbrâ i pîr diramakânî wargirt* 'the old gent took the dirhems,' the verb could also be وهرگرتن *wargirtin* to agree with the plural logical object. Similarly, in the sentence

پیاویك کتاوهکانی کڕی (کڕین) *Pyâwèk ktâwakânî kŕî(n).*   A man bought the books.

the verb *kŕî* may agree with the plural logical object as *kŕîn*. With 1st- and

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[1] Another way of analyzing this pattern is to think of the past transitive verb *dît* as meaning "saw him/her/it." Similarly, *dîtim* means "saw me," *dîtî(t)* means "saw you." The logical subjects of these verbs must be expressed by agent affixes.

THE VERB

2nd-person logical objects and with animate 3rd persons, the verb perforce agrees with the object in both number and person.

When the agent affix does not precede the verb (i.e. if only the verb, or verb + logical subject, and no other element is present), the logical subject agent affix is suffixed to the verb first, and the logical object follows the agent affix **except for the 3rd-person singular agent**. When the logical subject is 3rd-person singular, the order is reversed: the logical object cedes the logical subject. In the table below are all available forms using *dîtin* 'to see' as an example; the logical objects are given in boldface. Again, a 3rd-person singular logical-object pronoun is not expressed; it is built into the verb.

	me	you	him/her	us	you	them
I saw	—	ديتمیت *dîtimî(t)*	ديتم *dîtim*	—	ديتمن *dîtimin*	ديتمن *dîtimin*
you saw	ديتم *dîtitim*	—	ديتت *dîtit*	ديتتين *dîtitîn*	—	ديتتن *dîtitin*
s/he saw	ديتمی *dîtimî*	ديتتی *dîtîtî*	ديتی *dîtî*	ديتينی *dîtînî*	ديتنی *dîtinî*	ديتنی *dîtinî*
we saw	—	ديتمانیت *dîtmânî(t)*	ديتمان *dîtmân*	—	ديتمانن *dîtmânin*	ديتمانن *dîtmânin*
you saw	ديتتانم *dîttânim*	—	ديتتان *dîttân*	ديتتانين *dîttânîn*	—	ديتتانن *dîttânin*
they saw	ديتيانم *dîtyânim*	ديتيانیت *dîtyânî(t)*	ديتيان *dîtyân*	ديتيانين *dîtyânîn*	ديتيانن *dîtyânin*	ديتيانن *dîtyânin*
	me	you	him/her	us	you	them
I didn't see	—	نەمديتيت *námdîtî(t)*	نەمديت *námdît*	—	نەمديتن *námdîtin*	نەمديتن *námdîtin*
you didn't see	نەتديتم *nátdîtim*	—	نەتديت *nátdît*	نەتديتين *nátdîtîn*	—	نەتديتن *nátdîtin*
s/he didn't see	نەيديتم *náydîtim*	نەيديتيت *náydîtî(t)*	نەيديت *náydît*	نەيديتين *náydîtîn*	نەيديتن *náydîtin*	نەيديتن *náydîtin*

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we didn't see	—	نەماندیتیت *námândîtî(t)*	نەماندیت *námândît*	—	نەماندیتن *námândîtin*	نەماندیتن *námândîtin*
you didn't see	نەتاندیتم *nátândîtim*	—	نەتاندیت *nátândît*	نەتاندیتین *nátândîtîn*	—	نەتاندیتن *nátândîtin*
they didn't see	نەیاندیتم *náyândîtim*	نەیاندیتیت *náyândîtî(t)*	نەیاندیت *náyândît*	نەیاندیتین *náyândîtîn*	نەیاندیتن *náyândîtin*	نەیاندیتن *náyândîtin*

In South Sorani the situation is altogether different. Since, with the few exceptions noted above, the ergative construction has been lost, transitive verbs are regularly conjugated exactly like intransitives, and pronominal objects are added directly to the end of the verb form—all on the Persian model. The normal forms for South Sorani are as follows (note that the normal South Sorani third-person plural ending is *-an* instead of *-in)*:

|	me	you	him/her	us	you	them
I saw	—	دیتمت *dîtimit*	دیتمی *dîtimî*	—	دیتمیان *dîtimtân*	دیتمیان *dîtimyân*
you saw	دیتیتم *dîtîtim*	—	دیتیتی *dîtîtî*	دیتیتان *dîtîtmân*	—	دیتیتیان *dîtîtyân*
s/he saw	دیتم *dîtim*	دیتت *dîtit*	دیتی *dîtî*	دیتمان *dîtmân*	دیتتان *dîttân*	دیتیان *dîtyân*
we saw	—	دیتینت *dîtînit*	دیتینی *dîtînî*	—	دیتینتان *dîtîntân*	دیتینیان *dîtînyân*
you saw	دیتنم *dîtinim*	—	دیتنی *dîtinî*	دیتنان *dîtinmân*	—	دیتنیان *dîtinyân*
they saw	دیتەنم *dîtanim*	دیتەنت *dîtanit*	دیتەنی *dîtanî*	دیتەنان *dîtanmân*	دیتەنتان *dîtantân*	دیتەنیان *dîtanyân*

§ 27.3. Pronominal Prepositional Complements with Agent Affixes. In past transitive verbs the space normally available for a preposed pronominal complement is taken by the agent affix. In this case, the preposition and its complement are split—the preposition precedes the verb, and the complement of the preposition is "bumped" to the end of the verb, but the pronouns

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used are the endings used for intransitive past verbs (*-im/-m, -î(t)/-y(t), —, -în/-yn, -in/-n, -in/-n*). Note especially that when the prepositional complement is 3rd-person singular, nothing is added to the verb stem. Since the past verb has built-in logical objects, these logical objects are used in such constructions as prepositional complements. The example

پرسیاریکمان لێ دەکا.   *Pirsyârèkmân le dakâ.*   He asks a question of us.

(present tense), can be viewed diagrammatically as follows:

| PRESENT TENSE | *Pirsyârek* | ***-mân le*** | *dákâ* |

prepositional phrase with
preposed complement
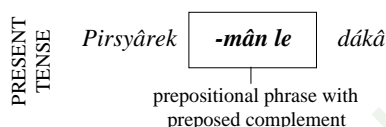
But in the past tense—'he asked a question of us'—the agent affix takes the place that would be occupied by the preposed complement to the preposition, so the complement of the preposition is removed to the end of the verb stem,

پرسیاریکی لێ کردین.   *Pirsyârèkî le kirdîn.[1]*   He asked a question of us.

| PAST TENSE | *Pirsyârek* | *-î* | ***le*** | *kird* | ***-în*** |

Agent   Prepositional
affix   phrase
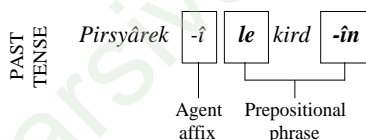
In another example,

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[1] Or, the incomplete sequence *pirsyârek-le-kird-* can be thought of as meaning "asked-a-question-of" and the personal ending *-în* supplies the "object" "us." Such an approach is probably closer to how native speakers "feel" all such constructions involving a preposition + verb. In the next example, *bo-nârd-* is certainly felt to mean "sent-to" and *-in* supplies the "object" "them." Even in the present-tense example *bo-dánerim* is felt to mean "I-am-sending-to" and the preposed *-yân* supplies the object "them." Native speakers do not seem to feel that *-yân bo* really "go together" as a coherent unit in any way separable from the verb; they think of *bo-dánerim* as the coherent unit and feel that the proper place to pause is between *-yân* and *bo*, not between *bo* and *dánerim*. To a certain extent, in the minds of native speakers *bo-nârdin* is not felt to differ substantially from *hał-girtin* or any other compound verb.

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ئەو کتاوانەیان بۆ دەنێرم.   *aw ktâwânáyân bo*   I'm sending those books to
          dánerim.   them.

the preposition *bo* has its complement *-yân* preposed:

$$aw\ ktâwâná\quad \boxed{\textbf{-yân bo}}\quad dánerim$$

prepositional phrase
with preposed complement

In the past, however, the agent affix *-(i)m* takes the place of the complement of the preposition. The complement is deferred to the end of the verb stem and is changed from *-yân* to *-in*, giving

ئەو کتاوانەم بۆ ناردن.   *aw ktâwânám bo nârdin.*   I sent those books to them.

$$aw\ ktâwâná\quad \boxed{-m}\quad \boxed{\textbf{\textit{bo}}}\quad nârd\quad \boxed{\textbf{-in}}$$

                agent   prepositional
                affix   phrase

When the first available element to which an agent affix can be attached is a preposition, the complement of the preposition is "bumped," as in the following:

دایکیان بۆی سوور کردنەوە و   *dâykyân boy sûr kirdin-*   their mother fried it for
بۆی دانان.   *awa u boy dâ-nân.*   them and set it down
                            before them.

agent affix

$$dâykyân\quad \boxed{\textbf{\textit{bo}}}\quad \boxed{-y}\quad sûr\ kird\quad \boxed{\textbf{-in}}\quad -awa$$

prepositional phrase

Here the *-y* on *boy* in both parts of the sentence is the agent affix referring to *dâykyân* and the *-in* in *kirdinawa* and *dâ-nân* furnishes the complement of the preposition *bo*. Another example is as follows:

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پارەکەی لێ گرتم و پێی وتم ... *pârakáy le girtim u pey witim...*   he took the money from me and said to me…
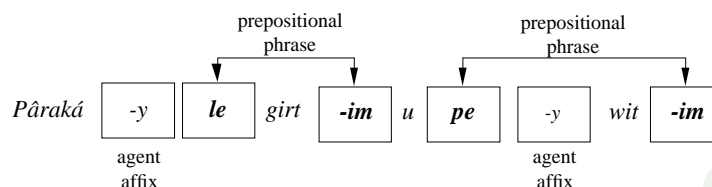
Here the *-y* on *pâraká* and on *pe* is the agent affix ('he'), and the *-im* suffix in the verbs *girt* and *wit* are complements to the prepositions *le* and *pe* respectively.

Other examples are as follows:

دەرگایان کردەوە بۆ من (بۆم) > دەرگایان بۆ کردمەوە	*dargâyân kirdawa **bo min** (**bom**) > dargâyân **bo** kirdim*awa	They opened the door **for me**.
پوولەکەی وەرگرت لێمە (لێمان)> پوولەکەی لێ وەرگرتین	*pûłakay wargirt **l' ema** (**lemân**) > pûłakay **le** wargirt**în***	He took the money **from us**.
ئەمەمان وت بە تۆ (پێت) > ئەمەمان پێ وتیت	*amámân wit **ba to** (**pet**) > amámân **pe** witî(t)*	We said this **to you**.
وتم پێت > پێم وتیت	*witim **pet** > **pe**m witî(t)*	I said **to you**.
قسەم کرد بۆ ئێوه (بۆتان) > قسەم بۆ کردن	*qsam kird **bo ewa** (**botân**) > qsam **bo** kird**in***	I told **you** a story.
گوێم گرت لەو (لێی) > گوێم لێ گرت	*gwem girt **l' aw** (**ley**) > gwem **le** girt*	I listened **to him**.
وتی بە ئەوان (پێیان) > پێی وتن	*witî **ba awân** (**peyân**) > **pe**y wit**in***	He said **to them**.

