A Note on the Conjugation of d' Verbs in the Derived Patterns*

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Aaron Rubin (Cambridge)

Introduction:

It has long been noticed that the lcs perfect forms of *lamed-he* verbs in the piel often contain a *sere* under the second radical (Gesenius §75z), but there have been no convincing explanations as to why this form appears. We will show that these lcs forms are the regular result of a previously unnoted sound rule. This *sere* also occurs in hiphil and hithpael forms, which will be examined and analyzed below.

The paradigmatic forms of the piel perfect for *lamed-he* verbs contain a *hiriq* under the second radical in the first and second person forms, which can be traced back to an earlier */iy/. For example, using the Hebrew root צוה, we derive:

PCan. piel perfect 3ms (pattern: *qittila) *siwwiya > Heb. siwwā (*/iya/ > /a:/) PCan. piel perfect 2ms (pattern: *qittilta) *siwwiyta > Heb. siwwîtā (*/iy/ > /i:/)

Likewise, we can derive:

PCan. piel perfect 1cs (pattern *qittilti) *siwwiyti > Heb. siwwîtî (*/iy/ > /i:/)

Why, then, do we often find a *sere* under the second root radical (e.g. *siwwêtî* in Lev 8:31, Deu 3:21, Isa 13:3)?

Possible Solutions:

There are four possible sources for the sere.

1. We can argue that the *sere* is the correct form, derived < */ay/. Bauer-Leander (§57n) and Bergsträsser (§30o) believe this to be the case. For example, Bauer-Leander derive Heb. *pittêtî* < *pattaiku. Their reconstruction is problematic on many levels, as is any attempt to show that the *sere* is the historically "correct" vowel. Huehnergard (1992) has convincingly showed that we must reconstruct PNWS piel *qattil-, PCan. *qittil-. Therefore Bauer-Leander's reconstruction from a *qattala form is highly unlikely. Some still may attempt to derive a form like *siwwîtî* < *siwwayti, just as we see *dibbartî* (< *dibbirti by Philippi's Law, cf. Lambdin 1985, Huehnergard 1992). This is an option if we posit the following chronology:

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Philippi's Law
*/iy/ > /i/

This chronology is unlikely, however. First, Philippi's Law is a late sound change. Second, this chronology would produce a *sere* in all first and second person piel forms. But these forms, except lcs, always exhibit a *hiriq*. Bauer-Leander claim that this is on analogy with the *hiriq* of the qal (e.g. $b\bar{a}n\hat{t}t\hat{t}$). We might expect then that we would see an alternation of *hiriq* and *sere* in these forms, as in the lcs, but this never happens. Therefore, this is a highly unlikely scenario, and the following chronology is certainly correct:

1) */iy/ > /i/
2) Philippi's Law

2. A second option is to attribute the *sere* to contamination from the pual (as well as the niphal and hophal), where the *sere* is derived regularly. For example:

PCan. pual perfect lcs (pattern *quttal-) *suwwayti > Heb. suwwêtî (*/ay/ > /e/)

This analogical change seems rather unlikely, as the piel is far more common than the pual. And again, why only the lcs?

3. A third option is to suggest that the *sere* may have been created by analogy with the *lamed-aleph* verbs, which have *sere* throughout the entire piel perfect paradigm. *Lamed-he* and *lamed-aleph* verbs are occasionally confused in BH, and fall together in later Hebrew, so this may seem a plausible suggestion. However, with such an analogy, we would expect to see the reflexes throughout the *lamed-he* piel paradigm, and yet *sere* appears only on the lcs form.

4. A fourth option is to formulate a new sound rule of dissimilation:

i > e / iCC Ci, in stressed position

This seems to be a logical explanation, and is supported by the fact that in the piel, the non-paradigmatic *sere* appears *only* in the first person singular.

It would be prudent at this point to look for other forms that would have been susceptible to this sound rule, however, upon examination it seems that none exist. We might mention the form מתחי (Jdg 7:2, Gen 29:19, 1Ki 21:3), but note that while very close, the second geminate *tav* and the word-final stress make it ineligible.

It is unclear whether this dissimilation rule is early (Biblical) or late (Masoretic). It may be the case that during the period of attestation, the rule is a sound change in progress. Joüon (1996, §79h) claims that the *sere* is the usual vowel in the piel 1cs perfect, but this is not exactly the case. It does seem that the *sere* is more likely to appear on less common verbs, whereas the common forms *siwwîtî* and *qiwwîtî* tend to have *hiriq*.

