SEMANTICS OF ANCIENT HEBREW DATABASE PROJECT

[DRAFT] Minutes of the Meeting of the SAHD Executive Committee and Co-Workers held on Friday 14 September 2012 in the University of Leiden

Present: H. Gzella (Leiden, Chairman), G.I. Davies (Cambridge), A. Pecchioli (Florence), D. Reimer (Edinburgh), H.G.M. Williamson (Oxford, Secretary).

Apologies: J.K. Aitken (Cambridge), J. Hartley (Azusa), G. Khan (Cambridge), K. Spawn (Simpson University), J. Stökl (London), M. Vervenne (Leuven), F. Zanella (Bonn), I. Zatelli (Florence).

1.   Minutes of the last meeting (Oxford 2011)

The Minutes were agreed as a correct record.

2.   Matters arising and not taken elsewhere

(a) *Archive* [Oxford 2 (a)]. The older part of the archives, held in Edinburgh, had been pruned and was handed over to Prof. Gzella for retention in Leiden. Among the remaining papers there were some letters of interest which might also be added. The more recent material is in Oxford and will be prepared for archiving in Leiden in due course by Prof. Williamson.

ACTION: DR and HGMW

3.   Chairman's report

Professor Gzella reported that (i) Kathrin Egger and Christian Stadel (the latter now at BGU) would be unlikely to write database entries as such but would be willing to help (including checking) with exegesis and etymology respectively. (ii) Dr Hartog, now in Leiden, might also be interested in helping the project. (iii) It was agreed that Prof. Williamson should approach Dr Regine Hunziker-Rodewald at Strasbourg to see if she would be interested in participating. (iv) Prof. Gzella would approach Peeters to inquire whether printed entries in Peeters volumes might also be mounted electronically on the website. (v) He also said that he would be seeing Professor de Moor in two weeks' time and would raise with him in personal conversation the questions about links with the *keli* project.

ACTION: HG and HGMW

4.   Reports from centres

(a) *Cambridge*. Professor Davies reported that some funding had been secured to enable Alison Gray to complete the entries in the semantic field of deliverance; she hoped to do this by mid-2013, and this would allow Prof. Davies to bring the whole volume to completion. Although a decision had not yet been finally made, he thought it likely that it would be published electronically. There had been problems

with the Cambridge server on which a number of entries are stored but he and Dr Reimer were making progress with retrieving these and making them available again.

ACTION: GID and DJR

(b) *Florence*. Dr Pecchioli reported on steady progress on various lexemes by co-workers in Florence, some of which are nearing completion and which will include database entries to be sent to Prof. Gzella for approval. There was also a new student who was interested in working on lexemes relating to time. It was agreed that Prof. Zatelli should be invited to write to Prof. Gzella to confirm that these lexemes had not already been assigned to some other co-worker. The Committee were anxious to see entries which had already been completed and approved some time ago made publicly available. It was understood that for good reasons Dr Masi had not yet been able to establish a Florence website for the project; it was therefore suggested that Prof. Zatelli should be asked to approve the plan that for the time being these entries should be posted on the main website (Edinburgh) and then moved back to Florence as soon as suitable arrangements had been made.

ACTION: CM and IZ

(c) *Oxford*. Prof. Williamson reported that (i) Dr Stökl had completed his entries on words for prophets and that these had been added to the website. (ii) He had a new doctoral student (Sonja Noll) beginning work on the semantic field of silence; she would be keen to prepare database entries arising from this, so that Prof. Williamson should check with Prof. Gzella about the lexemes in question. (iii) Earlier this week he had spoken about the project at a conference on lexicography in Strasbourg. Colleagues there had expressed considerable interest, so that it should help to heighten the profile of the work.

ACTION: HGMW

(d) *Leiden*. Professor Gzella reported on good progress with ThWQ and TWAT ix. A new doctoral student (Peter Juhas) might prepare some entries arising from his research on 'politeness'.

(e) *Austin*. No news.