Since the ergative construction is not in normal use in South Sorani, the placement of these pronouns is quite the reverse of North Sorani. Therefore, while in North Sorani *pey witim* means 'he said to me,' in South Sorani it means 'I said to him.' *Bot kirdim* means 'you did it for me' in North Sorani but 'I did it for you' in South Sorani, and *bomân kirdin* means 'we did it for

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you/them' in North Sorani but 'you/they did it for us' in South Sorani.

§ 27.4. Displacement of a Possessive Pronoun by a Preposed Prepositional Complement.

Similar to the displacement of a prepositional complement by the agent affix is the displacement of a possessive pronoun by a preposed prepositional complement. In a construction such as the following:

چاوم به رەفیقەکانم کەوت.   *châwim ba rafîqakânim kawt.*   My eye fell upon my friends.

if the noun *rafîqakânim* is replaced by a pronoun, turning the phrase into *-yân pe*, the preposed prepositional complement "bumps" the possessive *-im* from its position on *châw* to the end of the verb, as:

چاویان پێ کەوتم   *châwyân pe kawtim*   my eye fell upon them

<div align="center">

prepositional
phrase

châw | *-yân pe* | *kawt -im*

modifies

</div>

The endings on the verb in such situations are the verbal personal endings, not the possessives. The first-person shows no difference, of course, but the other persons are distinguished, as in the following:

چاویان به من کەوت > چاوم پێ کەوتن   *châwyân ba min kawt > châwim pe kawtin*   their eye fell upon me

<div align="center">

châw | *-im pe* | *kawt -in*

modifies

</div>

In a combination of the principles given in this and the preceding paragraphs, when a possessive pronoun would be followed by an agent affix, the possessive pronoun may also be "bumped" to the end of a past transitive verb (turning into the intransitive past subject pronouns in the process), as in

کوڕە کۆرپەکەی دیتم.   *kuř a korpaká'y dîtim.*   He saw **my** infant son.

کوڕه کۆڕیەکەمان دیتیت. *kuř a korpaká'mân dîtî(t).*   We saw **your** infant son.

کوڕه کۆڕیەکانیان دیتین. *kuř a korpakân'yân dîtîn.*   They saw **our** infant sons.

The first example could also be expressed as کوڕه کۆڕیەکەمی دیت *kuř a korpa-kám'î dît*, but the combination of possessive pronoun + agent affix is generally avoided. Hence the "bumped" possessive.

§ 28. The Perfect Active Participle. The perfect active participle is formed by adding *-û* to the past stem of the verb. With past stems that end in vowels the participle takes the form *-w*.

CONSONANT STEMS		VOWEL STEMS	
INFINITIVE	PARTICIPLE	INFINITIVE	PARTICIPLE
هاتن **hâtin** >	هاتوو **hâtû**	مان **mân** >	ماو **mâw**
تێگەیشتن **te-gayshtin** >	تێگەیشتوو **tegayshtû**	روودان **rû-dân** >	رووداو **rûdâw**
کردنەوه **kirdinawa** >	کردووەوه **kirdûawa**	کڕین **křîn** >	کڕیو **křîw**

In meaning the perfect active participle corresponds roughly to the English present perfect participle: هاتوو *hâtû* 'having come,' تێگەیشتوو *tegayshtû* 'having understood,' کردووەوه *kirdûawa* 'having opened,' &c. Transitivity and intransitivity are retained in the participle, i.e. کڕیو *křîw* means 'having bought' in the active sense, not 'bought' in the passive sense. (For the perfect passive participle, see §34.1 below.)

The perfect active participle is principally used to form the present perfect tense (see §29 below), but it can also be used both adjectivally (پاشکەوتوو *pâshkawtû* 'fallen behind, backward,' دانیشتوو *dânîshtû* 'having sat down, seated,' and نوستوو *nustû* 'having gone to sleep, asleep') and nominally (رووداو *rûdâw* 'event' < روودان *rû-dân* 'to happen, take place').

§ 29. The Present Perfect Tense (Intransitive). The present perfect tense of intransitive verbs is formed from the perfect active participle plus the present copulas. Examples from مان *mân* 'to remain' (perfect active participle ماو *mâw*) and هاتن *hâtin* 'to come' (perfect active participle هاتوو *hâtû*) are:

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ماوم **mâwim**	ماوین **mâwîn**	هاتووم **hâtûm**	هاتووین **hâtûyn**
ماویت **mâwî(t)**	ماون **mâwin**	هاتوویت **hâtûy(t)**	هاتوون **hâtûn**
ماوه **mâwa**	ماون **mâwin**	هاتووه **hâtûa**	هاتوون **hâtûn**

The negative is formed by prefixing *ná-*

نه‌ماوم **námâwim**	نه‌ماوین **námâwîn**	نه‌هاتووم **náhâtûm**	نه‌هاتووین **náhâtûyn** &c.

Verbs ending in *-awa* are conjugated as follows. Note especially the infixed *-t-* in the 3rd-person singular.

ماومه‌وه **mâwimawa**	ماوینه‌وه **mâwînawa**	هاتوومه‌وه **hâtûmawa**	هاتووینه‌وه **hâtûynawa**
ماویته‌وه **mâwîtawa**	ماونه‌وه **mâwinawa**	هاتوویته‌وه **hâtûytawa**	هاتوونه‌وه **hâtûnawa**
ماوه‌ته‌وه **mâwatawa**	ماونه‌وه **mâwinawa**	هاتووه‌ته‌وه **hâtûatawa**	هاتوونه‌وه **hâtûnawa**

For general purposes, the present perfect tense of Kurdish is equivalent to the English present perfect ('I have come'). It is in all respects the exact equivalent of the Persian past narrative (هاتووم *hâtûm* = آمده‌ام and ماوه *mâwa* = مانده‌است), and this means that in Kurdish the present perfect is used in situations where an action or change of state in the past is felt to be of particular relevance to a present situation.

§ 29.1. The Present Perfect Tense (Transitive). The present perfect tense of transitive verbs is made from the agent affixes plus the past participle plus the 3rd-pers. pres. copula (*-a*), as in *khwardin* 'to eat' and *křîn* 'to buy.'

م خواردووه **-im khwârdûa**	مان خواردووه **-mân khwârdûa**
ت خواردووه **-it khwârdûa**	تان خواردووه **-tân khwârdûa**
ی خواردووه **-î khwârdûa**	یان خواردووه **-yân khwârdûa**
م کڕیوه **-im křîwa**	مان کڕیوه **-mân křîwa**
ت کڕیوه **-it křîwa**	تان کڕیوه **-tân křîwa**
ی کڕیوه **-î křîwa**	یان کڕیوه **-yân křîwa**

Verbs in *-awa* have a *-t-* inserted between the copula *a* and *-awa*, as in کردنه‌وه

kirdinawa 'to open' and دۆزینەوه *dozînawa* 'to discover.'

-im kirdûatawa	م کردووەتەوه	**-mân kirdûatawa**	مان کردووەتەوه
-it kirdûatawa	ت کردووەتەوه	**-tân kirdûatawa**	تان کردووەتەوه
-î kirdûatawa	ی کردووەتەوه	**-yân kirdûatawa**	یان کردووەتەوه
-im dozîwatawa	م دۆزیوەتەوه	**-mân dozîwatawa**	مان دۆزیوەتەوه
-it dozîwatawa	ت دۆزیوەتەوه	**-tân dozîwatawa**	تان دۆزیوەتەوه
-î dozîwatawa	ی دۆزیوەتەوه	**-yân dozîwatawa**	یان دۆزیوەتەوه

When nothing else is available to which the agent affixes may be joined, they fall on the participle and are followed by the 3rd-person singular copula -*a* (except the 3rd singular, which has the form -*yatî*[1]), as in خواردن *khwârdin* and کرین *křîn:*

khwârdûma	خواردوومه	**khwârdûmâna**	خواردوومانه
khwârdûta	خواردووته	**khwârdûtâna**	خواردووتانه
khwârdûyatî	خواردوویەتی	**khwârdûyâna**	خواردوویانه
křîwima	کریومه	**křîwmâna**	کریومانه
křîwita	کریوته	**křîwtâna**	کریوتانه
křîwyatî	کریویەتی	**křîwyâna**	کریویانه

When any other element is available, the agent affixes are joined thereto, as in the negative:

námkhwârdûa	نەمخواردووه	**námânkhwârdûa**	نەمانخواردووه
nátkhwârdûa	نەتخواردووه	**nátânkhwârdûa**	نەتانخواردووه
náykhwârdûa	نەیخواردووه	**náyânkhwârdûa**	نەیانخواردووه
námkřîwa	نەمکریوه	**námânkřîwa**	نەمانکریوه
nátkřîwa	نەتکریوه	**nátânkřîwa**	نەتانکریوه
náykřîwa	نەیکریوه	**náyânkřîwa**	نەیانکریوه

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[1] The same -*yatî* that results consistently from the 3rd-person singular enclitic -*î/-y* plus the 3rd-person singular copula. The spelling of this suffix is inconsistent. See §15 above.

§ 30. The Past Perfect Tense (Intransitive). For intransitive verbs with past stems ending in a consonant (like *hatin > hat-)*, the past perfect tense, which is functionally equivalent to the English past perfect ('I had come, you had gone'), is formed from the past stem + *i* + the past tense of *bûn* 'to be.' Verbs with past stems ending in a vowel (like *bûn > bû)* form the past perfect tense from the simple stem + the past tense of *bûn*.

هاتبووم **hâtibûm**		هاتبووین **hâtibûyn**	
هاتبوویت **hâtibûy(t)**		هاتبوون **hâtibûn**	
هاتبوو **hâtibû**		هاتبوون **hâtibûn**	
چووبووم **chûbûm**		چووبووین **chûbûyn**	
چووبوویت **chûbûy(t)**		چووبوون **chûbûn**	
چووبوو **chûbû**		چووبوون **chûbûn**	

The negative is formed by prefixing *ná-* to the verb:

نەهاتبووم **náhâtibûm**	نەهاتبووین **náhâtibûyn**	
نەهاتبوویت **náhâtibûy(t)**	نەهاتبوون **náhâtibûn**	
نەهاتبوو **náhâtibû**	نەهاتبوون **náhâtibûn**	

The past perfect of *bûn* 'to be' can be slightly irregular. In addition to the expected بووبوو *bûbû*, there is also a conjugation based on the form ببوو *bibû*, as follows:

ببووم **bibûm**	ببووین **bibûyn**	
ببووی، ببوویت **bibûy(t)**	ببوون **bibûn**	
ببوو **bibû**	ببوون **bibûn**	

The past perfect tense is commonly used in the expression *heshtâ* + negative past perfect + *ka* ('no sooner had…than,' 'scarcely had…when').

هێشـتا نەنوسـتبوو کە دەنگێکی بە *Heshtâ nánustibû ka*		**No sooner had he gone to**
گوێ گەیشت. *dangèk'î ba gwe gaysht.*		**sleep** than a sound
		reached his ear.

