

Advanced Hebrew “Grammatical Moments” Noun Patterns

- Most nouns are built from verbal roots. These verbal roots generally are triconsonantal (i.e., three letter words)
- Related noun variations are built by modifying their root with *prefixes, suffixes, and infixes*.
 - Prefixes on the root generally are the letters א ה י ג ז ת
 - ג is the most common prefix
 - Suffixes generally are applied to other denominative [nouns that are not derived from verbal root] nouns
 - Infixes basically are internal phonetic vowel changes or possible reduplications of syllables: e.g., גְּלִיל

Examples of Infixes

קָטֵל Pattern often denotes objects or professions: יוֹבֵל = ram’s horn קֹהֵן = priest

קָטֵל Pattern often denotes body parts: פְּתֹרַי = upper arm זָרְקָהּ = thigh

קָטֵיל Pattern often denotes profession, agricultural terms, or passive identity:

מְשֻׁיחַ = anointed one פְּלִיט = refugee

נְבִיא = prophet קְצִיר = grain harvest

Patterns with Medial lengthening קָטַל often imply occupation/profession or repeated action

דִּין = judge סֹפֵר = sinner עֲקֹשׁ = perverse

Patterns with Reduplication often serve as adjectives, especially for colors: אֶדְמָדָם = reddish

Examples of Suffixes

קָטְלוֹן Pattern serves as adjectives or diminutives: רִאשׁוֹן = first אִישׁוֹן = pupil, little man

קָטְלוֹת Pattern serves for abstract nouns: גְּלִדוֹת = childhood

קָטְלָם Pattern serves for adverbs: יוֹמָם = by day

Origination Pattern: הֶבְרֹנִי = Hebronite

(Gentilic ending יִ-XXX for Gentiles but not for Hebrews)

Example of Prefixes

A מ prefix often implies location, instrument, or abstraction:

מָקוֹם = place

מִשְׁפָּט = judgment

A ת prefix often denotes the action of the verb:

תּוֹרָה = thanksgiving

Advanced Hebrew “Grammatical Moments”
“Number” in Hebrew Usage

NUMBER: singular, plural, dual forms

These word forms are used to identify

- things countable (one or more objects)
- collectives (group of objects or a mass of material, “butter” “face”)

Numeric identifications are not always logical—only grammatical

- e.g.: “Will you have some grapes” vs. “Will you have some fruit”
 - “The oats are in the field” vs. “The wheat is in the field”
 - Note the verbal disharmony with these collectives
 - The sheep are in the field
 - The wheat is in the field
 - Hebrew collectives often have singular nouns
- Sheep and Bird(s) are collective in Hebrew while only the first in English is
- trousers, pajamas

“Honorific” plurals

- German and other European languages use the plural pronoun You for individuals when respect is called for.
- Hebrew: plural for אֱלֹהִים and for “let us...”

Enumerations often use a singular noun

- Is. 7:23 – 1,000 vines = אֶלֶף גֶּפֶן
- I Kings 5:12 – 3,000 proverbs = שְׁלֹשָׁת אֲלָפִים מְזָשָׁל

Collective modifiers (e.g., “all, every” = כָּל) use singular nouns

- “every male” in Hebrew can also translate “all your males” : כָּל-זָכוֹרָהּ
- “an abundance of counselors” in Prov. 11:14 : רַב יוֹעֵץ

Repetition

Distributive singulars to represent plural quantities

- “year by year” Dt. 14:2 = שָׁנָה שָׁנָה
- “day after day” Est. 3:4 = יוֹם נְיוֹם

Diversity

- בְּלֵב גָּלִבּ וְדַבְּרוּ = Psalm 12:3 (Heb)

Emphasis, like “really really happy”

- “pure gold” in 2 Kings 25:15 = זָהָב זָהָב

Dual Number

Advanced Hebrew “Grammatical Moments”
Various Accusative Functions

Accusative Nouns

Accusatives serve as objects of the action of the verb, i.e., the action of the verb passes over to the object signified by its noun.

The objects of verbs may be acted upon (“he planted tomatoes”) or created (“he raised tomatoes”). Certain types of verbs imply an inherent object (“he cried *tears*”) or a complementary object (“he wore *clothes*”).

Double Accusatives

“Some verbs are doubly or complexly transitive and may have more than one object associated with them. Such verbs are much more common in Hebrew than in English....” Waltke&O’Conner, 173

“Double Accusative” should not be confused with a “compound accusative,” e.g., “He taught the girl and the boy.”

