

イディオム *nś' + pānîm 「ひいきする」と
詩篇 82 篇 2 節に於ける意味

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ABSTRACT D. T. TSUMURA, “The Hebrew Idiom *nś' + pānîm and Its Use in Psalm 82:2.” One of the most productive areas in the study of Hebrew idioms is that of ones involving body terms such as “face” and “head.” This paper looks at the Hebrew phrase *nś' (“to raise, carry”) + pānîm (“face”), i.e., “to raise the face.” When someone raises their own face, it has the literal meaning, “to raise their face” or “to lift up their head,” in order to see, or to do something of the kind (case A). But when someone raises someone else’s face, the phrase becomes an idiom with the meaning “to accept someone” or “to show someone favor” (case B).

However, one should note that the Akkadian cognate of the Hebrew phrase “to raise (one’s own) face” (case A), that is, *našû + pānû*, lit. “to raise face” (*CAD* N/2, 105), has different meanings to its Hebrew equivalent, specifically, (a) “to covet”; (b) “to care about something”. The Akkadian equivalent of the Hebrew idiom “to raise someone else’s face” (case B) is actually (*w*)*abālu + pānû*, literally “to carry face,” which means (a) “to forgive”; (b) “to show preference, to favor” (*CAD*, A/1, 1965, 18–19) and “Nachsicht üben” (*AHW*, 819a, 1451b). Based on the Akkadian, *HALOT*, 938–40, explains that the Hebrew idiom “to raise someone else’s face” means “to please, take into consideration, show clemency.”

One should note that the Hebrew idiom consists of a verb of vertical movement “to raise”, while the Akkadian idiom consists of

a verb *abālu* which seems to be characterized by horizontal movement “to carry,” as in *CAD A/1* (1964), 10:

abālu A

1. to bring, transport;
2. to bring persons and animals for a specific purpose;
3. to carry a load, to carry water, to carry an (unborn) child.

Therefore, both in the Hebrew idiomatic expression *nšʔ (“to raise”) + *pānîm* and in its semantic equivalent, the Akkadian idiom *wbl (“to carry”) + *pānū*, the object “face” is someone else’s face (case B). On the other hand, the Akkadian equivalent of Hebrew expression “to raise one’s own face” (case A), is *nšʔ + *panū* “to raise one’s own face,” which is an idiom meaning “to covet.”

In Ugaritic, like in Hebrew, the verb of vertical movement, *nšʔ, can be collocated with parts of the body such as “eyes,” “hands” and “head,” but so far no idiom *nšʔ+ *pnm* “face” has been found.

The Hebrew idiom *nšʔ + *pānîm* is used in Psalm 82:2 with the meaning “to show partiality” (ESV, NRSV, NIV 11). The Kyokai Kyodoyaku (2018) translates it as 「おもねる」 “omoneru” (i.e., to flatter), but Shin Kyodoyaku (1987) and Shinkaiyaku 2017 translate it as 「味方をする」 “mikata wo suru” (i.e., to take someone’s side). If we consider the idiomatic meaning of the Hebrew phrase, the translation 「ひいきする」 “hiiki suru” (i.e. to show favor < lit. raise someone’s face [case B]) might be better than “mikata wo suru.” The Japanese idiom 「顔を立てる」 “kao wo tateru,” adopted by the third edition (2003) of Shinkaiyaku, which appears to be a transparent translation of *nšʔ + *pānîm* (lit. to raise someone’s face), actually means “to show deference to” and differs from the meaning “to show favor.” So, it is difficult to find an exact

equivalence in meaning while keeping a one-to-one correspondence between two elements, the verb and noun in the two different languages, of idioms in two different languages. The final decision should be made contextually.