
Linguistic-functional analysis of the biblical Hebrew name, *Ya'aqov*

Introduction

The aim of this study concerns the lexicological analysis based on a functional approach of the ancient Hebrew name, «Jacob».

For this research linguistic structures, that should be unitary from a chronological, geographical, social and stylistic point of view, are required. The concept of functional language, which is syntopic, synphasic, synstratic and synchronic, is the ideal method used to conduct this kind of research. The subdivision into functional languages represents a first interpretative phase that provides a chronological and synchronic grid allowing us to organise and identify data which would otherwise be lost or discarded without any criteria.¹

Functional languages adopted for this research are those identified by I. ZATELLI in «The Study of Ancient Hebrew Lexicon. Application of the concepts of lexical field and functional language», in *KUSATU* 5(2004).²

At an early stage of the work a distributional analysis of the name within the various functional languages was conducted. The distributional analysis goes in parallel with morphological, syntagmatic and syntactic analysis of the lexeme and its own structures, within each functional language. Lastly, analysis on parallelisms and on attributes, predicates, appositions and epithets of the name were carried out.

¹ I. ZATELLI, «The Study of Ancient Hebrew Lexicon. Application of the concepts of lexical field and functional language», in *KUSATU* 5(2004), 134.

² ZATELLI, «The Study of Ancient Hebrew Lexicon», 129-159. Among the identified functional languages are the following: ABH (Archaic Biblical Hebrew), EBH 1 (Early Biblical Hebrew, Historical-Narrative Language), EBH 2 (Early Biblical Hebrew, Poetical Language), EBH 3 (Early Biblical Hebrew, Language of Hosea), EBH 4 (Early Biblical Hebrew, Juridic-Cultic Language), LBH 1 (Late Biblical Hebrew, Historical-Narrative Language), LBH 2 (Late Biblical Hebrew, Poetical Language), LBH 3 (Late Biblical Hebrew, Language of Job).

Distributional Analysis

The noun occurs in Ancient Hebrew 328 times.

Genesis (161), Exodus (9), Numbers (8), Leviticus (1), Deuteronomy (7), Joshua (2), 1Samuel (1), 2Samuel (1), 1Kings (1), 2Kings (2), Isaiah (40), Jeremiah (14), Ezekiel (4), Hosea (3), Amos (6), Obadiah (3), Micah (10), Nahum (1), Malachi (3), Psalms (34), Lamentations (3), 1 Chronicles (2), Sirach (6).

It is attested in the following functional languages ABH, EBH 1, EBH 2, EBH 3, EBH 4, LBH 1, BSH.³

ABH

The lexeme appears 6 times: Gen 49,7; 49,24; Dt 32,9; 33,4; 33,10; 33,28.

יַעֲקֹב è nomen rectum:

- אַבִּיר *'byr* «hero, champion» Gen 49,24
- קהלת *qhl* «assembly» Dt 33,4
- יַיִן *'yn* «spring» Dt 33,28

יַעֲקֹב is connected with:

- רֶעָה *r'h*
- מִיַּדֵי אַבִּיר יַעֲקֹב מִשֵּׁם רֶעָה = *mydy 'byr y'qb mšm r'h*
«From the hands of the mighty of *Ya'āqov* and from the name of the shepherd» Gen 49,24.

Predicative elements

- יַעֲקֹב חֵבֶל נַחֲלָתוֹ
y'qb ḥbl nḥltw
«*Ya'āqov* is part of his inheritance» Dt 32,9

Prepositional phrases of יַעֲקֹב יַיִן *y'qb 'yn*

- אֶל־אֲרֶז דָּגָן וְתִירֹשׁ
l-'rš dgn wtyrws
«on the land of wheat and must» Dt 33,28

³ ABH = Archaic Biblical Hebrew; EBH 1 = Historical-Narrative Language; EBH 2 = Poetical Language; EBH 3 = Language of Hosea; EBH 4 = Juridical-Cultic Language; LBH 1 = Late Historical Narrative Language; BSH = Late Hebrew of Ben Sira (cf. ZATELLI, «The Study of Ancient Hebrew Lexicon», 140-142).

יַעֲקֹב appears with *apposition*:

- הַבֵּל נְחֻלָּתוֹ
hbl nḥltw
 «partition of his inheritance» Dt 32,9

EBH 1

The lexeme appears 192 times: Gen 25,26-31; 25,33-34; 27,6; 27,11; 27,15; 27,17; 27,19; 27,21-22; 27,30; 27,36; 27,41-42; 27,46; 28,1; 28,5-7; 28,10; 28,16; 28,18; 28,20; 29,1; 29,4; 29,10-13; 29,15; 29,18; 29,20-21; 29,28; 30,1-2; 30,4-5; 30,7; 30,9-10; 30,12; 30,16-17; 30,19; 30,25; 30,31; 30,36-37; 30,40-42; 31,1-4; 31,11; 31,17; 31,20; 31,22; 31,24-26; 31,29; 31,31-33; 31,36; 31,43; 31,45-47; 31,51; 31,53-54; 32,2-5; 32, 7-8; 32,10; 32,19; 32,21; 32,25-26; 32,28-31; 32,33; 33,1; 33,10; 33,17-18; 34,1; 34,3; 34,5-7; 34,13; 34,19; 34,25; 34,27; 34,30; 35,1-2; 35,4-6; 35,9-10; 35,14-15; 35,20; 35,22-23; 35,26-27; 35,29; 36,6; 37,1-2; 37, 34; 42,1; 42,4; 42,29; 42,36; 45,25; 45,27; 46,2; 46,5-6; 46,8; 46,15; 46,18-19; 46,22; 46,25-27; 47,7-10; 47, 28; 48,2-3; 49,1-2; 49,33; Ex 1,1; 1,5; 2,24; 3,6; 3,15-16; 4,5; 6,3; 19,3; 33,1; Nm 23,7; 23,10; 23,21; 23,23; 24,5; 24,17; 24,19; 32,11; Dt 1,8; 6,10; 9,5; 9,27; 29,12; 30,20; 34,4; Jos 24,4; 24,32; 1Sam 12,8; 2Sam 23, 1; 1King 18,31; 2King 13,23; 17,34.

יַעֲקֹב is *nomen rectum*:

- יַד *yd* «hand» Gen 27,17
- קוֹל *qwl* «voice» Gen 27,22
- אִם *'m* «mother» Gen 28,5
- שִׁמְעָה *šm'* «news» Gen 29,13
- אַף *'p* «anger» Gen 30,2
- אֹהֶל *'hl* «tent» Gen 31,33
- כַּף-יָרֵךְ *kf-yrk* «femur joint» Gen 32,26; 32,33
- בַּת *bt* «daughter» Gen 34,3; 34,7; 34,19
- בְּנֵי *bny* «sons» Gen 34,7; 34,13; 34,25; 34,27; 35,5; 35,22; 35,26; 46,26; 49,2; 1King 18,31; 2King 17,34
- בְּכוֹר *bkwr* «firstborn» Gen 35,23; 46,8
- תְּלִדוֹת *tldwt* «descendant» Gen 37,2
- רוּחַ *rwh* «ghost» Gen 45,27
- אִשָּׁת *'št* «wife» Gen 46,19
- בַּיִת *byt* «house» Gen 46,27; Ex 19,3
- יָמֵי *ymy* «days» Gen 47,28
- אֱלֹהֵי *'lhy* «God» Ex 3,6; 3,15-16; 4,5; 2Sam 23,1

- עֶפֶר *'fr* «dust» Num 23,10
- יָרֵךְ *yrk* «loins» Ex 1,5

יַעֲקֹב *is subject*:

