

often try to divide them teographically, and there are several different types of divisions which have been made which are not particularly satisfactory. I will simply look at them more or less chronologically -- that is in accordance with the time of their use.

#1 Babylonian.

I call #1 Babylonian, but I fear there are people today who would think that Babylonian was quite unscientific to apply to this language. Actually there is no real scientific --- no real designation that is necessarily scientific, to apply to a language because the names we give to languages are quite accidental. Every people thinks of their language as the language! They don't give it a name. It's just the way you talk.

Then they hear someother people talking some strange gibberish and so they give a name to what they use, and eventually languages come to be named according to some one of the ways that other people have designated them as a rule. These are often very accidental, what they happen to be.

This language I am calling Babylonian because the word Babylonian conveys the sense to probably any intelligent, at least to any educated person in our Western world. If you say Babylonian he immediately thinks of the city Babylon which was one of the great cities in the world's history. He thinks, This is the language that was spoken there.

The reason scholars have thought that Babylonian was not a proper title for the language is that the language was used long before Babylon, the city came into existence. Therefore if you pick up any books written about this language 50 years ago, you will find it called Assyrian. To any student of the OT the word Assyrian carries meaning. But to the average person the word Assyrian means nothing at all.

I remember when I was a student in the U. of Berlin and there were two others there. I was studying in the Semitic field. There was another with me studying in Church History. And another studied in NT. These three had just graduated from Princeton Seminary and were over there. I had been over there six weeks and I frequently mentioned to the others that I was learning Assyrian. One day I happen to ~~xxxx~~ refer to it as Babylonian. And they said, Oh are you studying the language they spoke in Babylon? He was so surprised at what I was studying. The word Assyrian had evidently carried practically no meaning to him even with his full seminary education.

So to the average person, if you say Babylonian, they know what you're talking about. But 50 yrs. ago, no scholarly book called it Babylonian. They called it Assyrian. As you know Assyria is the section north of Babylonia. Assyria is the section from which the people came who conquered the northern kingdom, in 721 B.C. The southern kingdom was conquered by the people from Babylon. But today no book is written about this language that calls it Assyrian. The title has changed again. Because before the