

פלט hiph

(For fuller discussion of the lexical field as a whole see the ‘Overview of SAHD entries for “Deliverance” words’ on this site)

Introduction

Grammatical Type: vb.

Occurrences: Total 2x OT, 1?x Sir (5.13), 1x QumB (1QIsa^a Is 31.5), 0x inscr.

Text Doubtful:

A.1 Sir 5.13b reads ולשון אדם מפליטו according to Ms A, but ולשון אדם מפליטו according to Ms C. Ms A is supported by the versions (see Versions), and its reading is adopted by Skehan and Di Lella (1987:180).

A.2 1QIsa^a (Is 31.5) has פלט hiph (i.e. והפליט) where MT has מלט hiph. However, 1QIsa^a agrees with MT in Is 5.29 (see also the fuller discussion in פלט piel, Lexical Fields A1).

B.1 BHS proposes that in Mc 6.14a פלט hiph should read פלט piel, since this latter conjugation is used in a verbal form only two words later. Jenni (1968:11) mentions this variation as one found by most to be without significance. However, he attributes the use of the hiph alongside the piel to the presence of a negative particle with the hiph, and criticises the proposed emendation (1968:98-99, 106-07; see also Exegesis). Jenni is followed by Ruprecht (1979:423). The emendation is also rejected by Hasel (1989:593 = 2001:555). Hubbard (1997:623) wrongly states that BHS suggests the emendation of פלט piel in Mc 6.14 to a hiph, though this is suggested by BHK. In fact BHS suggests the emendation of פלט hiph to piel.

Qere/Ketiv: none.

1. Root and Comparative Material

A.1 See פלט Qal.

B.1 See פלט Qal.

2. Formal Characteristics

A.1 Strong trilateral root.

B.1 [nil]

3. Syntagmatics

A.1 In neither of the occurrences in MT, nor in the occurrence in 1QIsa^a Is 31.5 does פלט hiph possess an explicit object, though in Is 5.29 one is implied (i.e. טרף). In מפליטו (Sir 5.13, Ms C) the suffix fulfils the roles of both object and possessor. The lexeme thus shows a low level of transitivity.

B.1 [nil]

4. Versions

a. LXX:

ἐκβάλλω (Is 5.29);

διασφζομαι (Mc 6.14);

πτῶσις (Sir 5.13).

b. The Three:

διασφζω (Aq, Sym, Thd Mc 6.14; Thd passive).

c. Pesh:

m 'd' (Is 5.29);

pšy pael (Mc 6.14);

rm 'lhwn (Sir 5.13).

d. Tg:

נְשִׂיב (Is 5.29, Mc 6.14).

e. Vg:

amplexor (Is 5.29);

salvo (Mc 6.14);

subversio (Sir 5.13).

A.1 LXX Is 5.29 ἐκβαλεῖ “he shall take out?” here probably does not mean “rescue” so much as “safely get away with”. Pesh *ma 'de'* (an aphel participle, meaning “rapuit, eripuit” [Brockelmann:511b]), focuses on the horizon from which the prey was removed. Vg *amplexor* focuses on the safe possession of the prey by the lion.

A.2 The versions preserve no distinction between פלט hiph and פלט piel in Mc 6.14.

A.3 LXX and Pesh, clearly, and Vg, probably, support the reading of Ms A in Sir 5.13.

B.1 Brockelmann (:511b) erroneously says that *ma 'de'* translates הַצִּיל in Is 5.29, but this is translated by *pšy* (pael).

5. Lexical/Semantic Field(s)

A.1 For a discussion of the semantic field of lexemes of the root פלט, and for a contrast of these lexemes with those of the root מלט see Lexical/Semantic Field(s) of פלט piel.

B.1 [nil]

6. Exegesis

A.1 Jenni (1968:107) understands the piel in Mc 6.14 to mean “ein momentanes Erreichen des Sicherheitszustandes” as opposed to the hiph which means “ein andauerndes Sichersein des Geretteten”. This is in accord with his understanding of the piel of stems with intransitive *Grundbedeutung* as factitive, and the hiph as causative. The piel makes someone (having been) saved, and therefore may in some cases refer only

to a temporary rescue, while the hiph causes a process (being safe). The possibility of lasting rescue is denied by the negation of the hiph, but the possibility of temporary rescue is admitted. However, what is temporarily rescued will be given to the sword.

A.2 Zorell (650b) gives the meaning of the hiph as “rem acquisitam in tuto collocavit, servavit”, and Alonso Schökel (584b) as “retener, sujetar”.

B.1 Sawyer (1972:98) suggests that the hiph of פלט “may be due to interference, at the morphological level, from the more common terms הושיע and הצייל”. However, the occurrences find syntactic explanations of their own, and the occurrence of such interference is undemonstrated in Hebrew.

7. Conclusion

A.1 In comparison with the piel, the hiph of פלט displays less tendency to be transitive. This hiph is causative rather than factitive, and may be glossed “cause rescue”. In contrast to the piel it focuses on the lasting safety that is attained (Jenni 1968:107).

A.2 It is argued in Lexical/Semantic Field(s) in the entry on פלט piel that a general distinction exists between the roots מלט and פלט, whereby the latter root tends to focus on rescue to safety, and the former on the horizon of departure from danger. This distinction works well for the occurrences of פלט hiph though it is not demanded by them.

B.1 [nil]

Bibliography

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