

**Shelomo Morag**

## **The Beginnings of Hebrew: Some Semantic Considerations**

The author proposes to establish possible criteria for defining the position of Hebrew in North-West Semitic, also to follow the occurrence of some semantic developments, that is: the independent position of the language of this sub-group of the Semitic languages is to be defined not only grammatically but semantically as well. Significant developments in the semantics of Hebrew resulted from the impact of the monotheistic culture on the structure of certain semantic fields. Some semantemes which reveal his impact are discussed in detail in the paper: אָמוּנָה, נְפִלְאוֹת, פְּדוּת, אָנָּף, דְּרֵשׁ, צֶתֶר, קְשׁוּבָה, גָּכַר, הַתְּפִלָּל (the last three in the semantic field of prayer).