# Syntactic and Stylistic Elements Reflecting the Conception of YHWH in Targum Jonathan to the Prophets

In this article, I will attempt to point to the syntactic function of the name YWHW as reflecting changes made by the Targum, and to the syntactic circumstances in which the Targum translates literally, without changes or additions. I will argue that, in addition to theological and hermeneutic considerations, one can point to syntactic and stylistic aspects as well that shed light on the Targum’s conception of YHWH.

When the name YHWH appears in a verse in a predicate position, the Targum does not ascribe the statement to YHWH himself, and instead alters it so it refers to other figures in the divine panoply: God’s word, his presence (*shekhinah*), his worship, or his glory. In those few verses in which verses are translated literally, it seems that the Targum wishes to preserve unique syntactic structures. When the name YWHW appears as the grammatical agent, the Targum generally preserves the verse unchanged, as referring to YHWH himself. Even when the verb is understood as ascribing to YHWH unacceptable anthropomorphism, the Targum generally prefers to alter the verb and to preserve the syntactic structure unchanged.

We can also point to a stylistic-theological preference: the Targum does not see it as obligatory to add or to change the verb if it already did so in the parallel section of the verse. The is especially true if the distancing was adopted in relation to the name YHWH, while in the parallel stich the name Elohim appears.