

PREFACE

ON THE SECOND WINTER SYMPOSIUM

In the half century preceding the Second World War, a number of talented scholars researched Yiddish dialectology in three directions. First, there were proposals for classification of major dialect areas (e.g. Saineanu, 1889, pp. 14-16; Landau, 1896, p. 47; 1901, p. 34; Ayznshtat, 1908, p. 95; Landau and Wachstein, 1911, p. xli; Borokhov, 1913; Birnbaum, 1918, p. 16; Prilutski, 1920, p. 79; Mieses, 1924, p. 1; M. Weinreich, 1940, pp. 69-71). Second, there were analyses of the dialects represented in selected older texts, including Glikl of Hamel's memoirs (Landau, 1901), Henele Kirchhain's *Simkhes hanefesh* (Fleiss, 1912) and the Hamburg manuscript of a rhymed Yiddish version of the book of Esther (Korman, 1930). Finally, there were descriptive studies of the spoken varieties of select areas, among them Eastern Galicia (Viler, 1924; 1926), Kurland (M. Weinreich, 1923, pp. 193-240; Kalmanovitsh, 1926), and Lodz (Gutman, 1926). In Soviet Russia, Veynger's researches (summarized in Veynger, 1929), led, after his death, to the publication of a Yiddish language atlas limited to the political boundaries of the Soviet Union (Vilenkin, 1931).

In spite of this and much more, Yiddish dialectology was by and large a one-man show. That man was Noyakh Prilutski (Prylucki), who was born on 1 October 1882. Prilutski compiled huge collections of high-precision dialectological and folkloristic data which he published in a series of impressive volumes (e.g. Prilutski, 1912, 1914, 1917a, 1917b, 1920, 1921, 1924, 1933, 1937, 1940). The mapping of his data remains a major goal of Yiddish dialectology. When it is accomplished, the resulting atlas will provide an astoundingly detailed picture of prewar Yiddish.

Prilutski's vision of Yiddish dialectology combined his notion of the 'territorial principle' as paramount in language history, with more practical goals that were closely intertwined with the cultural and literary renaissance of Yiddish culture in interwar Eastern Europe (Prilutski, 1930). Prilutski was somehow able to fit Yiddish dialectology in with his other rather time-consuming activities. These included running a private law practice, serving in the Warsaw City Council, editing the Warsaw Yiddish daily *Momént*, leading the folkist party and serving as its representative in the Polish Parliament. On a visit to the United States on behalf of the homeless in the Ukraine, he was received by President Warren G. Harding. After migrating to Vilna during World War II, Prilutski was murdered by the Nazis in August of 1941.

Prilutski is the twentieth century grandmaster of Yiddish dialectology. His ability upon first acquaintance to pinpoint the village whence a Yiddish speaker hailed is legendary. Isaac Bashevis Singer (1956, p. 197), in his *Mayn tatns bezdn shtub (My Father's Court)*, recalls his father's visit to Prilutski's Warsaw law office to seek advice on how to counter a swindler who had forged a promissory note for 600 rubles. Prilutski asked the elder Singer, after hearing him utter two words, whether or not he was of the district of Lublin. He was. Prilutski further enquired as to whether or not he was a native of Tomashov. He was.

After the Second World War, Beatrice Silverman-Weinreich's recordings and Jean Jofen's unpublished 1953 Columbia University dissertation demonstrated that it was after all possible to obtain reliable data from emigré informants. The present volume contains revised excerpts from Jofen's thesis. The task of masterminding a full-scale atlas of both Western and Eastern Yiddish was undertaken by the young Uriel Weinreich (U. Weinreich, 1960a; 1963a). Weinreich's life project, the *Language and Culture Atlas of Ashkenazic Jewry* took full advantage of structural dialectology, a worldwide approach to seeking and interviewing informants, and computer technology. His Atlas was in an advanced stage of preparation at the time of his untimely death, at the age of 40, in 1967. The project is now directed by his former pupil, Professor Marvin I. Herzog, at Columbia University in New York. Its publication is eagerly awaited by the Yiddish scholarly world. Likewise, publication of Uriel Weinreich's *Outlines of a Descriptive Yiddish Dialectology. Provisional Structural and Lexical Index to the Yiddish Language and Culture Atlas* (U. Weinreich, 1960b), a 'guidebook to the Atlas', is awaited with impatience.

