

**Introduction
to Hebrew Linguistics**
(‘Inleiding Hebreeuwse Taalkunde’)
UvA, Week 13
May 25, 2012

Syntax

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Word order: language typology

- Head + modifier or modifier + head?
- Noun + adjective (such as French)
 - Also *bayit echad*, but *shney batim*.
- Basic Word Order: SVO, SOV, VSO, VOS, OVS, OSV

Verb + complement

- BH: VSO:
ישכם אברהם בבוקר ויחבש [אברהם] את חמורו :
- IH: Free? SVO? V2? (such as Dutch, German)
- Departure from Basic Word Order
 - Fronting the Topic. Fronting the Focus.
בראשית ברא א' את השמים ואת הארץ :

תא: Differential Object Marking

- Many languages mark the object only in specific cases: Only pronouns (e.g. Dutch, English), only animate (e.g. Russian masculine and neutral nouns), only definite (Hebrew).
- Reanalysis in substandard/colloquial IH:
 - NB: A large proportion of native IH speakers: [h] > ∅
 - And therefore, especially in fast speech: phonological contraction: [et + ha] → [ta]

Not (yet?) in written language.

Semantic roles, syntactic positions, morphological cases

- Agent of action = subject of sentence = nominative case.
Undergoer of action = object of sent. = accusative case.
 - But what about sentence expressing possession?
 - Language type 1: possessor-NOM *habeo* possessed-ACC
 - Language type 2: possessed-NOM EXISTS possessor-DAT
 - Hebrew: יש + possessor-DAT (ל) + possessed-NOM
 - יש לי הספר הזה.
 - But: יש לי הוא* (and יש לי אותו)
 - Colloquial IH: יש לי את הספר הזה.
- Israeli Hebrew switching from type 2 to type 1.

לש: Reanalysis in Mishnaic H

- Expressing possession
 - In Proto-Semitic, Classical Arabic: nomen regens (in construct state) + nomen rectum (in genitive).
 - In BH, no cases.
- Reanalysis in Rabbinic/Mishnaic Hebrew:
 - BH: ל: many uses (“meanings”), among them genitive.
 - Periphrastic construction: *ašer le...*
 - Proto-RH: *še le...* (e.g., in Bar Kokhba-letters)
 - Mishnaic Hebrew: birth of a new preposition *šel*.
 - Proof of reanalysis (beyond orthography):
še le + ha = še la, but *šel + ha* does not contract.

Expression of possession in IH

- Expressing possession in IH:

Colloquial IH:

- Real possessions: use של
- Smichut: lexicalized expressions, and in lieu of compounding. How productive?

3 ways in formal/official/written IH:

- Smichut
- של (seen as colloquialism)
- Double construction: תמונתו של מיקלאנג'ילו.

Don't confuse colloquialism with slang, jargon, fast speech!

Subordinate clause (bijzin)

- Complementizer (subordinating conjunction)
CBH *ašer*, PreCBH, LBH, RH, MedH, IH: *še*, cf. Aramaic *di*.
- Reanalysis of *ha*,
participle as adjective → verb of subordinate
clause, reanalysis of participle to present tense:
 ha-yeled ha-kotev
 ha-yeled ha-kotev mixtav
 ha-yeled ha-kotev et ha-mixtav
 yeladim, ha-kotvim mixtavim, rocim kelev
 yeš yeladim ha-mesaxkim ba-derex
 Eyn ha-yeladim ha-mesaxkim ba-derex rocim kelev.

Final exam:

Monday, June 18, 11:00, in PCH 3.31