

loanword or rather a Babylonian word of Sumerian origin which means "Westerner." It is a somewhat vague description of people who live in the West from the standpoint of a man living in Mesopotamia. The word is as indefinite as the American expression foreigner or the old German word Mohrenland. This expression meant simply a land occupied by dark-skinned people and was used in a very loose sense. We agree with De Langhe who declares that one cannot say that Amurru meant a well-defined race or nationality, but rather a geographic description and administrative expression.³ The Amarna-letters use the expressions "land of Amurru" and "land of Canaan" interchangeably and also the Biblical account uses the words "Amorites" and "Canaanites." The land of Canaan was the territory from north of Ugarit to Gaza in the South. Egyptian sources of the eighteenth and nineteenth dynasties consider Gaza a Canaanite city. According to the Old Testament the eastern border of Canaan was formed by the Jordan. The Israelites consider themselves entering Canaan when they cross the Jordan; before that they were "outside the land."

For the characterization of the Ugaritic language it is unimportant whether Ugarit belonged to the Amurru empire or not. We could quote lists of ethnic groups which belonged to great empires, be it the Austro-Hungarian monarchy, Great Britain, the Third Reich of Hitler or Soviet Russia, and whose languages were never influenced by the empire. Today the Czech language is much more closely related to Croatian than to Russian in spite of the fact that the Czech-speaking people are in the Soviet empire while the Yugoslav Croatians are very much outside of it. Much less could one draw conclusions regarding the parent language of Czech from the fact that it is now spoken within the Russian sphere of influence.