§ 30.1. The Past Perfect Tense (Transitive). The past perfect tense of

transitive verbs is formed, like that of intransitive verbs, from the past stem + *-i-* + the past tense of *bûn*—with the addition of the agent affixes somewhere. Past stems that end in vowels add *bû* directly without the *-i-*. Examples: *dîtin* and *dân:*

im dîtibû م دیتبوو	**mân dîtibû** مان دیتبوو	**im dâbû-** م دابوو	**mân dâbû** مان دابوو
it dîtibû ت دیتبوو	**tân dîtibû** تان دیتبوو	**it dâbû-** ت دابوو	**tân dâbû** تان دابوو
î dîtibû- ی دیتبوو	**yân dîtibû** یان دیتبوو	**î dâbû-** ی دابوو	**yân dâbû-** یان دابوو

As with all past transitives, if there is nothing else to which the agent affixes can be attached, they go onto the end of the verb form, as in

dîtibûm دیتبووم	**dîtibûmân** دیتبوومان	**dâbûm** دابووم	**dâbûmân** دابوومان
dîtibût دیتبووت	**dîtibûtân** دیتبووتان	**dâbût** دابووت	**dâbûtân** دابووتان
dîtibûy دیتبووی	**dîtibûyân** دیتبوویان	**dâbûy** دابووی	**dâbûyân** دابوویان

And if there is any available preverbal matter, the agent affixes are attached thereto, as in negative and compound verbs. Examples: *dîtin* and *dar-hênân.*

námdîtibû نەمدیتبوو	**námândîtibû** نەماندیتبوو
nátdîtibû نەتدیتبوو	**nátândîtibû** نەتاندیتبوو
náydîtibû نەیدیتبوو	**náyândîtibû** نەیاندیتبوو
darimhenâbû دەرمحینابوو	**darmânhenâbû** دەرمانهێنابوو
darithenâbû دەرتهێنابوو	**dartânhenâbû** دەرتانهێنابوو
darîhenâbû دەریهێنابوو	**daryânhenâbû** دەریانهێنابوو

§ 31. The Past Subjunctive. The intransitive past subjunctive is formed like the past perfect, but instead of the past tense of *bûn*, the present subjunctive of *bûn* is added. Examples: *hâtin* and *chûn:*

hâtibim هاتبم	**hâtibîn** هاتبین	**chûbim** چووبم	**chûbîn** چووبین
hâtibî(t) هاتبیت	**hâtibin** هاتبن	**chûbî(t)** چووبیت	**chûbin** چووبن
hâtibe(t) هاتبێت	**hâtibin** هاتبن	**chûbe(t)** چووبێت	**chûbin** چووبن

The negative is formed by prefixing *ná-* to the verb:

نەهاتم **náhâtibim**	نەهاتبین **náhâtibîn**	نەچووم **náchûbim**	نەچووین **náchûbîn**
نەهاتیت **náhâtibî(t)**	نەهاتن **náhâtibin**	نەچوویت **náchûbî(t)**	نەچوون **náchûbin**
نەهاتیٚت **náhâtibe(t)**	نەهاتن **náhâtibin**	نەچوویٚت **náchûbe(t)**	نەچوون **náchûbin**

Transitive verbs are similarly formed (here, as usual, a 3rd-person singular
patient is assumed). Examples: *dîtin* and *dân:*

ـم دیتیٚ **-im dîtibe(t)**	مان دیتیٚ **-mân dîtibe(t)**
ـت دیتیٚ **-it dîtibe(t)**	تان دیتیٚ **-tân dîtibe(t)**
ـی دیتیٚ **-î dîtibe(t)**	یان دیتیٚ **-yân dîtibe(t)**
ـم دابیٚ **-im dâbe(t)**	مان دابیٚ **-mân dâbe(t)**
ـت دابیٚ **-it dâbe(t)**	تان دابیٚ **-tân dâbe(t)**
ـی دابیٚ **-î dâbe(t)**	یان دابیٚ **-yân dâbe(t)**

If there is no preverbal matter available, the agent affixes are attached to the
verb, as follows in the examples *dîtin* and *kirdinawa:*

دیتبیٚتم **dîtibetim**	دیتبیٚتان **dîtibetmân**
دیتبیٚتت **dîtibetit**	دیتبیٚتتان **dîtibettân**
دیتبیٚتی **dîtibetî**	دیتبیٚتیان **dîtibetyân**
کردبیٚتمەوە **kirdibetimawa**	کردبیٚتمانەوە **kirdibetmânawa**
کردبیٚتتەوە **kirdibetitawa**	کردبیٚتتانەوە **kirdibettânawa**
کردبیٚتیەوە **kirdibetîawa**	کردبیٚتیانەوە **kirdibetyânawa**

And if there is any available preverbal matter, the agent affixes are attached
thereto, as in *dîtin* and *dar-henân:*

نەمدیتبیٚت **námdîtibe(t)**	نەماندیتبیٚت **námândîtibe(t)**
نەتدیتبیٚت **nátdîtibe(t)**	نەتاندیتبیٚت **nátândîtibe(t)**
نەیدیتبیٚت **náydîtibe(t)**	نەیاندیتبیٚت **náyândîtibe(t)**
دەرمحینابیٚت **darimhenâbe(t)**	دەرمانهیٚنابیٚت **darmânhenâbe(t)**
دەرتهیٚنابیٚت **darithenâbe(t)**	دەرتانهیٚنابیٚت **dartânhenâbe(t)**
دەریهیٚنابیٚت **darîhenâbe(t)**	دەریانهیٚنابیٚت **daryânhenâbe(t)**

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THE VERB

The past subjunctive is used (1) after all constructions that take subjunctive complements when the complement is in the past, as, for example

(a) after دهبێ *dábe* 'must,' as in

پیاوهکان دهبێ رۆیشتبن. *Pyâwakân dábe royshti-bin.*	The men must have gone.
دهبێ ئهو شتانهت دیتبێ (دیتبن). *Dábe aw shitânát dîtibe (dîtibin).*	You must have seen those things.

(b) for a past tense complement to a predicate adjective. Such complementary clauses are often introduced by the conjunction که *ka* 'that,' but it is optional.

رهنگه که باران باربێ (باریبێت). *Rang a ka bârân bârîbe(t).*	It's possible that it (has) rained.[1]
لازم نیه (که) دیتبێتم. *Lâzim niya (ka) dîtibetim.*	It's not necessary for me to have seen it.

(2) in past clauses after superlatives (note that a relative-clause antecedent modified by a superlative is in the indefinite state, …*èk*).

یهکهمین کهسێکه که ههولّی دابێ … *yekamîn kasèk a ka hawłî dâbe…*	He is the first person who has attempted…

In this type of clause the subject of the relative clause must be the same as the noun modified by the superlative. In an example such as

یهکهمین کهسێکه که دیتوومه *yekamîn kasèk a ka dîtûma*	he's the first person I've seen

the relative clause is not subjunctive because the subjects of the main clause ('he') and of the relative clause ('I') are different.

(3) in past relative clauses after negatives ('there isn't anyone who has …') or expressions with an essentially negative sense ('there are few who have…')

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[1]Compare this with the present subjunctive: رهنگه که باران ببارێت *rang a ka bârân bibâre(t)* 'it's possible that it will rain.'

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کەس نیــه کــه ئــەم کتــاوەی نەخوێندبێ.	*Kas niya (ka) am ktâwáy nákhwendibe.*	There isn't anyone who hasn't read this book.
کەم کەس هەیه حکایەته کۆن و لەمێژینەکانی کوردی لە دایەپیره و باب و دایــک و کــەس وکاری خۆی نەبیستبێ.	*Kam kas haya ḥikâyat a kon u lamezhînakân i kurdî la dâyapîra u bâb u dâyk u kasukâr i khoy nábîstibe.*	Rare is the person who has not heard old Kurdish stories of long ago from his grandmother, grandfather, mother, and relatives.

(4) after (وەکــوو) وەک *wak(û)* 'as though' in the past for hypothetical situations (note that *wak(û)* followed by the indicative means 'just as' for situations that have actually occurred)

وەکوو شتێکیان بیر کەوتبێتەوه...	*Wakû shitèkyân bîr kawti-betawa...*	As though they remembered something…[1]

(5) in the past protasis of a possible conditional

ئەگەر گیانی خۆم بەخت کردبێ لە پێناوی کوڕما، من هیچی کەم ناوێ.	*Agar gyân i khom bakht kirdibe la penâw i kuřim'â, min hîch i ka'm nâwe.*	If I have sacrificed my life for the sake of my son, I do not want anything else.

§ 32. The Irrealis Mood. The irrealis mood, which expresses an unfulfilled or unfulfillable contrafactual statement, usually dependent upon an unrealized conditional, is identical to the past habitual tense (*a-* or *da-* + past tense).

   (a) The irrealis is used in the apodosis of contrafactual conditionals (see §33 below) and expressions that are contrafactual apodoses with ellipsis, as in

نەمەتوانی هیچی تر بکەم.	*Namatwânî hîch i tir bikam.*	I couldn't have done anything else (even if I had wanted to).

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[1] This may be contrasted with وەکوو ئەهو شــتەیان بیر کەوت *wakû aw shitáyân bîr kawt* "just as they remembered that thing."

هەر کەسێ وای دەزانی. *Har kasè wây dazânî.*	Anybody would have known.

(b) The irrealis is used after خــــۆزگــــه *khozga* 'would that' for unfulfilled wishes in the past:

خۆزگه جاریکی تریش ئەهاتیت! *Khozga jârèk i tirîsh ahâtît!*	Would that you had come some other time!
خۆزگه زستان نەدەهات! *Khozga zistân nádahât!*	Would that winter had not come!

§ 33. The Past Conditional. There are two forms of the past conditional mood ('if I had gone,' 'had I gone'). The first past conditional mood is formed of the subjunctive prefix *bí-* (negative *ná-*) + the simple past conjugation + *-âya*.

INTRANSITIVE

بهاتمایه **bíhâtimâya**		بهاتینایه **bíhâtînâya**	
بهاتیتایه **bíhâtîtâya**		بهاتنایه **bíhâtinâya**	
بهاتایه **bíhâtâya**		بهاتنایه **bíhâtinâya**	

TRANSITIVE

م بنووسیایه **-im bínûsîâya**[1]		مان بنووسیایه **-mân bínûsîâya**	
ت بنووسیایه **-it bínûsîâya**		تان بنووسیایه **-tân bínûsîâya**	
ی بنووسیایه **-î bínûsîâya**		یان بنووسیایه **-yân bínûsîâya**	

The second past conditional is similarly formed, but the *bí-* prefix is optional, and instead of the personal endings + *-áya*, the verb is formed like the past subjunctive but based on *bâ-*, a variant of the subjunctive of *bûn*.

INTRANSITIVE

هاتبام، بهاتبام **(bí)hâtibâm**		هاتباین، بهاتباین **(bí)hâtibâyn**	
هاتبایت، بهاتبایت **(bí)hâtibây(t)**		هاتبان، بهاتبان **(bí)hâtibân**	

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[1] Or, if there is nothing preceding to which the agent affix can be attached, the forms are بمنووسیایه *bímnûsîâya,* بتنووسیایه *bítnûsîâya,* بینووسیایه *bíynûsîâya, &c.*

(**bí**)**hâtibân** هاتبان، بهاتبان   (**bí**)**hâtibâ(ya)** هاتبا(یه)، بهاتبا(یه)

TRANSITIVE

-**mân (bí)nûsibâ(ya)** مان بنووسبا(یه)   -**im (bí)nûsîbâ(ya)** م بنووسیبا(یه)

-**tân (bí)nûsibâ(ya)** تان بنووسبا(یه)   -**it (bí)nûsibâ(ya)** ت بنووسبا(یه)

-**yân (bí)nûsîbâ(ya)** یان بنووسبا(یه)   **î**- (**bí**)**nûsîbâ(ya)** ی بنووسیبا(یه)

The past conditional mood is used in the following instances:

(a) In contrafactual conditional sentences, the protasis (the 'if' clause) contains a verb in the past conditional mood, and in the apodosis (the result clause) the verb is in the irrealis. Note, as in the last three examples below, that *agar* may be elipsed from the protasis.