Note that a waw-consecutive perfect form would not be susceptible to this sound law as it is given above, since these forms have stress on the ultima. The stress constraint on this rule is necessary however, since forms with object suffixes always contain *hiriq*. However, we find that they behave exactly as the simple perfect forms, without exception. Therefore, we must assume a chronology,

1. i > e / iCC Ci, in stressed position

2. Shifting of stress in waw-consecutive forms

There is other good evidence that this order is correct. If word-final stress were original in a form like וְלְקַחְתוֹ, we would expect reduction in the pro-pretonic vowel (cf. לְקָחְתוֹם).¹ Now let us examine all of the relevant data.

Piel Data:

There are 128 *lamed-he* lcs piel perfects in the Bible, 24 of which are waw-consecutive forms.² Just 21 different roots are found, though צוה is by far the most common, occurring 62 times. The following 23 forms appear with *sere*:

גוּיִתִי – 2:31 צוּיִתִי – 2:10 שׁוּיִתִי – 2:31 געּוֹיִתִי – 2:31 געּוֹיִתִי – 3:31 געּוֹיִתִי – 3:32 געּוֹיִתִי – 3:32 געִיֹתִי – 14:9 געִיֹתִי – 14:9 בפַתִי– 14:9 געִיִתִי – 14:9 געִיִתִי – 14:9 געִיִתִי – 14:9 געִיַתִי – 14:9 געִיַתִי

Waw-Consecutive:

1 Sam 8:17(b) - וְרְנֵיחִי Jer 31:14 - וְרְנֵיחִי Isr 33:6 - וְרְנֵיחִי Eze 6:12 - וְכָלֵיחִי Eze 13:15 - וְכָלֵיחִי Eze 16:37 - וְכָלֵיחִי Eze 26:4 - וְסָחֵיחִי Eze 32:7 - וְכָסֵיחִי

¹ See Blau (1971) for a discussion of this stress shift.

I have not included Psa 50:21 דְמִיחָ which is parsed by most as the lcs piel perfect of המה, and translated by most as lcs from ימם 'to be silent'.

ונקיתי – Joe 4:21 וגליתי – Nah 3:5

Note that there seems to be a much higher percentage of waw-consecutive forms with *sere* (11/24 waw-consecutive perfects versus 12/104 simple perfects). Actually, to be more accurate, we should not include the forms with object suffixes (6/24 and 35/104), since they are not eligible for the sound rule. Once we subtract these forms, the proportions become 11/18 waw-consecutive perfects versus 12/69 simple perfects. The percentage of waw-consecutive forms is still much higher, in fact more so, but may simply be coincidental. The form *siwwîtî*, which occurs so frequently in the perfect (56 times; 29 times without an object suffix, yet only 5 times *siwwêtî*), is found only once as a waw-consecutive, and hence skews the percentage bit. If we subtract out all of the *siwwîtî* forms, (29 times) we see that the ratio becomes 12/40. The tendency for *hiriq* to appear on the more common verbs is mysterious. Perhaps they were "corrected" at some point by an editor?

The book of Ezekiel is most interesting, as in this book this sound rule seems to be completely *regular*. The book of Isaiah is nearly regular. This may simply be coincidence, especially since the root צור does not occur in Ezekiel in the first person perfect, but note that two of the five occurrences of צויחי are in Isaiah. The forms with *hiriq* in these books are:

Isa 8:17(a) – וְחְכִיתִי – unexplained.

Isa 14:24 – דמיתי – unexplained.

Isa 26:9 – אויחיך – used with object suffix, therefore stress shift negates the sound rule.

Isa 38:13 – שוֹיחִי – the context, Qumran, and Targum suggest that there is really a different verb here. See BHS critical apparatus.

Isa 51:16 – כסיתיך – used with object suffix.

Eze 5:10, 6:5, 12:15, 30:26 – ווריחי – the *reš* cannot be doubled, and so the compensatory lengthening of the preceding *hiriq* to *sere* (*/zirriyti/ >/zēriti/) negates the sound rule.³

Eze 22:31 – כליחים – used with object suffix.

