

**Different Transmissions of Yefet Ben Eli's Translation
and Commentary on the Book of Job in Judeo-Arabic,
Based on the Available Manuscripts written in Arabic
and Hebrew Letters**

Arik SADAN

(The Hebrew University of Jerusalem; Tel Aviv University; Shalem College; Ben-Gurion University of the Negev)

Yefet Ben Eli's translation and commentary to the book of Job has survived in 24 manuscripts known to me, all of which are written in Judeo-Arabic, most of which are from the Firkovitch collection, but only one of which is written in Arabic letters, whereas all the rest in Hebrew letters. Haggai Ben Shammai assumes that the transmission in Arabic letters, believed to be the oldest one, copied in the 11th century, is earlier than that in Hebrew letters. Whether he is right or not, there is no doubt that the manuscript in Arabic letters represents, to a part, a different transmission. In my lecture I wish to address the major categories of differences between the manuscript in Arabic letters and the other manuscripts in Hebrew letters, exemplify them and attempt to hypothesize about the possible sources of some of these differences.