Ross Chapter 3: The Shewa

Introduction

Except at the end (usually) of a word every consonant letter has a vowel or shewa associated with it.

A shewa can be silent or vocal (pronounced)

A vocal shewa can be simple or compound
Ross Chapter 3: The Shewa

3.1
In addition to the vowels, Hebrew has a simple shewa.

   It may be vocal (transliterated with ə [or ɘ ])

   It may be silent and not transliterated.

3.2
Silent or vocal: rules

1. Shewa under the first syllable letter is vocal.
   Shewa under a letter that closes a syllable is silent.
3.2 Silent or vocal: rules at the beginning or end of words

1. Shewa under the first syllable letter is vocal. Shewa under a letter that closes a syllable is silent.

At the beginning of a word: obviously vocal (w/ a beginning consonant)

\( \text{שֵׁעַ} \; | \; \text{mû} \; | \; \text{דֵּל} \; \text{Samuel} \)

Rarely at the end of a word since it closes the syllable

\( \text{לָק} \; \text{to you} \)
3.2 Silent or vocal: rules for within a word

2. When letter with shewa follows a long vowel = vocal
   When letter with shewa follows a short vowel = silent

šō | pe | tîm  judges
yîś | rā | ĕl  Israel

[In Ross 2.7: Open syllables take long vowels  ĆV
   Closed syllables take short vowels  ĆVC]
3.2 Silent or vocal: rules for within a word

3. When two shewas occur together the first is silent, the second vocal

\[ קָר \quad מֶלֶךְ \quad לֵי \quad Karl \quad Melch \quad Lí \quad Carmelite \]

Review

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>shewa is . . .</th>
<th>when it falls . . .</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>vocal and in an open syllable</td>
<td>• at the start of a word or syllable</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• after a long vowel</td>
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<td>silent and closes a syllable</td>
<td>• after silent shewa</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>• after a short vowel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• at the end of a word</td>
</tr>
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</table>
3.3 Compound Shewa: **vocal** shewas with gutturals (hurried short vowel sounds) used with ꝏ, Ꝙ, ꝙ, and ꝛ

A guttural may take a **silent** simple shewa

\[ yihyeh \] he will be
3.4 Inseparable Prepositions

The prepositions ב (in, with, by), כ (like, as), ל (to, for)

can be affixed directly to a word

בֶּמֶלֶק \( b^e\text{mélek} \) with a king
כֶּמֶלֶק \( k^e\text{mélek} \) like a king
לֶמֶלֶק \( l^e\text{mélek} \) for a king
3.4 Inseparable Prepositions: If ב (in, with, by), כ (like, as), ל (to, for) are added to a word beginning with a simple vocal shewa > rule of shewa

The first becomes a hireq and the second is silent
3.4 Inseparable Prepositions: If בּ (in, with, by), כּ (like, as), לִי (to, for) are added to a word beginning with a compound vocal shewa

The first takes the sound of the compound shewa

Edom (جملة) + לִי = לֶאֶדומ

See also הבניא לֶאֶדומ and הבניא לֶאֶדом.
3.5 Rule of the Shewa

The rule of the shewa explains changes that have occurred in vocalization when two shewas came together at the beginning of a word.

1. Two shewas are not written consecutively at the beginning of a word

E.g., the preposition ל (to) + נו (Samuel) ≠ לָנָו

The 1st becomes a short vowel and the 2nd is silent = לָנָו

2. When the 2nd is composite the 1st becomes the corresponding short vowel

E.g., ל + קֶדֶם (Edom) = קֶדֶם

ל + קֶדֶם = קֶדֶם

ל + קֶדֶם = קֶדֶם
3.6 Vocabulary

Nouns

father

man, humankind

God, gods

son

camp

king

Other Forms

prep. in, with, by

prep. like, as, according to

prep. to, for

adv. here

adv. there