ئهگهر دوێنێ بهاتیتایه، ئازادت دهدیت.	*Agar dwene bíhâtîtâya, Âzâdit dádît.*	If you had come yesterday, you would've seen Azad.
ئهگهر نامهکهت بناردایه، ئهگهیی.	*Agar nâmakat bínârdâya, ágayî.*	If you had sent the letter, it would've arrived.
ئهگهر بتنووسیایه، له بیرت نهدهچوو.	*Agar bitnûsîâya, la bîrit nádachû.*	If you had written it, you wouldn't have forgotten it.
من ئهگهر بمزانیبایه ئهوهامان بهسهر دێ، ئهم ڕێگایهم نهدهگرتـه بهر و خـۆم و باوکیشـم تووشی ئهم ههموو بهدبهختی و مـاڵوێـرانیـیه نهدهکرد.	*Min agar bimzânîbâya awhâmân basar de, am regâyá'm nadagirtà bar u khom u bâwkîshimim tûsh i am hamû badbakhtî u mâłwerânîâ nadakird.*	If I had known that it would happen thus to us, I wouldn't have taken this road and I wouldn't have caused myself and my father to encounter all this misfortune.
ماڵ به ماڵ بگهڕایتایه، بێجگه له ئافرهت و مناڵ هیچ کهسـێکی ترت نهدهدی.	*Mâł ba mâł bígaŕâytâya, bejiga la âfrat u minâł hîch kasèk i tirit nádadî.*	Had you gone around house by house, you wouldn't have seen anyone other than women and children.

نهناسـیاوێك بیدیبان، به هـﻩر دووكيانى دهگوت چۆڵهكه.	*Nanâsyâwèk biydîbân, ba har dûkyânî dagut choła-ka.*	Were someone who didn't know to see them, he would call them both swallows.
بیوتایه برۆ لهو بهرزائیه خۆت بخه خوارهوه، خۆم دهخسـته خوارهوه.	*Biywitâya biro l' aw bar-zâîâ khot bikha khwâra-wa, khom dakhistà khwâ-rawa.*	Had he said, "Go throw yourself off that high place," I would have thrown myself off.

(b) The past conditional mood is used for past complements to شـاڵڵا *shâłłâ* ('I wish') and بريا *biryâ* ('would that,' functionally equivalent to *khozga* + ir-realis [see §32, above]) for unfulfilled wishes.

شـاڵڵا سـواری كهریكیشـیان بكردیتایه و كۆڵان به كۆڵانی شار بیانگێڕایتایه.[1]	*Shâłłâ swâr i karèkîshyân bíkirdîtâya u kołân ba kołân i shâr biyângeřây-tâya.*	I wish they had mounted you on an ass and paraded you through every street in town.
بريا ئهو كارهی نهكردبایه.	*Biryâ aw kâráy nakirdi-bâya.*	Would that he hadn't done that.

§ 34. The Passive Voice. The past passive stem is constructed from the present stem of a transitive verb + *-râ*. The present passive stem is the present stem + *-re-*. For example, from the stem *bîn* 'see' comes بینران *bînrân* 'to be seen,' بینرا *bînrâ* 'it was seen,' and دهبینرێت *dábînre(t)* 'it is/can be seen'; from the stem *ner* 'send' comes نێرران *nerrân*[2] 'to be sent,' نێررا *nerrá* 'it was sent,' and دهنـێـررێت *dánerre(t)* 'it is sent.' The past and present passives are regularly conjugated:

<div align="center">

PAST PASSIVE

</div>

بینرام	**bînrâm**	بینراین	**bînrâyn**	نێررام	**nerrâm**	نێرراین	**nerrâyn**
بینرایت	**bînrây(t)**	بینران	**bînrân**	نێررایت	**nerrây(t)**	نێرران	**nerrân**

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[1] *Bíyângerâytâya = bí* (subjunctive prefix) + *yân* (agent affix) + *gerâ* (verb stem) + *yt* (2nd-person singular patient suffix) + *âya* (conditional suffix).

[2] Since *rr = ř*, the verb *nerrân* is often written alternatively as نێران.

bînrâ بینرا	**bînrân** بینران	**nerrâ** نێررا	**nerrân** نێرران

PRESENT PASSIVE

dábînrem دەبینرێم	**dábînreyn** دەبینرێین	**dánerrem** دەنێررێم	**dánerreyn** دەنێررێین
dábînrey(t) دەبینرێیت	**dábînren** دەبینرێن	**dánerreyt** دەنێررێیت	**dánerren** دەنێررێن
dábînre(t) دەبینرێ	**dábînren** دەبینرێن	**dánerre(t)** دەنێررێت	**dánerren** دەنێررێن

The past perfect passive conjugation is regularly formed as a vowel stem ('I had been seen, I had been sent' &c.):

بینرابووم **bînrâbûm**		بینرابووین **bînrâbûyn**	
بینرابوویت **bînrâbûy(t)**		بینرابوون **bînrâbûn**	
بینرابوو **bînrâbû**		بینرابوون **bînrâbûn**	
نێررابووم **nerrâbûm**		نێررابووین **nerrâbûyn**	
نێررابوویت **nerrâbûy(t)**		نێررابوون **nerrâbûn**	
نێررابوو **nerrâbû**		نێررابوون **nerrâbûn**	

Irregular passives. Although the passive is regularly and predictably formed from the vast majority of verbs, the following common verbs have irregularly formed passives:

ACTIVE	PASSIVE
بیستن > *bîstin*	بیستران *bîstrân bîstre-,* as well as the regularly formed بیسران *bîsrân bîsre-*
دان > *dân*	دران *d(i)rân d(i)re-*
دیتن > *dîtin*	بیندران *bîndrân bîndre-,* as well as the regularly formed بینران *bînrân bînre-*
گرتن > *girtin*	گیران *gîrân gîre-*
گۆتن > *gotin*	گوتران *gutrân gutre-*
خستن > *khistin*	خران *khirân khire-*
خواردن > *khwârdin*	خوران *khurân khure-*
کردن > *kirdin*	کران *k(i)rân k(i)re-*

ناردن *nârdin* >	ناردران *nârdrân nârdre-,* نێردران *nerdrân nerdre-,* and the regularly formed نێرران *nerrân nerre-*	
نان *nân* >	نرا *n(i)rân n(i)re-*	
وتن *witin* >	وتران *witrân witre-*	

Other moods and tenses of the passive are regularly formed. All passive verbs are intransitive by definition and therefore never form their past tenses on the ergative model. Examples of passive constructions are as follows:

پێـویسـتـه ئـهم حكایـهتانـه بنووسرێنهوه و له چاپ درێن و بڵاو بكرێنهوه.	*Pewîst a am ḥikâyatâná binûsrenawa u la châp dren u biłâw bikrenawa.*	It is necessary that these stories be written down, printed, and published.
تـهنـهكـهیـهك له بـهر دوكانـهكه دانرابوو.	*Tanakayèk la bar dukâna-ká dâ-nrâbû.*	A can had been set down in front of the shop.

§ 34.1. The Past Passive Participle. The past passive participle is regularly formed from the past passive stem in *-râ + -w*, giving, for example, بــیــنراو *bînrâw* 'having been seen,' نێرراو *nerrâw* 'having been sent,' and نووسراو *nûs-râw* 'having been written.' The negative participle is regularly made by prefixing *ná-* (نهبـیـنراو *nábînrâw* 'not having been seen,' نهنێـرراو *nánerrâw* 'not having been sent').

From the past passive participle is made the present perfect passive conjugation ('I have been seen, I have been invited,' &c.):

بینراوم **bînrâwim**		بینراوین **bînrâwîn**	
بینراویت **bînrâwî(t)**		بینراون **bînrâwin**	
بینراوه **bînrâwa**		بینراون **bînrâwin**	
بانگ كراوم **bâng krâwim**		بانگ كراوین **bâng krâwîn**	
بانگ كراویت **bâng krâwî(t)**		بانگ كراون **bâng krâwin**	
بانگ كراوه **bâng krâwa**		بانگ كراون **bâng krâwin**	

Examples of passive constructions:

وتوو كردن *witû-kirdin* 'to iron' >	وتوو كران *witû-kirân* 'to be ironed'

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ریز لێگرتن *rez le-girtin* 'to respect' >	ریز لێگیران *rez le-gîrân* 'to be respected'
نووسینه‌وه‌ *nûsînawa* 'to write down' >	نووسرانه‌وه‌ *nûsrânawa* 'to be written down'

به‌رگه‌ پاك و ته‌میزه وتووكراوه‌كه‌ی *barg a pâk u tamîz a **witû-kirâw**akáy*	his nice, clean, **ironed** clothes
پیاوێکی به‌رزی ریزلێگیراو *pyâwèk i barz i **rezlegîrâw***	an eminent, **respected** man
زۆربه‌ی زۆری ئه‌م حكایه‌تانه‌ نه‌نووسراونه‌وه‌. *Zorba i zor i am ḥikâya-tâná **nanûsrâwinawa**.*	The vast majority of these stories **have not been written down**.

§ 35. Postposed Verbal Complements. With verbs of motion many verbal complements are postposed, i.e. they come after the verb and are linked it by the unstressed vowel *à*. For example, *chûn* is 'to go,' but *chûnà mâłè* is 'to go home.' The linking vowel occurs in all persons in all tenses. In the present tense the *t* inherent in the 2nd and 3rd persons singular is recovered before the *à*. An example of the present tense is that of *chûnà mâłè:*

ده‌چمه مالێ **dáchimà mâłè**	ده‌چینه مالێ **dáchînà mâłè**
ده‌چیته مالێ **dáchîtà mâłè**	ده‌چنه مالێ **dáchinà mâłè**
ده‌چێته مالێ **dáchetà mâłè**	ده‌چنه مالێ **dáchinà mâłè**

In the past tenses, the linking *à* also comes between the verb and its comple-ment. The *t* inherent in the 2nd person singular is always recovered. An ex-ample of the paradigm for verbs with consonant-final stems is *hâtinà darè*, 'to come out.'

هاتمه ده‌رێ **hâtimà darè**	هاتینه ده‌رێ **hâtînà darè**
هاتیته ده‌رێ **hâtîtà darè**	هاتنه ده‌رێ **hâtinà darè**
هاته ده‌رێ **hâtà darè**	هاتنه ده‌رێ **hâtinà darè**

In 3rd-person singular past verbs ending in -*û* and -*î*, a *t* may be infixed (de-pending upon dialect) between the verb and the linking *à*, as in *chûnà shâ-rawa* 'to go to town' and *gayînà mâława* 'to reach home.'

