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The rebirth of Spoken Hebrew

The rebirth of Hebrew as a mother tongue after two millennia is an event unique in sociolinguistic history. It happened through a constellation of radical political and ethnic aspirations, dire economic forces, and educational circumstances that may never be repeated, but none of which are in any way 'miraculous'. This course examines how it happened, through the eyes of those who made it happen and contemporary sociolinguists and historians, and draws conclusions for language policy in other developing societies. No knowledge of Hebrew is required.

**Books referred to in this syllabus:**

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Elon, Amos The Israelis: Founders and Sons, Penguin, 1981.

Fellman, Jack. The revival of a classical tongue; Eliezer Ben Yehuda and the modern Hebrew language. The Hague, Mouton, 1973.

Fishman, Joshua A. Language and nationalism; two integrative essays. Rowley, Mass., Newbury House Publishers, 1973 (reprinted in idem, Language and Ethnicity in Minority Sociolinguistic Perspective. Philadelphia: Multilingual Matters, 1989)

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Katz, Dovid. Words on Fire. New York: Basic Books, 2004

Kushelevsky, R & Lipsker, A. (eds.) *Ma'aseh Sippur*, Bar Ilan University Press, 2006.

Marshall, David F. (ed) *Focus on Language Planning*, John Benjamins, 1991

Spolsky, Bernard. *Language policy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004.

## **Syllabus**

### **1: Hebrew on the eve of the Revival**

Elon, 41-56

Chomsky, 207-244

Harshav, pp vii-16

Stampfer 'What did "knowing Hebrew" mean in E. Europe?' in Glinert, 129-140

Glinert, 'Hasidic Tale and the Sociolinguistic Modernization of the Jews of Eastern Europe' in Kushelevsky & Lipsker, 7-36 (English section).

Glinert, LH. (1987). Hebrew-Yiddish diglossia -- type and stereotype: Implications of the language of Ganzfried's 'Kitzur'. *International Journal of the Sociology of Language* 67, 39-55.

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Aberbach, D. Revolutionary Hebrew, empire and crisis: towards a sociological Gestalt. *British Journal of Sociology*. 48(1), 1997, 131-151.

### **2: Nationalism, Zionism, and anti-Yiddishism**

Fishman, part 2

Bartal, I. From traditional bilingualism to national monolingualism. In Glinert, 141-50

Harshav, 17-62

Glinert, Tongue of Tongues (BBC Radio 3 documentary, 1992, cassette)

Katz, 45-77, 228-238, 257-278, 310-323

Poll, S. 'The sacred-secular conflict in the use of Hebrew and Yiddish among the Ultra-orthodox Jews of Jerusalem', *International Journal of the Sociology of Language*, 24, 109-125, 1980.

Elon, *The Israelis*, 57-81

### **3: First a modern literature**

Alter, 1-22, 40-61

Bar-El, J. 'The national poet: The emergence of a concept in Hebrew literary criticism', *Prooftexts*, 6, 205-220, 1986.

Patterson, D. 'Modern Hebrew literature goes on Aliyah', *Journal of Jewish Studies*, 28-9, 75-84, 1977/8.

Diament, C. (1984). 'The first Hebrew newspaper and its significance'. *Hebrew Studies* 25, 104-124.

### **4: Ben-Yehuda -- 'Father of Modern Hebrew?'**

Elon, *The Israelis*, 82-105

Fellman, *The Revival of a Classical Tongue*

Rabin, C. 'The national idea and the revival of Hebrew', *Studies in Zionism*, 7, 31-48, 1983.

Mandel, G. 'Why did Ben-Yehuda suggest the revival of spoken Hebrew?' In Glinert, 193-207

Glinert, 'Lexicographic function and the relation between supply and demand *International Journal of Lexicography*', 11(2), 111-124

Yellin, D. 'Ben Yehuda and the revival of the Hebrew Language', *Journal of the Palestine Exploration Society*, 3, 95-108, 1923.

The Wordmaker (VHS recording, 1992)

## **5: How native spoken Hebrew emerged in Eretz-Israel**

Bar-Adon, Aaron. (1974). Language planning and the processes of nativization in the newly revived Hebrew. Proceedings of the Third International Congress of Applied Linguistics, 1972, 1-17, Heidelberg: Julius Gross Verlag.

Harshav, 81-152

Spolsky, B. 1995. 'Conditions for Language Revitalization: A Comparison of the Cases of Hebrew and Maori.' Current Issues in Language and Society. 2(3).177-201.

## **6: Which Hebrew?**

Shelomo Morag, 'The emergence of Modern Hebrew'. In Glinert, Hebrew in Ashkenaz, 208-221

Harshav, 153-166

Bar-Adon, The Rise and Decline of a Dialect

Rabin, Chaim 'The origins of present-day Hebrew', Ariel, 59, 4-13, 1985.

## **7: Was Hebrew planned?**

Chomsky, Hebrew, 184-205

Glinert, LH. 'The first conference for Modern Hebrew, or when is a congress not a congress?' in Fishman, 85-115.

Blanc, Haim 'The Israeli koine as an emergent national standard' in Fishman, J.A. et al (eds) Language problems of developing nations, 237-251, 1968

Morag, Shelomo 'Planned and unplanned development in Modern Hebrew', Lingua 8, 247-263, 1959

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Nahir, Moshe 'Lexical modernization in Hebrew and the extra-Academy contribution', *Word*, 30(1-2), 105-116, 1979

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### **8: Hebrew Politics under the British Mandate**

Nash, S. 'Hebrew language and literature and the origins of Jewish resistance to the British', *Hebrew Studies*, 18, 70-86, 1977.

Yaakov Shavit, 'Hebrew and Phoenicians: An ancient historical image and its usage', *Studies in Zionism*, 5(2), 157-180, 1984.

Spolsky, ch. 1-3