

Orthographic text

كانت ريح الشمال تتجادل والشمس في أي منهما كانت أقوى من الأخرى. واذ بمسافر يطلع متلفعا بعباءة سمبكة. فاتفقتا على اعتبار السابق في اجبار المسافر على خلع عباءته الأقوى. عصفت ريح الشمال بأقصى ما استطاعت من قوة. ولكن كلما ازداد العصف ازداد المسافر تدثرا بعباءته الى ان أسقط في يد الريح فتخلت عن محاولتها. بعدئذ سطعت الشمس بدفئها فما كان من المسافر الا ان خلع عباءته على التو. وهكذا اضطرت ريح الشمال الى الاعتراف بان الشمس كانت هي الأقوى.

Hebrew

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There are two main dialects in Modern native Israeli Hebrew: the Oriental Dialect and the Non-Oriental Dialect. The Oriental Dialect is usually spoken by people with a Near Eastern origin, who have some sort of Arabic or Aramaic in their own or their parents' linguistic background. These speakers may have been born in Israel, and by now most of them do not know any Arabic or Aramaic. The recording was made by a 61 year old woman whose parents were born in Israel. Her education was in Hebrew. The Non-Oriental dialect is spoken by the rest of the population. The recording was made by 49 year old man who was born in Israel of Eastern Europe parents: Hebrew and Yidish were spoken at home.

The Oriental dialect was chosen by the "Va'ad Hallashon" (the committee preceding the Academy of the Hebrew Language) to be the representative and the prestigious speech in Israel. This dialect was selected to be the preferred pronunciation for the official broadcasting services. It should be noted that, for various reasons, there are "Oriental Israelis" who speak the Non-Oriental dialect, and "Non-Oriental Israelis" who speak the Oriental dialect.

The main difference between these dialects is in the consonants; the Oriental dialect has two pharyngeal phonemes, which the Non-Oriental dialect lacks. In the Non-Oriental dialect /ʕ/ merged with /ʁ/ and /ħ/ with /χ/.

Consonants

	Bilab.	Lab.dent	Dental	Alv.	Postalv.	Retrofl.	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Pharyng	Glottal
Plosive	p b		t d					k g			ʔ
Nasal	m		n								
Trill			r								
Fricative		f v		s z	ʃ ʒ				χ	ħ	h
Approximant							j			ɣ	
Lateral			l								

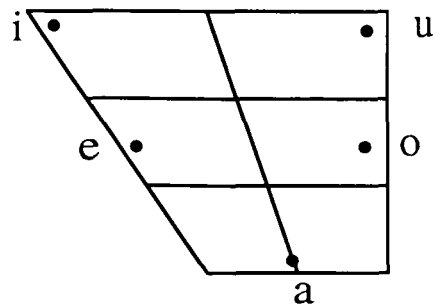
The phonemes /h/ and /ɣ/ occur only in the Oriental dialect.

p	par	'bull'	t	tar	'tours'	k	kar	'cold'
						ʔ	ʔor	'light'
b	bar	'wild'	d	dar	'dwelt'	g	gar	'living'
m	gam	'also'	n	gan	'garden'			
f	tsaf	'floats'	s	sar	'minister'	ʃ	ʃar	'sings'
			χ	ma'χar	'sold'	h	har	'mountain'
v	tsav	'turtle'	z	zar	'stranger'	ʒ	ʒa'ket	'jacket'
r	ram	'high'	l	gal	'wave'	j	jam	'sea'
Oriental dialect only			ħ	ma'ħar	'tomorrow'	ɣ	ɣam	'nation'

Affricates might be regarded as phonological units, but they can be treated as sequences of stops followed by homorganic fricatives: /ts/ as in /tsar/ 'narrow'; /tʃ/ as in /tʃips/ 'chips' and /dʒ/ as in /dʒip/ 'jeep'.

Vowels

i	gir	'chalk'
e	ger	'convert'
a	gar	'is living'
o	bor	'hole'
u	gur	'dwell'



Diphthongs can be treated as sequences of vowels, or as sequences of a vowel and /j/. Thus, [ei] can be best interpreted as /ej/.

Stress

Stress is distinctive	/ˈberex/	‘knee’
	/beˈrex/	‘he blessed’.

Differences between Oriental and Non-Oriental dialects

The Oriental dialect has the two pharyngeals /ħ, ʕ/. some of the Oriental dialect speakers, especially in liturgical reading, have also pharyngealized sounds [s, t, k]. Most of the speakers of the Oriental dialect have gemination, especially in careful and slow pronunciation ([ˈdanu] ‘they discussed’ vs. [ˈdannu] ‘we discussed’). They also preserve the traditional “mobile schwa” more than the members of the other dialect. Usually the Oriental-Hebrew speakers pronounce /r/ as an alveolar trill (or flap) [r]; In the Non-Oriental dialect it is usually a uvular approximant [ʁ] (still, some Non-Oriental speakers pronounce it as a trill). Some occurrences of the front-mid vowel /e/ are diphthongized by Non-Orientials as [ei], but most of the Oriental speakers retain a monophthong [e]. Years ago this distinction marked the difference between these two dialects: while the Non-Orientials differentiated between pairs like [moˈre ˈderex] ‘guide’ vs. [moˈrei ˈderex] ‘guides’, the Orientals produced both as [moˈre ˈderex]. It seems that this difference is gradually disappearing, as more and more Oriental speakers acquire the diphthong [ei].