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چوومه شارەوه **chûmà shârawa**	چووینه شارەوه **chûynà shârawa**
چوویته شارەوه **chûytà shârawa**	چوونه شارەوه **chûnà shârawa**
چووته شارەوه **chûtà shârawa**[1]	چوونه شارەوه **chûnà shârawa**
کەیمه مالهوه **gayîmà mâława**	کەیینه مالهوه **gayîynà mâława**
کەییته مالهوه **gayîytà mâława**	کەیینه مالهوه **gayînà mâława**
کەییته مالهوه **gayîtà mâława**	کەیینه مالهوه **gayînà mâława**

In past verbs that end in *-â*, a *y* is infixed between the verb and the linking *à*, as in *dânà yek* 'to throw together':

دامه یەك **dâmà yek**	دامانه یەك **dâmânà yek**
داته یەك **dâtà yek**	داتانه یەك **dâtânà yek**
دایه یەك **dâyà yek**	دایانه یەك **dâyânà yek**
م دایه یەك **-im dâyà yek**	مان دایه یەك **-mân dâyà yek**
ت دایه یەك **-it dâyà yek**	تان دایه یەك **-tân dâyà yek**
ى دایه یەك **-î dâyà yek**	یان دایه یەك **-yân dâyà yek**

With verbs in *-awa*, the *-awa* suffix takes precedence over the directional *-à*, which is deleted. Compare the following:

هاتمه هۆش *Hâtimà hosh.*	I came to consciousness.
هاتمهوه هۆش *Hâtimawa hosh.*	I regained consciousness.

When a postposed directional complement is turned into a preposed pronominal enclitic, the directional *-à* becomes *-è*.

ئەیەوێ بگاته شار > ئەیەوێ *Ayawe bigâtà shâr* >	He wants to get **to town** >
بیگاتێ *Ayawe biygâtè.*	He wants to get **to it**.
هــەرگیز ناگــەمــه ئــهو کــێــوه *Hargîz nâgamà aw kew a*	I'll never make it **to those**
دوورانه > نایانگهمێ *dûrâná* > *nâyângamè.*	**far-away mountains** >
	I'll never make it **to**
	them.

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[1] چووه شارەوه *Chûà shârawa* also exists in some regions.

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This also happens occasionally with the verb دان بـــــه *dân ba* 'to give to,' in which case the preposition *ba* is deleted, its place taken by the directional -*è*. A full conjugation of this phenomenon is illustrated by the following:

ئەمەت دەدەمێ **ama't dadamè** 'I'll give this to you'

ئەمەم دەدەیتێ **ama'm dadaytè** 'you'll give this to me'

ئەمەیان دەداتێ **ama'yân dadâtè** 's/he'll give this to them'

ئەمەی دەدەینێ **ama'y dadaynè** 'we'll give this to him/her'

ئەمەمان دەدەنێ **ama'mân dadanè** 'you'll give this to us'

ئەمەتان دەدەن **ama'tân dadanè** 'they'll give this to you (pl)'

Examples:

شتێك بە سۆالکەرەکان بدات < شتێکیان بداتێ	*Shitèk **ba suâlkarakân** bídât > Shitèk**yân** bídâtè.*	Let him give something **to the beggars** > Let him give **them** something.
شتێکم بەو پیاوه دا < دامێ	*Shitèkim **b' aw pyâwá** dâ > dâ**mè***	I gave something **to that man** > I gave it **to him**.
ده دراوم بدەرێ.	*Da dirâw**im** bidarè.*	Give **me** ten dirhems.
ده هەزار لیرەت دەدەمێ.	*Da hazâr lîrat dadamè.*	I'll give **you** ten thousand liras.

§ 36. Factitive Verbs. The factitive infinitive is formed from the present stem of the intransitive (if the intransitive stem ends in -*e*, it is dropped) + -*(y)ândin*. The present stem of all such verbs is in -*(y)en-*. Examples are:

روخان *rukhân* (pres. stem *rukhe-)* 'to be destroyed' >	روخاندن *rukhândin rukhen-* 'to destroy'
مردن *mirdin* (pres. stem *mir-)* 'to die' >	مراندن *mirândin miren-* 'to make die, to kill'
گەیشتن *gayshtin* (pres. stem *ga-)* 'to reach' >	گەیاندن *gayândin gayen-* 'to make reach, to deliver'
تێ گەیشتن *te-gayshtin* (pres. stem *te-ga-)* 'to understand' >	تێ گەیاندن *te-gayândin te-gayen-* 'to make understand'

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THE VERB

رێوی خێرا راكێشا و خۆی مراند.	*rewî kherâ râkeshâ u khoy mirând.*	The fox quickly stretched out and played 'possum ("made himself dead").
لاوهكان خۆیان گهیاندئ.	*lâwakân khoyân gayândè.*	The youths got themselves to him.
ئهگهر حهزم لهم هاتنه نهكردایه، دهمـتـوانی بـه جـۆرێك تیـی بگهینم.	*agar ḥazim l' am hâtiná nakirdâya, damtwânî ba jorèk tey bigayenim.*	If I hadn't wanted to come on this trip, I could have made him understand somehow.

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OTHER SYNTACTICAL FEATURES

§ 37. Expressions of Temporal Duration. For statives ('X state has been going on for X amount of time'), the Kurdish temporal expression consists of: the temporal + -*(y)a* + present perfect tense verb:

چەند سـاڵێکه باسی چۆنێتی یەکگرتنی شــێـوەکانی زمـانی کوردی هاتووەتە گۆڕێ.	*Chand sâłèk **a** bâs i cho-netî i yekgirtin i shewa-kân i zimân i kurdî **hâtû-atà gořè**.*	For several years now dis-cussion of how to unite the dialects of the Kurd-ish language has come to the fore.
چەند ساعەتیکه لێرە نیشتوومه.	*Chand sâ'atek **a** l' era **nîshtûma**.*	I've been sitting here for several hours.

For present statives with the verb 'to be' ('he's been here for X amount of time') the formula is: temporal + -*(y)a* + present copula:

چوار ساڵه لێرەیه.	*Chwâr sâł **a** l'era **ya**.*	He's been here for four years.

For on-going, progressive action continuing to the present ('it's been rain-ing for X amount of time') the formula is: temporal + -*(y)a* + present pro-gressive verb.

چەند رۆژێکه باران دەباریٚ.	*Chand rozhèk **a** bârân **dabâre**.*	It's been raining for sever-al days.
زۆر له مێژووه دەزانم ...	*Zor la mezhû **a dazânim**...*	I've known for a very long time…

For negatives ('I haven't done X for X amount of time') the formula is: temporal + -*(y)a* + negative present perfect verb.

چوار ساڵه نەماندیتوونه.	*Chwâr sâł a námândîtûna.*	We haven't seen them for four years.
چەند رۆژێکه باران نەباریوه.	*Chand rozhèk a bârân nábârîwa.*	It hasn't rained for several days.

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For the past ('something had been going on for X amount of time'), the formula is: temporal + *(da)bû* + past progressive for affirmative or past perfect for the negative ('I hadn't done X for X amount of time'):

چــەنــد رۆژیـك دەبـوو باران دەباری.	*Chand rozhèk dabû bârân dabârî.*	It had been raining for several days.
چــەنــد رۆژیـك بـوو باران نەباریبوو.	*Chand rozhèk bû bârân nábârîbû.*	It hadn't rained for several days.
نزیکەی سێ چوار مانگ دەبوو نەمدیتبوو.	*Nizîka i se–chwâr mâng dabû namdîtibû.*	I hadn't seen him for nearly three or four months.
زۆر لە مێژوو بوو دەمزانی ...	*Zor la mezhû bû damzânî...*	I had known for a long time that…

§ 38. Subordinating Conjunctions. Subordinating conjunctions generally consist of prepositions + *awaî (ka),* where the relative *ka*, as in relative clauses (see §39), is optional.

Conjunctions that mean 'after,' like دوای ئەوەی کە *(la) dwâîâ ka,* لە دوائیا کە *dwâ i awaî ka,* and لە پــاش ئــەوەی کــە *(la) pâsh awaî ka,* are followed by an indicative verb, present or past according to sense.

لەدوائیاکە چاك ئەبیتەوە ئەیبینی.	*la dwâî'â ka châk abîtawa, aybînî.*	After you are well again, you'll see him.
دوای ئەوەی کە شار خرۆشا	*dwâ i awaî ka shâr khiroshâ, ...*	After the city was thrown into an uproar, …

Conjunctions that mean 'before' (بەر لەوەی کە *bar l' awaî ka,* پێش ئەوەی کە *pesh awaî ka*) are invariably followed by a present subjunctive verb. The correct tense for English translation is gained from context.

بەر لەوەی لافاوەکە هورژم بێنێتە سـەر ژوورەکانمـان منـاڵـەکان پێکەوە یاریان ئەکرد.	*bar l' awaî lâfâwaká hurizhm **benet**à sar zhûrakânmân, minâłakân pekawa yârîyân akird.*	Before the torrent **hurled** down on our rooms, the children were playing together.

Other conjunctions that demand a subjunctive verb include *ba be awaî (ka)* 'without'

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به بێ ئەوەی بیبینم دەمزانی که...	*ba be awaî biybînim, dámzânî ka...*	**Without my seeing it**, I knew that…

and (که) *bo awaî (ka)* بۆ ئەوەی 'in order that'

ئەو یەکەم رۆژی بۆ خۆراهێنان، بۆ مەشق دانابوو، بۆ ئەوەی پێ و پلـمان رابێـت و لە هـەمـوو روویێکەوه خۆمان بۆ ئەو ریگه دوور و دریژه ئاماده بکەین.	*aw yekam rozh'î bo khorâhenan, bo mashq dânâbû, bo awaî pe u pilmân râbet u la hamû rûyèkawa khomân bo aw rega dûr u drezhá âmâda bikayn.*	He had set that first day for getting ourselves accustomed, for practice, **in order that** our legs and feet **become accustomed** and that **we make** ourselves ready in every way for that long road.
بۆ ئەوەی پاکی و بێگوناهی خۆی بسەڵمێنێ...	*bo awaî pâkî u begunâhî i khoy bisałmene...*	**in order that he prove** his innocence…

A short list of common subordinating conjunctions:

بەو مەرجەی (که)	*b' aw marjáî (ka)* provided that, on condition that (+ subj.)
به بێ ئەوەی (که)	*ba be awaî (ka)* without (+ pres. subj.)
بەر لەوەی (که)	*bar l' awaî (ka)* before (+ pres. subj.)
بو ئەوەی (که)	*bo awaî (ka)* in order that (+ pres. subj.)
چونکوو	*chunkû* since
دوای ئەوەی (که)	*dwâ i awaî (ka)* after
جا که	*jâ ka* inasmuch as
که	*ka* when
کاتێ، کاتیك	*kâtè(k)* when
پاش ئەمەی/ئەوەی (که)	*pâsh amaî/awaî (ka)* after
پێش ئەوەی (که)	*pesh awaî (ka)* before (+ pres. subj.)

§ 39. Relative Clauses. Relative clauses in Kurdish are often, but not necessarily, introduced by the relative pronoun *ka* 'who, which, that.' Syntactically Kurdish relative clauses do not differ significantly from Persian relative clauses, with the exception of the omission of the relative pronoun,

which does not happen in Persian. The antecedent of any relative pronoun, expressed or omitted, is usually but not necessarily marked by enclitic *-î, -e,* or *-èk.* Generally speaking, the relative pronoun *ka* may be omitted, particularly when it functions as the object of the verb in the relative clause. The relative pronoun is not often omitted when it functions as the subject (logical or real) of the verb in the relative clause—as in English ('the man whom I met' and 'the man with whom I went' may be equally well expressed as 'the man I met' and 'the man I went with,' but 'the man who came' cannot become *'the man came').

If the syntactical function of the relative pronoun within the relative clause is other than subject of the verb, the grammatical place is marked within the clause by a "referent pronoun" that refers back to the relative. The verb inside a relative clause modifying a true indefinite or nonspecific antecedent is in the subjunctive, as in Persian. Examples follow.