- קָרָא *qr* 0/1 «to call» Gen 25,26; 27,36; 31,47; 32,31; 35,15; 49,1; *n/1* «to be called» Gen 35,10
- יָשַׁב *yšb* 0/1 «to inhabit» Gen 25,27; 37,1
- זִיד *zyd* *h/1* «to cook» Gen 25,29
- אָמַר *'mr* 0/1 «to say» Gen 25,31; 25,33; 27,11; 27,19; 29,4; 29,21; 30,25; 30,31; 31,46; 32,3; 32,10; 33,10; 34,30; 35,2; 42,1; 42,36; 46,2; 47,9; 48,3; *n/1* «to be said» Gen 32,29
- נָתַן *ntn* 0/1 «to give» Gen 25,34
- נִגַּשׁ *ngš* 0/1 «to approach/to get closer» Gen 27, 22; Gen 29,10
- לָקַח *lqh* 0/1 «to take» Gen 27,46; Gen 30,37; 31,1; 31,45
- שָׁמַע *šm'* 0/1 «to listen/to hear/to obey» Gen 28,7; 34,5
- יָצָא *yç* 0/1 «to go out/to leave» Gen 27,30; 28,10
- יָקַץ *yqç* 0/1 «to awake» Gen 28,16
- שָׁכַם *škm* 0/1 «to get up» Gen 28,18
- נָדַר *ndr* 0/1 «made a vow» Gen 28,20
- נָשַׁע *ns'* 0/1 «to raise» Gen 29,1; Gen 33,1
- רָאָה *r'h* 0/1 «to see» Gen 29,10; 31,2; Gen 42,1
- נָשַׁק *nšq* 0/1 «to kiss» Gen 29,11
- נָגַד *ngd* *h1* «to narrate» Gen 29,12
- אָהַב *'hb* 0/1 «love» Gen 29,18
- עָבַד *'bd* 0/1 «to serve» Gen 29,20
- אָשָׂה *'šh* 0/1 «to do» Gen 29,28
- בּוֹא *bw'* 0/1 «to join» Gen 30,4;
- בּוֹא *bw'* 0/1 «to arrive/to come» Gen 30,16; Gen 33,18; Gen 35,6; 35, 7; 46,6; 1Sam 12,8
- חָרַה *hrh* 0/1 «to get angry» Gen 30,2; 31,36
- רָעָה *r'h* 0/1 «to graze» Gen 30,36
- פָּרַד *prd* 0/1 «to separate» Gen 30,40
- שָׂם *šym* 0/1 «to put» Gen 30,41
- שָׁלַח *šlh* 0/1 «to send» Gen 31,4; 32,4; 42,4
- קָוַם *qwm* 0/1 «to rise» Gen 31,17; 46,5
- גָּנַב *gnb* 0/1 «to cheat/to elude» Gen 31,20
- בָּרַח *brh* 0/1 «to escape» Gen 31,22
- תָּקַח *tqh* 0/1 «to plant» Gen 31,25
- אָנָה *'nh* 0/1 «to reply» Gen 31,31; 31,36
- יָדַע *yd'* 0/1 «to know» Gen 31,32

- שבע *šb'* n/1 «to swear» Gen 31,53
- זבח *zḅh* 0/1 «to offer a sacrifice» Gen 31,54
- הלך *hlk* 0/1 «to walk/to go» Gen 32,2
- גור *gwr* 0/1 «to dwell» Gen 32,5
- ירא *yr'* 0/1 «to fear» Gen 32,8
- צרר *šrr* 0/1 «to be in anxiety» Gen 32,8
- יתר *ytr* n/1 «to fight» Gen 32,25
- שאל *š'l* 0/1 «to ask» Gen 32,30
- נסע *ns'* 0/1 «to depart» Gen 33,17
- חרש *ḅrs* h/1 «to keep silence» Gen 34,5
- מטן *mtn* 0/1 «to hide» Gen 35,4
- נצב *nšb* h/1 «to erect» Gen 35,14; 35,20
- קבר *qbr* 0/1 «to bury» Gen 35,29
- קרע *qr'* 0/1 «to tear up» Gen 37,34
- ברך *brk* 0/2 «to bless» Gen 47,7; 47,10
- חיה *ḅyh* 0/1 «to live» Gen 47,28
- כלה *klh* 0/2 «to finish» Gen 49,33
- ירד *yrd* 0/1 «to descend» Jos 24,4
- קנה *qnh* 0/1 «to buy» Jos 24,32

יַעֲקֹב is object:

- אהב *'hb* 0/1 «loved» Gen 25,28
- לבש *lḅš* h1 «to wear» Gen 27,15
- ברך *brk* 0/2 «to bless» Gen 27,30; 28,6
- סטם *štm* 0/1 «to persecute» Gen 27,41
- הרג *hrg* 0/1 «to kill» Gen 27,41
- שלח *šlh* 0/1 «to send» Gen 28,5
- ברך *brk* 0/2 «to bless» Gen 28,6
- נסג *nsg* h1 «to draw nigh» Gen 31,25
- נסא *ns'* 0/1 «to lift» Gen 46,5
- בוא *bw'* h1 «to introduce» Gen 47,7
- נתן *ntn* 0/1 «to give» Jos 24,4
- ארה *'rh* «to curse» Nm 23,7

Noun phrases

- יַעֲקֹב אִישׁ תָּם *y'qb 'yš tm* «Ya'aqov is a quiet man» Gen 25,27
- שְׁמֶךָ יַעֲקֹב *šmk y'qb* «your name is Ya'aqov» Gen 35,10
- עֲבָדְךָ יַעֲקֹב אַחֲרֵינוּ *'bdk y'qb 'ḅrynw* «your servant Ya'aqov is following us» Gen 32,21

יַעֲקֹב is constructed with the preposition ל (indirect object):

- לְרַחֵל *lrhl* «to *Rahel*» with verb נִשָּׂק *nšq* «to kiss» 0/1 Gen 29,11
- לְרַחֵל *lrhl* «to *Rahel*» with verb נִגַּד *ngd* «to narrate» h/1 Gen 29,12

יַעֲקֹב is constructed with the preposition אֶל (indirect object)

- אֶל־רִבְקָה *'l-rbqh* «to *Rivqa*» with the verb אָמַר *'mr* «to say» 0/1 Gen 27,11
- אֶל־אָבִיו *'l- 'byw* «to his father» with the verb מָאֵר *'mr* «to say» 0/1 Gen 27,19
- אֶל־אָבִיו *'l- 'byw* «to his father» with the verb שָׁמַע *šm'* «to listen» 0/1 Gen 28,7
- אֶל־לָבָן *'l-lbn* «to *Lavan*» with the verb אָמַר *'mr* «to say» 0/1 Gen 29,21; 30,25
- אֶל־יָהּ *'lyh* «to her» with verb בּוֹא *bw'* «to come from» 0/1 Gen 30,4; 30,16
- אֶל־שִׁמְעוֹן וְאֶל־לֵוִי *'l-šm'wn w' l-lwy* «to Simeon and to Levi» with the verb אָמַר *'mr* «to say» 0/1 Gen 34,30
- אֶל־בֵּיתוֹ וְאֶל־כָּל־אֲשֶׁר עִמּוֹ *'l-bytw w' l kl- 'šr 'mw* «to the family and to all those who were with him» with verb אָמַר *'mr* «to say» 0/1 Gen 35,2
- אֲלֵהֶם *'lhm* «to them» with verb אָמַר *'mr* «to say» 0/1 Gen 42,36
- אֶל־פַּרְעֹה *'l-pr'h* «to the pharaoh» with verb אָמַר *'mr* «to say» 0/1 Gen 47,9
- אֶל־יוֹסֵף *'l-ywsp* «to *Yosef*» with verb אָמַר *'mr* «to say» 0/1 Gen 48,3
- אֶל־בָּנָיו *'l-bnyw* «his sons» with verb קָרָא *qr'* «to call» 0/1 Gen 49,1

יַעֲקֹב is constructed with the preposition מִן (indirect object expressing a movement to a place):

- מִבְּעָר *mb'ar* «from Bersabea» with verb יָצָא *yś'* «to go out» 0/1 Gen 28,10; 46,5
- מִבְּעָר *mb'ar* «from Bersabea» with verb קָוַם *qwm* «arose» 0/1 Gen 46,5
- מִשְׁנָתוֹ *msntw* «from his slumber» with verb יָקַץ *yqs* «to awake from» 0/1 Gen 28,16
- מִן־הַשָּׂדֶה *mn-hšd'* «from the countryside» with verb בּוֹא *bw'* «to come from» 0/1 Gen 30,16

יַעֲקֹב is constructed with the preposition בְּ (indirect object expressing staying at a place):

- בְּבֹקֶר *bbqr* «since morning» with verb שָׁכַם *škm* «to get up/to wake up» 0/1 Gen 28,18
- בְּרַחֵל *brhl* «to *Rahel*» with verb עָבַד *'bd* «to serve» 0/1 Gen 29,20



- בְּרַחֵל «to *Rahel*» with verb חרה *hrh* «to get angry» 0/1 Gen 30,2
- בְּאֶרֶץ «in the country» with verb ישב *yšb* «to inhabit/to live» 0/1 Gen 37,1
- בְּאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם «in the land of Egypt» with verb חרה *hyh* «to live» 0/1 Gen 47,28

יַעֲקֹב is held by the preposition ל:

- מִרְקָא *mqr* «to swear» 0/1 Gen 25,33
- אָמַר *'mr* «to say» 0/1 Gen 29,15; Gen 30,1; 31,26; 31,51
- יָלַד *yld* «to grow» 0/1 Gen 30,1; 30,5; 30,7; 30,10; 30,12; 30,17; 30,19; 34,1; 46,22; 46,25
- נָתַן *ntn* «to give» 0/1 Gen 30,9
- קָשַׁר *qsr* «to be strong» *h/2* Gen 30,42
- בּוֹא *bw'* «to come from» 0/1 Gen 46,26
- נִגַּד *ngd* «to narrate» *h/1* Gen 48,2
- *without verb of reference* Gen 32,19

יַעֲקֹב is held by the preposition אַל:

