

Hebrew Roots: Notes and Abbreviations

Notes

I'm just getting started with the data entry. This takes time. Eventually I would like to have a complete synopsis of the lexicon in which I can search for:

1. Ways in which the morphology of Hebrew roots is influenced by phonological factors, e.g., the same consonant is not used for both C1 and C2 in Hebrew. To this rule there is only one exception that I know of (**ddh* "move slowly"). Also, emphatic consonants interact in predictable ways. I am sure there are other examples, and possibly many other examples.
2. Patterns in the occurrence of conjugations. By this I mean that it would be nice to test the hypothesis that certain conjugations tend to co-occur more readily than others. If this is the case I would like to know why.
3. Patterns in the occurrence of stem vowels. There is a question (that other people might already have answered) whether the vowels used with various roots to form stems are more widely preconditioned by semantic facts or by phonological facts. Consider the following examples: (a) stem vowels a e occurring in suffixed paradigms are associated with stative meaning, e.g., *ʔāmēl* "be weak, languish," *ʔāpēs* "cease, fail, come to an end";¹ (b) stem vowels a i occurring in suffixed paradigms are something that I have only found so far in cases where the third radical of the root is the letter *he*, e.g., form *ʔārîṭî* "I plucked" (Song 5:1) < stem *ʔārâ* "pluck" < root **rḥ*.

Key to Abbreviations

Just a word about stem vowels. In suffixing paradigms both the first and second stem vowels (V1, V2) carry significance. In prefixing paradigms the first stem vowel (V1) – for G stem only – becomes null or is reduced to some variant of *shewa*, so the prefix vowel (V0) takes on a role similar to that of the first stem vowel and participates, along with the second stem vowel (V2), in the patterns recorded here.

Column headings on the reports in this group use a system of abbreviation that I have found useful. See table 1 below.

¹ From the vowel pattern we might conclude that the semantic emphasis is on the result of ceasing, rather than on the process by which the result comes about.

Table 1
Basic Abbreviation List

Abbr	Read As
G	Qal (common stem)
N	Niphal
H	Hiphil
D1, D2, D3	Doubled first, second, or third stem consonant
0	The basic or unmarked form for a given conjugation
Pass	Passive formed by vocalization (without adding prefixes)
t	Prefix often associated with doubled root
Pre	Prefixed verb forms
Suf	Suffixed verb forms
V1, V2	First or second stem vowel
V0	Prefix vowel

These prefixes can be combined in various ways.

Table 2
Expanded Abbreviation List

Abbr	Read As
G	Qal (common stem)
GPass	Qal passive
Gt	Qal root plus hith- prefix (no examples in Hebrew, but in Aramaic this conjugation is fairly common)
N	Niphal
H	Hiphil
D1	Stem with doubled first radical
D1Pass	Vocalic passive formed on root with doubled first radical
D1t	hith- prefix plus root with doubled first radical
D2	Stem with doubled second radical
D2Pass	Vocalic passive formed on root with doubled second radical
D2t	Hithpael
D3	Stem with doubled third radical
D3Pass	Vocalic passive formed on root with doubled third radical
D3t	hith- prefix plus root with doubled third radical
GSufV1	First vowel of a G stem with suffixed conjugation pattern
GSufV2	Second vowel of a G stem with suffixed conjugation pattern
GPreV0	Suffix vowel of a G stem with prefixed conjugation pattern
GPreV2	Second vowel of a G stem with prefixed conjugation pattern
GSufV	Vowel pattern (first and second) for suffixing G stem roots
GPreV	Vowel pattern (prefix and second) for prefixing G stem roots