

Shared History Handout

Key Points:

- Languages are classified in four ways: genetic, areal, typological, and functional (Hebrew and Arabic similarities are predominately genetic)
- Arabic and Hebrew are both from the Semitic branch of the Afroasiatic language family
- Very strong evidence of shared history that traces back at least 5,000 years
- Both languages are abjads: scripts that omit vowels
- Both languages use trilateral roots that are changed with vowelings
- Both written right to left
- Judeo-Arabic: Jewish variations of Arabic formerly spoken by Jewish communities in the Middle East/Africa
 - Similar concept to transliteration
- Written alphabets are very similar
- Arabic and Hebrew both have classical forms that are spoken in more formal/religious contexts