- אָמַר *'mr* «to narrate» 0/1 Gen 25,30; 27,6; 27,21; 31,3; 31,43; 35,1; 47,8
- קָרָא *qr'* «to call» 0/1 Gen 27,42; 28,1
- שָׁבוּב *šwb* «to come back» 0/1 Gen 32,7
- יָצָא *yç'* «to go out» 0/1 Gen 34,6
- נָתַן *ntn* «to give» 0/1 Gen 35,4
- רָאָה *r'h* «to appear» *n/1* Gen 35,9; Ex 6,3
- בּוֹא *bw'* «to come from» 0/1 Gen 42,29; 45,25

יַעֲקֹב is held by the preposition עַם:

- דִּבֶּר *dbr* «to talk» 0/2 Gen 31,24; 31,29

יַעֲקֹב is held by the preposition אֶת:

- בּוֹא *bw'* «to come from» 0/1 Ex 1,1
- נָתַן *ntn* «to give» 0/1 Jos 24,4
- *without verb of reference* Ex 2,24

יַעֲקֹב appears with *apposition*:

- אִישׁ תָּם *'gš tm* «quiet man» in *parallelism* with *Yišḥaq* (Gen 25,27)
- שֵׁם *šm* «name» (Gen 25,26; 27,36; 32,29; 35,10)
- בְּנֵהּ *bnh* «her son» referred to *Rivqa* (Gen 27,6; 27,17)



- בְּנֵה הַקָּטָן *bnh hqtñ* «her younger son» referred to *Rivqa* (Gen 27,15; 27,42)
- בְּנִי *bny* «my son» said to *Yišḥaq* Gen 27,21
- אָחִי *'hy* «my brother» said to *'Ešaw* Gen 27,41
- אָחִיו *'hyw* «his brother» referred to *'Ešaw* Gen 25,26; 36,6
- בְּרֵ-אָחִתּוֹ *bn-'htw* «son of his sister» referred to *Lavan* Gen 29,13
- אָחִי *'hy* «my relative» said to *Lavan* Gen 29,15
- עַבְדְּךָ יַעֲקֹב *'bdk y'qb* «your servant» is the way *Ya'āqov* defines himself when presenting himself to *'Ešaw* Gen 32,5; 32,19; 32,21
- עַבְדֶּיךָ *'bdyk* «your servants» Dt 9,27
- אֲבֵיהֶם *'byhm* «their father» referred to his sons Gen 42,29; 42,36; 45,25; 45,27; 46,5
- אָבִיו *'byw* «his father» referred to *Yosef* Gen 47,7
- אֲבֹתֵיכֶם *'btykm* «your (II pl) fathers» Dt 1,8
- אֲבֹתֶיךָ *'btyk* «your (II sing) fathers» Dt 6,10; 9,5; 29,12; 30,20

יעֲקֹב used in vocational function:

- With שֵׁם *šm* «name» Gen 25,26; 27,36; 35,10; 32,29; 46,8 (nominal phrases)
- Gen 31,11; 32,28; 46,2

Parallelismus membrorum

- אִישׁ חֵלֶק *'yš hlq* with אִישׁ שָׁעַר *'yš š'r*
 - I. הֵן עָשׂוֹ אָחִי אִישׁ שָׁעַר וְאֲנֹכִי אִישׁ חֵלֶק
hn 'šw 'hy 'yš š'r w'nky 'yš hlq
«*'Ešaw*, my brother, is a hairy man, while I am a glabrous man»
Gen 27,11
- יַעֲקֹב קוֹל *qwl y'qb* with יְדֵי עָשׂוֹ *ydy 'šw*
 - I. הַקֹּל קוֹל יַעֲקֹב וְהַיָּדִים יְדֵי עָשׂוֹ
hql qwl y'qb whydym ydy 'šw
«The voice is the voice of *Ya'āqov*, but the arms are the arms of *'Ešaw*» Gen 27,22
- יַעֲקֹב *y'kb* with יִשְׂרָאֵל *yšr'l*
 - I. וְשָׁמְעוּ בְנֵי יַעֲקֹב וְשָׁמְעוּ אֲלֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל
wšm'w bny y'kb wšm'w 'l-yšr'l
«Hear, you children of *Ya'āqov*, hear, you children of *Yišra'el*»
Gen 49,2



- II. מה־טבו אה־ליך יַעֲקֹב מִשְׁכְּנֵיךָ יִשְׂרָאֵל
mh-tbw 'hlyk y'qb mškntyk ysr'l
 «How beautiful are your tents, *Ya'aqov*, your homes, *Yisra'el!*»
 Num 24,5.

EBH 2

The lexeme appears 114 times: Is 2,3; 2,5-6; 8,17; 9,7; 10,20-21; 14,1; 17,4; 27,6; 27,9; 29,22-23; 40,27; 41, 8; 41,14; 41,21; 42, 24; 43,1; 43,22; 43,28; 44,1-2; 44,5; 44,21; 44,23; 45,4; 45,19; 46,3; 48,1; 48,12; 48,20; 49,5-6; 49,26; 58,1; 58,14; 59,20; 60,16; 65,9; Jer 2,4; 5,20; 9,3; 10,16; 10,25; 30,7; 30,10; 30,18; 31,7; 31, 11; 33,26; 46,27-28; 51,19; Am 3,13; 6,8; 7,2; 7,5; 8,7; 9, 8; Obad 1,10; 1,17-18; Mic 1,5; 2,7; 2,12; 3,1; 3, 8; 3,9; 4,2; 5,6-7; 7,20; Nah 2,3; Mal 1,2; 2,12; 3,6; Ps 14,7; 20,2; 22,24; 24,6; 44,5; 46,8; 46,12; 47,5; 53,7; 59,14; 75,10; 76,7; 77,16; 78,5; 78,21; 78,71; 79,7; 81,2; 81,5; 84,9; 85,2; 87,2; 94,7; 99,4; 105,6; 105,10; 105,23; 114,1; 114,7; 132,2; 132,5; 135,4; 146,5; 149,17; Lam 1,17; 2,2-3

יעֲקֹב is *nomen rectum*:

- אֱלֹהֵי *'lhy* «God of» Is 2,3; Mi 4,2; Ps 20,2; 24,6; 46,8; 46,12; 75,10; 76,7; 81,2; 81,5; 84,9; 94,7; 114,7; 146,5
- בַּיִת *byt* «house of» Is 2,5-6; 8,17; 10,20; 14,1; 29,22; 46,3; 48,1; 58,1; Jer 2,4; 5,20; Am 3, 13; 9,8; Obad 1,17-18; Mic 2,7; 3,9; Ps 114,1; Lm 2,2
- שְׂאֵר *š'r* «rest of» Is 10,21
- שְׂאֵרִית *š'ryt* «remainder» Mi 5,6-7
- אָח *'h* «brother of» Mal 1,2
- אֹהֶלֶיךָ *'hly* «tents of» Jer 30,18; Mal 2,12
- בְּנֵי *bny* «sons of» Ps 77,16; 105,6; Mal 3,6
- גְּאוֹן *g'wn* «the pride of» Am 6,8; 8,7; Nah 2,3
- פְּשָׁע *ps'* «the transgression of» Mic 1,5
- רְאֵשֵׁי *r šy* «leaders of» Mic 3,1
- חֶלֶק *hlq* «portion of» Jer 10,16; 51,19
- כְּבוֹד *kbwd* «the glory of» Is 17, 4; Ps 47,4
- עוֹן *'wn* «iniquity of» Is 27,9
- קְדוֹשׁ *qwdš* «saint of» Is 29,23
- מֶלֶךְ *mlk* «king of» Is 41,21
- שֵׁם *šm* «name of» Is 44, 5
- עַבְדִּי *'bdy* «my servant» Is 45,4
- זֶרַע *zr'* «seed of/progeny of» Is 45,19; Jer 33,26; Ps 22,24



- שְׁבֵטֵי *šbty* «the tribes of» Is 49, 6
- אֲבִיר *'byr* «the mighty of» Is 49,26; 60,16; Ps 132,2; 132,5
- נַחֲלָה *nḥlt* «heritage of» Is 58,14
- מִשְׁכְּנוֹת *mšknwt* «the dwellings of» Ps 87,2
- יְשׁוּעוֹת *yšw 'wt* «victories» Ps 44,5
- נְאוֹת *n 'wt* «dwellings» Lam 2,2
- שְׁבִיחַ *šbyt* «fate» Ps 85,2
- תַּחֲלוּלָת *tlw't* «worm» Is 41,14

יַעֲקֹב is subject of the verb:

- שָׂרַשׁ *šrš h1* «eradicate» Is 27,6
- בּוֹשׁ *bwš 0/1* «to be ashamed» Is 29,22
- גִּיל *gyl 0/1* «to exult» Ps 14,7

יַעֲקֹב is object of:

- קוּם *qwm 0/1* «to rise» Am 7,2; 7,5
- אָכַל *'kl 1/0* «to eat» Sal 79,7; Jer.10,25
- פָּרַח *pdh 0/1* «to release» Jer 31,11
- רָכַם *rkm 0/2* «to love» Is 14,1
- נָתַן *ntn 0/1* «to give» Is 42,24; 43,28
- גָּאֵל *g'l 0/1* «to redeem» Is 44,23; 48,20
- שׁוּב *šwb qolel* «to come back» Is 49,5
- שׁוּב *šwb 0/1* «to come back» Ps 85,2
- בָּחַר *bkr 0/1* «to choose» Ps 135,4