سەری کوڕەکەی کە نوستبوو لە سەر رانی برد.	*sar i kuřakáî **ka nustibû**, la sar rânî bird.*	She took the head of the boy, **who had fallen asleep**, from her lap.

In this example the relative pronoun *ka* functions as the subject of *nustibû*—and is therefore not omissible—and the antecedent is marked by *-î.*

یەکێك لە لاوەکان کە بۆ فرۆشتی بەرهەم چووبووە شار گەڕایەوە و مزگێنی پێ دان.	*yekèk la lâwakân, **ka bo froshtin i barham chûbûà shâr**, gaŕâyawa u mizgenî pe dân.*	One of the young men, **who had gone to town to sell produce**, returned and gave them the good news.

Here the relative pronoun *ka* refers to the antecedent *yekèk la lâwakân.* The *-èk* ending on *yekèk* functions as the marker of the antecedent.
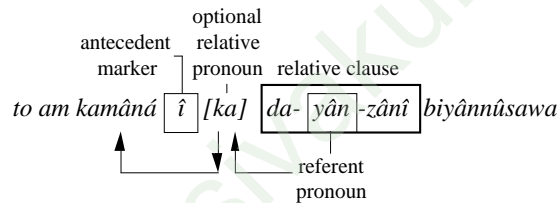
لات وا نەبێ هەر عەرەبێ تۆ تووشی بیت ئەم ناوانە گش دەزانێ.	*lât wâ nabe har 'arabè to tûshî bît, am nâwâná gish dazâne.*	Don't think every Arab you meet knows all these names.

optional
relative
pronoun   relative clause

lât wâ nabe har arabe [ka]   *to tûsh-* î *bît*   *am nâwâná gish dazâne*
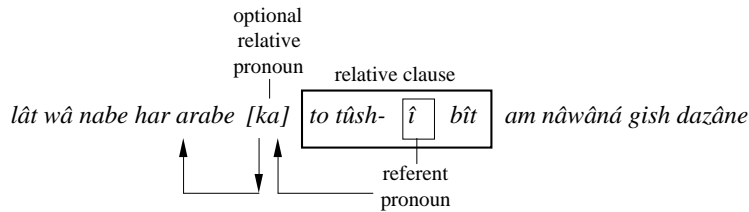
referent
pronoun

In this example the referent pronoun *-î* complementing *tûshî* refers to the antecedent, *har arab*, marked with the enclitic *-e*. The relative pronoun is omitted. The verb *tûsh-bît* is in the subjunctive because the antecedent is nonspecific and the clause is hypothetical ('any and every Arab you may meet'[1]).

تـۆ ئـهم کـهمـانـهی دهیانـزانی *to am **kamânáî dayânzânî**,* Write down these few
بیاننووسهوه. *biyânnûsawa.*   **things you know**.

optional
antecedent relative
marker   pronoun relative clause

to am kamâná î *[ka]* *da-* yân *-zânî* *biyânnûsawa*

referent
pronoun

In this example the referent pronoun *-yân* in *dayânzânî* refers to the antecedent *am kamâná*, which is marked as antecedent by *-î* without the relative pronoun. The *-yân-* in *biyânnûsawa* is a resumptive object pronoun, which, strictly speaking, is optional since the object of *binûsawa* has already been stated (*am kamâná*). Such resumptive object pronouns are often used after a relative clause to make clear that the antecedent of the relative clause is actually the object of the main verb.

لهوانـهی گـلـهی لـێ کـردوون *l' awânaî gilay le kirdûn,* It is different from those
جیاوازه. *jyâwâz a.*   things he has complained of.

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[1] Compare the hypothetical subjunctive clause with the actual هـهر عـهرهێ مـن تووشی بـــوومـــه *har 'arabè min tûshî bûma* "every Arab I've met," where the antecedent is definite and the verb of the relative clause describes something that has actually happened.

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Here the referent pronoun *-n*, the "bumped" complement of the preposition *le*, refers to the antecedent *awâna*, which is so marked by *-î* without the relative pronoun.

زۆری له خۆی ئهکرد که ئهو دوو فرمێسکه گهورهیهی ئهیانهوێ بکهونه خوارێ بیانشارێتهوه.	*zorî la khoy akird ka aw dû firmesk a gawrayâî ayânawe bikawinà khwârè biyânshâretawa.*	He was forcing himself to hide those two large tears, which were about to dribble down.

In this example the antecedent of the relative clause, *dû firmesk a gawrayá*, is marked by *î*, and the relative pronoun is omitted. The *-yân-* in *biyân-shâretawa* is another example of a resumptive object pronoun.

بیرم له ههر شتێك کردبێتهوه، بیرم له مردن نهمکردبووهوه.	*bîrim la har shitèk kirdi-betawa, bîrim la mirdin namkirdibûawa.*	Whatever I had thought about, I hadn't thought about dying.

In this example, ههر شتێك *har shitèk* 'whatever' produces an indefinite relative clause; thus the verb *bîrim kirdibetawa* is subjunctive, and in this case, past subjunctive.

§ 40. Directional Nouns in *è*. Certain nouns become quasi-adverbial directionals with the addition of unstressed *-è*. Among these are مالێ *mâłè* 'homeward,' ژوورێ *zhûrè* 'inward,' and دهرێ *darè* 'outward.' These directionals tend to occur as postposed directionals after *-à* (see §35).

§ 41. Orthographic Peculiarities of Sorani Kurdish. For the most part, Sorani Kurdish is written in a "phonetic" version of the Arabic alphabet in which all but one of the vowels are given graphic representations. Only the vowel *i* is not represented internally in a word.

The only real inconsistency in the writing system is the representation of the sequence *ye*, which is written ـیــ, as though it were *ya*, which is written the same. Both the writing of *ye* and the lack of indication of *i* go back to early twentieth-century attempts to render Ottoman spelling more "phonetic" and actually have nothing to do with Kurdish, but since Kurdish spelling was devised during the late Ottoman period, it has been saddled with ـیــ for *ye* and nothing for *i*.

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Writers of Kurdish, as well as writers of other languages using the Arabic alphabet, are loathe to write several *y*'s in sequence. It is probably safe to say that a word like *gayîyn* 'we arrived,' which technically should be spelled گەیـیـین, with three *y*'s in a row (one for the first *y,* a second for the *î,* and a third for the second *y)*, will never be seen with all three *y*'s. At most it will appear as گەیین, the same spelling as *gayîn* 'you/they arrived.' The same applies to the sequence *-î i,* i.e. a word ending in *î* followed by the *i* of the *izâfa:* rarely is this sequence spelled with two *y*'s; generally the *-î* ending of the word is spelled with *y* and the *izâfa y* is omitted, as in

بۆ دلنەرمی ئەوانه	*bo diłnarmî i awâna*	for placating them
حکایەت ئەندازه و بارستـایی دیاریکراوی نیه.	*ḥikâyat andâza u bâristâî i dyârîkrâwî niya.*	A story does not have a clearly defined size or length.

In the reading passages occasionally a *zer* vowel point has been inserted under the *y* (ی) to indicate the missing vowel of the *izâfa.*

The same applies to the sequence *îy,* where a word ends in *î* and is followed by the 3rd-person singular pronominal enclitic (possessive or agent affix). Occasionally the sequence is spelled in full with the correct number of *y*'s, but normally only one *y* is written. This is particularly true when there would be three *y*'s, as in

مالٹاوایی لە خەلك کرد. *mâłâwâîy la khałk kird.*   He bade farewell to the people.

The sequence *îa,* as in *tânjîaká* 'the hunting dog,' is written as either تانجی یەکه or تانجیەکه, as though the sequence were *î-ya.* The sequence *îèk,* given the orthographic peculiarity of the *-ek* suffix after vowels, may be written as *îek* or as *îyek,* as in *tânjîèk* 'a hunting dog,' which can be written either as تانجی یەك or more commonly as تانجییك.

There is also no unanimity among writers of Kurdish with regard to the writing of compound words. Some put all the elements together, and others leave each element separate. Thus, *diłnarmî* is spelled either دلنـــــــەرمی or دلنەرمی, and *dyârîkrâw* is either دیاریکراو or دیاریکراو. This is rarely troubling to the reader, but the longer compounds like سەرنجراکێش *sarinjřâkesh* 'attrac-

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tive' become, the more difficult they become to recognize.

§ 42. Vowel Contractions. (1) The sequence *-îa-* is often contracted to *-e-,* as in ئەمەریکیەکە *amarîkîaká* > ئەمەریکەکە *amarîkeká.*

    (2) The sequences *-ûwa-* and *-ûa-* can be contracted to *-o-*, as in بــووەتــەوە *bûwatawa* > بۆتەوە *botawa*, دیتووەتەوە *dîtûatawa* > دیتۆتەوە *dîtotawa,* and ببووەوە *bibûawa* > ببۆوە *bibowa.*

Verb Tenses and Moods

Present Habitual/Progressive (*kawtin* 'fall,' *nûsîn* 'write,' & *qsa-kirdin* 'speak')

SINGULAR			PLURAL	
دەكەوم	*dákawim*		دەكەوین	*dákawîn*
دەكەویت	*dákawî(t)*		دەكەون	*dákawin*
دەكەویت	*dákawe(t)*		دەكەون	*dákawin*
ناكەوم	*nâkawim*		ناكەوین	*nâkawîn*
نەدەكەوم	*nádakawim*		نەدەكەوین	*nádakawîn*
دەنووسم	*dánûsim*		دەنووسین	*dánûsîn*
دەنووسیت	*dánûsî(t)*		دەنووسن	*dánûsin*
دەنووسیت	*dánûse(t)*		دەنووسن	*dánûsin*
نانووسم	*nânûsim*		نانووسین	*nânûsîn*
نەدەنووسم	*nádanûsim*		نەدەنووسین	*nádanûsîn*
قسه دەكەم	*qsa dákam*		قسه دەكەین	*qsa dákayn*
قسه دەكیت	*qsa dákay(t)*		قسه دەكەن	*qsa dákan*
قسه دەكات	*qsa dákâ(t)*		قسه دەكەن	*qsa dákan*
قسه ناكەم	*qsa nâkam*		قسه ناكەین	*qsa nâkayn*
قسه نەدەكەم	*qsa nádakam*		قسه نەدەكەین	*qsa nádakayn*

Present Subjunctive ('that I fall,' &c.)

بكەوم	*bíkawim*		بكەوین	*bíkawîn*
بكەویت	*bíkawî(t)*		بكەون	*bíkawin*
بكەویت	*bíkawe(t)*		بكەون	*bíkawin*
نەكەوم	*nákawim*		نەكەوین	*nákawîn*
بنووسم	*bínûsim*		بنووسین	*bínûsîn*
بنووسیت	*bínûsî(t)*		بنووسن	*bínûsin*
بنووسیت	*bínûse(t)*		بنووسن	*bínûsin*
نەنووسم	*nánûsim*		نەنووسین	*nánûsîn*

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qsa (bí)kam	قسه (ی)که‌م	*qsa (bí)kayn*	قسه (ی)که‌ین
qsa (bí)kay(t)	قسه (ی)که‌یت	*qsa (bí)kan*	قسه (ی)بکه‌ن
qsa (bí)kâ(t)	قسه (ی)کات	*qsa (bí)kan*	قسه (ی)که‌ن
qsa nákam	قسه نه‌که‌م	*qsa nákayn*	قسه نه‌که‌ین

Simple Past ('I fell,' &c.)