Eze 29:12, 30:23 – ווריחים – used with object suffix, plus root is זרה.

Hence, all lcs piel perfect forms in Ezekiel, and all but two forms in Isaiah, can be expained by regular sound rules. I highlight these two books above to note the regularity of the forms here, and also to illustrate how we can explain some forms with *hiriq*.

Hiphil Data:

The hiphil seems to complicates things slightly, because we find a slightly different pattern. Unlike in the piel, the lcs forms (without an object suffix) nearly always

³ Hence the rule of compensatory lengthening must be ordered before the new sound rule. This is expected, as the doubling of *reš* seems to have been given up rather early.

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take sere. In addition, sere occasionally appears in other persons, whereas in the piel it never does.

There are 78 hiphil lcs forms of 17 different *lamed-he* roots, 44 of which are wawconsecutive forms. Almost without exception, the lcs forms exhibit a *sere* when bare, and a *hiriq* when they take an object suffix. In fact, the *only* unexplainable form is הַשִּׁיחִי in Pro 5:13. Other unexpected forms are explainable.

The form והוריחי in Exo 4:15 and 1Sa 12:23 seems odd, as it should not be eligible for our sound rule. We could simply posit analogy with the rest of the *lamed-he* verbs. However, we also find the forms והוריתין in Exo 4:12 and הרתיך in Pro 4:11,

where we expect a *hiriq* because of the suffixes. I therefore suggest that this verb is conjugated on analogy with the hiphil of the very common אייי.⁴ The form הקלאתיך in Mic 6:3 should also be ineligible for our sound rule, again because of the object suffix. I suggest that this form may be analogous to *lamed-aleph* verbs, due to the *aleph* in the root. The form ההראיתי in Nah 3:5 may also be created by such an analogy, since the initial *patah* should make it ineligible for the sound rule, but see below for a more likely explanation.

One may also question whether *pe*-guttural forms such as Jdg 6:8 הַעֵלִיחִי, Eze 26:3 should be affected by the sound rule. The simple perfect form can be explained in one of two ways. We can assume a chronology,

1. i > e / iCC Ci, in stressed position

2. #CiGC- > #CeGĕC- (*hisleti > hesĕlêtî)

We might turn to Greek transcriptions to shed some light on this chronology, but one must be wary. Forms like Psa 35:15 $\epsilon\nu\nu\eta\theta\iota^5$ (= עָנֵיקי) and Psa 30:4 $\epsilon\epsilon\lambda.\theta$ (= הֶעֵלִיק) suggest that both of the above changes have already taken place. However, it is often the case that the vowels in Greek transcriptions are different from their Tiberian counterparts. For example, the form Psa 89:46 $\epsilon\epsilon\tau\eta\theta$ (= הֶעֶמִיק) may point to a pronunciation הֵעֵמִיק. However, Greek η sometimes can represent Tiberian *hiriq*. Compare the form Psa 30:2 $\delta\epsilon\lambda\lambda\iota\theta\alpha\eta$ (= רְלִיקוִי,), where η, ϵ, ι all represent *hiriq*! I hesitate to mention Greek forms here, and do not do so elsewhere, as they create additional problems far beyond the scope of this paper.

Another solution, which avoids the need for rule-ordering, is simply to say that in the form הָעָלִיהָ the initial הָעָ is the surface (phonetic) representation of underlying (phonemic) (see Addendum below). As for the waw-consecutive forms, the *patah*, the origins of which are unclear, should block our sound rule. Either the *patah* should be considered late, or the form is merely analogous to the simple perfect in conjugation. With these *pe*-guttural waw-consecutive forms we can most likely include the form הָרָאָרָהָ in Nah 3:5, mentioned above. Here the *reš* is behaving as a guttural, as it does in other situations (cf. Ecc 2:24).

⁴ There are very few *pe-yodh lamed-he verbs*, and all except ירה are rare. ירה is the only one attested in the 1st or 2nd persons in the perfect.

⁵ Greek forms are taken from Brønno (1943).

Every other hiphil 1cs perfect form adheres to our sound rule. Note that the data do not include the *ktiv* החערים in Jer 42:20 (for the *qere*, see discussion of 2mp below), or the root גבה, with etymological *he*, in Eze 17:24.