יַעֲקֹב is held by the preposition ל:

- (*without verb of reference*) Mal 1, 2

יַעֲקֹב appears with *apposition*:

- אֲהַבִּי *'hby* «my friend» Is 41,8
- זֶרַע אַבְרָהָם *zr' 'brhm* «progeny of 'Avraham» Is 41,8
- עַבְדִּי *'bdy* «my servant» said by God Is 44,1-2; 44,21; 45,4; Jer 30,10; 46,27-28
- עַבְדּוֹ *'bdw* «his servant» said by God Is 48,20
- אָבִיךָ *'byk* «your father» Is 58,14
- קָטַן *qtn* «little» Am 7,5
- אָחִיךָ *'hyk* «your brother» Ob 1,10

*Parallelismus membrorum:*

יְעֻקֵּב אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל *'lhy y'qb* is in *parallelismus membrorum* with:

– יהוה *YHWH*

I וְנַעֲלֶה אֶל-הַר-יְהוָה אֶל-בַּיִת אֱלֹהֵי יִעֻקֵּב
wn'lh 'l-br-YHWH 'l-byt 'lhy y'qb

«we climb the mountain of Lord, to the house of the God of *Ya'aqov*» Is 2,3

יְעֻקֵּב קְדוֹשׁ *qdws' y'qb* is in *parallelismus membrorum* with:

– אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל *'lhy ysrl*

I וְהִקְדִּישׁוּ אֶת-קְדוֹשׁ יְעֻקֵּב וְאֶת-אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל יַעֲרִיצוּ
whqdyšw 't-qdws' y'qb w't -'lhy ysrl y'ryšw

«they will sanctify the Holy One of *Ya'aqov* and they will show respect for *Yisra'el*» Is 29,23

יְעֻקֵּב שְׁבֻטֵי *šbty y'qb* is in *parallelismus membrorum* with

– וְנִצְרִי יִשְׂרָאֵל *wnšyry ysrl*

I לְהַקִּיִּם אֶת-שְׁבֻטֵי יְעֻקֵּב (וְנִצְרִי) [וְנִצְרִי] יִשְׂרָאֵל לְהַשִּׁיב
lhqym 't-šbty y'qb wnšyry ysrl lhšyb

«to restore the tribes of *Ya'aqov* and to lead back the survivors of *Yisra'el*» Is 49,6

יְעֻקֵּב *y'kb* is in *parallelismus membrorum* with

– יִשְׂרָאֵל *ysrl*

I יְעֻקֵּב יִצְיָן וּפְרַח יִשְׂרָאֵל
y'kb yšyš wprh ysrl

«*Ya'aqov* will sprout and *Yisra'el* will flourish» Is 27,6

II לְשׁוֹבֵב יְעֻקֵּב אֱלֹהֵי וְיִשְׂרָאֵל (לֵא) [לֵו] יֵאָסֵף
lšwbb y'kb 'lyw wysrl lw y'sp

«to bring back *Ya'aqov* to him and to gather *Yisra'el* to him» Is 49,5

III אֶסֶף אֶאָסֵף יְעֻקֵּב כָּל־קַבְּץ אֶקְבֹּץ שְׂאֲרֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל
'sp 'sp y'kb klk qbs 'qbs š'ryt ysrl

«I will assemble whole *Ya'aqov*, I will collect the rest of *Yisra'el*»
Mic 2, 12

IV יִגַּל יְעֻקֵּב יִשְׁמַח יִשְׂרָאֵל



ygl y'kb yšmḥ ysr'l
 «Exult *Ya'āqov*, rejoice *Yisra'el*» Ps 14,7; 53,7

- *Ya'āqov* compared to *Yisra'el* (Is 43,1; 43,22; 43,28; 44,21; 45,4; 49,5; Jer 10,30; Jer 46,27-28)
- House of *Ya'āqov* is coordinated with the rest of *Yisra'el* Is 46,3 and with the families of the house of *Yisra'el* (Jer 2, 4)
- Transgression of *Ya'āqov* is coordinated with iniquity of the house of *Yisra'el* (Mic 1,5)
- The heads of the family of *Ya'āqov* are coordinated with housekeepers of the house of *Yisra'el* (Mic 3,9)

יַעֲקֹב used in vocational function:

- Is 48,12; Jer 30,10; 46,27-28; Mic 2,12; Ps 24,6

EBH 3

The lexeme appears 3 times: Hos 10,11; 12,3; 12,13

יַעֲקֹב is subject of the verb:

- שָׁדַד *šdd* 0/2 «to harrow» Hos 10,11
- בָּרַח *brḥ* 0/1 «to escape» Hos 12,13

קֵב is object of the verb:

- פָּקַד *pqd* 0/1 «to visit» Hos 12,3

יַעֲקֹב is held by the preposition *עַל*:

- פָּקַד *pqd* 0/1 «to visit» Hos 12,3

EBH 4

The lexeme appears 5 times: Lv 26,42; Ez 20,5; 28,25; 37,25; 39,25

יַעֲקֹב is *nomen rectum* :

- בַּיִת *byt* «house» Ez 20,5
- שְׁבוּיָה *sbvt* «captivity» Ez 39,25

Parallelismus membrorum:

יַעֲקֹב *y'qb* is in *parallelismus membrorum* with:



Ez 20,5

בְּיוֹם בָּחַרְתִּי בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל וְאָשָׂא יָדִי לְזָרַע בֵּית יַעֲקֹב
bywm bhry bysr'l w's' ydy lzt' byt y'qb

«on the day I chose *Yisra'el*, I raised my hand in oath to the progeny of the hoise of *Ya'aqov*»

Ez 39,25

עַתָּה אָשִׁיב אֶת- (שְׁבוּת) יַעֲקֹב וְרַחֲמֹתַי כָּל-בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל
'th 'šyb 't-šbyt y'qb wrhmty kl-byt ysr'l

«now I will bring back the prisoners of *Ya'aqov* and I will have mercy on the whole house of *Yisra'el*»

LBH 1

The lexeme appears 2 times: 1Chr 16,13; 16,17

יַעֲקֹב is *nomen rectum*:

– בְּנֵי *bny* «sons» 1Chr 16,13

Parallelismus membrorum:

יַעֲקֹב בְּנֵי *bny y'qb* is in *parallelismus membrorum* with:

– זָרַע יִשְׂרָאֵל *zr' ysr'l*

I זָרַע יִשְׂרָאֵל עֲבָדוֹ בְּנֵי יַעֲקֹב בְּחִירָיו
zr' ysr'l 'bdw bny y'qb bhryryw

«the progeny of *Yisra'el*, his servant, sons of *Ya'aqov*, his elects»
 1Chr 16,13.

לְיַעֲקֹב *ly'qb* is in *parallelismus membrorum* with:

– לְיִשְׂרָאֵל *lysr'l*

I וַיַּעֲמִידָהּ לְיַעֲקֹב לְחֹק לְיִשְׂרָאֵל בְּרִית עוֹלָם
wy'mydh ly'qb lhq lysr'l bryt 'wlm

«that established a statute for *Ya'aqov* and an everlasting covenant for *Yisra'el*» 1Chr 16,17.

BSH

The lexeme occurs 6 times. The following selected passages are taken directly from manuscripts and therefore occurrences are taken from the original Hebrew text. The occurrences deriving from the Greek text are not considered in this analysis.



Sir 36,10^b; 45,5^b; 46,10^b; 46,14^b; 49,10^b; 51,12

יַעֲקֹב is *nomen rectum*:

- אַבִּיר *'byr* «hero, champion» Sir 51,12^b
- שְׁבֵטֵי *šbṭy* «tribes» Sir 36,10^b
- אֱלֹהֵי *'lhy* «God» Sir 46,14^b
- זֶרַע *zr'* «seed of/ancestry of» Sir 46,10^b

יַעֲקֹב is object of:

- חָלַם *hlm h/1* «to console» Sir 49,10^b

יַעֲקֹב is held by the preposition ב:

- לָמַד *lmd 0/2* «to teach» Sir 45 5^b

Parallelisms

ABH

Gen 49,7

אֶחָדֵיכֶם בְּיַעֲקֹב וְאֶפְיָצֵם בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל
'hḏqm by'qb w'fyṣm byśr'l

«I will divide them in *Ya'āqov* and scatter them in *Yiśra'el*»

Dt 33,10

יִרְוּ מִשְׁפָּטֶיךָ לְיַעֲקֹב וְתוֹרָתְךָ לְיִשְׂרָאֵל
ywrw mšpṭyk ly'qb wtwrtk lyśr'l

«They shall teach *Ya'āqov* your rules and *Yiśra'el* your law»

EBH 1

Gen 49,2

וּשְׁמְעוּ בְנֵי יַעֲקֹב וּשְׁמְעוּ אֶל־יִשְׂרָאֵל
wšm'w bny y'qb wšm'w 'l-yśr'l

«Hear, you sons of *Ya'āqov*, hear, sons of *Yiśra'el*»

Es 19,3

כֹּה תֹאמַר לְבֵית יַעֲקֹב וְתִגִּיד לְבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל
kh t'mr lbyṭ y'qb wtygd lbny yśr'l

«In this way you shall talk to the house of *Ya'āqov* and you shall announce to the sons of *Yiśra'el*»



Nm 23,7

לְכֵה אֶרְהֶ־לִי יַעֲקֹב וּלְכֵה זַעֲמָה יִשְׂרָאֵל

lkh 'rh-ly y'qb wlkh z'mh ysr'l

«Come, curse me *Ya'aqov*, come, swear against *Yisra'el*»

Nm 23,10

מִי מִנֵּה עֵפָר יַעֲקֹב וּמִסָּפֶר אֶת־רִבֵּעַ יִשְׂרָאֵל

my mnh 'fr y'qb wnspr 't-rb' ysr'l

«Who can count the dust of *Ya'aqov* or count the grains of sand of *Yisra'el*?»

