

Abstracts

Zohar Shavit

What did Hebrew children speak?

The article examines Hebrew's image as the exclusive language of the children of Palestine-Eretz-Israel during the *Yishuv* period. Because Hebrew was seen as a vital component of the 'Hebraization' project, projecting a persuasive image of children's mastery of the language was considered integral to the Zionist narrative of the time.

To what extent, however, did this image mesh with reality? The article grapples with the unreliability of official assessments of Hebrew's exclusivity and examines a broad variety of less-politicized sources to reveal a more complete – and more complex – portrait of the linguistic reality of the time. I maintain that contrary to the image created by the political and cultural leadership, most children in Eretz-Israel experienced a bilingual and sometimes multilingual reality.

Despite this, the research tells a story of great success. In no more than three generations, a once-niche language would grow to serve the people of a new nation in all aspects of their lives.

Galia Hasharoni

A Kite, The Circus, and Orchards: Children's Leisure Time as a Reflection of Social and Cultural Relations in the Jewish Yishuv, 1882-1914

This article deals with the relationship between leisure and agency. children, just like adults, were active participants in society. The spheres which hosted children's leisure, were the places in which childhood took place. And so, in a two-way street, we can find childhood within the space, and vice versa – physical spaces reveal themselves within leisure: on the railroads, in the circus ring, and on the streets. The article shows that the description of children's lives through the prism of the Hebrew schools and the educational leisure activities, ignores family leisure and the independent leisure of children. Along with the structural effects on the children's lives of school, teachers, and parents, children used the physical spaces to create their own places to enjoy, rest, and play, and thus they became social actors in the leisure space and designed their own entertainment style.