Towards a classification of Hebrew MWEs
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PARSEME 7th general meeting, Croatia, 26-27 September 2016 - WG1

Research Question
Does the semantic classification of idioms correlate with their flexibility/rigidity?

Metaphorical figurative idioms
(1) yara’d me-ha-tse ‘descended from-the-tree’
‘conceded’

Opaque figurative idioms
(2) he’vela heres be-yado brought up shard in-his-hand
‘was unsuccessful’

Cranberry idioms
(3) yar’ot ‘al ha-meduxa sat on-MEDUXA ‘deliberated’

Method: A corpus-based investigation
We used \textit{beTenTen} \textsuperscript{2014}, a billion-token web-crawled Hebrew corpus (available on SketchEngine), to search for different types of variations that occur with representative MWEs from the three semantic classes. We focused on 11 specific verbal MWEs, and annotated 400 examples overall.

Syntactic variations: relativization, word order alternation, topicalization
(4) hi cri xa laredet me-ha-tse ha-edqani she needs to descend from-the-tree the-righteous
and the-whiny that-she is she climbed.
‘She needs to abandon the righteous and whiny stance which she adopted.’

(5) legabi danela he’vela ha-ma’amare ha-tse about danela brought up the-efforts shard
‘As for Daniella, the efforts were unsuccessful.’

(6) \textit{yal meduxa} ha-yivo zo yyovim horim on MEDUXA important this sitting parents
rubin many
‘Many parents are deliberating on this important issue.’

Argument structure variations
(7) \textit{vein} lmo dilet bithi nypot \textit{leho} xi no like reasons security to bring down ACC
‘There is nothing like security reasons to cause the two (opposing) sides to concede.’

(8) \textit{hu yuva} legalot ki yado he will be surprised to-discover that \textit{ha-hand}
‘He will be surprised to find himself unsuccessful.’

(9) \textit{higo} ha-zman lehoyy ‘al ha-meduxa arrived the-time to cause sit on-MEDUXA
kalhkimim ve-saqinim economists and-actuaries
‘It’s time to make economists and actuaries deliberate on the issue.’

Lexical variation: insertions and substitutions
(10) \textit{hu maca derek marrita‘} hupg me-ha-tse he found way brilliant from-the-tree
‘He found a brilliant way to concede.’

(11) \textit{vef} ka’relu le-menasim \textit{leho} xi there are those that-try to bring down him
‘There are those who try to make him slightly abandon his stance re. chocolate.’

(12) khp-taqiya huar \textit{tratay} \textit{him} when-you will arrive already you will remain with
\textit{ha-hand}
shard in your hand
‘When you finally arrive, you will have failed.’

(13) niya monai legagel he’vela heres my attempts to google brought up shard
radioactivity radio-active
‘My googling attempts re. radioactivity were unsuccessful.’

(14) \textit{yal meduxa} ne legahpra harbe neumehdam \textit{on MEDUXA} this gathered many scholars
‘Many scholars have deliberated on this issue.’

(15) mi‘yotu ha-meqanemet be-lev ha-yyovim \textit{val} wish that-lies in-heart CS that-sitting on
radioactivity qa’d \textit{ve-traq} \textit{han} \textit{MEDUXA} diffent and-tragic this
‘A wish that lies in the heart of those deliberating on this difficult and tragic issue.’

(16) zo‘i\textit{ ha} halata \textit{safer} \textit{aif} \textit{meduxat} this is decision that is present on MEDUXA CS
\textit{het} ha-miptat house the-court
‘This is a decision that the court is deliberating on.’

Conclusions
Everything goes! Verbal MWEs in Hebrew turn out to be consistently more flexible than we assumed, allowing creativity in their usage similarly to compositional phrases. Nevertheless, a word of caution: Idiom variations are not frequent, thus a huge corpus is essential.

This research was supported by THE ISRAEL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (grant No. 505/11).