Nm 23,21

לֹא־הִבִּיט אֵין בִּי־עֲקֹב וְלֹא־רָאָה עֲמָל בִּישְׂרָאֵל

l'-hbwt 'wn by'qb wl'-r'h 'ml bysr'l

«It has never seen iniquity in *Ya'aqov* neither has it seen the evil in *Yisra'el*»

Nm 23,23

כִּי לֹא־נִחַשׁ בִּי־עֲקֹב וְלֹא־קִסָּם בִּישְׂרָאֵל

ky l'-nš by'qb wl'-qsm bysr'l

«For there is no magic in *Ya'aqov* neither is there any divination in *Yisra'el*»

Nm 23,23

בְּעֵת יֵאָמֵר לִי־עֲקֹב וּלְיִשְׂרָאֵל

k't y'mr ly'qb wlysr'l

«At proper time it shall be said to *Ya'aqov* and *Yisra'el*»

Nm 24,5

מִה־טֹבוֹ אִהְלִיךָ יַעֲקֹב מִשְׁכְּנֹתֶיךָ יִשְׂרָאֵל

mh-tbw 'hlyk y'qb mškntyk ysr'l

«How beautiful are your tents, *Ya'aqov*, your dwellings, *Yisra'el*!»

Nm 24,7

דָּרָךְ כּוֹכַב מִי־עֲקֹב וְקֶם שִׁבְט מִישְׂרָאֵל

drk kwkb my'qb wqm šbt mysr'l

«a star shall raise from *Ya'aqov* and a sceptre shall rise out of *Yisra'el*»



2Sam 23,1

מְשִׁיחַ אֱלֹהֵי יַעֲקֹב וְנַעֲמִים זְמֵרוֹת יִשְׂרָאֵל
mšyḥ 'lhy y'qb wn 'ym zmrwt ysrl
 «the anointed of the God of *Ya'āqov* and the beloved of the protector of *Yisra'el*»⁴

EBH 2

Is 9,7

דְּבַר שְׁלַח אֲדֹנָי בְּנִיעֻקֵּב וְנִפְלַ בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל
dbr šlh 'dny by'qb wnpl bysr'l
 «The Lord sends a word on *Ya'āqov* and it falls on *Yisra'el*»

Is 10,20

לְאִי־יוֹסִיף עוֹד שְׂאָר יִשְׂרָאֵל וּפְלִיטַת בַּיִת־יַעֲקֹב
l'-ywsyp 'wd š'r ysrl wplytt byt y'qb
 «the rest of *Yisra'el* and the survivors of the house of *Ya'āqov*

Is 14,1

כִּי יִרְחַם יְהוָה אֶת־יַעֲקֹב וּבָחַר עוֹד בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל
ky yrḥm YHWH 't-y'qb wblr 'wd bysr'l
 «The Lord will have mercy on *Ya'āqov* and will choose *Yisra'el* again»

Is 27,6

יִשְׂרָאֵל יִשְׂרֹשׂ וְיַעֲקֹב יִצְיָץ וּפְרַח יִשְׂרָאֵל
ysrš y'kb ysyṣ wprḥ ysrl
 «*Ya'āqov* will take root, *Yisra'el* will flourish and sprout»

Is 29,23

הַקְּדִישׁוּ אֶת־קְדוֹשׁ יַעֲקֹב וְאֶת־אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל יַעֲרִיצוּ
hqdyšw 't-qdws y'qb w't-'lhy ysrl y'ryṣw
 «they shall sanctify the Holy One of *Ya'āqov*, and shall fear the God of *Yisra'el*»

⁴ This is the right interpretation, according to the amendment of the text proposed by Richardson and Rofé. See H.N. RICHARDSON, «The Last Word of David. Some notes on II Samuel 23: 1-7», in *JBL* 90(1971), 257-266; A. ROFÉ, *Introduzione alla lettura della Bibbia Ebraica. Pentateuco e libri storici*, Brescia 2011, II, 398.



Is 40,27

מָה תֹאמַר יַעֲקֹב וַתְּדַבֵּר יִשְׂרָאֵל
mh t'mr y'qb wtbdr ysr'l

«Why do you say *Ya'aqov* and why do you speak, *Yisra'el*?»

Is 41,8

וְאַתָּה יִשְׂרָאֵל עַבְדִּי יַעֲקֹב אֲשֶׁר בְּחַרְתִּיךָ
w'th ysr'l 'bdy y'qb 'sr bhrtyk

«and you *Yisra'el*, my servant, *Ya'aqov* whom I have chosen»

Is 41,14

תוֹלַעַת יַעֲקֹב מִתִּי יִשְׂרָאֵל
twl't y'qb mty ysr'l

«worm of *Ya'aqov*, men of *Yisra'el*»

Is 42,24

מִי־נָתַן (לְמַשׁוֹסָה) יַעֲקֹב וַיִּשְׂרָאֵל לְבוֹזִים
my-ntn lmsšh y'qb wy'sr'l lbzzym

«Who gave up *Ya'aqov* to the looter, and *Yisra'el* to the plunderers?»

Is 43,1

וְעַתָּה כֹּה־אָמַר יְהוָה בִּרְאֵךְ יַעֲקֹב וַיִּצְרָךְ יִשְׂרָאֵל
q'th kh-'mr YHWH br'k y'qb wy'srk ysr'l

«this is what the Lord who created you says *Ya'aqov* and who formed you *Yisra'el*»

Is 43,22

וְלֹא־אָתִי קָרָאתָ יַעֲקֹב כִּי־יָגַעְתָּ בִּי יִשְׂרָאֵל
wl'-'ty qr't y'qb ky-yg't by ysr'l

«you didn't call out to me, *Ya'aqov* because you were tired of me, *Yisra'el*»

Is 43,28

וְאֶתְנֶנָּה לְחַרֵּם יַעֲקֹב וַיִּשְׂרָאֵל לְגִדּוּפִים
w'tnh lhrm y'qb wy'sr'l lgdwpym

«I have given *Ya'aqov* to the curse, and *Yisra'el* to reprobates»

Is 44,1

עַתָּה שְׁמַע יַעֲקֹב עַבְדִּי וַיִּשְׂרָאֵל בְּחַרְתִּי בּוֹ
'th šm' y'qb 'bdy wy'sr'l bhrty bw

«Listen now, *Ya'aqov* my servant, *Yisra'el* whom I have chosen»



Is 44,5

זֶה יֹאמֵר לַיהוָה אֲנִי וְזֶה יִקְרָא בְּשֵׁם־יַעֲקֹב וְזֶה יִכְתֹּב יָדוֹ לַיהוָה וּבְשֵׁם יִשְׂרָאֵל יִכְנֶה
zh y'mr l YHWH 'ny wzh yqr' bšm-y'qb wzh yktb yd'w l YHWH
wbšm ysr'l yknh

«This one will say: I belong to the Lord, those will be called *Ya'āqov*; some will write the Lord's name on their hands and will take the name of *Yisra'el*»

Is 44,21

זְכַר־אֵלֶּה יַעֲקֹב וַיִּשְׂרָאֵל
zkr-'lh y'qb wysr'l

«Remember this *Ya'āqov*, oh *Yisra'el*»

Is 44,23

כִּי־גָאֵל יְהוָה יַעֲקֹב וּבִיִּשְׂרָאֵל יִתְפָּאֵר
ky-g'l YHWH y'qb wbysr'l ytp'r

«for the Lord has redeemed *Ya'āqov*, in *Yisra'el* has manifested its glory»

Is 44, 25

עַבְדֵי יַעֲקֹב וַיִּשְׂרָאֵל בְּחִירֵי
'bdy y'qb wysr'l bhryr

«*Ya'āqov*, my servant, and *Yisra'el* whom I have chosen»

Is 45, 3

שִׁמְעוּ אֵלַי בֵּית יַעֲקֹב וְכָל־שְׂאֲרֵית בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל
šm'w 'ly byt y'qb wkl-š'ryt byt-ysr'l

