**Is there any reference to the confusion of languages at Babel in early Mesopotamian literature?**

http://www.christiananswers.net/goldbar1.gif

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| http://www.christiananswers.net/0.gif | http://www.christiananswers.net/0.gif | [Artists's impression of the Tower of Babel (illustration copyrighted).](http://www.christiananswers.net/godstory/babel1.html)  Read the story of the Tower of Babel. [Go](http://www.christiananswers.net/godstory/babel1.html)...  Some have suggested that such a reference does exist in the Sumerian epic entitled "Enmerkar and the Lord of Aratta." There, in a speech of Enmerkar, an incantation is pronounced that has a mythical introduction. Kramer's translation is as follows:  Once upon a time there was no snake, there was no scorpion, There was no hyena, there was no lion, There was no wild dog, no wolf, There was no fear, no terror, Man had no rival. In those days, the lands of Subur (and) Hamazi, **Harmony-tongued** **Sumer**, the great land of the decrees of princeship, Uri, the land having all that is appropriate, The land Martu, resting in security, The whole universe, **the people in unison**  **To Enlil in one tongue [spoke]**. … **(Then) Enki, the lord of abundance (whose) commands are trustworthy, The lord of wisdom, who understands the land, The leader of the gods, Endowed with wisdom, the lord of Eridu Changed the speech in their mouths, [brought] contention into it, Into the speech of man that (until then) had been one**.  It is of interest that [Enki](http://www.christiananswers.net/q-abr/abr-a021.html#eridu), the god of [Eridu](http://www.christiananswers.net/q-abr/abr-a021.html#eridu), is related to this myth, which may well represent the memory of an actual event from the late fourth millennium BC.  Further Reading   * Is there archaeological evidence of the Tower of Babel? [Answer](http://www.christiananswers.net/q-abr/abr-a021.html) * [Confusion of tongues](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/tonguesconfusionof.html) * [Tower of Babel](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/babeltowerof.html) * [Nimrod](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/nimrod.html) * [Babylon](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/babylon.html) * [City](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/city.html) * [Chaldea](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/chaldea.html) * [Shinar](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/shinarthelandof.html) * [Dispersion](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/dispersion.html) * [Peleg](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/peleg.html) * [Read the story of the Tower of Babel](http://www.christiananswers.net/godstory/babel1.html) * [Read the Biblical record](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/gen11.html) * Wordsearch game: Wow! What Happened at Babel? [Printable](http://www.christiananswers.net/kids/wrdsrch3.html) / [On-line version](http://www.christiananswers.net/kids/wrdsrch3.html)   Explanation of the origin of races, beginning at Babel:   * [ORIGIN OF RACES - where did they all come from?](http://www.christiananswers.net/q-aig/race-definition.html) * [How did different skin colors come about?](http://www.christiananswers.net/q-aig/race-skincolor.html) * [Racism, Racial Issues and Christianity: Answers to Frequently-Asked-Questions](http://www.christiananswers.net/race.html)   Top of Form  [[Click Here](http://christiananswers.net/catalog/bk-oneblood.html)One Blood: The Biblical Answer to Racism](http://christiananswers.net/catalog/bk-oneblood.html) book  by Ken Ham, Carl Wieland and Don Batten  Everyone concerned with racial discrimination and misunderstanding will really appreciate the content and spirit of this timely, Bible-based book, full of fascinating scientific facts and information. Eye-opening and encouraging!  [[More Details](http://christiananswers.net/catalog/bk-oneblood.html)]     US$1099  Bottom of Form  [One Blood](http://www.christiananswers.net/catalog/bk-oneblood.html)  **REFERENCES**   * Kramer, S.N. 1968 The “Babel of Tongues”: A Sumerian Version. *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 88: 109, 111.   Author: John H. Walton, used permission from *Bulletin for Biblical Research 5* [1995]: 155-75. Supplied by [Associates for Biblical Research](http://www.biblearchaeology.org/)  [Copyright ©](http://www.christiananswers.net/copyrite.html) 1996, 2000, Associates for Biblical Research, All Rights Reserved - except as noted on attached [“Usage and Copyright”](http://www.christiananswers.net/copyrite.html) page that grants ChristianAnswers.Net users generous rights for putting this page to work in their homes, personal witnessing, churches and schools. |