Rocine Lesson 5

ףלאם א_planes

Genesis 3:17
Goal

• Identify and read the X-qatal construction.
What we already know

ולאדם אמר

We can identify and parse the verb.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Root</th>
<th>Stem</th>
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<th>Person, Gender, Number</th>
<th>Function</th>
<th>Root meaning</th>
</tr>
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<td>אמר</td>
<td>Qal</td>
<td>Qatal</td>
<td>3 m s</td>
<td>To Be Determined*</td>
<td>say</td>
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* Note

- The Qatal here is NOT in a dependent clause. (It would need to follow ❲אֲשֶׁר, אִם, כִּי❳ to be in a dependent clause.)
- Since it is not in a dependent clause, it is NOT fulfilling the function of relative past background.
The significance of the qatal

The qatal verb form gives an attribute to the subject of the verb. Translate many of the qatal verb forms which are NOT in a dependent clause as “attributions.”

For your translation, use a gerund (-ing noun) + possessive pronoun. an -er word or

E.g. Translation of אָמַר

• He was a sayER (of)
  or
• His sayING (of)
The significance of the qatal

• The qatal verb form gives an attribute to the subject of the verb. Translate many of the qatal verb forms which are NOT in a dependent clause as “attributions.”
• For your translation, use an -er word or a gerund (-ing noun) + possessive pronoun.
• E.g. Translation of אמר
  • He was a sayER (of)
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• In our verse above (Genesis 3:17) YHWH is speaking to Adam after he has spoken to the serpent and to the woman. Now he turns to address the man, Adam.
• YHWH, therefore, is the subject of the our verb אמר.
• According to our rule, then, how would you translate אמר here?
• Or to put it another way, what attribute of YHWH is being brought into focus here?
X-qatal

• The word order in our verse is referred to as an
  • X-qatal
    or sometimes
  • Waw-X-qatal
X-qatal

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  • X-qatal
    or sometimes
  • Waw-X-qatal
• What are the elements?
  • The Waw is the Waw.
  • The X is the bit that comes between the waw the verb. The X can be a number of different things, e.g. subject, direct object, indirect object, or a prepositional phrase.
  • The Qatal is the Qatal verb.
X-qatal

• The word order in our verse is referred to as an
  • X-qatal
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RULE: In Historical Narrative, the X-Qatal has focus-shifting function, called topicalization.

• It is this unusual word order in Hebrew (something coming before the verb) that signals to the reader that the X component is in focus.
• We will try to represent that in English with the following construction (also an unusual word order in English)

(And) It was ______“X”______ who(that) (Remainder of clause)
X-qatal

לָאֲדַם אָמַר

- Using what we have learned, how would you translate our lesson verse (above)?

Translation of the qatal in a non-dependent clause:
- E.g. Translation of אָמַר
  - "He was a sayER (of)
  - or
  - His sayING (of)

Translation of the X-Qatal or Waw-X-Qatal construction:
- (And) It was ______“X”_______ who(that) (Remainder of clause)______.
X-qatal

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Translation of the qatal in a non-dependent clause:
• E.g. Translation of אָמַר
  • He was a sayER (of)
    or
  • His sayING (of)

Translation of the X-Qatal or Waw-X-Qatal construction:
• (And) It was _______“X”_______ who(that) ___(Remainder of clause)______.

Translation: And it was to Adam that he was a sayer.
What does the X-qatal do?

In Historical Narrative the X-qatal does a number of things:

<table>
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<th>Beginning of a discourse</th>
<th>Middle of a discourse</th>
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<td>a summary of what follows</td>
<td>a change in focus, e.g.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- a switch in time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- switch of characters in a story</td>
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The one word used for all these functions is topicalization.

X-qatal = topicalization
What we already know

We can now identify the “function” column of our verb analysis chart from above.

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## Summary

**Qatal in Historical Narrative**

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<tr>
<th>Preceded by</th>
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<th>Qatal in Independent Clauses (Lesson 5)</th>
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<td>a relative, e.g.</td>
<td>כִי אִם אֲשֶׁר</td>
<td>any other word or phrase, i.e. an “X”</td>
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<td>Translate</td>
<td><em>has, had, have</em></td>
<td><em>(And) it was</em>“X”* who*(that) ____*</td>
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<td>“Function” in verb analysis chart</td>
<td>Qatal in dep. clause = relative past background</td>
<td>X-qatal = topicalization</td>
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<td>יְשַׁמֵּע יִתְרוֹ אֵת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר עָשָה אֱלֹהִים</td>
<td>וּלְאָדָם אָמַר  [And it was] to Adam that he was a sayer.</td>
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Jethro heard all which God had done.

And it was to Adam that he was a sayer.
# Summary of Qatal and Wayyiqtol

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<th>Qatal in Dependent Clauses (Lesson 4)</th>
<th>Qatal in Independent Clauses (Lesson 5)</th>
<th>Wayyiqtol (Lessons 1, 2, 3)</th>
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<td>Preceded by</td>
<td>a relative, e.g. כִי אִם אֶשֶר</td>
<td>any other word or phrase, i.e. an “X”</td>
<td>nothing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Translate</td>
<td>has, had, have</td>
<td>(And) it was “X” who(that) ____</td>
<td>Usually as an English past tense</td>
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<td>“Function”</td>
<td>Qatal in dep. clause = relative past background</td>
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<td>יִשְמַע יִתְרוֹ אֵת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה אלהים Jethro heard all which God had done.</td>
<td>וַיִּשְמע אֶלָֽוָה יִתְרוֹ אֵת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה אלהים And it was to Adam that he was a sayer.</td>
<td>וַיִּשְמַע יִתְרוֹ אֵת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה אלהים YHWH said God spoke to Moses and said to him, “I am YHWH” Moses went and spoke the words to all Israel</td>
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Concerning English Bibles

Most English translations generally ignore the difference between the qatal and the wayyiqtol verb forms.

• Genesis 1:1 is a qatal verb form, and translators generally use a simple past translation: “In the beginning God created.”

• Genesis 1:3 is a wayyiqtol verb form, and translators use simple past once again: “And God said ...”

• This book, on the other hand, suggests trying to capture the difference in meaning between the qatal and wayyiqtol verb forms: “It was in the beginning that God was creator ... And then God said ...”
Concerning English Bibles

The reason we are learning Biblical Hebrew is not to once again translate the Hebrew Bible. Many excellent translations already exist. Rather, we are trying to better understand the nuance of the original language.