

# Bo Isaksson, Professor em. of Semitic Languages

## Contact



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## Recent research Projects

### Project 3 (2016)

Clause combining and the Biblical Hebrew verbal system: A monograph project (Swedish Research Council 2016, dnr 2015-01168). Abstract: The classical Hebrew verbal system is one of the greatest problems of Semitic linguistics. It has been a topic of debates and academic discussions since the Middle Ages, and is still a puzzle in comparative Semitic studies. The project aims at writing a monograph on the Hebrew verbal system based on the results of two previous VR projects, 2007-2009 and 2010-2012. After three books published at the Harrassowitz Publishing House (2009, 2014, 2015) on clause combining in Semitic, and, specifically by the present author, on Biblical Hebrew, the time is ripe for a concluding monograph that in detail describes the verbal system and explains its meanings in main line clause linking and in non-main clause positions.

### Project 2 (2010-2012)

Circumstantial Clause Combining in Semitic – the "CCC-Project" (Swedish Research Council 2010-2012, dnr 2009-2197). An international project at Uppsala University in cooperation with the Linguistics Department of The Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Gothenburg University and Lund University. It has involved seven international scholars covering all major branches of Semitic. The CCC-Project has published two books on Otto Harrassowitz:

*Strategies of Clause Linking in Semitic Languages: Proceedings of the International Symposium on Clause Linking in Semitic Languages 5-7 August 2012 in Kivik, Sweden*, edited by Bo Isaksson and Maria Persson. Abhandlungen für die Kunde des Morgenlandes 93. Wiesbaden: Otto Harrassowitz, 2014. ISBN 978-3-447-10312-1.

*Clause Combining in Semitic. The circumstantial clause and beyond*, edited by Bo Isaksson and Maria Persson. Abhandlungen für die Kunde des Morgenlandes 96. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2015. ISBN 978-3-447-10405-0.

### Project 1 (2007-2009)

Circumstantial qualifiers in Semitic. A comparative investigation of adjunct expressions in Arabic and Hebrew" (Swedish Research Council 2007-2009, dnr 2006-2299; called "The CQ-project"). The results of this project were published in the book,

*Circumstantial qualifiers in Semitic: The case of Arabic and Hebrew*, by Bo Isaksson, Heléne Kammensjö, and Maria Persson. Abhandlungen für die Kunde des Morgenlandes 70. Wiesbaden: Otto Harrassowitz, 2009.

Apart from discussing enhancing clauses specifically in Arabic and Biblical Hebrew, this book also came to introduce the notion of 'clause combining' in Arabic and Hebrew and contribute to our understanding of the general phenomenon of subordination in Arabic and Hebrew.

## Books

*Clause Combining in Semitic. The circumstantial clause and beyond*, edited by Bo Isaksson and Maria Persson. *Abhandlungen für die Kunde des Morgenlandes* 96. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2015. ISBN 978-3-447-10405-0.

*Strategies of Clause Linking in Semitic Languages: Proceedings of the International Symposium on Clause Linking in Semitic Languages 5-7 August 2012 in Kivik, Sweden*, edited by Bo Isaksson and Maria Persson. *Abhandlungen für die Kunde des Morgenlandes* 93. Wiesbaden: Otto Harrassowitz, 2014. ISBN 978-3-447-10312-1.

*Circumstantial Qualifiers in Semitic: The case of Arabic and Hebrew*, by Bo Isaksson, Heléne Kammensjö, and Maria Persson. Edited by Bo Isaksson. *Abhandlungen für die Kunde des Morgenlandes* 70. Wiesbaden: Otto Harrassowitz, 2009. ISBN 978-3 447 06111-7.

REVIEWS: John Kaltner in RBL, Lutz Edzard in JAOS, Hila Zemer in ZAL. Na'ama Pat-El in OLZ.

*The Professorship of Semitic languages at Uppsala University 400 years. Jubilee volume from a symposium held at the University Hall, 21-23 September 2005*, edited by Bo Isaksson, Mats Eskhult, and Gail Ramsay. *Acta Universitatis Upsaliensis: Studia Semitica Upsaliensia* 24. Uppsala: Uppsala University, 2007.

*"Hind behärskade högspråket..." Textkurs i klassisk arabiska med utgångspunkt i R.-E. Brünnows och A. Fischers "Arabische Chrestomathie"*. 3rd rev. ed. Uppsala: Uppsala universitet, 2007. ISBN 978-91-506-1912-6.

*Linguistic convergence and areal diffusion: Case studies from Iranian, Semitic, and Turkic*, edited by Éva Ágnes Csató, Bo Isaksson, and Carina Jahani. London; New York: Routledge, 2005.