In a series of highly original and influential papers, Uriel Weinreich brought Yiddish dialectology into the forefront of general linguistics. Yiddish was his laboratory for advances in the theory of structural dialectology (U. Weinreich, 1954), multilingual dialectology (U. Weinreich, 1952, 1958a), historical and comparative dialectology (U. Weinreich, 1958b, 1963b, 1964), and the theory of language change (Weinreich, Labov and Herzog, 1968). His work inspired his students to praiseworthy achievements (e.g. Herzog, 1965; Zuckerman, 1969).

It is evident from the contents of this volume that research in the late 1980s is focusing upon Western Yiddish and the application of Yiddish dialectology to the study of older Yiddish and non-Yiddish monuments (cf. the papers of Aptroot, Hutton, Katz, Kay, Kerler and Rosenfeld). The notion 'literary dialect' is examined by Kay in older Yiddish women's poetry, and by Schneider in modern Yiddish drama. King's paper carries forward some of the most intriguing structural questions posed by Uriel Weinreich in the early 1960s. Hiley reports on his startling discovery of an unknown vowel in Mideastern ('Polish') Yiddish, which he calls the /ej/ phoneme, which has hitherto been confused with Mideastern Yiddish *aj*_{22/24}. If his findings are instrumentally confirmed, 'Hiley's vowel' may become known as vowel 14, thereby filling the hole in the series 04 (historical diphthongs) in Max Weinreich's numbering system (cf. M. Weinreich, 1960; Herzog, 1965, p. 228; Katz, 1983, pp. 1021-1024).

Also evident from the second Winter Symposium is the gratifying growth of Oxford as a centre for research in Yiddish Studies. Six Symposium papers were read by graduate research students in Oxford University's Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages and Literature. They are Marion Aptroot (Wolfson College), Dafna Clifford (St Cross College), Christopher Hutton (Wolfson College), Devra Kay (St Cross College), Dov-Ber Kerler (Lincoln College) and David Schneider (Exeter College). Chris Hutton has since taken up an assistant professorship in Yiddish at the University of Texas at Austin. Johannes Brosi, of Winterthur, Switzerland, a participant at the Symposium, has since commenced doctoral research in Yiddish dialectology at Hertford College, Oxford.

It is a pleasure to thank the people who assisted in the organization of the Second Winter Symposium and the production of this volume, second in the *Winter Studies in Yiddish* series. The talents of Jean Nightingale, Administrative Director of the Oxford Programme in Yiddish at the Oxford Centre for Postgraduate Hebrew Studies, ensured a successful

event. Sammye Haigh, Managing Editor for Social Sciences at Pergamon Press, and Jane Buekett, Supervisor in Pergamon's Production Department, spared no effort to ensure swift publication. I owe a special debt of gratitude to Dr David Patterson, President of the Oxford Centre for Postgraduate Hebrew Studies, and to Dov-Ber Kerler, the Centre's junior research fellow in Yiddish Studies. Their consistent support, generous assistance and wise counsel were invaluable.

The heroes and heroines of conferences are not always counted from among the readers of papers. One of the beloved personalities at the second Winter Symposium was its official photographer, Sharon (Chavele) Chazan, a brilliant art photographer whose work on Jews in London's East End won her wide acclaim. Her Winter Symposium photos of Robert D. King elucidating the details of an intricate dialectological map, and of Jean Lowenstamm and Alex Derczansky debating in French between sessions, appeared in a number of periodical publications in Britain, the United States and Israel.

Sharon Chazan was tragically killed in October 1987, at the age of twenty-four. This volume is dedicated to her memory.