FOR INTRANSITIVE: كه‌وتن *KAWTIN* 'TO FALL'

káwtim	كه‌وتم	*káwtîn*	كه‌وتین
káwtî(t)	كه‌وتیت	*káwtin*	كه‌وتن
káwt	كه‌وت	*káwtin*	كه‌وتن
nákawtim	نه‌که‌وتم	*nákawtîn*	نه‌که‌وتین
nákawtî(t)	نه‌که‌وتیت	*nákawtin*	نه‌که‌وتن
nákawt	نه‌که‌وت	*nákawtin*	نه‌که‌وتن

FOR TRANSITIVE VERB FOLLOWED BY AGENT AFFIX: نووسین *NÛSÎN* 'TO WRITE'

nûsîm	نووسیم	*nûsîmân*	نووسیمان
nûsîy(t)	نووسییت	*nûsîtân*	نووسیتان
nûsîy	نووسیی	*nûsîyân*	نووسیان
námnûsî	نه‌منووسی	*námânnûsî*	نه‌ماننووسی
nátnûsî	نه‌تنووسی	*nátânnûsî*	نه‌تاننووسی
náynûsî	نه‌ینووسی	*náyânnûsî*	نه‌یاننووسی

FOR AGENT AFFIX PRECEDING A TRANSITIVE VERB: قسه کردن *QSA-KIRDIN* 'TO SPEAK'

qsám kird	قسه‌م کرد	*qsámân kird*	قسه‌مان کرد
qsát kird	قسه‌ت کرد	*qsátân kird*	قسه‌تان کرد
qsáy kird	قسه‌ی کرد	*qsáyân kird*	قسه‌یان کرد
qsam nákird	قسه‌م نه‌کرد	*qsamân nákird*	قسه‌مان نه‌کرد
qsat nákird	قسه‌ت نه‌کرد	*qsatân nákird*	قسه‌تان نه‌کرد
qsay nákird	قسه‌ی نه‌کرد	*qsayân nákird*	قسه‌یان نه‌کرد

Past Habitual/Progressive (= Irrealis) ('I used to fall,' 'I would have fallen,' &c.)

dákawtim	دەکەوتم	*dákawtîn*	دەکەوتین
dákawtî(t)	دەکەوتیت	*dákawtin*	دەکەوتن
dákawt	دەکەوت	*dákawtin*	دەکەوتن
náakawtim (Sul.)	نەئەکەوتم	*náakawtîn* (Sul.)	نەئەکەوتین
nádakawtim	نەدەکەوتم	*nádakawtîn*	نەدەکەوتین
dámnûsî	دەمنووسی	*dámânnûsî*	دەماننووسی
dátnûsî	دەتنووسی	*dátânnûsî*	دەتاننووسی
dáynûsî	دەینووسی	*dáyânnûsî*	دەیاننووسی
námanûsî (Sul.)	نەمەنووسی	*námânanûsî* (Sul.)	نەمانەنووسی
námdanûsî	نەمدەنووسی	*námândanûsî*	نەماندەنووسی
qsam dákird	قسەم دەکرد	*qsamân dákird*	قسەمان دەکرد
qsat dákird	قسەت دەکرد	*qsatân dákird*	قسەتان دەکرد
qsay dákird	قسەی دەکرد	*qsayân dákird*	قسەیان دەکرد
qsam náakird (Sul.)	قسەم نەئەکرد	*qsamân náakird*	قسەمان نەئەکرد
qsam nádakird	قسەم نەدەکرد	*qsamân nádakird*	قسەمان نەدەکرد

Present Perfect ('I have fallen', &c.)

kawtûm	کەوتووم	*kawtûyn*	کەوتووین
kawtûy(t)	کەوتوویت	*kawtûn*	کەوتوون
kawtûa	کەوتووە	*kawtûn*	کەوتوون
nákawtûm	نەکەوتووم	*nákawtûyn*	نەکەوتووین
nûsîwima	نووسیومە	*nûsîwmâna*	نووسیومانە
nûsîwita	نووسیوتە	*nûsîwtâna*	نووسیوتانە
nûsîwyatî	نووسیویەتی	*nûsîwyâna*	نووسیویانە
námnûsîwa	نەمنووسیوە	*námânnûsîwa*	نەماننووسیوە
qsam kirdûa	قسەم کردووە	*qsamân kirdûa*	قسەمان کردووە
qsat kirdûa	قسەت کردووە	*qsatân kirdûa*	قسەتان کردووە
qsay kirdûa	قسەی کردووە	*qsayân kirdûa*	قسەیان کردووە
qsam nákirdûa	قسەم نەکردووە	*qsamân nákirdûa*	قسەمان نەکردووە

VERB TENSES AND MOODS

Past Perfect ('I had fallen,' &c.)

كەوتبووم	*kawtibûm*	كەوتبووین	*kawtibûyn*
كەوتبوویت	*kawtibûy(t)*	كەوتبوون	*kawtibûn*
كەوتبوو	*kawtibû*	كەوتبوون	*kawtibûn*
نەكەوتبووم	*nákawtibûm*	نەكەوتبووین	*nákawtibûyn*
نووسبووم	*nûsibûm*	نووسبوومان	*nûsibûmân*
نووسبووت	*nûsibût*	نووسبووتان	*nûsibûtân*
نووسیبووی	*nûsîbûy*	نووسبوویان	*nûsibûyân*
نەمنووسبوو	*námnûsibû*	نەماننووسبوو	*námânnûsibû*
قسەم كردبوو	*qsam kirdibû*	قسەمان كردبوو	*qsamân kirdibû*
قسەت كردبوو	*qsat kirdibû*	قسەتاان كردبوو	*qsatân kirdibû*
قسەی كردبوو	*qsay kirdibû*	قسەیان كردبوو	*qsayân kirdibû*
قسەم نەكردبوو	*qsam nákirdibû*	قسەمان نەكردبوو	*qsamân nákirdibû*

Past Subjunctive ('that I have fallen,' &c.)

كەوتبم	*kawtibim*	كەوتبن	*kawtibîn*
كەوتبیت	*kawtibî(t)*	كەتبن	*kawtibin*
كەوتبێت	*kawtibe(t)*	كەتبن	*kawtibin*
نەكەوتبم	*nákawtibim*	نەكەوتبین	*nákawtibîn*
نووسیبیتم	*nûsîbetim*	نووسیبیتمان	*nûsîbetmân*
نووسیبیتت	*nûsîbetit*	نووسیبیتتان	*nûsîbettân*
نووسیبیتی	*nûsîbetî*	نووسیبیتیان	*nûsîbetyân*
نەمنووسیبیت	*námnûsîbet*	نەماننووسیبیت	*námânnûsîbet*
قسەم كردبێ	*qsam kirdibe*	قسەمان كردبێ	*qsamân kirdibe*
قسەت كردبێ	*qsat kirdibe*	قسەتان كردبێ	*qsatân kirdibe*
قسەی كردبێ	*qsay kirdibe*	قسەیان كردبێ	*qsayân kirdibe*
قسەم نەكردبێ	*qsam nákirdibe*	قسەمان نەكردبێ	*qsamân nákirdibe*

Past Conditional I ('had I fallen,' &c.)

بكەوتمایه	*bíkawtimâya*	بكەوتنایه	*bíkawtînâya*

بكەوتتایه	*bíkawtîtâya*	بكەوتنایه	*bíkawtinâya*
بكەوتایه	*bíkawtâya*	بكەوتنایه	*bíkawtinâya*
نەكەوتمایه	*nákawtimâya*	نەكەوتینایه	*nákawtînâya*
بمنووسیایه	*bímnûsîâya*	بمانووسیایه	*bímânnûsîâya*
بتنووسیایه	*bítnûsîâya*	بتانووسیایه	*bítânnûsîâya*
بینووسیایه	*bíynûsîâya*	بیانووسیایه	*bíyânnûsîâya*
نەمنووسیایه	*námnûsîâya*	نەمانووسیایه	*námânnûsîâya*
قسەم بكردایه	*qsam bíkirdâya*	قسەمان بكردایه	*qsamân bíkirdâya*
قسەت بكردایه	*qsat bíkirdâya*	قسەتان بكردایه	*qsatân bíkirdâya*
قسەی بكردایه	*qsay bíkirdâya*	قسەیان بكردایه	*qsayân bíkirdâya*
قسەم نەكردایه	*qsam nákirdâya*	قسەمان نەكردایه	*qsamân nákirdâya*

Past Conditional II ('were I to have fallen,' &c.)

بكەوتبام	*bíkawtibâm*	بكەوتباین	*bíkawtibâyn*
بكەوتبای	*bíkawtibây*	بكەوتبان	*bíkawtibân*
بكەوتبا	*bíkawtibâ*	بكەوتبان	*bíkawtibân*
نەكەوتبام	*nákawtibâm*	نەكەوتباین	*nákawtibâyn*
بمنووسیبا	*bímnûsîbâ*	بمانووسیبا	*bímânnûsîbâ*
بتنووسیبا	*bítnûsîbâ*	بتانووسیبا	*bítânnûsîbâ*
بینووسیبا	*bíynûsîbâ*	بیانووسیبا	*bíyânnûsîbâ*
نەمنووسیبا	*námnûsîbâ*	نەمانووسیبا	*námânnûsîbâ*
قسەم بكردبا	*qsam bíkirdibâ*	قسەمان بكردبا	*qsamân bíkirdibâ*
قسەت بكردبا	*qsat bíkirdibâ*	قسەتان بكردبا	*qsatân bíkirdibâ*
قسەی بكردبا	*qsay bíkirdibâ*	قسەیان بكردبا	*qsayân bíkirdibâ*
قسەم نەكردبا	*qsam nákirdibâ*	قسەمان نەكردبا	*qsamân nákirdibâ*

PASSIVE TENSES AND MOODS

Present Passive ('I am seen')

دەبینریم	*dabînrem*	دەبینرین	*dabînreyn*
دەبینریت	*dabînrey(t)*	دەبینرین	*dabînren*

دەبینرێت	*dabînre(t)*	دەبینرێن	*dabînren*
نابینرێم	*nâbînrem*	نابینرێن	*nâbînreyn*
نەدەبینرێم	*nádabînrem*	نەدەبینرێن	*nádabînreyn*

Present Subjunctive Passive ('that I be seen')

بینرێم	*bíbînrem*	بینرێن	*bíbînreyn*
بینرێت	*bíbînrey(t)*	بینرێن	*bíbînren*
بینرێت	*bíbînre(t)*	بینرێن	*bíbînren*
نەبینرێم	*nábînrem*	نەبینرێن	*nábînreyn*

Past Passive ('I was seen')

بینرام	*bînrâm*	بینراین	*bînrâyn*
بینرایت	*bînrây(t)*	بینران	*bînrân*
بینرا	*bînrâ*	بینران	*bînrân*
نەبینرام	*nábînrâm*	نەبینراین	*nábînrâyn*

Present Perfect Passive ('I have been seen')

بینراوم	*bînrâwim*	بینراوین	*bînrâwîn*
بینراویت	*bînrâwî(t)*	بینراون	*bînrâwin*
بینراوه	*bînrâwa*	بینراون	*bînrâwin*
نەبینراوم	*nábînrâwim*	نەبینراوین	*nábînrâwîn*