In general, the forms for the other persons regularly exhibit *hiriq*, with a handful of exceptions. All 7 attested 1cp forms exhibit *hiriq*, and no 2fp forms are attested. The other second person forms are as follows:

2fs: 3 forms are attested; Isa 57:6 הֶעֵלִית, Jer 46:11 הְרְבִיחִ (*ktiv* form. *gere* = הְרְבִיח), and Nah 3:16 הִרְבִיח The Jeremiah form could possibly be explained as regular, as the dialect of Jeremiah preserves the feminine ending –ti, but the Nahum form is still unexplained, and we do not find *sere* in the 2fs piel perfect. Strangely, this root is attested 4 times in the 2ms, but never contains *sere*. It is impossible to conclude what the regular pattern for this form is since there is so little evidence. But it is safe to say, based on the other conjugations, that we expect *hiriq*.

2mp: 18 forms are attested, 9 of which are waw-consecutives, from 8 different roots. We do not expect to find *sere* here, since 2mp forms have ultimate stress, as well as the wrong final vowel to trigger the sound rule. However, we do find two forms with *sere*: Jer 42:20 הְרָשֵׁיהָם is a *qere* form, but clearly the correct one based on context. Eze 11:6 ביהָם is also unexplainable, but note that this is the root we found with *sere* in the 2fs forms.

2ms: 55 forms are attested, 20 of which are waw-consecutives, from 16 different roots. Just 5 forms contain an unexpected *sere*, only 1 of which is explainable:

Exo 29:21 - וְהָזְיָהָ - unexplained. Exo 32:7 - הְעֵלֵיהָ - unexplained. Exo 40:4 - וְהַעֵלִיהָ - possibly influenced by אוֹה appears twice in this verse? Hos 5:3 - unexplained. Psa 119:102 - הוֹהְהָנִי – We have already seen that this root forms its hiphil by analogy with *pe-yod lamed-aleph* verbs (namely ").

Note that of the four unexplainable forms, two are formed from the root ddef and two are formed from a root beginning *zayin-nun* or *nun-zayin*. I am unable to attach any significance to these two facts. Also note that the root def occurs four times in the 2ms, each with expected *hiriq*.

From an examination of all the data, it is clear that the pattern for the hiphil is much more regular than the handbooks might suggest. First person singular has just one unexplained appearance of *hiriq*. The other persons have very few unexplained appearances of *sere* which we must attribute to analogy or error.

Hithpael Data:

There are very few examples of first and second person *lamed-he* hithpael perfects in the Bible. However, the ones we do find follow a regular pattern: *sere* appears in the sole 1cs form, *hiriq* appears elsewhere. The attested forms are:

וכא: Jer 17:16 הְחָאַוּיחִי 2ms: 1 Ki 2:26 הְחְעַוּיחָ ; Pro 24:10 הִחְרַפּּיחָ 2fs: Jer 50:24 הְחָעַוּיחָ ; 1 Ki 14:2 וְהַשְׁתַּוּיח 2mp: Num 34:10 וְהַחָאַוּיחֵם

We can also include here the lone hištaphel of the root חוה. There are slightly more examples of this root than there are of the hithpael roots. The pattern is the same:

והשתחויתי 2Ki 5:18 ; והשתחויתי 1Sa 15:30 ; והשתחויתי 2Ki 5:18

There are four 2ms and five 2mp forms, all with paradigmatic *hiriq*. Note that the hithpael forms cannot be explained by the new sound rule. We can posit a Proto-Hebrew form *hitqattil, but certainly not **hitqittil.⁶ Thus, for the root רפת, we expect:

PCan. 1cs perfect **hitrappiyti* > Heb. ***hitrappîtî* PCan. 2ms perfect **hitrappiyta* > Heb. *hitrappîtā*

But based on the small amount of evidence available, it seems that the hithpael has a regular pattern of *sere* in the lcs vs. *hiriq* in the other first and second person forms. This pattern is most likely analogical to the same pattern for *lamed-he* verbs in the piel and hiphil.

Conclusions:

All of the above evidence suggests that the posited sound rule is correct, and directly affects both the piel and hiphil conjugations. The sound rule does not apply to the hithpael, the forms of which are analogical to those which are affected. It should be mentioned that there is no effect on the qal, pual, or hophal.