*About the Berbers – History, Language, Culture and Socio-Economic Conditions*, edited by Bo Isaksson and Marianne Laanatz. *RAAS: Reports on Asian and African studies* 2. Uppsala: Department of Linguistics and Philology, 2004.

*Studies in the Language of Qoheleth. With Special Emphasis on the Verbal System*. *Acta Universitatis Upsaliensis. Studia Semitica Upsaliensia* 10. PhD thesis. Uppsala, 1987.

## Articles and Reviews

### Forthcoming

Isaksson, Bo. "The Biblical Hebrew verbal system in a Canaanite perspective". In a book edited by Jacobus A. Naude and Cynthia Miller. Eisenbrauns. Forthcoming.

Isaksson, Bo. "Clause combining in the Song of Moses (Deut. 32:1-43). An example of archaic Biblical Hebrew syntax". In *Biblical Hebrew Linguistics: Papers from the 16th WCJS, Jerusalem 2013*. Edited by Tania Notarius and Adina Moshavi. Eisenbrauns. Forthcoming.

Isaksson, Bo. "A misunderstood Biblical Hebrew participle clause in Genesis 33:13 and its clause linking context in a complete utterance". In an edited Festschrift volume.

Isaksson, Bo. "The Genesis Apocryphon as a textual witness of the Aramaic of Jesus – Reading the latest evidence and a survey of recent research." [Paper read in Istanbul, September 2004].

### Published

Isaksson, Bo. 2015. "The so-called we-qatal conjugation in Biblical Hebrew once again". In *Papers*

read at the 11 Mainz International Colloquium on Ancient Hebrew (MICAH), University of Mainz, 1-3 November 2013, edited by Reinhard G. Lehmann and Kwang Cheol Park. 71-117. KUSATU: Kleine Untersuchungen zur Sprache des Alten Testaments und seiner Umwelt 19. Mainz: Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz. [Offprint](#)

Isaksson, Bo. 2015. "Eva Riad". *Dagens Nyheter* 12/9.

Isaksson, Bo. 2015. "Eva Riad. Minnesord". *Uppsala Nya Tidning* 13/9.

Isaksson, Bo. 2015. "'Subordination': Some reflections on Matthiessen and Thompson's article 'The structure of discourse and 'subordination'' and its bearing on the idea of circumstantial clause in Arabic and Hebrew". In *Arabic and Semitic Linguistics Contextualized. A Festschrift for Jan Retsö*, edited by Lutz Edzard. 404-424. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz. [Offprint](#)

Isaksson, Bo. 2015. "The Verbal System of Biblical Hebrew. A Clause Combining Approach". In *Clause Combining in Semitic. The circumstantial clause and beyond*, edited by Bo Isaksson and Maria Persson. 169-268. *Abhandlungen für die Kunde des Morgenlandes* 96. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz.

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Isaksson, Bo. 2014. "The main line of a biblical Hebrew narrative and what to do with two perfective grams". In *Proceedings of the Oslo–Austin Workshop in Semitic Linguistics, Oslo, May 23 and 24, 2013*, edited by Lutz Edzard and John Huehnergard, 73-94. *Abhandlungen für die Kunde des Morgenlandes* 88. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz. [Offprint](#)

Isaksson, Bo. 2014. Review of *Satzkomplex und Funktion: Syndese und Asyndese im Althocharabischen*, by Michael Waltisberg (2009). *Zeitschrift der Deutschen morgenländischen Gesellschaft* 164 no. 1: 247-251. [Offprint](#)

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Isaksson, Bo. 2013. "Subordination: Biblical Hebrew". In *Encyclopedia of Hebrew Language and Linguistics*, edited by Geoffrey Khan. Vol. 3, 657-664. Leiden: Brill. [Offprint](#)

Isaksson, Bo. 2011. "The textlinguistics of the Suffering Servant: Subordinate structures in Isaiah 52,13-53,12". In *En pāsē grammatikē kai sophiā. Saggi di linguistica ebraica in onore di Alviero Niccacci, ofm*, edited by Gregor Geiger and Massimo Pazzini, 173-212. *Collana Analecta: Studium Biblicum Franciscanum* 78. Jerusalem; Milano: Franciscan Printing Press; Editioni Terra Santa. [Offprint](#)

Isaksson, Bo. 2009. "Introduction" and "An outline of comparative Arabic and Hebrew textlinguistics". In *Circumstantial qualifiers in Semitic: The case of Arabic and Hebrew*, edited by Bo Isaksson. 1-35 and 36-150. *Abhandlungen für die Kunde des Morgenlandes* 70. Wiesbaden: Otto Harrassowitz. [Offprint](#)

