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Some of the essays are not satisfactorily integrated into the book's overall argument – for example, Beverley Curran's account of how Highway's *Dry Lips* was performed and received in Tokyo.

Nevertheless, Curran's work does prompt other questions: if this, then why not also other Canadian writers' work and presence in the broader world, such as Gallant in France, or Richler, Laurence, and Levine in England? If, as Clarke argues, Nortje's residence in Canada ties him to the culture of this country, is it now time to revisit the status of Malcolm Lowry? Can we henceforth more vigorously defend against detractors the case of Brian Moore as a Canadian? Attention to Ukrainian-Canadian writing is notably absent; and the passing references to Škvorecký and Faludy leave the reader wanting much more of them, and others. But – in fairness to the editors and contributors – the volume does already stretch to more than four hundred pages. Perhaps this wider aspect of their subject will be the focus of the eighth volume in the Cultural Studies Series, possibly including the Lebanese-Canadian Rawi Hage after his recent stellar arrival on the Canadian literary scene. Until then, this and similar collections shall be our timely reminders to avoid what Henighan calls 'the Canadian habit of expressing a polite superficial interest in other people's cultures' (until, as the once-uninvited-immigrant Hage discovered, you win an international prize, and then 'polite' Canadians will not leave you alone to write again). While Henighan laments that 'some of the brightest moments of Canadian writing will remain forever indecipherable to our reading eye,' a volume such as this fortuitously shines a necessary and informative light on some of those moments, meeting and touching and greeting such solitudes, and thereby making them somewhat more visible, and audible, and thus ultimately less solitary. (JOHN J. O'CONNOR)

Ronald J. Williams. *Williams' Hebrew Syntax*. 3rd ed.
Revised and expanded by John C. Beckman
University of Toronto Press. xvi, 248. \$24.95

After thirty years, Ronald J. Williams's *Hebrew Syntax* has received a thorough revision by John C. Beckman. At just over twice as many pages as the first (1967) or second (1976) editions, the new *Williams' Hebrew Syntax* revised and expanded by Beckman initially struck this reviewer as a much-needed overhaul of the 'outline' first produced over forty years ago. As I worked through the body of the work, keeping in mind the stated focus on syntax and stated goal of providing a one-semester textbook for intermediate students, I began to wonder if this third edition had a clear *raison d'être*.

The book is laid out in four sections: (1) the syntax of nominals, (2) the syntax of verbs, (3) the syntax of particles, and (4) the syntax of clauses.

Each major section has multiple subsections and sub-subsections. The organization as well as the clear table of contents and thorough indices (passages, subjects, and Hebrew words) make the book easy to use. Moreover, the print, for both English and Hebrew, is clear and much gentler on the eyes than that of the previous editions. Hebrew examples and notes of clarification are indented and printed with a smaller font, allowing the eye to discern the major structure of each paragraph without much difficulty. However, the indented subsection (e.g., **A Number**) and sub-subsection (e.g., *Singular*) headings are obscure and easily missed; additionally, the use of bullets for the examples and notes is more distracting than helpful.

Perhaps the greatest strength of this edition lies in the footnotes and bibliography. Whereas Williams inserted few references to other works, Beckman has done the student the significant favour of including for each topic numerous footnotes pointing to the standard Hebrew reference grammars in English. Whereas Williams's bibliography is noticeably thin, Beckman's is excellent. Both the footnotes and the bibliography will serve the serious and inquisitive Hebrew student well. But in the opinion of this reviewer, here ends the strengths of this book.

Williams's first two editions were roundly criticized for not adequately addressing the very issues Williams stated it would (i.e., word order) and for a lack of focus (see the reviews by James Barr [*Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies* 32.3 (1969): 599–601] and Dennis Pardee [*Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 38.2 (1979): 148]). How does Beckman's revision fare? It suffers similarly. First, Beckman perpetuates Williams's confusion between syntax and semantics by including in the 'Syntax of Verbs' an extensive discussion of verbal semantics (i.e., stem, voice, and tense-aspect-mood). Only towards the end does the description actually start addressing syntax, and even then it leaves much to be desired (where is a discussion of the types of complements that verbs may take, such as direct objects, indirect objects, or prepositional phrases?). Unfortunately, the majority of section 2 is irrelevant to a *syntactic* description of biblical Hebrew.

Second, in addition to the lack of syntactic focus, Beckman often obscures the difference between describing Hebrew syntax and providing English translation equivalents. For instance, the Hebrew conjunction *wə-* joins phrasal or clausal constituents; in doing so, it marks the boundaries between the conjoined constituents – this is a proper *syntactic* description of the *wə-*. Other apparent meanings do not belong to the lexical entry for the conjunction or a description of its syntactic behaviour; rather, similarity to English glosses like *but, or, namely, with, as* is due to the *implication* of the juxtaposition of the phrases or clauses joined by the *wə-*. Instead of teaching students that the relationship between items joined by *wə-* must be contextually determined, Beckman's description will lead students to

think that the conjunction *wə-* has more than a dozen different meanings (which, by the way, has little to do with syntax).

Third, Beckman's presentation on word order is woefully inadequate. Although students struggle with the word order variation in the Bible perhaps more than with any other syntactic issue, Beckman does not correct the major shortcoming of Williams's previous editions. Word order is not addressed until nearly the end of the book, and even then it is dispensed with in just a few short pages. For Williams this might have been excusable, since few works were yet paying attention to Hebrew word order, but nowadays there is no excuse, since numerous monographs and articles (many of which are listed in Beckman's footnotes and bibliography) have tackled the complications of biblical Hebrew word order variation.

Williams's original work was, according to our departmental lore, the product of his lecture notes for the course on Hebrew syntax. Undoubtedly, the lack of a syntactic description of Hebrew for the intermediate and advanced student at that time provided the impetus for Williams to work up his notes into a published 'outline' (as it was subtitled), thereby addressing a pedagogical lacuna for English-speaking students. Does the new third edition serve a similarly useful purpose? In the last twenty years numerous works addressing the need for syntactic description have been published (these are the very works referenced in Beckman's footnotes). Thus, the lacuna has since been filled, even if imperfectly. So for this third edition to be a valuable addition to Hebrew studies, as a textbook or otherwise, depends on whether it offers something new. It does not. Apart from the footnotes and bibliography, *Williams' Hebrew Syntax* does nothing to advance the study of Hebrew syntax or give intermediate students a clear view of what in Hebrew syntax is agreed upon by scholars and what is yet poorly understood. (ROBERT D. HOLMSTEDT)

Lisa Matthewson. *When I Was Small – I Wan Kwikws:
A Grammatical Analysis of St'át'imc Oral Narratives.*

In collaboration with Beverley Frank, Gertrude Ned, Laura
Thevarge, and Rose Agnes Whitley
UBC Press. viii, 514. \$125.00

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