Summaries

Itai Kagan

The Aramaic Scroll of Antiochus:
Preliminary Linguistic Observations

Megillat Antiochus is an Aramaic text that narrates the story of Antiochus's anti-Jewish decrees and the ensuing Hasmonean revolt. Its linguistic profile is a matter of dispute: for Kaddari, the absence of typically Eastern Aramaic words indicates a Palestinian origin, from between the second to fifth centuries CE, whereas for Kaufman, the vocabulary points to a medieval European origin. Like most of the research over the past one hundred and thirty years, Yemenite manuscripts formed the basis for these assessments, on the assumption that their accuracy was superior to western ones. Examination here of three words – *pᵉrakkâ* (altar), *ʾitkᵉrî* (mourn), and *ʾᵃbūllâ* (city gate) – found only in European manuscripts, as well as in Genizah fragments, refutes this assumption. These Akkadian loanwords are only attested in Eastern Aramaic dialects, the word *pᵉrakkâ* being unattested in other known Jewish texts. The Yemenite version of the scroll introduced substitions for these rare words, based on mistaken interpretations, showing that it cannot be relied upon when assessing the linguistic profile of the scroll. These findings suggest that Megillat Antiochus or its sources stem from Mesopotamia or Syria, when Aramaic was still in use. Final conclusions require preparation of a new critical edition, based on more reliable manuscripts.

Mordechay Mishor

On the Suffixed Pronoun ־כֶן/־כֶם

In 1948 J. N. Epstein listed and explained the appearance of ־כֵין/־כֵים suffixes in MS Kaufmann of the Mishnah (and some other manuscripts), instead of the expected ־כֶן/־כֶם, as reflecting a phonetic a>e shift, like the Arabic ʾimāla. Years later E. Y. Kutscher suggested that the suffix should rather be understood as a morphological extension of the future tense suffixed pronoun. Careful analysis of Epstein's list shows that, in several words, the suffix ־כֵין/־כֵים should be explained differently, as reflecting the influence of different analogies, which reduces the validity of the -en/-em theory.

Elnatan Chen

Risālat al-Tanbīh (The Epistle of Admonition) by Rabbi Jonah ibn Janāḥ: A New Translation

Jewish polemical literature contains numerous works spanning many historical periods, places, and topics. Medieval Hebrew philology also contributed its part to this literature in several polemical essays that greatly improved and advanced the science of language.

  The Epistle of Admonition (*Risālat al-Tanbīh*) is the first extant polemical grammatical composition based on the linguistic discoveries of Judah Ḥayyūj. This work by Jonah Ibn Janāḥ, the greatest medieval linguist, is published here in an annotated critical edition in the Arabic original, accompanied, for the first time in a thousand years, by a Hebrew translation.

Jonathan Jacobs and Jonathan Grossman

Rabbi David Kimḥi's Approach to the "Complex Words" in the Bible

This article treats the innovative approach of Rabbi David Kimḥi (Radak) to the phenomenon of "complex words" (מילים מורכבות) in the Bible. Medieval scholars, including Judah Ḥayyūj, Jonah ibn Janāḥ, Abraham ibn Ezra, Joseph Kimḥi, and Moses Kimḥi, identified the phenomenon of complex words as a grammatical construction. These are extraordinary forms resulting from the combination of components belonging to different grammatical categories. In their discussions of this phenomenon, the earlier scholars settled for a "technical" classification of the linguistic aspects of the various word components, aiming to resolve their grammatical irregularities. In contrast, Radak proposed a systematic method that assigns an interpretive purpose to the composite construction, allowing for a dual reading of the word or sentence. Radak even introduced a consistent terminological formula: "a word composed of [...], and the reason for the composite construction is", which signifies two stages in his exegesis: a purely linguistic stage accompanied by a second interpretive one.

Doron Rubinstein and Einat Gonen

Crystallization of Modern Hebrew Journalistic Style: Three Linguistic Phenomena in Late-Nineteenth- and Early-Twentieth-Century Hebrew Journalism

Hebrew journalism began in June 1856, with the publication of *Hammaggid* in the East Prussian city of Lyck. In its wake, other Hebrew newspapers began to emerge in Europe (*Hammeliṣ*, *Haṣṣefira*, among others), in Palestine (for example, *Hallevanon*, *Ḥavaṣṣelet*, and *Haṣṣevi*), and elsewhere worldwide. The language of Hebrew journalism underwent numerous changes during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries.

This paper traces changes that occurred in the language of early Hebrew journalism from 1884 to 1920 in three different linguistic categories: (1) the use of *wayyiqṭol* forms – which gradually disappeared from Hebrew

journalistic language in the period under consideration; (2) the morphology of foreign words and names – as exemplified by the gradual dominance of the modern forms of the geographical names of Russia and England and of the month of December; and (3) the use of the first person plural suffix pronoun. Relatively widespread throughout the period in question, this usage disappeared over the course of the further development of Hebrew journalistic language. Analysis of these three categories enables identification of trends that shaped Hebrew journalistic language during the revival period.

English summaries edited by Dena Ordan