

Abstract

This thesis is a study on הנה. It begins by surveying and evaluating the various studies made on הנה in chapter 1.

Chapter 2 discusses the distribution of הנה in the Old Testament in general and in Genesis - 2 Kings in particular. This thesis takes the assumption that types of discourse, that is, genres, affect the way הנה is used. Following the trend in Hebrew linguistic studies, it distinguishes between prose and poetry in the analysis. Thus this thesis analyses data coming from one general type of discourse which is the prose found in early Biblical Hebrew narrative, Genesis - 2 Kings.

Chapter 3 discusses the theories, methods and assumptions used in the analysis. Although this thesis recognises the contribution of syntactic and semantic studies on הנה, it focuses its analysis at the level of discourse. The study analyses the general type of discourse from which the data are collected, which is narrative discourse. The distribution of הנה in Genesis - 2 Kings is taken as a guide in deciding which other sub-types of discourse within narrative are considered in the analysis. Consideration is also given to the subforms of הנה.

Approaches used in this study are those that are used in analysing narrative discourse: Speech-act theory, conversational analysis, narrative analysis, and theories on inference.

Chapter 4 discusses the characteristics of discourse markers in general and of הנה as a discourse marker in particular. This thesis proposes that הנה be categorised at the pragmatic level, a category that would adequately explain its multiple functions. As such this thesis takes הנה to function as a discourse marker.

Chapter 5 is devoted to the analysis of the functions of הנה in direct speech and chapter 6 to the analysis of the functions of הנה in narration. הנה is seen to be used frequently in direct speech and in narration. Thus this thesis endeavours to understand how הנה is used in conversation exchanges revealed in the dialogues found in Biblical Hebrew narrative. Also since הנה occurs in narration, this thesis endeavours to understand how the narrator uses הנה in story telling.

This thesis concludes in chapter 7.