**Grammatical Words in the Language of Abraham Ibn Ezra as a Means for Characterizing the Foundations of Arabicization**

**Abstract**

The use of grammatical words in the writings of Abraham Ibn Ezra – and especially in his independent works which were written in Hebrew and not as a translation of Arabic writings – enables us to discern the foundations of Arabicization that penetrated Ibn Ezra’s language, notwithstanding his aspiration for linguistic purity and aversion to borrowing from Arabic. This study sheds light on changes in the meanings of grammatical words, their roles, phrases incorporating them, and phrases incorporating nouns and verbs with grammatical words that were coined under the influence of the Arabic language.

The examples discussed in the study indicate influence of Arabic grammatical structures on Ibn Ezra’s language, in particular in his independent writings, reflected in the coining of new relational phrases and the absence of a reliance on the grammatical rules of classical Hebrew.

In this way, grammatical words expanded their meaning under the influence of Arabic, acquiring new additional roles to suit the needs of translators. Hebrew grammatical words served as translations for a larger number of Arabic words, and others translated different terms. In addition, the influence of Arabic stands out as having led to interchanges in usage of grammatical words; and in other instances, expansion or contraction of the functional meaning of grammatical words. Moreover, a large number of new relational phrases were coined on the basis of parallel phrases in Arabic. It thus seems that Arabic exercised a significant and decisive influence on the language of Abraham Ibn Ezra in all of his writings, and this is reflected well in his use of grammatical words.