(ABSTRACT WORD LIMIT: 150 WORDS. CURRENT LENGTH: 150 WORDS)

In the introduction to his dictionary, considered to be the first scientific Hebrew dictionary based on the principle of the triconsonantal root, medieval grammarian Judah Hayyuj enumerates eight verbal patterns: the seven presently accepted and the additional pattern *pô‛ēl* (פּוֹעֵל). However, Hayyuj's identification of this latter pattern was not accepted by all medieval grammarians. Ibn Ezra in particular disputed the existence of this pattern in the standard verbs.

This article suggests that the difference between Hayuuj's and Ibn Ezra's views is a result of their different historical contexts. In the tenth and eleventh centuries, the science of Hebrew linguistics, and especially grammar, followed the Arabic model. Accordingly, Hayyūj created the pattern *pô‛ēl* as the parallel to *fā‛ala*, one of the four basic forms of the Arabic verb. By the twelfth century, however, Ibn Ezra revaluated the issue using the data of Hebrew itself, and found no evidence for this form.