REFERENCES

- AYZNSHTAT, Sh. 1908 Di geografishe grenetsn fun undzer shprakh un ire oysshprakhn. *Literarische monatsshriftn* (1)4, 85–98.
- BIRNBAUM, S. A. [1918] *Praktische Grammatik der Jiddischen Sprache für den Selbstunterricht. Mit Lesestücken und einem Wörterbuch* [= *Die Kunst der Polyglottie*, 128]. A Hartleben, Vienna and Leipzig.
- BOROKHOV, B. 1913 Yazyk razgovorno-yevreiskii ili zhargon. *Yevreiskaya Entsiklopediya* (St Petersburg) 16, 372–377.
- FLEISS, P. M. 1912 *Das Buch Simchath Hanefesch von Henele Kirchhain aus dem Jahre 1727. Reimuntersuchung als Beitrag zur Kenntnis der jüdisch-deutschen Mundarten. Inaugural-Dissertation der philosophischen Fakultät der Universität Bern zur Erlangung der Doktorwürde*. Bern.
- GUTMAN, T. 1926 A pruv fun a fonetik fun lodzsher yidish. *Filologiske shriftn* 1 [= *Shriftn fun yidishn visnshaftlekhn institut*, 1 = *Filologiske serye*, 1 = *Landoy-bukh*], pp. 377–388. Yivo, Vilna.
- HERZOG, M. I. 1965 *The Yiddish Language in Northern Poland. Its Geography and History* [= *Publication 37 of the Indiana University Research Center in Anthropology, Folklore, and Linguistics = International Journal of American Linguistics*, 31, part 3, vol. 31, no. 2]. Indiana University, Bloomington and Mouton, The Hague.
- KALMANOVITSH, Z. 1926 Der yidisher dyalekt in kurland. *Filologiske shriftn* 1 [= *Shriftn fun yidishn visnshaftlekhn institut*, 1 = *Filologiske serye*, 1 = *Landoy-bukh*], pp. 161–188. Yivo, Vilna.
- KATZ, D. 1983 Zur Dialektologie des Jiddischen. In Besch, W. et al. (Eds), *Dialektologie. Ein Handbuch zur deutschen und allgemeinen Dialektforschung*, Vol. 2, pp. 1018–1041. Walter de Gruyter, Berlin and New York.
- KORMAN, B. [c. 1930] *Die Reimtechnik der Estherparaphrase, Cod. Hamburg 144. Beitrag zur Erschliessung des altjiddischen Lautsystems. Inauguraldissertation zur Erlangung der philosophischen Doktorwürde der philosophischen Fakultät der Universität in Hamburg*. Kolomea.
- LANDAU, A. 1896 Das Deminutivum der galizisch-jüdischen Mundart. *Deutsche Mundarten* 1, 46–58.
- LANDAU, A. 1901 Die Sprache der Memoiren Glückels von Hameln. *Mitteilungen der Gesellschaft für jüdische Volkskunde* 7, 20–68.
- LANDAU, A. and WACHSTEIN, S. 1911 *Jüdische Privatbriefe aus dem Jahre 1619. Nach den Originalen des K. u. K. Haus-, Hof- und Staatsarchivs im Auftrage der historischen Kommission der Israelitischen Kultusgemeinde in Wien* [= *Quellen und Forschungen zur Geschichte der Juden in Deutsch-Österreich*, 3]. Wilhelm Braumüller, Vienna and Leipzig.
- MIESES, M. 1924 *Die Jiddische Sprache. Eine historische Grammatik des Idioms der integralen Juden Ost- und Mitteleuropas*. Benjamin Harz, Berlin and Vienna.