Conventions

/p, t, k/ are slightly aspirated. /b, d, g/ are voiced throughout. /ʔ/, especially in unstressed syllables, can be elided. /r/ in the Oriental dialect is usually an alveolar trill [r]. In the Non-Oriental dialect it is usually a uvular approximant [ʁ]. /χ/ is usually a voiceless uvular fricative trill. /n/ is usually /ŋ/ before a velar plosive. Especially in unstressed syllables, the glottal stop, the glottal fricative and the pharyngeal approximant [ʔ, h, ʕ], may be omitted (though their frequencies seems to depend on the personality, on the style and on the rapidity of speech). When intervocalic /h/ is pronounced, it is voiced [ɦ]. Vowels and consonants are long in stressed syllables. They are even longer at the end of sense groups. Vowels are centralized and shorter if they are unstressed.

Transcriptions of recorded passages

1. Oriental Hebrew

ˈruaħ hattsaˈfon, vehaʃfemef, hitvakeˈhu beneˈhem, ˈmi meˈhem haˈzak
joˈter. gameˈru, ki ʔet hannitsaˈhon, jinˈhal, ˈmi sejjatsˈlijah lifˈfot meˈʕal
ʕoˈver ʔorah ʔet begaˈdav. paˈtah ˈruaħ hatsaˈfon venaˈʃav beħozˈka. hidˈdek
haʔaˈdam ʔet begaˈdav ʔel guˈfo. ʔaz, histaˈʕer ʕaˈlav haˈruaħ, beˈjeter ʕoz,
ʔax haʔaˈdam, miʃfehoˈsif hakˈkor leʕannoˈto, laˈvaʃ meˈʕil ʕelˈjon ʕal
begaˈdav. noʔaʃ mimˈmennu haˈruaħ, umesaˈro biˈde haʃfemef. tehilˈla,
zaˈrah ʕaˈlav haʃfemef berakˈkut. vebaʔaˈdam heˈsir ʔet bigˈdo haʕelˈjon

meʃa'lav. hiɡ'bir haʃ'femeʃ ʔet ɦum'mo, ʔad ʃe'lo ja'χol haʔa'dam laʃa'mod
biʃne haʃʃa'raʋ, ufa'ʃat ʔet bega'daʋ, veniχ'naʃ le'toχ hanna'har, ʃeɦa'ja
bekir'vat ma'kom, ke'dej lir'ɦots bemej'maʋ.

2. Non-Oriental Hebrew

'ruaχ hatsa'fon, vehaʃemeʃ, hitvak'χu' beine'hem, 'mi me'hem χa'zak jo'ter.
gam'ru, ki ʔet hanitsa'χon, jin'χal, 'mi ʃejats'liaχ lifʃot meʔal ʔo'ver ʔoraχ
ʔet bega'daʋ. pa'taχ 'ruaχ hatsa'fon, vena'ʃaʋ beχoz'ka. hi'dek haʔa'dam
ʔet bega'daʋ ʔel gu'fo. ʔaz, hista'ʔer ʔa'laʋ ha'ruaχ, be'jeter ʔoz, ʔaχ
haʔa'dam, miʃeɦo'siʃ ha'kor leʔano'to, la'vaʃ meʔil ʔel'jon ʔal bega'daʋ.
no'ʔaʃ mi'menu ha'ruaχ, umsa'ro bi'jde ha'femeʃ. teχ'i'la, za'raχ ʔa'laʋ
ha'femeʃ bera'kut, vebaʔa'dam, he'sir ʔet biɡ'do haʔel'jon meʔa'laʋ. hi'ɡbir
ha'femeʃ ʔet χu'mo, ʔad ʃe'lo ja'χol haʔa'dam laʔa'mod biʃne haʃa'raʋ,
ufa'ʃat ʔet bega'daʋ, veniχ'naʃ le'toχ hana'har, ʃeɦa'ja bekir'vat ma'kom,
kedej lir'χots bemej'maʋ.

Orthographic text

רוח-הצפון והשמש התנפחו ביניהם, מי מהם חזק יותר.
גמרו, כי את הנצחון ינחל מי שיצליח לפשט מעל עובר-
ארח את בגדיו. פתח רוח הצפון ונשב בחזקה. הדק האדם
את בגדיו אל גופו. אז הסתער עליו הרוח ביתר-עו, אך
האדם, משהוסיף הקר לענותו, לבש מעיל עליון על בגדיו.
נואש ממנו הרוח ומסרו בידי השמש. תחלה זרח עליו השמש
ברכות, והאדם הסיר את בגדו העליון מעליו. הגביר השמש
את חמו, עד שלא יכל האדם לעמד בפני השרב ופשט את
בגדיו ונכנס לתוך הנזהר, שהיה בקרבת מקום, כדי לרחץ
במימיו.