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The Influence of Middle Arabic on The Hebrew Of Arabic Speaking Jews

Arabic speaking Jews were exposed to the literary impact of Middle Arabic, rather than of Classical Arabic proper, and this impact influenced their Hebrew as well. This is the case in morphology (the use of *hitpa'el* as passive; perhaps also the disappearance of the imperfect suffix — *ûn*), syntax (the use of *lihyôtô*, etc.; perhaps the occurrence of two constructs preceding one *nomen rectum*; the use of *shâm* 'there is'; pleonastic negation after verbs denoting fear and prevention; changes in the gender system of numerals, as well as the addition of the definite article to numerals in construct; even phrases like *ah-bêt dîn* may reflect the impact of Hebrew phrases in Arabic context), and vocabulary (*omnam* translating not only *ammâ* but also *innamâ*; *ubhilhad* used, in the wake of *xâşşatan*, in the sense of 'especially'; it stands to reason that the widespread use of *kim a' qal* is influenced by *qal* in Spanish Arabic). On the other hand, the pleonastic negation in *kim'a' shellô* 'almost' reflects, it seems, Romance influence.