«listen to me house of *Ya'āqov* and all the rest of the house of *Yisra'el*»

Is 48,12

שִׁמְעוּ אֵלַי יַעֲקֹב וַיִּשְׂרָאֵל מְקֻרָאֵי
šm'w 'ly byt y'qb wysr'l mqr'y

«listen to me *Ya'āqov* and *Yisra'el* whom I have called»

Is 49,5

לְשׁוֹבֵב יַעֲקֹב אֶלְיוֹ וַיִּשְׂרָאֵל (לֵא) [לוֹ] יֵאָסֵף
lšwbb y'qb 'lyw wysr'l l' y'sp

«to bring *Ya'āqov* back to him and gather *Yisra'el* to himself»



Is 49,6

לְהָקִים אֶת־שְׁבֻטֵי יַעֲקֹב (וּנְצִירֵי) [וּנְצִירֵי] יִשְׂרָאֵל לְהָשִׁיב
lhqym 't-šbty y'qb wnswwry ysr'l lhšyb

«to restore the tribes of *Ya'aqov* and lead back the survivors of *Yisra'el*»

Is 65, 9 [parallelism with *Yahuda*]

וְהוֹצֵאתִי מֵיַעֲקֹב זָרַע וּמִיְהוּדָה יוֹרֵשׁ הָרִי
whwš'ty my'qb zr' wmyhwdh ywrš hry

«I will bring your progeny to *Ya'aqov* and to *Yahuda* an heir of my mountains»

Jer 2,4

בֵּית יַעֲקֹב וְכָל־מִשְׁפְּחוֹת בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל
byt y'qb wkl-mšphwt byt ysr'l

«house of *Ya'aqov* and all the families of the house of *Yisra'el*»

Jer 5, 20 [parallelism with *Yahuda*]

הַגִּידוּ זֹאת בְּבֵית יַעֲקֹב וְהִשְׁמִיעוּהָ בִיהוּדָה לֵאמֹר
hgydww z't bbyt y'qb whšmy'wh byhwdh l'mr

«announce this to the house of *Ya'aqov*, and proclaim it in *Yahuda*»

Jer 10,16

לֹא־כְאֵלֶּה חֶלֶק יַעֲקֹב כִּי־יוֹצֵר הַכֹּל הוּא וַיִּשְׂרָאֵל שְׁבֻט נִחְלָתוֹ
l'-k'lh hlq y'qb ky-ywšr hkl h'w' wgyšr'l šbt nhltw

«Not such is *Ya'aqov*'s heritage, for he that formed all things. *Yisra'el* is the tribe of his inheritance»

Jer 30,10; 46,27

אַתָּה אֶל־תִּירָא עַבְדֵי יַעֲקֹב נֹאֲמֵ־יְהוָה וְאֶל־תַּחַת יִשְׂרָאֵל
'th 'l-tyr' 'bdy y'qb n'm-YHWH w'l tht ysr'l

«Then fear not, *Ya'aqov*, my servant. Oracle of the Lord. Do not be dismayed, *Yisra'el*»

Ob 1,18 [parallelism with house of *Yosef* and house of '*Ešaw*']

הָיְהִי בֵית־יַעֲקֹב אֵשׁ וּבֵית יוֹסֵף לְהִבָּהּ וּבֵית עֵשָׂו לְקֶשׁ
hyh byt y'qb 'š wbytw wšp lhbh wbytw 'šw lqš

«the house of *Ya'aqov* shall be a fire and the house of *Yosef* a flame, the house of '*Ešaw* shall be like straw»





Mic 1,5

בְּפִשַׁע יַעֲקֹב כָּל־זֹאת וּבְחַטָּאוֹת בַּיִת יִשְׂרָאֵל
bps' y'qb kl-z 't wbhṭ'wt byt ysr'l

«All this is for the transgression of *Ya'āqov* and for iniquities of the house of *Yisra'el*»

Mic 2,12

אֶסְפֶּה אֶעֱסֹף יַעֲקֹב כְּלֵי קִבְּץ אֶקְבֹּץ שְׂאֵרֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל
'sp 'sp y'qb klk qbs 'qbs š'ryt ysr'l

«I will gather all of you, *Ya'āqov*, I will collect the rest of *Yisra'el*»

Mic 3,1.9

רְאֵשֵׁי יַעֲקֹב וּקְצִינֵי בַיִת יִשְׂרָאֵל
r'šy y'qb wqšyny byt ysr'l

«leaders of *Ya'āqov* and rulers of the house of *Yisra'el*»

Mic 3,8

לְהַגִּיד לַיַּעֲקֹב פִּשְׁעוֹ וּלְיִשְׂרָאֵל חַטָּאתוֹ
lhgyd ly'qb ps'w lysr'l ḥṭ'tw

«to declare to *Ya'āqov* his transgression and to *Yisra'el* its iniquity»

Mic 7,20 [parallelism with *'Avraham*]

אֶמֶת לַיַּעֲקֹב חֶסֶד לְאַבְרָהָם
'mt ly'qb ḥsd l'brhm

«fidelity to *Ya'āqov* and loyalty to *'Avraham*»

Nah 2,3

אֶת־גְּאוֹן יַעֲקֹב כְּגְאוֹן יִשְׂרָאֵל
't-g'wn y'qb kg'wn ysr'l

«exaltation of *Ya'āqov* and exaltation of *Yisra'el*»

Lam 2,2 [parallelism with *Yəhuda*]

בָּלַע אֲדֹנָי (לֵא) [וְלֵא] חֶמַל אֵת כָּל־נְאוֹת יַעֲקֹב הָרַס בְּעִבְרָתוֹ מִבְּצָרֵי בַת־יְהוּדָה
bl' 'dny ḥml 't kl-n'wt y'qb hrs b'bṛtw mbsry bt-yhwdb

«The Lord has swallowed up and had no mercy on all the pastures of *Ya'āqov* and, in his anger, he has destroyed the fortresses of daughter of *Yəhuda*»

Ps 14,7; 53,7

יָגַל יַעֲקֹב יִשְׁמַח יִשְׂרָאֵל





ygl y'qb yšmh ysr'l
 «exult *Ya'āqov*, rejoice *Yisra'el*»

Ps 22,24

הללוהו כל־זרע יַעֲקֹב כְּבֹדוֹהוּ וְגִוְרוֹ מִמֶּנּוּ כָּל־זֶרַע יִשְׂרָאֵל
hllwhw kl-zr' y'qb kbdwhw wgwraw mmnw kl-zr' ysr'l
 «praise him, all you descendants of *Ya'āqov* and glorify him and fear him, all the descendants of *Yisra'el*»

Ps 78,5

וַיִּקְּם עֵדוּתוֹ בְּיַעֲקֹב וְתוֹרָה שָׁם בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר
wyqm 'dwtw??? by'qb wtwrh šm bysr'l
 «you established a testimony in *Ya'āqov* and you set your law in *Yisra'el*»

Ps 78,21

וְאֵשׁ נִשְׁקָה בְּיַעֲקֹב וְגַם־אֵף עָלָה בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל
w's nšqh by'qb egm- 'p 'lh bysr'l
 «A fire broke out against *Ya'āqov* and his wrath rose against *Yisra'el*»

Ps 78,71

לְרִעוֹת בְּיַעֲקֹב עֲמוֹ וּבְיִשְׂרָאֵל נַחֲלָתוֹ
lr'wt by'qb 'mw wbysr'l nhltw
 «to graze *Ya'āqov*, his people, and *Yisra'el*, his inheritance»

Ps 81,5

כִּי חֹק לְיִשְׂרָאֵל הוּא מִשְׁפַּט לְאֱלֹהֵי יַעֲקֹב
ky hq lysr'l hw' mšpt l'lhy y'qb
 «for it is an ordinance for *Yisra'el* and a law of the God of *Ya'āqov*»

Ps 105,10

וַיְעִמְדָהּ לְיַעֲקֹב לְחֹק לְיִשְׂרָאֵל כְּרִית עוֹלָם
wy'mydh ly'qb lhq lysr'l bryt 'wlm
 «he confirmed to *Ya'āqov* a statute and to *Yisra'el* an everlasting covenant»

Ps 114,1

בְּצֵאת יִשְׂרָאֵל מִמִּצְרַיִם בֵּית יַעֲקֹב מֵעַם לְעֹז
bš't ysr'l mmšrym byt y'qb m'm l'z



«When *Yisra'el* came out of Egypt, the house of *Ya'āqov* in the midst of foreign people»

Ps 135,4

כִּי־יַעֲקֹב בָּחַר לוֹ יְהוָה יִשְׂרָאֵל לְסִגְלָתוֹ

ky-y'qb bħr lw yh ys'r'l lsgltw

«for the Lord has chosen *Ya'āqov* for himself and *Yisra'el* as his own property»

Ps 147,19

גִּיד (דְּבָרָיו) [דְּבָרָיו] לְיַעֲקֹב חֻקָּיו וּמִשְׁפָּטָיו לְיִשְׂרָאֵל

gyd dbrw ly'qb ħqyw wmsptyw lys'r'l

«Announce his word to *Ya'āqov*, his ordinance and his judgements to *Yisra'el*»