- PRILUTSKI, N. and LEHMAN, Sh. (Eds.) 1912 *Noyakh Prilutskis zambikher far yidishn folklor, filologye, un kultur-geshikhte*, 1. Nayer farlag, Warsaw.
- PRILUTSKI, NOYAKH 1914 *Yidishe folkslider. Ershter band. Religyezishe un yontefdike. Ershte serye*. Bikher far ale, Warsaw.
- PRILUTSKI, N. 1917a *Der yidisher konsonantizm*, 1. *Di sonorloytn* [= his *Yidishe dyalektologishe forshungen. Materyaln far a visnshaftlekher gramatik un far an etimologish verterbukh fun der yidisher shprakh*, 1 = his *Noyakh Prilutskis ksovim*, 7]. Nayer farlag, Warsaw.
- PRILUTSKI, N. 1917b (Ed.) *Noyakh Prilutskis zambikher far yidishn folklor, filologye un kultur-geshikhte*, 2. *Ershter teyl: literatur-geshikhte un folkor*. Nayer farlag: Warsaw.
- PRILUTSKI, N. 1920 *Tsum yidishn vokalizm. Etyudn*, 1 [= his *Yidishe dyalektologishe forshungen. Materyaln far a visnshaftlekher gramatik un far an etimologish verterbukh fun der yidisher shprakh*, 4 = his *Noyakh Prilutskis ksovim*, 10]. Warsaw.
- PRILUTSKI, N. 1921 *Dyalektologishe paraleln un bamerkungen. Etyudn vegn yidishn vokalizm* [= his *Yidishe dyalektologishe forshungen*, 3 = his *Noyakh Prilutskis zambikher far yidishn folklor, filologye un kultur-geshikhte*, 2 (second half) = his *Noyakh Prilutskis ksovim*, 9].
- PRILUTSKI, N. 1924 *Mame-loshn. Yidishe shprakh-visnshaftelkhe forarbetn*, 1 [= his *Yidishe dyalektologishe forshungen*, 5]. Kultur-lige, Warsaw.
- PRILUTSKI, N. 1930 *Yidishe dyalektologye*. In *Barikht fun der konferents fun dem yidishn visnshaftlekhn institut opgehalt in vilne fun 24stn bizn 27stn oktober 1929*, pp. 143–158. Yivo, Vilna.
- PRILUTSKI, N. and LEHMAN, Sh. (Eds.) 1933 *Arkhev far yidisher shprakh-visnshaft, literatur-forshung un etnologye*, 1. Nayer farlag, Warsaw.
- PRILUTSKI, N. 1937 *Dyalektologishe forarbetn* [= his *Mame-loshn. Yidishe shprakh-visnshaftelkhe forarbetn*, 2 = his *Yidishe dyalektologishe forshungen*, 6]. Yivo, Vilna.
- PRILUTSKI, N. 1940 *Yidishe fonetik. Elementarer kurs far lerer un aleynterner*. Fir-vokhn kursn far yidishe lerer, Vilna.
- SAINEANU, L. 1889 *Studiu dialectologic asupra graiului evreo-german*. Eduard Wiegand, Bucharest.
- SINGER, I. B. 1956 *Mayn tatns bezdn shtub*. [Der kval], New York.
- VEYNGER, M. 1929 *Yidishe dyalektologye*. Vaysrusisher melukhe-farlag, Minsk.
- VILENKIN, L. 1931 *Yidisher shprakhatles fun sovetnfarband afn grunt fun di dyalektologishe materyaln, vos zaynen tsunoyfgezamt gevorn durkh der shprakhkomisye fun yidishn sekter fun der vaysrusisher akademye unter M. Veyngers onfirung*. Vaysrusishe visnshaft-akademye, yidisher sekter, Minsk.
- VILER, Y. 1924 *Fonetik fun mizrekhh-galitsishn yidish. Yidishe filologye* 1, 23–33, 141–151.
- VILER, Y. 1926 *Der gramatischer min fun di hoyptverter in mizrekhh-galitsishn yidish. Filologishe shriftn* 1 [Shriftn fun yidishn visnshaftlekhn institut, 1 = *Filologishe serye*, 1 = *Landoy-bukh*], 249–264.
- WEINREICH, M. 1923 *Shtaplen. Fir etyudn tsu der yidisher shprakh-visnshaft un literatur-geshikhte*. Wostok, Berlin.
- WEINREICH, M. 1940 *Yidish*. In *Algemejne entsiklopedye. Yidn Beyz*, pp. 23–108. Dubnov-fond, Paris and Central Yiddish Culture Organization (CYCO), New York.
- WEINREICH, M. 1960 *Di sistem yidishe kadmen-vokaln. Yidishe shprakh* 20, 65–71.
- WEINREICH, U. 1952 *Sábesdiker losn in Yiddish: a problem of linguistic affinity. Word* 8, 360–377.
- WEINREICH, U. 1954 *Is a structural dialectology possible? Word* 10, 388–400.
- WEINREICH, U. 1958a *Yiddish and colonial German in Eastern Europe: the differential impact of Slavic*. In *American Contributions to the Fourth International Congress of Slavists, Moscow, September 1958* [= *Slavistische Drukken en Herdrukken*, 21], pp. 369–421. Mouton, The Hague.
- WEINREICH, U. 1958b *A retrograde sound shift in the guise of a survival. An aspect of Yiddish vowel development*. In Catalán, D. (Ed.), *Miscelánea Homenaje a André Martinét. Estructuralismo e Historia*, Vol. 2, pp. 221–267. Universidad de La Laguna, La Laguna.
- WEINREICH, U. 1960a *Vegn a nayem yidishn shprakh un kultur atlas. Goldene keyt* 37, 47–57.
- WEINREICH, U. 1960b *Roshe-prokim fun a deskriptiver yidisher dyalektologye. Provizorisher struktureler un leksikalisher indeks tsum yidishn shprakh un kultur atlas*. Jerusalem [mimeographed; courtesy of Beatrice S. Weinreich].
- WEINREICH, U. 1963a *Mapping a culture. Columbia University Forum*. Summer 1963, 17–21.
- WEINREICH, U. 1963b *Four riddles in bilingual dialectology*. In *American Contributions to the Fifth International Congress of Slavists. Sofia*. September 1963, Vol. 1, pp. 335–359. Mouton, The Hague.