Past Perfect Passive ('I had been seen')

بینرابووم	*bînrâbûm*	بینرابووین	*bînrâbûyn*
بینرابوویت	*bînrâbûy(t)*	بینرابوون	*bînrâbûn*
بینرابوو	*bînrâbû*	بینرابوون	*bînrâbûn*
نەبینرابووم	*nábînrâbûm*	نەبینرابووین	*nábînrâbûyn*

Past Subjunctive Passive ('that I have been seen')

بینرابم	*bînrâbim*	بینرابین	*bînrâbîn*
بینرابیت	*bînrâbî(t)*	بینرابن	*bînrâbin*

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بینرابیت	*bînrâbe(t)*	بینرابن	*bînrâbin*
نەبینرابم	*nábînrâbim*	نەبینرابین	*nábînrâbîn*

Past Conditional Passive ('had I been seen')

بیبنرامایه	*bibînrâmâya*	بیبنراینایه	*bibînrâynâya*
بیبنرایتایه	*bibînrâytâya*	بیبنرانایه	*bibînrânâya*
بیبنراتایه	*bibînrâtâya*	بیبنرانایه	*bibînrânâya*
نەبینرامایه	*nábînrâmâya*	نەبینراینایه	*nábînrâynâya*

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Synopsis of Tenses and Moods

	INTRANSITIVE	TRANSITIVE	PASSIVE
infinitive	چوون *chûn* to go	بانگ کردن *bâng kirdin* to invite	بانگ کران *bâng krân* to be invited
past	چووم *chûm* I went	بانگم کرد *bângim kird* I invited him/her[1]	بانگ کرام *bâng krâm* I was invited
past habitual	دەچووم *dachûm* I used to go	بانگم دەکرد *bângim dakird* I used to invite him	بانگ دەکرام *bâng dakrâm* I used to be invited
pres. perf.	چووم *chûwim* I have gone	بانگم کردووە *bângim kirdûa* I have invited him	بانگ کراوم *bâng krâwim* I have been invited
past perf.	چووبووم *chûbûm* I had gone	بانگم کردبوو *bângim kirdibû* I had invited him	بانگ کرابووم *bâng krâbûm* I had been invited
present	دەچم *(d)achim* I('ll) go	بانگ دەکەم *bâng (d)akam* I('ll) invite	بانگ دەکریم *bâng (d)akrem* I am (will be) invited
pres. subj.	بچم *bichim* that I go	بانگ بکەم *bâng bikam* that I invite	بانگ بکریم *bâng bikrem* that I be invited
past subj.	چووبم *chûbim* that I have gone	بانگم کردبێت *bângim kirdibe(t)* that I have invited him	بانگ کرابم *bâng krâbim* that I have been invited

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[1] Because of the ergative nature of the past tenses, a 3rd-person singular object is built into the verb.

past cond. I	چوومایه	بانگم بکردایه	بانگ بکرامایه
	bichûmâya	*bângim bikirdâya*	*bâng bikrâmâya*
past cond. II	(بـ)چووبام	بانگم (بـ)کردبا	بانگ (بـ)کرابام
	(bi)chûbâm	*bângim (bi)kirdibâ*	*bâng (bí)krâbâm*
	had I gone	had I invited him	had I been invited
irrealis (=	دهچووم	بانگم دهکرد	بانگ دهکرام
past	*(d)achûm*	*bângim (d)akird*	*bâng (d)akrâm*
habitual)	I would have gone	I would have invited him	I would have been invited

Conditional Sentence Types

present/future possible (present subjunctive or simple past indicative protasis, indicative apodosis)

ئهگهر بچیت (چوو)، دهیانبینیت.	*Agar biche(t)* (or *chû*), *dayânbîne(t).*	If he goes, he'll see them.
ئهگهر بچیته (چوویته) کوردستان، فێری کوردی دهبی.	*Agar bíchîtà* (or *chûytà*) *Kurdistân, fer i kurdî dabî.*	If you go to Kurdistan, you'll learn Kurdish.

past possible (past subjunctive protasis, indicative apodosis)

ئهگهر لهوێ وهفر باریبێ، نایهن.	*Agar l'awe wafr bârîbe, nâyen.*	If it has snowed there, they won't be coming.
ئهگهر چووبێ، نازانم کهی چووه دهرێ.	*Agar chûbe, nâzânim kay chûà darè.*	If he has gone, I don't know when he went out.
ئهگهر چووبیته کوردستان، دهبێ فێری کوردی بی.	*Agar chûbîtà Kurdistân, dabe fer i kurdî bibî.*	If you have gone to Kurdistan, you must have learned Kurdish.
ئهگهر نهچووبیته کوردستان، ناتوانی فێری کوردی بی.	*Agar náchûbîtà Kurdistân, nâtwânî fer i kurdî bibî.*	If you haven't gone to Kurdistan, you can't have learned Kurdish.

contrafactual (past conditional protasis, past habitual apodosis)

SYNOPSIS OF TENSES AND MOODS

Agar bichûâya, daydîtin. ئەگەر بچووایه دەیدیتن.   If he had gone, he would
have seen them./ If he
were to go, he would see
them.

Agar bíchûytâya Kurdis- ئەگەر بچوویتایه کوردستان، فێری   If you had gone to Kurd-
tân, fer i kurdî dabûy. کوردی دەبووی.   istan, you would have
learned Kurdish.

Agar náchûytâya Kurdis- ئەگەر نەچوویتایه کوردستان، فێری   If you hadn't gone to
tân, fer i kurdî nádabûy. کوردی نەدەبووی.   Kurdistan, you wouldn't
have learned Kurdish.

Conversion Table for the Sorani and Kurmanji Alphabets

Recently there have been attempts, particularly on the internet and on the part of Kurds influenced by speakers of Kurmanji Kurdish, to write Sorani in the Latin-based Kurmanji alphabet. The conversion is as follows:

Sorani	Sorani Arabic	Kurmanji
a	ه	e
â	ا	a
b	ب	b
ch	چ	ç
d	د	d
e	ێ	ê
f	ف	f
g	گ	g
gh	غ	x
h	ح، ه	h
i	ـ	i
î	ی	î
j	ج	c
k	ک	k
kh	خ	x
l	ل	l
ł	ڵ	ll
m	م	m
n	ن	n
o	ۆ	o
p	پ	p
q	ق	q
r	ر	r
ř	ڕ	rr
s	س	s
sh	ش	ş
t	ت	t
u	و	u
û	وو	û
v	ڤ	v

w	و	w
y	ى	y
z	ز	z
zh	ژ	j
'	ع	*(not indicated)*

In writing Sorani in the Kurmanji alphabet, a one-to-one correspondence is observed. The *i* of the *izâfa* after consonants is written as *î* joined directly to the preceding word, but after vowels it is usually written as *y*, as in *ray giştî* for رای گشــتی *râ i gishtî* 'public opinion' and *zarawey zanistî* for زاروەی زانســتی *zârâwa i zânistî* 'scientific language.' An example of such transcribed text is given below:

Ber le Sedam Husên hîç berpirsêkî Êraqî newêrawe îmza le ser rêkkew-tinêk bikat ke otonomî bidate kurd, ewîş le 11-î adarî 1970 rêkkewtin-name benawbangekey adarî legell Mela Mistefa Barzanî mor kird, tefsîrî ciyaciya bo karekey (cêgirî berrêz) dekira. Hendê deyanut be rastî deyewê ew birîne qûlley cestey Êraq tîmar bikat, hendêkî dîkeş deyanut deyewê piştgîrî hêzî serbazîy bo xoy misoger bikat û bîxate jêr rikêfî xoyewe, diway ewey le biwarekanî emnî û rageyandin û hizbî da ew pallpiştiyey misoger kirdibû.[1]

In Arabic script the passage is as follows:

بەر لە سەدام حوسێن هیچ بەرپرسێکی عێراق نەوێراوە ئیمزا لە سەر ڕیککەوتنێک بکات کە ئۆتۆنۆمی بداتە کورد، ئەویش لە ۱۱ی ئاداری ۱۹۷۰ ڕیککەوتننامە بەناوبانگەکەی ئاداری لەگەڵ مەلا مستەفا بارزانی مۆر کرد، تەفسیری جیاجیا بۆ کارەکەی (جێگری بەڕێز) دەکرا. هەندێ دەیانوت بە ڕاستی دەیەوێ ئەو برینە قووڵەی جەستەی عێراق تیار بکات، هەندێکی دیکەش دەیانوت دەیەوێ پشتگیری هێزی سەربازیی بۆ خۆی مسۆگەر بکات و بیخاتە ژێر رکیفی خۆیەوە، دوای ئەوەی لە بوارەکانی ئەمنی و راگەیاندن و حزبیدا ئەو پاڵپشتییەی مسۆگەر کردبوو.

An example of a slightly different form of transcription sometimes used on the internet is as follows:

Ke dellín zimaní Kurdí, mebest ew zimaneye ke ésta Kurd qisey pédeken. Gelé zimanwan u rojh hellatnasí henderí (ferengí) degell zimaní Kurdí xerék búne, zurbey ew zanayaney ke be shéweyékí gishtí ya taybetí le zimaní Kurdí duwawin gutúyane ke em zimane le biney zimanekaní Hínd

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[1]Taken from the internet at www.kerkuk-kurdistan.com/hevpeyvinek.asp?ser=1& cep=4&nnimre=281).

u Urupayí u binemalley Hínd u Éraní u le xézane zimaní Éraní ye u degell
zimaní Farsí xizmayetí nizíkí heye. Ja zimaní Kurdí ke ewe rewishtí con
peyda buwe? Ashkiraye zimaní hemú willaté zimaní daníshtiwaní willa-
teke debé, eger rodawekaní méjhúyí all u gorrékí neteweyíyan le willate-
keda pék nehénabé ewa zimanekeysh her zimaní daníshtiwekaní koní
willatekeye u pécewaney emesh pécewane debé. Ja bizanín babeteke bo
zimaní Kurdí cone?[1]

In Arabic script, this text is as follows:

که دەڵێن زمانی کوردی، مەبەست ئەو زمانەیە که ئێستا کورد قسەی پێدەکەن. کەڵ زمانوان و رۆژهه
ڵاتناسی هەندەری (فەرەنگی) دەگەڵ زمانی کوردی خەریک بوونه، زوربەی ئەو زانایانەی که به شێوه
یەکی گشتی یا تایبەتی له زمانی کوردی دواون گوتوویانه که ئەم زمانه له بنەی زمانەکانی هندوئوروپایی و
بنەماڵەی هندوئێرانی و له خەزانه زمانی ئێرانی‌یه و دەگەڵ زمان فارسی خزمایەتی نزیکی هەیه. جا زمانی
کوردی که ئەوه رەوشتی چۆن پەیدا بووه؟ ئاشکرایه زمانی هەموو وڵاتی زمانی دانیشتوانی وڵاتەکه
دەبێ، ئەگەر رۆداوەکانی مێژوویی ئاڵوگۆرێکی نەتەوەیی‌یان له وڵاتەکەدا پێک نەهێنابێ ئەوا زمانەکەیش
هەر زمانی دانیشتوەکانی کۆنی وڵاتەکەیه و پێنچەوانەی ئەمەش پێنچەوانه دەبێ. جا بزانین بابەتەکه بۆ
زمانی کوردی چۆنه؟

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[1]Taken from the website www.kurdishacademy.org/ku/history/history.html.