EBH 3

Hos 10,11 [parallelism with *Yəhuda* and *'Efrayim*]

אֲרַכִּיב אֲפָרַיִם יַחְרוֹשׁ יְהוּדָה יִשְׁדָּד־לוֹ יַעֲקֹב

'rkyb 'prym yħrwš yħwdh ysdd-lw y'qb

«I will harness *'Efrayim*, *Yəhuda* will plow and *Ya'āqov* will harrow»

Hos 12,3 [parallelism with *Yəhuda*]

וְרִיב לִיהוָה עִם־יְהוּדָה וְלִפְקֹד עַל־יַעֲקֹב כְּדָרְכָיו

wryb lYHWH 'm-yħwdh wlpqd 'l-y'qb kdrkyw

«The Lord has a dispute with *Yəhuda*, will punish *Ya'āqov* according to his ways»

EBH 4

Ez 20,5

בַּיּוֹם בָּחַרְתִּי בְיִשְׂרָאֵל וְאָשָׂא יָדִי לְזָרַע בַּיִת יַעֲקֹב

bywm bħry bys'r'l w's 'ydy lzr' byt y'qb

«on the day I chose *Yisra'el*, I raised my hand in oath to the descendants of the house of *Yisra'el*»

Ez 39,25

עָתָה אָשִׁיב אֶת־[שְׁבִי]ת יַעֲקֹב וְרַחֲמָתִי כָּל־בַּיִת יִשְׂרָאֵל

'th 'šyb 't-šbyt y'qb wrħmtly kl-byt ys'r'l



«now I will bring back the prisoners of *Ya'aqov* and I will have mercy on the whole house of *Yisra'el*»

LBH 1

1Chr 16,17

וַיַּעֲמִידָהּ לְיַעֲקֹב לְחֹק לְיִשְׂרָאֵל בְּרִית עוֹלָם

wy'mydh ly'qb lhq lysr'l bryt 'wlm

«he established a statute for *Ya'aqov* and for *Yisra'el* an everlasting covenant»

Patriarchs

The lexeme *Ya'aqov* appears in a few passages in coordination with *'brhm e yshq*

EBH 1

Ex 2,24

וַיִּזְכֹּר אֱלֹהִים אֶת-בְּרִיתוֹ, אֶת-אַבְרָהָם אֶת-יִצְחָק וְאֶת-יַעֲקֹב

wyzkr 'lhy'm 't brytw 't 'brhm, 't yshq w't y'qb

«and God remembered his covenant with *'Avraham*, *Yisḥaq* and *Ya'aqov*»

Ex 3,6; 3,15-16; 4,5

אֲנֹכִי אֱלֹהֵי אַבְרָהָם, אֱלֹהֵי יִצְחָק, וְאֱלֹהֵי יַעֲקֹב

'nky 'lhy 'byk 'lhy 'brhm, 'lhy yshq w'lhy y'qb

«I am the God of your father, of *'Avraham*, *Yisḥaq* and *Ya'aqov*»

Ex 6,3

וַיֵּרָא, אֶל-אַבְרָהָם אֶל-יִצְחָק וְאֶל-יַעֲקֹב

w'r' 'l brhm, 'l yshq w'l y'qb

«I appeared to *'Avraham*, *Yisḥaq* and to *Ya'aqov*»

Gen 50,24; Ex 33,1; Num 32,11; Dt 1,8; 6,10; 9,5; 34,4

נִשְׁבַּעְתִּי לְאַבְרָהָם לְיִצְחָק וּלְיַעֲקֹב

nšb'ty l'brhm l yshq wl y'qb

«I swore on *'Avraham*, *Yisḥaq* and *Ya'aqov*»



Dt 29,12; 30,20

נִשְׁבַּע לְאַבְרָהָם, לְיִצְחָק וּלְיַעֲקֹב
nšb'ty l'bt'yk l'brhm l'yšḥq wl y'qb
 «He swore on your fathers, on 'Avraham, Yiṣḥaq and Ya'āqov»

Dt 9,27

זָכַר לְעַבְדֶיךָ לְאַבְרָהָם, לְיִצְחָק וּלְיַעֲקֹב
zkr l'bk'yk l'brhm, l'yšḥq wl y'qb
 «Remember your servants 'Avraham, Yiṣḥaq and Ya'āqov»

Jos 24,4

וָאֶתֵּן לְיִצְחָק, אֶת-יַעֲקֹב וְאֶת-עֵשָׂו
w'tn l'yšḥq 't y'qb w't 'sw
 «I gave to Yiṣḥaq, Ya'āqov and 'Eśaw»

2 Kings 13,23

לְמַעַן בְּרִיתוֹ, אֶת-אַבְרָהָם יִצְחָק וְיַעֲקֹב
lm'n brytw 't 'brhm, 't yšḥq w't y'qb
 «His covenant with 'Avraham, Yiṣḥaq and Ya'āqov»

EBH 2

Mic 7,20

תַּתֵּן אֲמֶת לְיַעֲקֹב, חֶסֶד לְאַבְרָהָם
ttn 'mt ly'qb ḥsd l'brhm
 «Loyalty to Ya'āqov, mercy on 'Avraham»

Ob 1,18

וְהָיָה בֵּית-יַעֲקֹב וּבֵית יוֹסֵף וּבֵית עֵשָׂו
whyh byt-y'qb, wbytw ywsp wbytw 'sw
 «House of Ya'āqov, house of Yosef and house of 'Eśaw»

Jer 33,26

גַּם-זֶרַע יַעֲקֹב וְדָוִד
gm-zr' y'qb wdw
 «descendants of Ya'āqov and Dawid»

Jer 33,26

אֶל-זֶרַע אַבְרָהָם, יִשְׁחָק וְיַעֲקֹב
'l zr' 'brhm, yšḥq wy'qb
 «descendants of 'Avraham, Yiṣḥaq and Ya'āqov»



Ps 105,6

זרע אברהם בני יעקב

zr' 'brhm: bny y'qb«*Avraham's* descendants and the sons of *Ya'aqov*»

Ps 77,16

בני-יעקב ויוסף

bny y'qb wywsp«Sons of *Ya'aqov* and *Yosef*»

EBH 4

Lv 26,42

את-בריתי יעקוב; ואף את-בריתי יצחק ואף את-בריתי אברהם

't bryty y'qb 't brytw yshq w't brytw 'brhm«covenant with *Ya'aqov*, *Yisḥaq* and *Avraham*»

Dt 9,27

לעבדיך לאברהם ליצחק, וליעקב

l'bdyk 'l brhm, 'l yshq w'l y'qb«your servants *Avraham*, *Yisḥaq* and *Ya'aqov*»

Dt 29,12

לאבותיך, לאברהם ליצחק וליעקב

l'btyk 'l brhm, 'l yshq w'l y'qb«your fathers *Avraham*, *Yisḥaq* and *Ya'aqov*»

BSH

Sir 51,12^b

לצור יצחק לאביר יעקב למגן אברהם

lmgm brhm, lšwr yshq wl'byr y'qb«shield of *Avraham*, rock of *Yisḥaq*, hero of *Ya'aqov*»

The following table is a summary of the attestations in which the lexemes appear:



	ABH	EBH 1	EBH 2	EBH 3	EBH 4	LBH 1	BSH
<i>'Avraham, Yiṣḥaq and Ya'āqov</i>		17	1		3		1
<i>Yiṣḥaq, Ya'āqov and 'Eṣaw</i>		1					
<i>'Avraham and Ya'āqov</i>			2				
<i>Ya'āqov and Yosef</i>			1				
<i>Ya'āqov, Yosef and 'Eṣaw</i>			1				
<i>Ya'āqov and Dawid</i>			1				

Commentary

The first functional language in which the names of the patriarchs appear all together is EBH 1, where they occur most often. Interestingly, in EBH 1 Jacob does not appear together with other names, except *Yiṣḥaq* and *'Eṣaw* (which, however, has only one attestation) and *'Avraham* and *Yiṣḥaq* (which has the highest number of attestations of the functional language). In ABH the name of the patriarch appears alone, as in EBH 3 and LBH 1. In the more recent Hebrew language (LBH 1) evidence of the patriarch's name is lacking, so this would suggest that perhaps the figure of the patriarch is no longer so predominant. In EBH 4 there are the names of the three patriarchs all together which suggests that even in the exilic period the tradition of the patriarchs was kept alive. The three names of the patriarchs reappear, with a single attestation in BSH (archaising language), after the absence in LBH 1.

Divinity

In some attestations the genitival relationship «God of *Ya'āqov*» occurs, sometimes in coordination with «God of *'Avraham*» and «God of *Yiṣḥaq*».