Isaksson, Bo. 2009. Review of *Encyclopedia of Arabic language and linguistics*, vol. I, A-D. Edited by Kees Versteegh (general editor), Mushira Eid, Alaa Elgibali, Manfred Woidich, Andrzej Zaborski (associate editors). *Langues et Littératures du Monde Arabe* 8: 148-150. [Offprint](#)

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[www.ne.se/upplagsverk/encyklopedi/lang/frithiofrundgren](http://www.ne.se/upplagsverk/encyklopedi/lang/frithiofrundgren)

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Isaksson, Bo, and Håkan Malmberg. 2005. "Inrättandet av professuren i semitiska språk och några ord om dess historia / The establishment of the chair of Semitic languages and a few words on its history". In *Till Österland vill jag fara: Professuren i semitiska språk vid Uppsala universitet 400 år / The Call of the Orient: The Professorship of Semitic languages at Uppsala University 400 years*, edited by Hans Nordesjö, 4-11. Uppsala Universitetsbiblioteks Utställningskataloger 44. Uppsala. [Offprint](#)

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Isaksson, Bo. 2000. "Iranian and Turkic influence on border area Arabic dialects. A contact linguistic investigation". In *Proceedings of the Third International Conference of AIDA – Association Internationale de Dialectologie Arabe – held in Malta 29 March - 2 April 1998*, edited by Manwel Mifsud, 201-206. Malta: Association Internationale de Dialectologie Arabe. [Offprint](#)

Isaksson, Bo. 2000. "Report from a research project and in addition a brief account of the dialect of Amuda". In *Proceedings of the 4th Conference of the International Arabic Dialectology Association*



(AIDA), Marrakesh, Apr. 1 – 4. 2000. In *Honour of Professor David Cohen*, edited by Abderrahim Youssi, 201-210. Marrakesh: Association Internationale de Dialectologie Arabe. [Offprint](#)

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Isaksson, Bo. 1999. "The non-standard first person singular pronoun in the modern Arabic dialects". *Zeitschrift für Arabische Linguistik* 37: 54-83. [Offprint](#)

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Isaksson, Bo. 1998. "Comparative Survey of some Central Morphological Traits in the Modern Arabic Dialects". Uppsala: Dept. of Linguistics and Philology. Unpublished.

Isaksson, Bo. 1997. "The Monastery of St. Catherine and the New Find". In *Built on Solid Rock. Studies in honour of Professor Ebbe Egede Knudsen on the occasion of his 65th birthday April 11th 1997*, edited by Elie Wardini, 128-140. Instituttet for sammenlignende kulturforskning. Serie B: Skrifter 98. Oslo: Novus. [Offprint](#)

Isaksson, Bo, and Eva Riad. 1996-1997. "Frithiof Rundgren's Published Works 1986–1997. A Bibliography in Honour of Professor Frithiof Rundgren on the Occasion of his 75th Birthday the 25 December 1996". *Orientalia Suecana* 45-46: 217-220. [Offprint](#)

Isaksson, Bo. 1996. "Andalusien – islam i Europa under 700 år". In *Att förstå Europa – mångfald och sammanhang. Humanistdagarna vid Uppsala universitet 1994*, edited by Gunilla Gren-Eklund, 81-92. Uppsala: Uppsala universitet. [Offprint](#)

Isaksson, Bo. 1996. "Dödahavsrollarna: En översikt över den senare forskningen". In *Qumranlitteraturen: Fynden och forskningsresultaten*, edited by Tryggve Kronholm and Birger Olsson, 7-33. Kungl. Vitterhets Historie och Antikvitets Akademien. Konferenser 35. Stockholm: Almqvist & Wiksell International. [Offprint](#)

Isaksson, Bo. 1996. "The separate first person pronoun in the modern Arabic dialects". In *Proceedings of the 2nd International Conference of L'Association Internationale pour la Dialectologie Arabe*, held at Trinity Hall in the University of Cambridge, 10-14 September 1995, 75-84. Cambridge: University Publications Centre.