Rather, one of the Hebrew accusatives will often serve as an English *indirect object*, or as an adverb to modify the verb’s action on the principle direct object.

Form: Normally, clauses with double accusatives will have only one sign of the definite object אֵת if the accusatives are definite. Contrast this to the reduplicated sign for compound definite objects.

Often, the first accusative simply is a pronoun suffixed to the verb, and the second accusative follows.

Translation: English prepositions may have to be supplied to identify the indirect object or to connect the second accusative with the first one.

Occurrence:

Often with the verbs of speaking and with “to give” or “to make,” and especially with Hiphils (Causative forms)

Examples

Indirect Objects

Is. 58:2

יִשְׁאַלְוּנִי מִשְׁפָּטֵי צְדָקָה

Ex. 34:32

וַיִּצְוֶם אֶת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר יְהוָה אֵתוֹ

Preposition Required

Gen. 42:25 = “with”

וַיִּמְלֵאוּ אֶת־כְּלֵיהֶם בָּרֶךְ

I Kgs. 18:32 = “into”

וַיִּכְבְּדוּ אֶת־הָאֲבָנִים מִזִּבְחֹהֶן

Gen. 2:7 = “from”

וַיִּצְרֶה יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים אֶת־הָאָדָם עֶפְרָר מִן־הָאֲדָמָה

Adverbial Use

I Kgs. 12:13 = “harshly

וַיַּעַר הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶת־הָעַם קָשָׁה

Directional ך

Roughly equivalent to the English suffix “-ward,” this is a vestige of the old accusative ending

Occasionally may interrupt a construct chain: Gen. 43:17 הָבֵא אֶת־הָאֲנָשִׁים בֵּיתָהּ יוֹסֵף

Can be used with movement in time: Ex. 13:10 וַשְׁמֵרְתָּ מִיָּמִים גְּמִימָה

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–APPOSITION– Waltke-O’Conner 12

Nouns can be modified (qualified, explained) not only by restrictive adjectives, but also by other nouns. Construct phrases (“crown of gold” vs. “golden crown” in English) are used extensively; in fact, construct phrases appear more often in Hebrew than nouns with attributive adjectives.

Apposition is another syntactical form of nouns qualifying nouns. Apposition takes place when a noun or noun phrase is juxtaposed next to the “leadword” noun to give more precision to the leadword: “Isaiah the prophet.”

“Hebrew employs apposition more extensively than English” (p. 227), and some of the examples are rather abrupt and unexpected, and therefore will often be translated with an English adjective instead of with an appositional phrase in English: Ps. 120:2 = “...tongue, duplicity...” or in other words, “a deceitful tongue.”

Noun-noun Appositional Phrase: A general leadword is restricted by a more limited appositive

II Sam. 10:7	אֶת כָּל־הַצָּבָא הַגִּבֹּרִים	“the entire army of fighting men”	exact parallel apposition
Ex. 30:23	בְּשָׂמִים רָאשׁ	“fine spices”	apposition of quality
Prov. 22:21	אֲמָרִים אֱמֶת	“truthful words”	quality
2 Kgs 16:17	הַבָּקָר הַנְּחֹשֶׁת	bronze oxen	apposition of material
Gen. 6:10	שְׁלֹשָׁה בָנִים	“three sons”	apposition of measure

Use with Names

In cases in which the name is an apposition and the phrase takes a proposition or אֶת, the particle is generally repeated on leadword and apposition.

אֶת־אֶחָיו אֶת־הַקֵּל Gen. 4:2 לְבָנָי לְיִצְחָק Gen. 24:4

In cases in which the name is the leadword, the particle is generally not repeated.

אֶל־הַקֵּל אֶחָיו Gen. 4:8

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Relatives Pronouns: Waltke/O’Connor 19

“It is often necessary to combine more than one predication; in such situations the main or independent clause contains one or more subordinate clauses” (p. 330). Relative clauses are the main type of subordinate clause that modifies/expands/qualifies the main predication.

Relative pronouns in English and Hebrew connect (relate) together two clauses. A clause is a phrase that *predicates* something.

The main clause will be followed and amplified by the subordinate, *relative* clause. Normally, (not always, e.g., “the lost brother ^ he came to know” vs. “the lost brother whom he came to know”), the two clauses will be joined by a relative pronoun.

