

Review of: "The normalization of biradical roots: the origin of triradicals and the proto-semitic language"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This is a good paper that deals with an important issue.

I would add (in the introductory section) that the notion of root has been controversial (see Prunet Jean-François. 2006. 'External Evidence and the Semitic Root', *Morphology* 16, 41-67 for a concise discussion). Some linguists, including scholars specializing in Semitic languages, believe that there is no such thing classical Semiticists consider a root (see e.g., Bolozky, Shmuel. 1999. *Measuring Productivity in Word Formation*. Leiden & Köln: Brill). Others believe in the notion of root and its psychological reality but may have different opinions on its characteristics (see, e.g., the analyses of Aronoff, Mark. 1976. *Word Formation in Generative Grammar* N. p. LI Monograph; Arad, Maya. 2005. *Roots and Patterns: Hebrew Morphosyntax*. Dordrecht: Springer; Harley, Hidey. 2014. 'On the Identity of Roots'. *Theoretical Linguistics* 40:3-4, 225-76).

I believe the discussion on root with final *he* may not be accurate. It is probably the case that the third radical of roots that the author considers to be a *he* is actually a *yod*, at least historically.