Isaksson, Bo. 1994-1995. "Arabic Dialectology: The State of the Art". Review of *Dialectologia Arabica: A Collection of Articles in Honour of the Sixtieth Birthday of Professor Heikki Palva*. *Orientalia Suecana* 43-44: 115-132. [Offprint](#)

Isaksson, Bo. 1992-1993. "The personal morphological space and a notion of distance in Semitic grammar". *Orientalia Suecana* 41-42: 96-105. [Offprint](#)

Isaksson, Bo. 1992. "Att närma sig verkligheten. Några tankar om vishetens väg i det forna Israel". *Religion och Bibel* 51: 35-42. [Offprint](#)

Isaksson, Bo. 1991. "The personal markers in the modern Arabic dialects of the Arabian peninsula". *Orientalia Suecana* 40: 117-145. [Offprint](#)

Isaksson, Bo. 1990. "A response to John G. Gammie's review of *Studies in the Language of Qoheleth*". *Hebrew Studies* 31 (1990): 275-276. [Offprint](#)

Isaksson, Bo. 1990. Review of *The Blessings in the Targums. A Study on the Targumic*

Interpretations of Genesis 49 and Deuteronomy 33, by R. Syrén. *Svensk Exegetisk Årsbok* 55: 121-123. [Offprint](#)

Isaksson, Bo. 1989-1990. "The position of Ugaritic among the Semitic languages". *Orientalia Suecana* 38-39: 54-70. [Offprint](#)

Isaksson, Bo. 1986. "Concerning two arguments of H. Bauer for a priority of the so-called imperfect (the 'Aorist')". In *On the dignity of man: Oriental and classical studies in honour of Frithiof Rundgren*, edited by Tryggve Kronholm and Eva Riad, 181-187. *Orientalia Suecana* 33-35. Uppsala: Almqvist & Wiksell International. [Offprint](#)

Isaksson, Bo. 1975. "Arameisk grundtext - ett missförstånd?" *Svensk Veckotidning*, 23 maj.

## Recent conference papers

"The importance of word order for the Biblical Hebrew Verbal System". Paper read at *SBL Annual Meeting Atlanta, November 21-24, 2015*. [PAPER](#). [SLIDES](#). [HAND-OUT](#).

"The Verbal System of Biblical Hebrew: A clause combining approach". Paper read at *Nordiska Semitistsymposiet i Lund 2–5 Oktober 2014*. Lund, 2014.

"The so-called we-qatal conjugation in Biblical Hebrew once again". Paper read at *11. Mainz International Colloquium on Ancient Hebrew (MICAH), 1.-3. November 2013*: Forthcoming in *KUSATU: Kleine Untersuchungen zur Sprache des Alten Testaments und seiner Umwelt*.

"The main line of a biblical Hebrew narrative and what to do with two perfective grams". In *Proceedings of the Oslo–Austin Workshop in Semitic Linguistics, Oslo, May 23 and 24, 2013*, edited by Lutz Edzard and John Huehnergard, 73-94. *Abhandlungen für die Kunde des Morgenlandes* 88. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2014.

"Archaic biblical Hebrew poetry: The linking of finite clauses". Paper read at the *16th International Congress of Jewish Studies; Jerusalem, Israel; 28.07.13–01.08.13. Section: Biblical Hebrew in the Light of Theoretical and Historical Linguistics*, 2013.

"Archaic biblical Hebrew poetry once again: The strategy of how its clauses combine". Paper read at the *International Symposium on Clause Linking in Semitic Languages 5-7 August 2012* in Kivik, Sweden.

"Clause-linking strategies in Standard Biblical Hebrew: Narrative and instructional discourse in Joseph's speech (Gen 45: 3-15)". Paper read at *10. Mainz International Colloquium on Ancient Hebrew (MICAH), Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, 28–30 October 2011*.

"Subordination. Some reflections on Matthiesen and Thompson's article The structure of discourse and 'subordination' and its bearing on the idea of CCC". Paper read at *Workshop on Circumstantial Clause Combining in Semitic Languages, Uppsala March 17-18, 2011*.

"The main line of a biblical Hebrew narrative". Paper read at *Workshop on Circumstantial Clause Combining in Semitic Languages, Uppsala March 17-18, 2011*.

"A textlinguistic analysis of Psalm 18:1-14". Paper read at *Workshop on Circumstantial Clause Combining in Semitic Languages, Uppsala March 17-18, 2011*.

"The textlinguistics of the Suffering Servant: Subordinate structures in Isaiah 52,13–53,12". Paper read at the *SBL 2010 Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, Nov. 20-23, 2010*.

"Textlingvistiken i stycket om Herrens lidande tjänare: Underordnade satsstrukturer i Jesaja 52:13-53:12". Paper read at *Nordiska semitistsymposiet in Kivik, 10-13 August 2010*.



“Hebreiskan och arameiskan i Dödahavsrollarna”. Paper read at Symposium om Dödahavsrollarna: Texttolkning och tro mellan Gamla och Nya Testamentet. Sigtunastiftelsen söndag 24 – måndag 25 oktober 2010.

