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Ruth Stern

Children's Letters from Palestine, 1928: Early Attestation of Various Pronunciation Features

This article traces the pronunciation patterns of Early Modern Hebrew through a corpus of children's letters from Zikhron Ya'akov, written in the early twentieth century. It discusses six phonological phenomena: the dropping of sonorant consonants, voicing assimilation, the realization of *bgdkpt* consonants, the loss of guttural consonants, the pronunciation of the conjunction *waw*, and the realization of the full *šere* vowel. The corpus on which the study is based provides a unique source for the study of Early Modern Hebrew in Palestine. The letters were written by children for whom Modern Hebrew was already a native language, during its formative years. Due to the authenticity of the letters, including their unedited orthography, and the young age of the writers, they offer a rare and genuine reflection of the linguistic features of spoken Modern Hebrew in its early period.

according to the frequency of *pataḥ* as the reflex of the *a: vowel and propose an explanation for this phenomenon by examining linguistic influences and dialectal processes that occurred in different regions of Babylon. The findings indicate a gradual continuum between the manuscripts, which may reflect the influence of language usage that developed gradually and unevenly in different regions. The study concludes that the appearance of *pataḥ* instead of *qameṣ* as the reflex of the *a: vowel is not uniform and reflects dynamic linguistic processes that occurred in Jewish Babylonian Aramaic.

Leon Shor and Anna Inbar

***Hine* in Spoken Israeli Hebrew: From Change-of-State Marker to Discourse-Structuring Device**

The present study examines the Israeli Hebrew particle *hine*, traditionally classified as a presentative particle, based on video-recorded face-to-face interactions. Our findings challenge the conventional view that *hine* primarily serves to draw attention to a referent. Instead, we argue that *hine* indexes a shift in the speaker's or interlocutor's perceptual access to a relevant entity within the immediate interactional context. By marking such a change in awareness, *hine* aligns more closely with the semantic category of change-of-state, which includes interjections (e.g., *oh*) and achievement verbs (e.g., *find*). Furthermore, we demonstrate that *hine* also operates within the discursive domain, marking utterances as expected, as supporting the speaker's stance, or as fulfilling an interactionally developed expectation. This discursive use reflects a shift from a perceptual–visual function to an argumentative–discursive one, extending the scope of *hine* from the physical realm to the meta-discursive level.

complaints demonstrate loyalty to precision and linguistic purity, and many of them are characterized by a decisive and peremptory style, which can be identified as a reflection of the Israeli classical prescriptive literature. From a social perspective, it is noted that the work of correction is undertaken by readers from a variety of professions; not only certified language professionals raise issues, but also ordinary speakers whose knowledge of the language standard is somewhat limited and whose knowledge of linguistic matters is quite eclectic.

Vered Saydon

On the Semantic Shift from Speech to Thought and Emotion in Contemporary Hebrew and Ancient Hebrew

The article discusses the semantic shift from speech to thought and emotion as seen in two central Hebrew speech verbs: אָמַר 'say' and דִּבֶּר 'speak'/'talk'. The study addresses both classic Hebrew and contemporary Hebrew while pointing out the similarities and differences between the verbs in terms of the semantic and syntactic processes they have undergone. Evidence for similar semantic shifts in other languages is provided as well. The article exhibits examples from both Semitic and non-Semitic languages, and discusses the directionality from the physical to the mental sense in light of cognitive theories of semantic change.

Naor Kahalani

The Issue of *Pataḥ* and *Qameṣ* in Jewish Babylonian Aramaic Manuscripts

The issue of the interchange of *qameṣ* and *pataḥ* as reflexes of the historical *a: vowel in Jewish Babylonian Aramaic is a complex and contentious topic among researchers. This study aims at offering a more comprehensive explanation for the phenomenon through a thorough examination of the available manuscripts. We classify the manuscripts into different groups

consideration from one level contradicts a consideration from another level. This paper seeks to determine the hierarchy among the three analytical levels at work in Ibn Janāḥ's analyses—morphology, syntax, and exegesis—and to establish which of them takes precedence in cases of conflict.

Ori Cohen, Peleg Gorodesky and Yehudit Henshke

Yemenite Hebrew Pronunciation in Contemporary Israel: Covert Phonological Diglossia

This article examines the preservation of the Yemenite Hebrew pronunciation tradition among native-born Israelis of Yemenite descent. Based on recordings of 21 males aged 13–42, the study identifies a diglossic split between the phonology of everyday speech and that of liturgical practice. Sociolinguistically, the findings point to three key factors in the retention of traditional phonology: early acquisition (before the age of seven); direct transmission within the family, especially from the father; and advanced yeshiva education. More broadly, the article sheds light on a sociolinguistic reality in which speakers who are fully integrated into Israeli society nonetheless shift between two phonological systems, maintaining a strong communal identity through covert diglossic differentiation.

Eyal Lehmann and Einat Gonen

The Readers Reprimand: Hebrew Speakers' Complaints about the Language of an Online Newspaper

This article seeks to trace the relationship of Hebrew speakers to the linguistic standard by means of an analysis of complaint letters that readers of an online newspaper sent to the editorial staff, protesting the newspaper's language. In this research, 1,000 linguistic comments sent by *ynet* readers to the editorial team were collected. Quantitatively, it emerges that most comments dealt with issues of lexicon and semantics and typing errors; only a minority of them dealt with syntax and morpho-phonology issues. The

Shiyu Hong

Change and Continuity in the Degree System of the Adjective in Modern Hebrew Journalism: A Diachronic Study

This article examines change and continuity in the degree system of the adjective in Hebrew journalism, from the formative period of Modern Hebrew to the contemporary era. Based on a corpus of popular newspapers from four different points in time, the 1870s, 1920, 1970, and 2020, this study analyzes the comparative degree, the superlative degree, and the intensification of adjectives. Each degree can be expressed either by means of a grading paradigm that employs a degree word, or by the classical model, which does not employ a degree word. For each degree, the inventory of forms and the position of the degree word relative to the adjective are examined at each point in time. The corpus reveals notable changes, including the reshuffling of superlative degree words and the growing preference for the use of degree words and their post-adjectival placement. At the same time, it shows clear continuities, such as persistent resistance to colloquial intensifiers. Such findings point to several important forces and processes, including language planning, contact with other languages, standardization, and editorial practice, that contributed to the unique evolution of Modern Hebrew and to the consolidation of its journalistic register.

Elnatan Chen

The Relationship between Morphology, Syntax, and Exegesis in Ibn Janāḥ's Linguistic Thought

This paper deals with the tension found in Ibn Janāḥ's grammatical theories between the *morphological* linguistic analysis of a particular linguistic form, the *syntactic* analysis of the verse in which this form is found, and the *exegetical* analysis of the overall context in which the verse is found. Every analysis of a form necessarily entails the recognition of a range of aspects and considerations from various levels of analysis, and sometimes a

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