

שָׁקֵר の意味  
—日本語「偽り」「嘘」との比較研究を通して—

公文光

**ABSTRACT** Hikaru Kumon, “The Meaning of שָׁקֵר: Observations from a Comparative Analysis with Japanese *itsuwari* and *uso*.” What counted as a *lie* in the Old Testament? This question is best approached by analyzing the meaning of the word corresponding to *lie* in Hebrew, שָׁקֵר, since the meaning of *lie* is not universally shared among languages. Each language has a unique way of thinking about the utterance of falsehoods. In this paper, I show how the meaning of שָׁקֵר differs from the Japanese lexemes *itsuwari* and *uso* that roughly correspond to English *falsehood* and *lies* respectively. *Itsuwari* is chiefly concerned with the difference between the reality one presents and the reality one knows to be true. *Uso* focuses on utterances that hide reality by misleading others into believing an alternative. On the other hand, Hebrew שָׁקֵר consists of any words that have an underlying evil agenda. Such words, like the words of the false prophets, can corrupt people’s thoughts and mislead them. In order to contrast the respective words, I show how the referent of שָׁקֵר is not co-extensive with Japanese *itsuwari* and *uso*. The analysis presented has exegetical repercussions, since it calls attention to how our native instincts in identifying ‘lies’ in the Bible may cause one to misunderstand the biblical authors’ intentions encoded within the text.