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Alexander Andrason & Kristopher Lyle (Stellenbosch University)

FUNCTIONAL SCHIZOPHRENIA OF BIBLICAL HEBREW בְּלִי AND ITS COGNITIVE MODELLING: PART 1

ABSTRACT

The following investigation is the first of a two-part series dedicated to elucidating the functional (and semantic) potential of the Biblical Hebrew lexeme בְּלִי from a detailed and comprehensive study of its occurrences in the Hebrew Bible. In the current article we will assess the functional capacity (or heterosemy) of this grammatical entity, demonstrating that traditional lexicographical treatments have underestimated its spectrum of syntactic usages. Likewise, we will introduce the notion that these functions are not haphazard instantiations of grammatical categories but are rather contextually motivated adaptations of the form from anterior synchronic vestiges. (This is a notion that will be developed much more fully in part 2). In conclusion, we note that, independently, בְּלִי may function as a noun, preposition, semi-conjunction, (genuine) conjunction, negative affix and verbal negator; and that as a compound, בְּלִי may function as both a preposition and conjunction.

Pancratius C Beentjes (Tilburg University)

BEN SIRA 7:1-17: SOME OBSERVATIONS ON COMPOSITION, TEXT AND LITERARY FEATURES

ABSTRACT

Ben Sira scholars have been almost unanimous to date that the Hebrew text of Sir 7:1-17 is to be considered a passage without a well-defined structure. Moreover, a number of text-critical questions arise that are specifically found in the Hebrew text, as opposed to the Greek and Syriac. This essay makes a fresh attempt to adduce sufficient evidence that this pericope has, on the contrary, a carefully thought-out composition. It also pays attention to some text-critical problems, as well as to a stylistic feature that should be given more attention in biblical research.

Gudrun Elisabeth Lier (University of Johannesburg)

TRANSLATION TECHNIQUES IN TARGUM MALACHI: A COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS

ABSTRACT

This contribution comprehensively analyses how Targum Jonathan Malachi (TgJ Ma) renders the Hebrew Text (HT) of the book of Malachi. The study shows that this Targum constitutes a mix of technical and exegetical translation techniques in a generally periphrastic rendering to make it theologically acceptable. It furthermore demonstrates how obscure ambiguous passages and idiomatic expressions are remodelled by contemporizing interpolations. Added prepositions bring clarity to imagery and scanty syntactical expressions. Anthropomorphism is rendered indirect to express obvious reverence before the deity. The relative pronoun ׀ is widely employed to express various relationships. Single words are extensively substituted to express the underlying meaning of the biblical text and there is evidence for the use of stock words.

Alexander Ponomariov (University of Passau)

THE LORD'S PRAYER IN A WIDER SETTING: A NEW HEBREW RECONSTRUCTION

ABSTRACT

This contribution introduces a critical translingual approach to the Hebrew reconstruction of the Lord's Prayer, based on the knowledge accumulated on the subject to date. The author attempts to demonstrate that, despite the established dominant usage of Aramaic in 1st-century Palestine, the text of the Prayer in Matthew reflects linguistic peculiarities of the broader setting of the Sermon on the Mount and the presumed Hebrew background of Mt. Besides, the paper uncovers the existence of the Hebrew and Aramaic diglossia in the New Testament, arguing that both languages were used, each in its own context.

Tyler R Yoder (The Ohio State University)

**AN ANOMALOUS FORM OF NORTHWEST SEMITIC
APPOSITION AND ITS ANCIENT NEAR EASTERN
CONTEXT**

ABSTRACT

Due to the inherent ambiguity of Northwest Semitic syntax with certain morphological collocations, it is often difficult to discern between apposition and a genitive construction. One such construction, marked by the intermittent usage of the generic word for “man” (𐤏𐤍) before both occupational and gentilic terms is especially difficult to categorize syntactically. The Northwest Semitic evidence does not correlate with traditional appositional categories and engenders awkward readings that defy superficial explication. Since no comprehensive study of these pleonastic syntactical constructions has yet appeared, this essay surveys the Northwest Semitic evidence, highlighting their conceptual and grammatical affinities, before positing an overarching explanation for their idiosyncrasy grounded in a phenomenon of linguistic convergence known from Canaanite Akkadian.