EBH 1

Ex 3,6; 3,15-16; 4,5: God of *'Avraham, Yiṣḥaq* and *Ya'āqov*
 2Sam 23,1: God of *Ya'āqov*

**EBH 2**

Is 2,3; Mi 4,2; Ps 20,2; 46,8; 46,12; 75,10; 76,7; 81,2; 81,5; 84,9; 94,7; 114,7; 146,5: God of *Ya'aqov*

BSH

Sir 46,14^b: God of *Ya'aqov*

	ABH	EBH 1	EBH 2	EBH 3	EBH 4	LBH 1	BSH
God of <i>Ya'aqov</i>		1	13				1
God of <i>'Avraham, Yiṣḥaq</i> and <i>Ya'aqov</i>		4					

Commentary

From the table it is possible to notice that in the oldest functional language there is no reference to divinity. The first attestations appear in EBH 1, and a higher number of attestations have the genitival relationship «God of *Avraham, Yiṣḥaq* e *Ya'aqov*». It is interesting to note how this construction disappears in subsequent functional languages: it can be deduced that this genitival relationship is a characteristic feature of the historical narrative functional language EBH 1. No attestations in EBH 3, EBH 4 and LBH 1. Only one attestation in BSH.

Attributes, predicatives, appositions and epithets

The characteristics that define *Ya'aqov* are examined here on the basis of attributes, predicates, appositions and epithets that recur with the lexeme under investigation.

ABH

Dt 32,9 «part of his inheritance»

– יַעֲקֹב הַחֵלֶל גְּנֹחֵתוֹ

EBH 1

Gen 25,26; 36,6 «his brother» יָחִידִי

Gen 27,41; 29,15 «my brother»



Gen 25,27 «quiet man»
 Gen 27,6; 27,15; 27,17; 27,42 «his son»
 Gen 27,8; 27,21 «my son»
 Gen 27,11 «glabrous man»
 Gen 29,12 «brother and son»
 Gen 29,13 «son»
 Gen 32,5; 32,19; 32,21 «your servant»
 Gen 35,29 «his sons»
 Gen 45,25; 46,5 «their father»
 Gen 47,7 «his father»

EBH 2

Is 41,8 Abraham's descendants זרע אַבְרָהָם
 Is 48,1 «my friend» אֶהְיֶה
 Is 44,1; 44,21; 45,4; Jer 30,10; 46,27-28 «my servant» עֲבָדִי
 Is 48,20 «his servant» עֲבָדוֹ
 Is 58,14 «your father» אָבִיךָ
 Am 7,2; 7,5 «little» קָטָן
 Ob 1,10 «your brother» אָחִיךָ

EBH 4

Ez 28,25; 37,25 «servant» לְעַבְדִּי לְיַעֲקֹב

	ABH	EBH 1	EBH 2	EBH 4
<i>hbl nhlw</i> «part of his inheritance»	1			
' <i>h</i> «brother»		5	1	
<i>bn</i> «son»		9		
' <i>b</i> «father»		3	1	
' <i>bd</i> «servant»		3	7	2
' <i>ys tm</i> «quiet man»		1		
' <i>ys hlq</i> «glabrous man»		1		
<i>zr' 'brhm</i> «Abraham's descendants»			1	
' <i>hb</i> «friend»			1	
<i>qtn</i> «little»			2	



Commentary

In ABH there is only one expression relating to *Ya'aqov*, which fits into a context in which the Patriarch is part of the heritage of the Lord's people. In EBH 1 there are expressions to be placed in a family sphere (brother, son, father) and that indicate various relationships with the other characters of the narration. There are also elements that distinguish him from his brother *'Esa'u* and set him against him. In EBH 2 there is a clear predominance of «servant» in a family context which is inserted in a religious context (*Ya'aqov* is servant of God). An attestation of parentage, but it is the only one in the whole text. In EBH 4 «servant» is always referred to serving the divinity. No attestations in EBH 3, LBH 1 and BSH.

Family dimension: *'h* «brother», *bn* «son», *'b* «father»

Social dimension: *'bd* «servant», *'hb* «friend»

Individual dimension: *'ys tm* «quiet man», *'ys hlq* «glabrous man», *qtn* «little»

Descendant dimension: *hbl nhlw* «part of his inheritance», *zr' 'brhm* «descendant of *'Avraham*»

Conclusions

As for functional language ABH, it is possible to assert that the name *Ya'aqov* has a symbolic value, as shown by parallelisms with *Yi'sra'el*. In this functional language the name of the patriarch never appears along with the other two patriarchs and there is no mention of «God of *Ya'aqov*»: this suggests that at this stage a real tradition concerning the patriarchy is still lacking; probably it was subsequently developed. Certainly, in the archaic functional language lies the core from which the historiographical and mythical genre regarding the figure of *Ya'aqov* originated and this also emerges from the main nouns that appear in genitival relationship with *Ya'aqov*: «champion», «assembly», «spring».

The functional language EBH 1 has the largest number of attestations. In relation to the number of occurrences, there is a low number of parallelisms, and, in the majority of cases, *Ya'aqov* is in paral-



lelism with *Yisra'el*, while it is in parallelism with *'Ešaw* only in two passages. EBH 1 is the functional language where the lexeme appears several times along with *Yišḥaq* and *Avraham*. This may also indicate a development of the historical patriarchal narrative, which becomes current and it is a clue of a diachronic development of the lexeme. The text also starts talking about «God of *Ya'aqov*» and this is the unique functional language where the following genitival relationship «God of *Avraham*, *Yišḥaq* and *Ya'aqov*» appears. The lexeme is frequently embedded in a family and social dimension; among the characteristics that define *Ya'aqov* we can find mainly «brother», «son», «father», «servant».

EBH 2 is the functional language in which the lexeme presents the highest number of parallelisms, in most cases with *Yisra'el*. It is obvious, from this, that the lexeme has a figurative value and *Ya'aqov* has not only the meaning of proper noun but is also used to name the land of *Yisra'el*. This is the functional language in which the genitival relationship «God of *Ya'aqov*» recurs most often, as further confirmation of the symbolic meaning of the lexeme in EBH 2. The lexeme is frequently inserted in a social and ancestral dimension, where it is defined with the following characteristics: “servant”, “friend” and “progeny”.

In the functional language EBH 3 the attestations are lacking, but there is a parallelism, which is absent in other functional languages: the parallelism with *Yəhuda* and *'Efrayim*. The other parallelism is just with *Yəhuda*. Even in this functional language we are dealing with a metaphorical usage of the lexeme, employed to indicate *Yisra'el* as a nation: there is a very clear geographical connotation which is not recurrent in other functional languages. It can be deduced that it is a characteristic feature of EBH 3.

EBH 4 shows few occurrences but in almost half of them the lexeme *Ya'aqov* appears in coordination with *'Avraham* e *Yišḥaq*. There are two parallelisms, both with *Yisra'el*. As for the dimension in which the lexeme is inserted, only the «social» dimension has been identified, where *Ya'aqov* is defined with the following characteristic «servant».

In LBH 1 only two occurrences exist; it is worth noting the presence of the genitival relationship «children of *Ya'aqov*», which refers to a family dimension. There are two parallelisms, one with *Yisra'el* and the other with *Yisra'el's* descendants: a metaphorical usage of the lexeme seems obvious.

The functional language BSH is characterised by the genitival relationship «God of *Ya'aqov*» and by the presence of the three names

of the patriarchs coordinated with each other: *'Avraham*, *Yiṣḥaq* and *Ya'aqov*. Two of the governing nouns of the lexeme are «tribe» and «progeny» which refer to a literary context in which the historical genre of *Ya'aqov* is known. It could mean that in this functional language this traditional genre, which had had less influence in the recent historical language, is restored.

In conclusion, it can be said that there is a diachronic development of the lexeme, with an early reference to the mythical and historiographical tradition in ABH and its development in EBH 1 and EBH 2. EBH 3 has particular characteristics, in which the lexeme has mainly a figurative usage and therefore differs from other functional languages. In LBH 1 the number of occurrences is drastically reduced and then becomes more frequent in BSH.

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Parole chiave

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Sommario

Questo articolo si prefigge di analizzare con metodo scientifico il lessema «Giacobbe» in ebraico biblico. Il lessema occorre nel filone narrativo dei Patriarchi che ha un nocciolo storico ed è rivestito da una teologia con cui gli autori manifestano la loro fede nell'opera di Dio nella propria storia, riconoscendo



la sovranità del Signore su quanto era avvenuto, avviene e avverrà. Lo studio è stato svolto da un punto di vista sincronico e sviluppato tramite il metodo delle lingue funzionali applicate all'ebraico biblico. Viene analizzato l'utilizzo dei lessemi Giacobbe e Israele nei contesti presi in esame.

Summary

This article aims at delivering a scientific analysis of the lexeme «Jacob» in biblical Hebrew. The lexeme occurs in the narrative strand of the Patriarchs, which has an historical kernel and is invested with a theology in which the authors reveal their faith in the work of God in their own history, paying recognition to the sovereignty of the Lord over what has happened, is happening and will happen in the future. The study is carried out from a synchronic perspective and developed by means of the method of functional languages applied to biblical Hebrew. The use of the lexemes, Jacob and Israel, is analysed in the contexts in question.

