

They speak a dialect of the same lang. as the Babylonians. The Assyrians conquered the area, and then eventually another king of Babylon conquered Assyria. Nebuchadnezzar did. And we call things from his time neo-Babylonian. These cuneiform signs go through a development so that some of them are very different in old Babylonian and from Akkadian and then in Assyrian from old Babylonian and neo-Babylonian from Assyrian. So you see how they go through a series of changes. Some of them stay very much the same and some go through quite a series of changes. So to learn about 300 signs of them and 4 different signs of about half of them, is quite a job. But it so happens that the earliest excavations in Mesopotamia, done beginning about 1830 which found any sizeable number of inscriptions was in the northern area, the area of Assyria. So from c. 1830 to c. 1915 or 20 work in this field was called Assyriology and the language was called Assyrian.

If you pick up a grammar written say about 1910 they will say a grammar of Assyrian. But if you pick up one c. 1930 they will say a grammar of Akkadian. Your average person won't know what either of them is. If you called it Babylonian they would and probably 2/3 at least of the inscriptions and of the marks of the writings are Babylonian, but that term is practically never used for the languages. So that's terminology of the principle language that is written in this type of writing.

Now the == a great problem that comes in to the writing of this is the fact that the Sumerians would write a sign and it with the pictures, you see. So the picture stood ~~for~~ for the idea originally, and then it came to be used to express various words connected with that idea. Like one sign == say a sign for an eye might stand for seeing, or then it might come to mean to observe. Or it could be used simply for the eye itself. This sign here came to be used for ~~ten~~ ten. This here stands for one as a number, it can also stand for 60. If the Sumerians wrote this way that would be 70. Whereas if they wrote this