

VIII

ZOHAR SHAVIT

THE FUNCTION OF TEXTS FOR JEWISH CHILDREN IN THE
INTERFERENCE BETWEEN THE JEWISH-HEBREW AND THE
GERMAN CULTURES DURING THE HASKALA

The decisive role played by the German culture in the development of modern Jewish thought and culture is by now a commonplace. However, the question of the actual agents and channels whereby these relations were made possible and materialized has remained largely untouched.

The paper maintains that within the context of these cultural agents and material forces, texts for Jewish children and young people played a leading, if not *the* most decisive, role in the process of interference between the German culture and the Jewish-Hebrew culture towards the end of the 18th century and the beginning of the 19th.

These agents, who functioned at the practical, down-to-earth level in the everyday life of German Jewry, were not of sufficiently high rank in the hierarchy of the cultural consciousness, and subsequently failed to occupy a significant niche therein. Just as their existence was not even acknowledged, so have their historical roles been inappropriately gauged.

As an illustration the paper examines briefly the role of one of the more prominent writers, Joachim Heinrich Campe, analyzing his major role in the early stages of the interference between the German and the Jewish cultures and emphasizing his function in the introduction of some new textual and other models into the Jewish-Hebrew system in Germany.

GIDEON TOURY

THE BEGINNINGS OF MODERN TRANSLATION INTO HEBREW:
YET ANOTHER LOOK

This article offers a focused look at the beginnings of modern translation into Hebrew, some thirty years prior to the official inception of the Haskala (Enlightenment) period with *Hame'asef* (1784). The main argument is that the very first attempt to produce a literary translation was already highly symptomatic of the role of German culture in shaping the new cultural paradigm and of the ensuing concept of translation that was to dominate Hebrew letters for many decades to come. For this purpose, a close reading of the sixth essay