(f) *Rome*. No news

(g) *Azusa*. Professor Gzella agreed to approach Peeters to see whether the entries could also be made available electronically on the website (see item 3 above).

ACTION: HG

(h) *Edinburgh*. Dr Reimer reported that efforts on technical aspects of the project (database, website) continue, and would be discussed at the appropriate point in the agenda. Meanwhile, interest in the project remains high in Edinburgh, especially now with two doctoral students pursuing semantics research projects. The more advanced is an investigation of the semantic field of 'glory', with the main lexemes

identified: שם, צבי, עז, נצח ,נפלאות ,[כוח], כבוד ,הוד ,הדר ,[גבורה], גאון ,גאוה + תהלה 'low frequency' lexemes. The other project is in an earlier phase, and is investigating 'cooking' terms in classical Hebrew. Although much more preliminary, the main lexemes identified so far include: עוג ,לבב ,חמם ,זיד (hiphil), בשל ,אפה, plus קרר ,שפת, plus רתח ,קלה ,צלה. Both have addressed the problems of demarcating the semantic field, and articulating an appropriate method of analysis. The desirability of circulating an up-to-date set of lexeme assignments was also noted.

ACTION: HG

(i) *Paris*. No news.

(j) *Sydney*. Professor Gzella agreed to review the material that had been received from Sydney on viticulture as soon as he had time.

ACTION: HG

(k) *Israel*. No news. Prof Gzella agreed to contact Dr N. Mizrahi, who had now moved back to Israel, to see if he would be interested in joining the project.

ACTION: HG

(l) *Dr Kevin Spawn* reported that he had not been able to undertake any further research this year.

(m) *Bonn*. Dr Zanella had replied that he would be pleased to write database entries from some of his own lexemes relating to 'gift'; he suggested starting with אתנן / אתנה and (or) מגדנות. Prof. Gzella would confirm that these were still available and Prof. Williamson agreed to communicate further about format and procedures.

ACTION: HG, HGMW and FZ

5.   Website

Dr Reimer reported that some minor updates to the 'central' Edinburgh SAHD website (http://j.mp/SAHDproject) had been undertaken, but more remained to be done. Professor Williamson suggested that articles published only in hardcopy could be added to the index of online articles to give a more accurate picture of the Project's research output, and this was enthusiastically agreed. Further discussion took place regarding possible future directions for the website which should include something meaningful regarding coverage of semantic fields, a search facility, and some web analytics to gain an insight into how the online resources are being used.

ACTION: DJR

6.   Database

Dr Reimer reported that an archival repository for the Project had been set up in Edinburgh (http://j.mp/SAHDdatashare) which could serve as a supplement to the electronic resources available from local centres; it would also satisfy funding bodies looking for a strong archival element in funding applications. In this phase before a fully database-driven system is in place, the Edinburgh repository would require a

standardized filenaming convention. The possibility that this convention might include some form of so-called 'Strong's Numbers' was rejected, since this system is unknown outside the Anglophone context. A combination of transliterated lexeme, author name, originating centre, and date of 'publication' was agreed. It was noted that while archival storage of article documents (PDF) is a welcome development, the Project remains committed to a properly implemented online database for presentation of its research (see previous item).

ACTION: DJR

7.   Next meeting

It was agreed to try to arrange the next meeting for Friday 9 August 2013, following the Business Meeting of the IOSOT at the Congress in Munich. Prof. Williamson would contact Professor C. Levin to make the arrangements. He would also circulate all involved in the project to invite short papers that might be presented together on one afternoon during the Congress itself.

ACTION: HGMW

8.   Following the business meeting Dr Pecchioli presented some of the results of her work on lexemes for 'image' and raised some questions of method which were then discussed. In particular, the problem of assessing singulars versus plurals in stereotyped contexts was explored, and also the manner in which the connections of a given lexeme between two (or more) different semantic fields might be negotiated. Some further relevant bibliography was also suggested. All agreed that the discussion occasioned by Dr Pecchioli's work-in-progress paper concluded the meeting in a satisfying and appropriate manner.