

「舌をつがえて偽りを放つ。」(エレミヤ 9:3a [MT 9:2a])

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ABSTRACT D. T. TSUMURA, “‘They shoot their tongue of falsehood’ (Jeremiah 9:3a [MT 9:2a]): Idiom, Brachylogy and Metaphor.”

The standard English translation of Jer. 9:3a is:

They bend their tongue like a bow;

falsehood and not truth has grown strong³ in the land; (ESV)

ESV note³: Septuagint; Hebrew *and not for truth they have grown strong*)

This follows the scansion and translation of the LXX. However, this view has several problems: 1) when the verb *DRK takes “a bow” as the object it means “to bend”; 2) this view does not explain adequately the existence of the preposition *le* (“for”) before “truth”; 3) it is awkward to “bend the tongue” like a bow.

A better solution would be to assume the following three steps in understanding: 1) the idiom “to bend the bow” (lit. “to tread the bow”) might mean “to string a bow and shoot an arrow”; 2) that idiom here experiences brachylogy, that is, the ellipsis of “bow”; 3) thus the verb *DRK, which takes objects like *lāšôn* (lit. “tongue”) “a blade,” “an arrow-head” (see Akkadian *lišānu* [*CAD*, L, pp. 209-15; von Soden, *AHW*, p. 556])), here means shoot; 4) Jer. 9:3a thus means: “They bend their bow in order to shoot (the arrow of) their false tongue.”

¹ 拙著 “Brachylogy and Idiom” in *The First Book of Samuel* (NICOT; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007), 64-65. なお brachylogy に関しては, E. König, *Stilistik, Rhetorik, Poetik in Bezug auf die biblische Litteratur* (Leipzig: Theodor Weicher, 1900), 188 及び 拙著「釈義ノート (1)」*Exeg 1* (1990), 27 参照。