THE LOVE STORY OF HEBREW VERBS AND SYLLABLE STRUCTURE

Pre-Game Rules:

1. The tone/stress/accent is ONLY on the last (ultima) or second-to-last (penultima) syllable. Never prior to these two.

2. Vowel Reduction occurs ONLY in syllables that (a) are open, or (b) have become open.

3. The CUSS rule (see my handout). Such syllables NEVER reduce to vocal shewa (because they’re closed, not open).

4. Dagesh Forte (=DF, the doubling dot) ALWAYS closes a syllable and then opens another syllable.

The Game of Love:

1. R-1 is either
   (a) Single (in an open syllable, or undergoing vowel reduction to vocal shewa)
   (b) in Arranged Marriage (closed syllable, married to either R-2 or a prefix consonant)

2. R-2 wants to stay married to R-3 but is sometimes victimized by R-3.

3. R-3 is a cheater, who sometimes separates from R-2 but doesn't want to divorce.
   (a) Vocalic suffixes are SEXY → separation
   (b) Consonantal suffixes are UGLY → make up

The Plot Lines:

1. R-1 is very happy, and exists in one of 3 scenarios:
   (a) Single: open syllable (either no reduction, or reduction with heavy suffixes)
   (b) Married: closed, married to a prefix consonant (Qal impf, Niphal perf)
   (c) Married: closed, married to a doubled R-2

2. R-2 without DF
   (a) If stays married to R-3, then no vowel reduction to vocal shewa.
   (b) If R-3 cheats and they get separated, then reduces to vocal shewa.

3. R-2 with DF loves Polygamy!!
   (a) R-2 always stays married to R-1.
   (b) If R-2 stays married to R-3, then no vowel reduction to vocal shewa.
   (c) If R-3 cheats and they get separated, then reduces to vocal shewa.

Dr. Phillip Marshall, Revised 10-27-08