

Prof. Aharon Maman – CV

June 2019

Aharon Maman is an Hebraist and Semitic linguist, and Professor emeritus in the Department of Hebrew Language at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He holds a PhD from the Hebrew University and has been a visiting scholar and Professor at several universities: Yeshiva University and JTS in New York, Yale in New Haven, the Katz Center at Penn University in Philadelphia, the University of Oxford UK and more.

He specialized in the study of the 11th century Karaite Hebrew; Karaite and Rabbanite Medieval Hebrew philology, including the formulation of the comparative linguistics' theory from Saadia Gaon to Yitzhak ibn Barūn; the study of the Cairo Geniza and Judeo-Arabic; the study of oral linguistic traditions and the study of languages and culture in North Africa.

He holds the Chaim Nachman Bialik Chair in the study of Hebrew Language, was chair of the Ben-Zvi Institute for the Study of Jewish Communities in the East, Head of the Mandel Institute of Jewish Studies; Director of the Oral Jewish Traditions Research Center, where he conducted two major research projects: the Hebrew component in Jewish languages, one of whose fruits is a dictionary with this title (2013, 2019²), and the recording of reading traditions that had not been documented until then.

In a recent article, he suggested a new definition of the notion "Jewish languages". He turned the recording archive of the center (about 4000 hours of recording) into a digital medium that will soon be available at the Academy of Hebrew Language site. Prof. Maman is also director of the Hebrew Language Literature Project, in which several research projects were conducted:

The discovery and publication of remains from the lost essay of Yehuda Ḥayyūj, *Kitāb al-Nutaf*, the preparation of a scientific edition of *Kitāb Al-Mushtamil* by Abu Alfaraj Harūn, and more.

Maman has discovered books that were considered lost, including the remains of the anagrammatic Dictionary of Rav Hai Gaon, the remains of Yehuda Ben Kureish's *Av va'Em*, Abū Alfaraj's *Kitāb al-Tahḏīb*" (a commentary on the Bible), which until now has not been known, and the Ali ben Suleiman's compendium (1060 CE) to the aforementioned *Kitāb al-Nutaf*.

He also proved that the remains of the composition, which was called for a hundred years, *Pseudo-Ibn Yashus* is nothing but Yaakov ben Elazar's *Kitāb alKāmil*. Maman's findings have been published in five books and over 120 articles in leading journals, and his research has

earned him awards and research grants, including the Kutscher Prize, the Goitein Prize, the Fulbright Graduate Fellowship in the United States (1993), and The Israel Prize for the year 2009 in the study of Jewish languages and literatures.