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Loan Translations from Arabic in Hebrew and in European Languages

Through the large number of Latin translations from Arabic in the Middle Ages, many scientific terms were coined by way of loan translation; from Latin these terms were received into European languages. From the same Arabic source and in the same way, the scientific terminology of the Hebrew language in the Middle Ages was enriched. This double process created a large number of parallel terms in European languages on the one hand, and in Hebrew on the other. For example: Latin "fractio" (= English "fraction", Italian "frazione", German "Bruch", etc.) and Hebrew "šever" are loan translations from Arabic "kasr"; "radix" (= root, radice, Wurzel, etc.) and "šores" are loan translations from "jidr".

This common European and Hebrew basic terminology has been an important factor in the revival of the Hebrew language under the influence of Standard Average European.