There are four relative clause markers (connectors):

1. אשר – the most common, yet rare in poetry
2. ש – found in the oldest (Gen., Jud.) and youngest (Ezra) Hebrew books, but not in between.
3. “Z series” = זה זה זה Demonstrative pronouns serve as relative pronouns. Usually found in poetry.
4. מי מה Interrogative pronouns may serve as relative pronouns

EXAMPLES of אשר

1. Nominative הַעֵץ אֲשֶׁר בְּתוֹךְ הַגֵּן
2. Accusative אֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים אֲשֶׁר לֹא יָדַעְתָּ
3. Resumptive הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר אָתָּה שֹׁכֵב עָלֶיהָ (reduplicates the subject of the main clause with a pronoun in the relative clause).
4. Genitive see the previous example of possession/relation of the genitive: “The land of which you are lying on it.”
5. Time “when” עַד־הַיּוֹם אֲשֶׁר־בָּא בְּשָׁלוֹם
6. Locative “where” עַד־הַמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר־הָיָה שָׁם אֶתְּלָהּ

EXAMPLES of ש

- Jdg. 7:12 כַּחֹל שֶׁעַל־שֹׁפֵת הַיָּם Ps. 124:6 יְהוָה שָׁלַא נִתְּנָנוּ טָרַר לְשִׁנֵּיהֶם
 Cant. 3:1 בְּקִשְׁתִּי אֵת שְׂאֵהְבָה נִכְפְּשִׁי Ps. 123:2 עַד שִׁיִּתְּנֵנוּ

EXAMPLES of זה

- Prov. 23:22 נִשְׁמַע לְאַבִּיךָ זֶה יִלְדֶּךָ Ps. 104:26 לְיַיְתוֹן זֶה־יִצְרֶתָּהּ
 Is. 42:24 הֲלוֹא יְהוָה זֶה הַטָּאֲנוּ לוֹ

EXAMPLES of מי מה

- Josh. 24:15 בְּחַרוּ אֶת־מִי תַעֲבֹדוּן

“Prepositions are relational terms that stand before nouns and noun equivalents (including certain verb forms) and thereby form phrases....”

Prepositions may be classed by the origin and use.

Nominal perspective. Some prepositions are derived from nouns. Originally a lead noun was juxtaposed to an objective noun (often in old accusative form) to show the relation of the two. Obvious examples are the prepositions לְפָנַי and אֶחָרַי .

“The shortening of nominal construct forms is related to the unstressed status of many prepositions, written as prefixes or as proclitics (with *maqeph*, e.g., -עַל).

Particle perspective. Some Hebrew prepositions have no known etymological origin. They are considered as short particles of speech.

Some do appear to have derived from geminate forms, e.g., עַם but עִמִּי -אֶת- but אֶתִּי . Others appear to be related to the plural forms of nouns: אֵל but אֱלֵי .

Semantic perspective. This perspective addresses the question, “what is the meaning of the relation between the noun that the preposition governs and the clause in which the prepositional phrase occurs?” The answer will usually be expressed in terms of some relation of time (e.g., before, until) or space (before the presence, in, after). Only a couple prepositions express something other than temporal or spacial relations, viz., “like” and “because of” (וְעַן).

Some of the various semantic relations to the flow of the action include: origin, instrument, agent, interest, cause, and goal (p. 191).

Prepositions may appear in simple forms, compound, or complex.

Simple: מִן

Compound (prep.+ prep.): מֵעַל

Complex (prep + noun): מִן־בַּיַד מִן־בְּתוֹךְ

Generally, a prepositional phrase that has compound objects will reduplicate the preposition.

Gen. 12:1 לְאֵלֶיךָ מֵאֶרֶץ הַמִּצְרַיִם וּמִמּוֹלַדְתְּךָ וּמִבְּרִית אַבְרָם

This reduplicating may be “overridden” in some cases:

1 Sam. 15:22 הִחֲפֹץ לִיהוָה בְּעֲלֹת וּזְבָחִים

Finally, prepositions can be implied to reduplicate, not with a compound object, but in a poetic parallel where the verb(s) control the objects in a similar way.

Isaiah 48:14 יַעֲשֶׂה הַפֶּצוּ בְּבָבֶל וְזָרְעוּ בְּשָׂדֵי־ם