ELIEZER BEN-YEHUDA: ONE MAN RESURRECTS A DEAD LANGUAGE

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Abstract - In the beginning of the 20th century, there were 50,000 Jews living in Palestine who could speak Hebrew. For the next hundred years, millions of Jews immigrated to Israel. They spoke all the languages of the world except Hebrew. Today, in the 21st century, there are 7 million Jews in Israel, all of whom know Hebrew. The business of every public institution—schools, universities, health care, banks, government, the army—is conducted in Hebrew, the national language of all the Jews. This paper explores how such a language "miracle" came about.

Index terms - Hebrew, Israel, language miracle