Addendum:

In addition to the Tiberian Hebrew material analyzed above, we have also briefly examined the relevant forms attested with Babylonian vocalization (Kahle 1913). Unfortunately, only the following three *lamed-he* piel 1cs perfects are attested⁷: Jer 20:12 אָלִיתִי Eze 12:15, Psa 25:5 רְקִוּיתִי These are exactly the forms we find in Tiberian Hebrew. Hiphil forms are slightly better attested. We find: Gen 17:20 (הְעֵלִיתִי Tiberian, Exo 8:18, וְהִפְּלֵיתִי Sam 10:18, הַעְלֵיתִי (Tib. הָעֵלִית 15, Cher 20:18, Jer 20:18, Psa 21:6 (הְעֵלִית 15, Sam 24:17, הַעָלִית 15, Jer 20:19, Jer 21:6 (הַעֵּלִית 15, אַלִית 15, אַלָּית 15, אַלָּית 15, אַלָּית 19:19, Jer 21:6 (הַעֵּלִית 15, אַלָּית 15, אַלָּית 15, אַלָית 15, אַלָּית 15, אַלָּית 15, אַלָּית 15, אַלָּית 15, אַלָּית 15, אַלָּית 15, אַלָית 10:24 (Tib. הָעָלִית 15, אַלָּית 15, אַלָּית 15, אַלָּית 15, אַלָּית 10:24), 1 Sam 10:24 (Tib. הָעָיִים 15, אַלָּית 15, אַלָית 15, אָלָית 15, אַלָית 15, אַלָית 15, אָלָית 15, אַלָּית 15, אַלָּית 15, אַלָּית 10:24 (Tib. הָעָלִית 15, אַלָּית 15, אַלָית 15, אַלָּית 15, אַלָּית 15, אַלָית 15, אַלָּית 15, אַרָּית 15, אַלָּית 15, אַרָּית 15, אַלָּית 15, אַלָּית 15, אַלָּית 15, אַלָּית 15, אַרָּית 15, אַלָּית 15, אַרָּית 15, אַלָית 15, אַרָּית 15, אַרָית 15, אַרָּית 15, אַרָית 15, אַרָּית 15, אַרָית 15, אַרָּית 15, אַרָּית 15, אַרָּית 15, אַרָּית 15, אַרָית 15, אַרָּית 15, אַרָיַית 15, אַרָית 15, אַרָית 15, אַרָית 15, אַרָּית 15, אַרָית 15, אַרָר 15, אַרָית 15, אַרָר 15, אַרָית 15, אַרָית 15, אַרָיַית 15, אַרָר 15, אַרָיַית 15, אַרָעָר 15, אַלָית 15, אַרָיַיָע 15, אַרָית 15, אַרָיַיע 15, אַרָר 15, אַרָי

⁶ Compare Aramaic *Atqattal*, Arabic *taqattala*.

7 Due to font restraints, Babylonian vowel points are represented here with Tiberian signs. I reproduce the forms exactly as Kahle has printed them. Vowels are often omitted by Babylonian scribes, as the reader will notice here.

These forms show that the sound rule is in effect for Babylonian Hebrew as well as Tiberian. Only one Babylonian form has *sere* where Tiberian has *hiriq*, though considering the small number of Babylonian data, it is reasonable to assume that we would find more differences if we had more evidence. Note also the different treatment of initial rule.

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Aaron Rubin

Abstract:

The interchange between *sere* and *hiriq* under the second radical of *lamed-he* verbs in the piel perfect lcs has long been noticed (Gesenius §75z), but has never been convincingly explained. Similarly, the interchange of *sere* and *hiriq* in various persons of the hiphil (Ges. §75e) and hithpael (Ges. §75z). The appearance of *sere* in the piel and hiphil lcs forms can be attributed to a previously unnoted regular sound rule. Furthermore, upon examination of all the relevant forms in the Bible, it becomes clear that the alternation of *sere* and *hiriq* follows a rather regular pattern, particularly in the hiphil. A great many of the forms which seem to violate this sound rule can be explained on other grounds. The conjugation of the hithpael forms, which are not susceptible to the sound rule, has been taken from that of the piel and hiphil.

Address of the author:

Aaron Rubin, NELC – Harvard Semitic Museum, 6 Divinity Ave., Cambridge, MA 02138, USA, e-mail: arubin@fas.harvard.edu

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