

**Transition of Verbs from the Derived Stems to the Ground Stem
in Late Jewish Aramaic
Hsin-Chih Perng**

Transition of verbs from one stem to another with no difference in meaning is a well attested phenomenon in Semitic languages. The movement is generally from the ground stem to other stems. However, in the late Jewish Aramaic of the Targumim to the Hagiographa and other works written in the Geonic period, a common transition takes place in the opposite direction: from C, D, or Gt stems to G stem. This occurs primarily in the infinitive forms, and sometimes also in the perfect, imperfect and participle forms. The abundant examples from numerous texts seem to indicate a true linguistic phenomenon, and not mere scribal errors. If so, is it due to external influence of foreign languages, or the result of internal development of Palestinian Aramaic? Does it reflect a change in the spoken language, or only in the literary language? In this lecture we will examine a variety of examples from various manuscripts and discuss these issues.