WEINREICH, U. 1964 Western traits in Transcarpathian Yiddish. In *For Max Weinreich on his Seventieth Birthday. Studies in Jewish Languages. Literature, and Society*, pp. 245–264. Mouton, The Hague.

WEINREICH, U., LABOV, W. and HERZOG, M. I. 1968 Empirical foundations for a theory of language change. In Lehmann, W. P. and Maikiel, Y. (Eds), *Directions for Historical Linguistics. A Symposium*, pp. 95–195. University of Texas, Austin and London.

ZUCKERMAN, R. 1969 Alsace: An outpost of Western Yiddish. In Herzog, M. I., Ravid, W. and Weinreich, U. (Eds), *The Field of Yiddish. Studies in Language, Folklore, and Literature. Third Collection*, pp. 36–56. Mouton, The Hague.

Dovid Katz
Oxford, December 1987

DIALECTS OF THE YIDDISH LANGUAGE

LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION*
An Interdisciplinary Journal
Editor: Roy Harris, University of Oxford

The primary aim of the journal is to fill the need for a publication forum devoted to the discussion of topics and issues in communication which are of interdisciplinary significance. It will publish contributions from researchers in all fields relevant to the study of verbal and non-verbal communication.

Emphasis will be placed on the implication of current research for establishing common theoretical frameworks within which findings from different areas of study may be accommodated and interrelated.

By focusing on the many ways in which language is integrated with other forms of communicational activity and interaction behaviour it is intended to explore ways of developing a science of communication which is not restricted by existing disciplinary boundaries.

* Free specimen copy available on request.

LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION LIBRARY
Series Editor: Roy Harris, University of Oxford

- Vol. 1 Morris
Saying and Meaning in Puerto Rico
- Vol. 2 Taylor
Linguistic Theory and Structural Stylistics
- Vol. 3 Gagnepain
Du Vouloir Dire
- Vol. 4 Harris
Approaches to Language
- Vol. 5 Poyatos
New Perspectives in Nonverbal Communication
- Vol. 6 Bailey & Harris
Developmental Mechanisms of Language
- Vol. 7 Botha
Morphological Mechanisms
- Vol. 8 McGregor
Language for Hearers
- Vol. 9 Taylor & Cameron
Analyzing Conversation

LANGUAGE & COMMUNICATION

an interdisciplinary journal

CONTENTS

DIALECTS OF THE YIDDISH LANGUAGE

D. Katz	1	Preface: On the second Winter Symposium
M. Aptroot	7	Dutch impact on Amsterdam Yiddish prints
S. Hiley	13	An overlooked feature in Yiddish phonology: <i>hajs flejš mit klajna bejna</i>
C. Hutton	21	Early Yiddish texts and Western Yiddish dialectology
J. Jofen	27	The first American attempt to produce a Yiddish language atlas
D. Katz	39	Origins of Yiddish dialectology
D. Kay	57	Words for 'God' in seventeenth century women's poetry in Yiddish
D.-B. Kerler	69	East meets west: the dialectal climate of two early Eastern European Yiddish prints
R. D. King	85	Two of Weinreich's four riddles revisited
M. N. Rosenfeld	99	Early Yiddish in non-Jewish books
D. Schneider	105	Is there a 'mystical dialect' in modern Yiddish drama?
	121	Symposium Programme
	122	Registered Participants
	123	Announcements