“Circumstantial qualifiers in Arabic and Hebrew: The case of wa-qatala and we-qatal”. Paper read at The 219th Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society, Albuquerque, New Mexico, March 13-16 2009.

“Semitic Circumstantial Qualifiers in the Book of Judges: A pilot study on the infinitive”. Paper read at the International Organization for the Study of the Old Testament (IOSOT) Congress, Ljubljana July 2007.

“Circumstantial qualifiers in Qumran Hebrew: Reflections on adjunct expressions in The Manual of Discipline (1QS).” Paper read at the fourth international symposium on the Hebrew of the Dead Sea Scrolls & Ben Sira, Strasbourg 2007.

“Circumstantial qualifiers in the Arabic dialect of Kinderib (East Turkey).” Paper read at the 7th Association International de la Dialectologie Arabe Conference, held in Vienna 5-9 September 2006.

## Conferences

International Symposium on Clause Linking in Semitic Languages. A Marcus Wallenberg Symposium. 5-7 August 2012 in Kivik, Sweden. Conference board: Bo Isaksson and Maria Persson.

Workshop on Circumstantial Clause Combining in Semitic Languages. Public conference Uppsala March 17-18, 2011. Organizer: The Swedish Research Council project “Circumstantial Clause Combining in Semitic (CCC)”, with seven project members in an international cooperation with scholars from Uppsala and Gothenburg, Sweden and Dept. of Linguistics, Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

DEN KRITISKA STENEN: Symposium till Gunnar Ekelöfs 100-årsminne. Engelska Parken. Humanistiskt Centrum, Uppsala, 19 oktober 2007.

Jubilee Symposium of the Professorship of Semitic Languages at Uppsala University 400 years, in September 2005.

Nordic-Arab Conference on Arabic language and literature, at the Swedish Institute in Alexandria, april 2005.

## Editorships

Co-editor of *Clause Combining in Semitic. The circumstantial clause and beyond*, edited by Bo Isaksson and Maria Persson. *Abhandlungen für die Kunde des Morgenlandes* 96. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2015. ISBN 978-3-447-10405-0.

Co-editor of *Strategies of Clause Linking in Semitic Languages: Proceedings of the International Symposium on Clause Linking in Semitic Languages 5-7 August 2012 in Kivik, Sweden*. Edited by Bo Isaksson and Maria Persson. *Abhandlungen für die Kunde des Morgenlandes* 93. Wiesbaden: Otto Harrassowitz, 2014. ISBN 978-3-447-10312-1.

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Co-editor of The Professorship of Semitic Languages at Uppsala University 400 years: Jubilee Volume from a Symposium held at the University Hall 21-23 September 2005, edited by Bo Isaksson, Mats Eskhult, and Gail Ramsay (*Studia Semitica Upsaliensia* 24). Uppsala, 2007.

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Editor of *Studia Semitica Upsaliensia*. ACTA series of publications at Uppsala University.

Co-editor of *Orientalia Suecana*, 2000-2013. Uppsala. An International Journal of Indological, Iranian, Semitic and Turkic Studies.

Co-editor of *RAAS. Reports on Asian and African studies*. An ACTA series of publications at Uppsala University.

Editor of *Nathan Söderblom-sällskapets årsbok 1994*. Religion och Bibel, 53. Uppsala: Nathan Söderblom-sällskapet, 1994.

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Co-editor of *Religion och Bibel. Nathan Söderblom-sällskapets årsbok 1998*. Religion och Bibel, 57. Uppsala: Nathan Söderblom-sällskapet, 1998.

## Positions

- Senior professor of Semitic Languages at the Dept. of Linguistics and Philology, Uppsala University 2014-.
- Senior scholar for the research project "Circumstantial clause combining in Semitic" funded by the Swedish Research Council (Vetenskapsrådet) 2010-2012.
- Senior scholar for the research project "Circumstantial qualifiers in Semitic: The case of Arabic and Hebrew" funded by the Swedish Research Council (Vetenskapsrådet) 2007-2009.
- Professor of Semitic Languages at the Dept. of Linguistics and Philology, Uppsala University 2000–2014.
- Head of the Department of Asian and African Languages 1998-2000 and 2003 (four years).
- Associate professor and reader of Semitic Languages 1997-10-15 – 2000-04-30.
- Deputy head of the Department of Asian and African Languages 1997-03-01 – 1997-12-31.
- Researcher in Semitic Languages 1993-01-01 – 1997-05-31.
- Researcher (Swedish Research Council) 1989-07-01 – 1992-06-30.
- Deputy reader in Semitic Languages 1997-06-01 – 1997-10-14.
- Philological expert at the Swedish Bible Commission translation project 1989-2000.